

Resolution about school taxes passed by Council

An article in "Municipal World" magazine inspired Terrace Bay Town Council to prepare and pass a resolution which, in part, calls for the government of Ontario to amend existing legislation so that every individual school board in the

province must collect its own taxes.

The article, Reeve Ollie Chapman noted, mentioned a Supreme Court of Ontario hearing held in London, Ontario on March 13 at which it was decided that a municipality may be re-

quired under the Education Act to pay over any interest earned or late payment penalties charged on amounts collected to a school board for which it collects taxes.

After reading about the case, Reeve Chapman and

the rest of Council decided to take some sort of action to prevent the local school boards from using the court decision to collect such funds. A resolution was then prepared, and was read for the first time at the June 9 meeting of Council.

Clerk-treasurer Larry Simons gave an example of the sort of effect the court decision might have in Terrace Bay.

"If we pay the school board a tax requisition in March but actually collect the taxes in April, any penalties or interest are the property of the school board," he explained.

"The judge in the case was saying the municipality is a trustee and agreed with the school board," he added. "Obviously we are opposing this...the judge

based his decision on an 1888 case. There have been a few changes since then."

Simons said Council's resolution is really a request to the provincial government to "short circuit this whole case" with an amendment to the Education Act. The London case is now under appeal.

He also pointed out the municipality has to give such money to the boards, whether it is collected or not.

"They can't have it both ways," Councillor George Ramsay said. He agreed that if the resolution is also passed later this week by the Thunder Bay District Municipal League at its meeting in Schreiber that it should also be sent to the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) for approval as well.

The resolution was then put to a vote and it was passed unanimously.

The motion points out that municipalities are already required under the Education Act to pay over to the school board a fixed portion of the board's annual requisition, even if the

taxes have yet to be collected.

"It is desirable that the agency collecting taxes retain the right to interest and penalties to encourage efficient collection procedures and policies," the motion added.

It offered the provincial government three different choices, though all three would involve the amendment of the Education Act or some other legislation.

Copies of the resolution will be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Education.

Reeve Chapman will be attending the AMO meeting in Toronto this August in person to see the resolution through. She will also be there on behalf of Council's previous resolution on the Special Occasion Permits.

In that motion, Council called for the province to change the existing laws so that the responsibility for the safety and sobriety of patrons at a licenced event lie with the holders of the permit and not the owners of the building where the function is being held, as is currently the case.

Bits and Bites

By Helene Ballard

Hi, ho everybody! I trust all is OK with our readers. All we need now is warm weather.

Here at Birchwood this past week we were all sorry to hear that our Activities Director, Joann Leblanc, has to leave us due to health problems. We shall miss you Joann. It won't be the same making flowers. In fact, we shall think of you often. We all hope your health problems will improve. Please do try and visit us when you can, and "good luck."

Last Tuesday, June 11 our residents were able to enjoy some fine band music, and on behalf of all the residents I would like to thank first of all Mr. Bill Houston who offered to come here with the mem-

bers of the band who are residents of Terrace Bay and Schreiber.

The band, made up of brass and woodwinds, was under the able baton of Mr. Doug McIlwain who is the music teacher for all high schools and Public Schools in Terrace and Schreiber.

I feel sure these people enjoy what they are doing and we hope they will come again and play for us, as we enjoyed every selection. Our grateful thanks to all of you.

I hope all senior citizens will enjoy Seniors Week. It is nice to be remembered...makes us feel "young at heart".

I am sorry to see some of our young folks still "forget" and ride their bicycles on the sidewalk on Simcoe Plaza. Please, kids,

try to remember not to do this. You may save someone and yourselves some painful injury.

We are happy to hear that two of our residents who are in hospital, Blanche Speak and Felix Legault, are improving daily

and we hope you will both soon be back here at Birchwood.

Until next week -- overheard during coffee break: "Have you noticed how down in the dumps Jane is lately?" "Yes! I guess her hope chest is running out of hope!"

Thanks

Dear Editor

We are pleased to announce that as of June 2, 1986 we have raised \$197,500.

On behalf of The Salvation Army and those we are able to help we say thank

you to all the volunteers that made this years campaign so successful.

Gord Armstrong
Captain
Public Relations Director
Salvation Army

Board to visit

The Workers' Compensation Board is conducting an intensive job search campaign next week in the Thunder Bay area, including Terrace Bay, according to a WCB press release dated June 15.

The campaign, waged by a squad of Board employment specialists, is on behalf of 51 regional rehabilitated injured workers who are ready for work, the release from Richard Murzin added.

During the week, WCB specialists will be visiting local offices and industries to register job vacancies and employment opportunities. According to the Board, calling directly on employers is extremely effective.

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Only 30 minutes from Terrace Bay or 15 minutes from Schreiber. Ideal place to invest into a cottage lot on NICOL ISLAND or Mainland lots. The fishing is excellent and the privacy is great.
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