

Terrace Bay Schreiber News

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Terrace Bay budget up 5.6%

By Conrad Felber

The 1986 budget for the township of Terrace Bay, which in published form takes up over 100 pages, boils down to a 5.6 per cent increase in taxes for the average town ratepayer, with 3.6 per cent of the hike to go to the area school boards.

The budget was finally revealed and passed at the May 26 meeting of Terrace Bay Council.

"One significant fact

here is that the budget has increased only \$40,000 over last year's budget," town clerk-treasurer Larry Simons explained.

The increase was necessary because the municipality is "caught in a squeeze between decreasing revenues from the province and increasing expenses," he added.

In effect, the community will now be paying for 50 per cent of its services expenses this year.

"Council worked very hard on this particular budget and exercised a great deal of caution and restraint," Simons said, adding that the average taxpayer in town with a \$700 bill last year will pay about \$40 more this year, including the school taxes.

"It works out to a little over a dollar per month that they will be paying directly to the town," he added.

Councillor Peter Romanuk noted that many hours were spent by Council going over draft stages of the budget. About \$220,000 was cut from it during one session.

"It was the best we

could do," he said.

"On top of that, we were suddenly burdened with the (Recreation Complex) heating system," Councillor Jim Ziegler noted. "That was more that we had bargained for."

At its previous meeting, Council felt it had no choice but to go ahead with the purchase and installation of a new heating plant for the Complex, at an estimated cost of \$110,000. The project then became one of the main items to be included in the budget.

Reeve Ollie Chapman admitted that some town residents were hoping for a new Town Hall in the budget. That proposal was not included.

"Sure, we could have put a \$200,000 hall in the budget, but taxes would go up accordingly," she said.

"We're sorry we can't budget for the hall or a covered swimming pool or any of the other luxury items we would all like to have, but with the uncertain situation at the (Kimberly-Clark) pulp mill, we have to respect that and respect the taxpayer," she

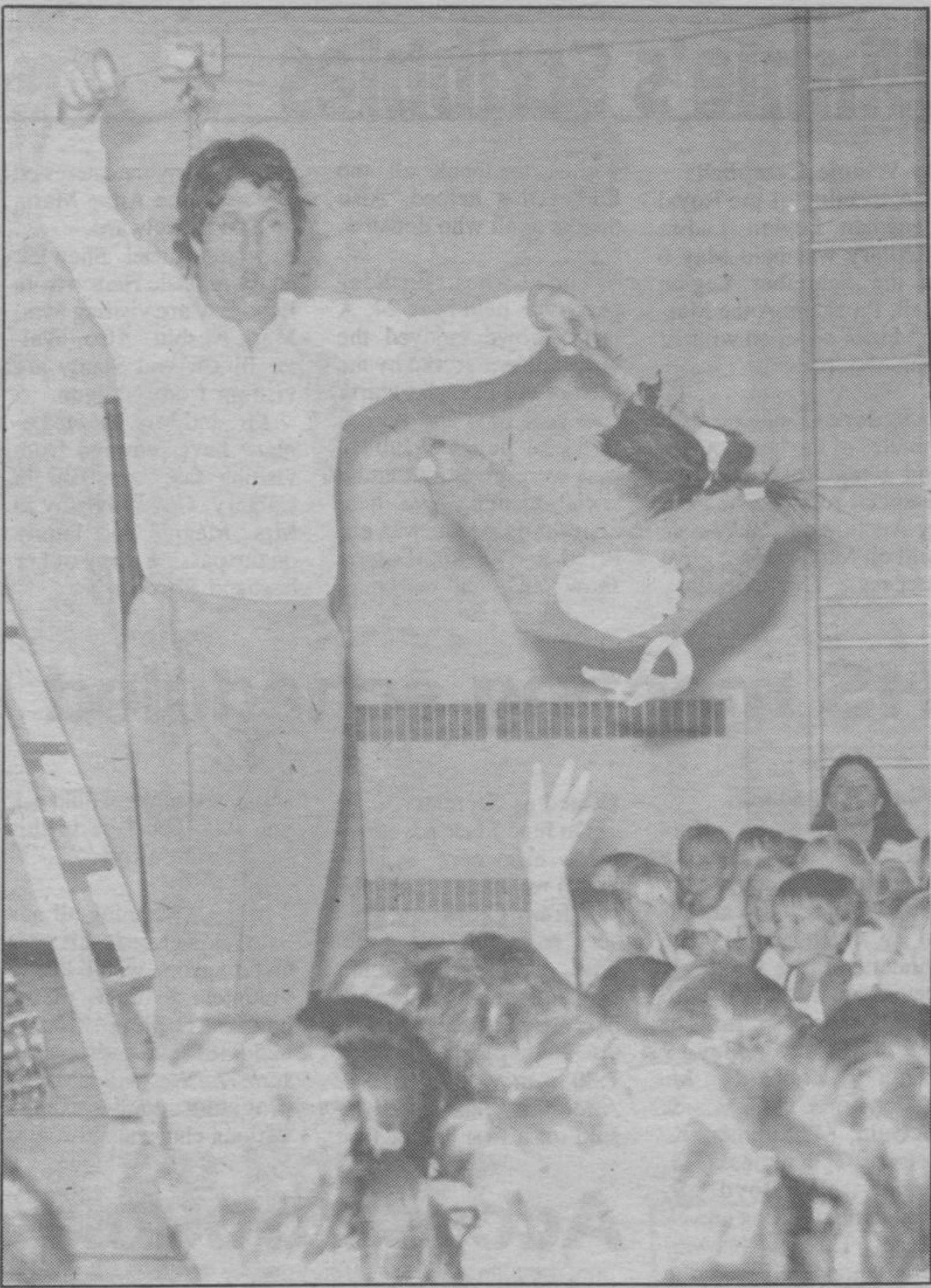
added.

Reeve Chapman pointed out that the budget is a public document and is therefore open to anyone's perusal. The 1986 budget covers a total figure of \$2,368,507 for expenditures and the same amount for revenue.

According to the budget itself, the municipal purposes budget increase is \$39,566 over the 1985 budget, or about 1.7 per cent.

The largest increase in expenditures is in the transportation department, with a proposed increase of over 26 per cent over the 1985 amount. The heating plant bumped up the recreation budget by almost 25 per cent this year.

As for revenue, the town is hoping for a total of \$1,196,326 in municipal taxes in 1986, up from the actual 1985 amount of \$1,136,699. That is the largest single source of income for the community, with unconditional provincial government grants second at a projected 1986 figure of \$452,426.



Cluck cluck

A variety of creatures, including this chicken and its animator, made an appearance during Erehwon Theatre of Toronto's presentation of "The Root Cellar" at the Terrace Bay Public School on May 29. Principal Don Davey explained that the play was partly entertaining and partly educational, as a workshop was also held.

Access route discussed again

Reeve Ollie Chapman of Terrace Bay said it might be time to give the Ministry of Transportation and Communications "a little shove" when it comes to the issue of a second access to the Terrace Heights subdivision in town.

During an interview last week she stressed some of the comments she also made at the May 26 Council meeting about the whole access problem, which arose again during last month's forest fire near Terrace Bay.

"We should set up a public meeting with them soon," she suggested. "I am sure they will get some flak from the people (who live) in the subdivision."

"I just wish the MTC would get off their butts and show some interest in this," Councillor Peter Romanuk said at the meeting. Later, Clerk-treasurer Larry Simons noted that one of the good things which came out of the fire hazard was a strong argument for another access point.

"Right now they don't seem very committed about it," town engineer Doug Baker pointed out. "They are going to do a traffic study there this summer."

"I don't think we are even talking about making Ridgewood Drive as the

other access anymore," Reeve Chapman said. That road is opened for one-way traffic in emergencies only.

"I see a need for another access, but that (Ridgewood) may not be the place to have it," Councillor Chris Joubert agreed. He added that the Ministry may agree to let the town have another access further away from the existing Terrace Heights Drive intersection, but at the town's expense.

Reeve Chapman noted that a lot of towns have many access points on the highway. "Why should we have to be different?"

One proposed alternate route would be a link with Kenogami Road. Baker said no one has as yet put a dollar figure on these suggestions.

Council did seem to reach a consensus that a meeting with the MTC should be held, and soon, because the situation is a potentially dangerous one, as the forest fire evacuation on May 21 proved.

"Remember when the fire was first reported, all the sightseers drove down in there just to have a look, and that caused a congestion when they were asked to get out," Romanuk said.

"Somebody did say it took them 20 minutes to get out there," Councillor George Ramsay explained, later agreeing any secondary access "has to come out of Kenogami."

Romanuk said he was disturbed by a story which appeared in the Thunder Bay Times-News. "They said the citizens have been fighting Council over this."

"That's not a fair statement, to say it's Council's fault," Joubert concurred. "It's Council who was pushing for this from the start."

A concerned citizen, Mary Cashmore, attended the Council meeting to discuss the issue in person.

"This is not reflection on our police, but that's a dangerous situation there," she explained. "What if the fire got any closer to the pumphouse?" The township's pumphouse, located near to the burn site, is especially vulnerable to fire.

Terrace Bay police chief Russ Phillips, who was also at the meeting, pointed out that every time a crisis

comes up, the gate at the entrance to Ridgewood Drive is opened and manned as soon as possible.

Reeve Chapman reminded him that if such a crisis happened in the middle of the night, things might be different.

She felt that letters from town citizens might help to convince the Ministry that a problem does exist. These letters would be presented at the proposed meeting with MTC of-

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Just clowning around

These three Terrace Bay youngsters decided to walk in style, of sorts, and dressed up in clown outfits before taking part in the North Shore Fun Run, held in Terrace Bay and nine other area communities on May 26. All participants received a certificate and button once they finished the one mile course within the townsites. Schreiber won the highest percentage turnout banner again this year.

Notice

Extra copies of the May 28 issue of the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News, which included articles and photographs of the May 21 forest fire near Terrace Bay, are available at cover price at the News office, located in the basement of the Post Office building in Terrace Bay.