

Cut gas prices in north, report urges

In its report released on June 2, the Northern Development and Mines Minister's Advisory Committee, headed by Dr. Bob Rosehart of Thunder Bay, said it feels a "special commitment, both politically and by the residents of Ontario" is necessary if northern Ontario "is to share in the quality of life in this province."

The all-party committee made a total of 80 recommendations in its report, and with them called for the provincial government to:

- Reduce gasoline prices by five cents per litre,
- Eliminate the sales tax on

products made in the north,

- Appoint a Commissioner of Critical Industries,
- Give residents in the north a \$100 annual heating tax credit,
- Start a task force which would study improved forest management practices,
- Increase business grants and loans from the provincial government, and
- Establish an Ontario tax credit system.

Rene Fontaine, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, praised the advisory committee for its work on the report.

In a June 2 Ministry release, he said he would

present the report to the Cabinet. All ministries affected by the study will be asked to review and provide comments on the report to Fontaine by the end of this month.

One of the members on the advisory committee, Bob Axford of Red Lake, said 68 out of the 80 recommendations in the report will probably be implemented by the Minister.

Also on the committee were MPP Gilles Morin, MPP Jack Pierce, MPP Bud Wildman, Ron MacDonald, and Jeannette Querion.

Terrace Bay Schreiber News

Public Library
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Wednesday, June 11, 1986

Vol. 41, No. 23

Serving Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Rossport

35¢



Plaque presented

Jamie Gibson, the Post Office Field Service Manager from the Thunder Bay office, was on hand at the June 2 party to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Schreiber Post Office. He is shown here, at left, pre-

senting a plaque of appreciation to Schreiber Postmaster Barbara McLaughlin, at right. Shown in front of her is the Post Office birthday cake, prepared especially for the occasion. (Photo by Conrad Felber)

P.O. hits 100th year

"In a small community like Schreiber, the Post Office is the focal point," town resident and former MPP for the area Jack Stokes said at the 100th anniversary celebrations at the Schreiber Post Office on June 2.

Stokes, who was at the party on behalf of Lake Nipigon MPP Gilles Poulriot, added "it is important to remember that what has served us well in the past will serve us well in the future."

Keith Penner, MP for the area and the Cochrane-Superior riding, was also on hand for the festivities and said he had the good fortune to live in a small town like Schreiber when he was young and quickly learned the importance of the Post Office.

"The Postmaster then was by grandfather," he explained. "We were all so glad to get mail, we were even happy to get junk mail."

He pointed out that the Schreiber Post Office has gone through both World Wars. "You can imagine the mail that went through it during those times."

Penner said he was delighted to be in town for the party and noted that the Schreiber Post Office continues to be "a very important part of this community."

Post Office Field Service Manager Jamie Gibson from the Thunder Bay office later presented a plaque to Schreiber Postmaster Barbara McLaughlin, who accepted it on behalf of her entire staff.

"This is the third site for the Post Office in town," she told the audience at the outdoor event. "It was first where the Spadoni (Department) store is now, and then a new one was built by the government at the Medical Centre," she said.

Later, the Post Office was moved to its present location on Scotia in the downtown area, she added.

The staff then came out and cut a large birthday cake, to the applause of the crowd.

Also at the party was town Councillor Ed Borutski representing Reeve Mike Cosgrove, and Post Office Community Relations Officer for the Midwest Division Brian Garagan.

Terrace Bay is threatened, citizens warned at meeting

"Some people say Terrace Bay is threatened," the Canadian Association of Threatened Single Industry Towns Vice President said during a meeting on June 6 in Terrace Bay. "Any town that depends on a single industry is threat-

ened," he added.

Bob Axford, who is also the President of the Red Lake Chamber of Commerce, spoke at the session in place of Dr. Bob Rosehart of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, who had been originally sched-

uled to appear, but could not attend.

Axford told a group of over two dozen concerned citizens that there are a series of "truths" which apply to all communities which have a single major industry that is experiencing economic difficulties, like the Kimberly-Clark of Canada pulp mill of Terrace Bay.

"Truth number one is you've got to see the problem," Axford explained. "We tend to only plan during a crisis instead of ahead of time...you need preventative medicine."

He added that since the crisis has begun, it's time to recognize it as such and act on it, though he admitted it will be difficult to find many long-term successful solutions.

"The people we seem to be turning to for solutions don't have too many successes," he said of the government.

"Truth number two is, change has got to come from within," Axford said. "You are better qualified to adapt to change when it is done locally...sure you can change, you community must decentralize."

Axford noted that many

at the meeting had some good suggestions, but added that "you have to act on them."

One big obstacle facing those who are forced to adapt to changes, Axford pointed out, is the fact that people in northern Ontario lack the history and tradition of change.

"Many towns don't even have a second generation of people there yet," he said. "They find it very hard to change because of that...they are more frontiersmen."

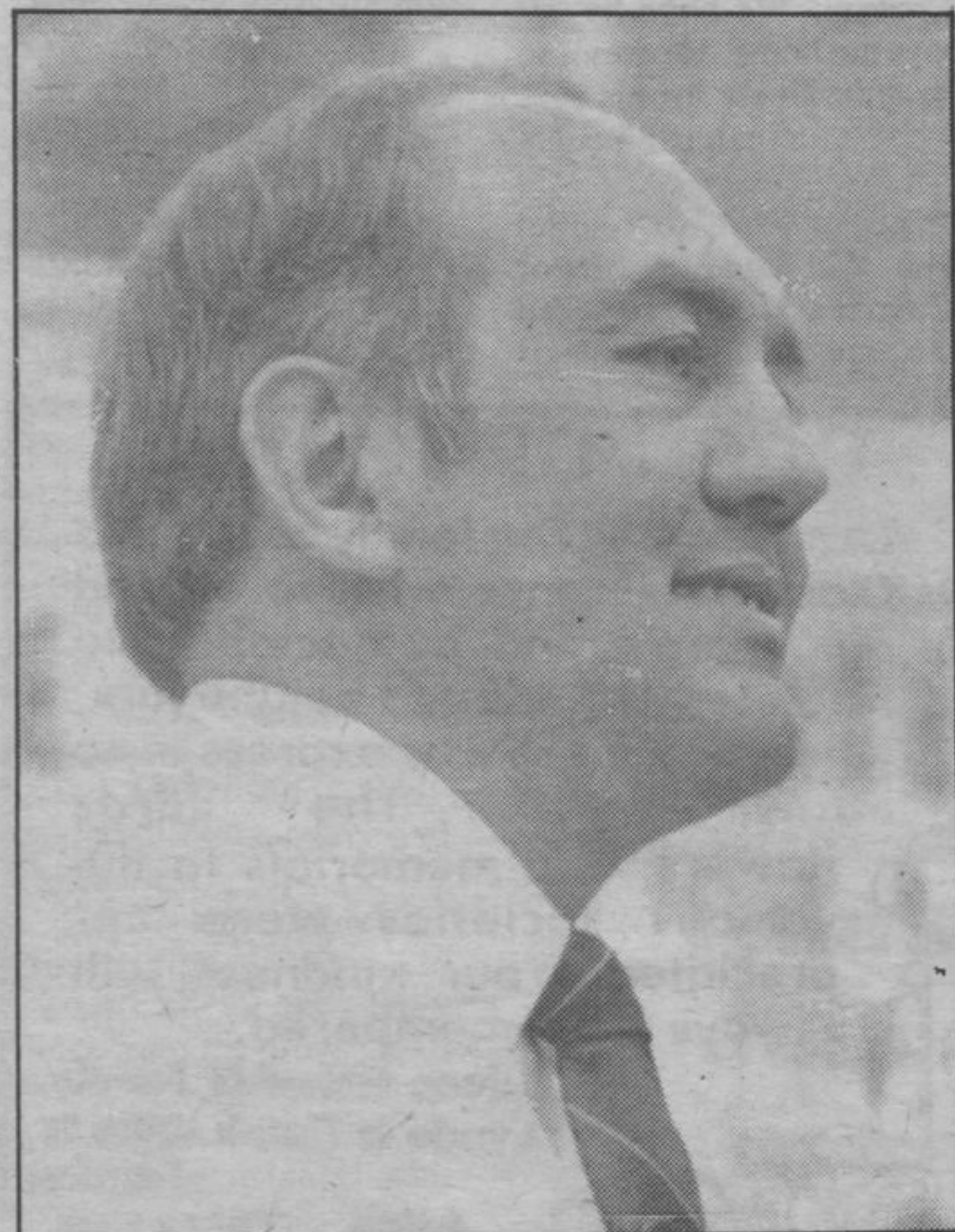
One tool that can be used to help matters is the open house concept, used to great degree of success by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

"You have to discuss in public your own futures," he insisted. "That's also one way to stimulate those creative juices."

Axford said his truth number three is the residents of the affected town have to work together, as a team, to overcome their problems.

"Truth number four is, you've got to know what you're talking about...you need facts to make good sales proposals to the gov-

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Bob Axford



No, this isn't a UFO hovering over a group of athletes at the Terrace Bay campus of the Lake Superior High School. This soccer ball found its way into the LSHS net five times and the Port Arthur Collegiate Institute goal only two times during the final game in the Northwestern championships on May 31. LSHS advanced to the finals by winning eight straight games during the regular season.