

Terrace Bay Schreiber

News

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Chamber now one step away

The business community of Terrace Bay is now just one step away from reviving a Chamber of Commerce for the town, as following a meeting on May 15 a committee of six people was established to look into what has to be done to get the Chamber back.

Over two dozen businessmen and women attended the meeting, which was hosted at first by Terrace Bay Police Chief Russ Phillips. He told the group he is unable to go any further with the Chamber development because of his own overwhelming obligations.

He did distribute some information at the session, and also explained that almost everyone involved in business in Terrace Bay said in a recent questionnaire that they would all work on a business organization for the town and that there should be one, no matter what form it takes.

When the idea of bringing the Chamber back was presented earlier this year,

it was not known if a less organized business association would be more suitable. Chief Phillips said there are definite advantages in having a fullfledged Chamber, prime among them being that just about anyone can join it, including retired individuals and Councillors.

"Say we decide to start something," Terry Korzinski of Terry's Sight and Sound said. "Everything so far points to having a Chamber of Commerce."

"Things have changed since the start of the year," Chief Phillips said. "Maybe we could have a show of hands of those in favour of having a Chamber." Almost everybody's hand went up.

Volunteers were then required to form a Committee to look into the specific steps needed to start up the Chamber, which folded primarily due to a lack of interest about 10 years ago.

Korzinski said he would be a part of the committee, as did the town's Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

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More trouble for K-C

A recent news release has created a significant difference of opinion between the agency which prepared the controversial release, the Ministry of the Environment, and the company which was the subject of the release, Kimberly-Clark and its pulp mill in Terrace Bay.

The news release, dated May 12, said a Ministry study has concluded that contaminants in the discharge from the mill are lethal to test fish.

"The tests also showed uptake of ...an animal carcinogen in test fish as far as 1.5 kilometres from

where the mill effluent discharged from Blackbird Creek into Moberly Bay on Lake Superior," the release added.

In a release to employees, Kimberly-Clark replied that the Ministry's test fish were not local to the area and that the tests were not prompted by any conditions observed in fish in the Terrace Bay area of Lake Superior.

The ministry release did point out that "fish kills and tainting of fish flesh have not been reported in this area," but added "caged rainbow trout, placed in

the nearshore waters of Moberly Bay, died within 48 hours."

"In the news release, the Ministry fails to point out that some of the test fish also died at a control location in the area, which was not exposed to mill effluent," the K-C release from Director of Industrial Relations Al Chisholm noted.

"The (Ministry) study concludes that the Kimberly-Clark paper mill is not in compliance with the fish survival requirements set by the federal government to continued on page 2



Human pushme-pullyou

In their eagerness to pitch in, 10-year-old Wendy Sopol and her friend shared garbage bag. It was all part of the fun of Pitch-In Day held at the school last week which was sponsored by Sunoco and the Ministry of the Environment, among others.



Bob and Ollie

Terrace Bay Reeve Ollie Chapman and Ontario New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae met with the rest of Town Council on May 15 to discuss the problems at the Kimberly-Clark pulp mill in the township. Rae told Council that he is confident the provincial government will do all that it can to make sure that the mill does not close down.

Concerns expressed

Rae visits Terrace Bay mill

Ontario New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae, after meeting with members of Kimberly-Clark's pulp mill management in Terrace Bay one May 15, said he had expressed his concern to them about how those worried about the situation at the mill are being kept in the dark.

"We didn't hear anything from them that you don't already know," Rae said in a meeting later that same day with Terrace Bay Township Council. "Even the union is less in the know that they would like to be. We all want to be involved in protecting jobs there."

Rae's statements were echoed by Jack Stokes of Schreiber, who organized the meetings between Rae and K-C, union representatives, and Council.

"We did get a commitment from the company that they would not do anything precipitous," Stokes told Council. "The main concern of the unions now is how do they get involved in the planning...they wanted

to know when the process would begin, and according to the company, it has already begun."

Stokes was referring to the company's evaluation of its Terrace Bay and area operations with the objective of increasing productivity and reducing costs.

According to K-C Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Darwin E. Smith, the mill has been losing millions of dollars and is in danger of being closed down.

"Obviously this industry is essential," Rae said. "It is the major employer of the town, and we did get a reinforcement from the union that the situation is serious and they are investigating some options."

Rae added that it is no longer a question of a private company making private decisions.

"We are not about, as a Legislature, to sit around on our hands and let the next shoe drop," Rae insisted. "The tendency is the public sector to be involved only at the end. We feel it is important to get involved early on."

Stokes said, though, that

"it is too early yet to begin pointing a finger at K-C and demanding to know what are they going to do. At the end of the year they should have their process in place."

Rae asked Township Reeve Ollie Chapman if the Council had been contacted by the provincial government or by the company itself on the matter, and Reeve Chapman replied "No."

She added, though, that the company did call just before Smith made his speech in Terrace Bay on May 3. Lake Nipigon MPP Gilles Pouliot, who was also at the May 15 meeting with Council, pointed out that he and Minister of Northern Development and Mines Rene Fontaine also briefly met with K-C President Jack Lavallet and others prior to Smith's speech.

"Basically, things are still where Mr. Smith left them," Councillor George Ramsay said.

"When I did speak with them, I asked what we as a town Council could do, and they said at this point in time they don't know,"

Reeve Chapman said. "We still want to know what we should do...this does give us a bit of a problem."

"How would you feel about the provincial government appointing somebody now to work with the unions and company?" Rae asked.

The consensus he got was that it might be a good idea to do so as long as such a person was from the North, with a knowledge of the North's unique problems, and not some "hot shot" from Southern Ontario, as Councillor Peter Romanuk put it.

"There is not way we can allow the mill to close," Stokes insisted. "There is too much at stake here...we have to convince the Ontario government and the Federal government along with the company that the bottom line is what do we have to do to keep this mill going! We have to come up with a plan to keep this mill surviving."

"Nobody seems to know what is going to happen," Reeve Chapman replied, and referred to a con-

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