

# Ski hill to stay closed

Attempts to reopen the Terrace Bay Ski Hill, which was closed down approximately five years ago when it no longer met standard regulations, have failed, according to a letter read at the May 12 meeting of Township Council.

"It is with sincere regret that we are informing you of our decision to discontinue efforts of rebuilding the ski hill at this time," the letter from the Ski Club noted.

One of the prime reasons behind the recent decision was the lack of funds. A total of \$90,000 was felt would be needed for the project, and over the past year only \$1,500 had been raised, the letter from Ski Club secretary Leslie Gerlach added.

"I am rather disappointed with this letter, as I've been working with them for three years now, and then they say Town Council has changed its attitude and I don't know where they got that," Reeve Ollie Chapman said, adding that she feels the township has always been supportive in the past.

She noted that the first half of the needed \$90,000 is still in this year's town budget and that the group was also eligible for "quite an amount from Wintario, which I understand they did not do...maybe they are trying to shift the blame a little."

"It is rather sad indeed to see this facility remain closed...because council does not see fit to be supportive," the letter said.

"We do spend money on recreation facilities, and that's money well spent," Councillor Peter Romanuk said. "But this (the Ski Club) is a small user group, and we can't give them that kind of money."

"I am quite disappointed in the way they handled this," Reeve Chapman admitted, just before the subject turned to another monetary matter, this time being the water bill for township residents.

By-law 19-86 received its first reading at the meeting, with subsequent readings and final passage to take place later this

month. The by-law calls for an increase in water bills per home up to \$5 per month, from a present minimum of \$1.75.

"We've discussed this for the last six months," Romanuk explained. "We should get more money for our water, as we need the funds for the (eventual) replacement of the water lines...this increase is justified."

"The money is to act as a reserve," Reeve Chapman said. "It is a much better alternative than metering the water."

There will also be an increase in school taxes this year, clerk-treasurer Larry Simons pointed out.

"The significant thing to note here is that a Terrace Bay taxpayer will see an increase in school taxes of four or five per cent," he added.

As for the township's annual budget, that won't be ready for a while yet, Reeve Chapman said. A budget was held with Council on May 15, and she said that "we are hopefully in the final stages."

Council may get its first look at a final budget as early as the next public meeting, scheduled for May 26, but no later than its June 9 session, she promised.

She and Councillor Romanuk attended the recent Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association meeting held in Dryden, and noted that Council's resolution on Special Occasion Permits was passed by the Association and it will now go on for a vote at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario meeting later this year in Toronto.

The motion calls for the provincial government to change the current Special Occasion Permit so that each individual participant is responsible for his or her own personal safety and that all references to third and fourth parties, such as managers and owners, be deleted from the permits.

Such permits are issued for events which are licenced for the sale and on-site consumption of alcohol. Council's motion was pass-

ed earlier this year after the Lake Superior Board of Education decided to close all of its facilities, including the Terrace Bay High School campus, to licenced events.

The motion was submitted at the Noma meeting by the Thunder Bay Municipal League, which also supported the motion earlier this year.



Pitch-In



The winners of gold medals at the Terrace Bay Police Force's Bicycle Rodeo lined up on their vehicles for a group photo at the event's end on May 10. From left to right are Mitch Bolduc, 12; Darcy

Rennette, 11; Kelley-Anne Rennettee, 9; and Erin Callaghan, 6. At the Rodeo, the children were taught basic bicycle riding and safety skills.

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