

Pouliot not satisfied with cabooses replacement

The MPP for the Lake Nipigon riding, Gilles Pouliot, said he is "highly skeptical" of the effectiveness of the End of Train Information System (ETIS) which is to replace the cabooses and rear crew on the freight trains of Canada's railway companies.

In an August 7 letter to John Crosbie, the Minister of Transport Canada, Pouliot requested the Minister give "serious consideration" to conducting public hearings across Canada before authorizing what may amount to "a serious threat to the safety and health of our citizens."

Both Canadian Pacific and Canadian National are planning to replace their freight train cabooses with the ETIS units, though Terrace Bay Council recently passed a motion supporting a resolution which called for the companies to keep the cabooses system.

"My doubts concerning

the effectiveness of (ETIS) are well-grounded," Pouliot claimed. "It would appear that ETIS can't perform a number of the regular duties of the rear crew and cabooses."

These duties, the MPP added, include the inability to smell smoke created from sticking brakes or overheated bearings as well as the inability of ETIS to conduct a constant visual scan of the rear portion of the train for problems.

Pouliot also noted that the ETIS cannot bring the train to a stop in an emergency, and it is also unable to flag adjacent tracks and protect them in emergencies. Cabooses crews are also able to provide medical or repair assistance.

"While cognizant of the performance tests of the ETIS, I would argue that the results are inconclusive," Pouliot said in the letter, a copy of which was also sent to the Minister of

Transportation and Communications in Ontario.

"The decision to eliminate the rear crew and cabooses...should be assessed in terms of safety and not cost cutting. Our first priority must be the health and welfare of people," the Terrace Bay and Schreiber area MPP explained.

Pouliot told the Minister that what is really needed are additional safeguards, not their elimination.

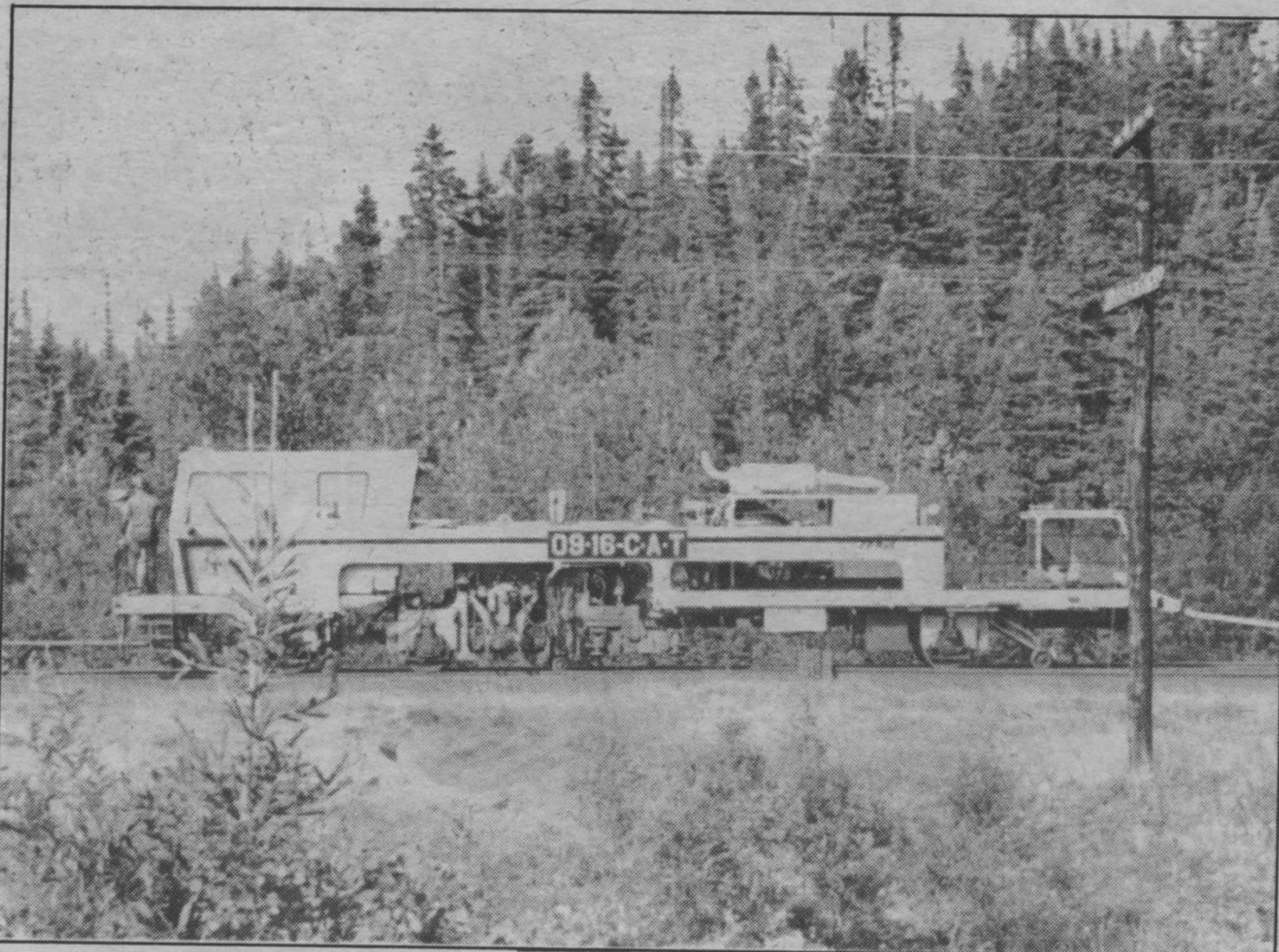
"I would request that you initiate public hearings across the country to obtain submissions from concerned parties," Pouliot demanded. "In addition I would suggest that a special effort be made to include in this process, vulnerable communities such as those located on the north shore of Lake Superior."

In his covering letter to Ed Fulton, the Minister of Transportation and Communications, Pouliot said he would suggest that it is Fulton's responsibility as Minister to ensure that safety standards are not compromised in the interest of cost-cutting measures.

"I would ask, therefore, that you lend your support to my request to...Crosbie that he launch public hearings across Canada in order to assess the impact of the proposed changes to the existing system of safeguards on our railways," Pouliot added.

The News attempted to contact Crosbie for a response to Pouliot's letter but he was unavailable for comment last week. The Minister's media assistant, Genevieve O'Sullivan, also could not be reached.

Pouliot serves as the Transportation and Communications Critic for the New Democratic Party.



CAT on track

Now here's something you don't see everyday on the railway tracks. This Continuous Action Tamper, or CAT for short, was made available to Canadian

Pacific Rail in Schreiber last weekend for maintenance work on the line near Neys Provincial Park 58 kilometres east of Terrace Bay.

Bits and Bites

By Helene Ballard

Hello! Just now, as I write this, it looks like we might have some more rain, but I guess we should be grateful for it, so we will not be in danger of fires like they have just now in the northwestern United States. Of course, the rain also keeps the grass green and growing, so folks can keep busy mowing it.

One afternoon we here at Birchwood had a Fun and Games time. The residents and the staff got

together and enjoyed four different games, including horseshoes.

I don't think any of the world's sport stars have to worry, but we did have a real fun afternoon. After we were finished playing, with most of us (residents, that is) tired out, our cook Leon had a barbecue for us. Boy, did those hot dogs ever taste good. It seems there is a special taste to food cooked and eaten out of doors.

After a pleasant interlude of chit chat and munching on hot dogs, we dragged our ole tired bodies to our rooms. We want to thank our staff for a real fun afternoon.

We are really trying to get the residents out of doors while the weather is nice and make use of our lovely bus. One group went for the afternoon on Tuesday to the beach. It sure was nice sitting there and watching the gentle motion of the water and the blue sky above...very restful.

On Wednesday, another

group took a trip to Jackfish, which I am sure everyone enjoyed. Along with these activities we also have our flower-making. We always enjoy having the different wedding parties come here to the home to take pictures, because the ladies here like to see the beautiful dresses of the brides and their "entourage."

I feel sure most of us go down Memory Lane and remember our own big day...of course for all of us "sweet little ole ladies" that was many years ago. But some memories stay with us all the days of our lives. I guess this ole lady is getting sentimental in her old age.

I am happy to report I have not received any Bites this week, so I'll end this chatter with a wee joke:

"If the Pilgrims came over on the Mayflower, what did the midgets come on? Shrimp boats."

So long.

(Editor's Note: In "Bits and Bites" last week, one name was incorrect: in-



stead of Jorgenson, it should have been Sigerson. We apologize for the error. We also apologize for Helene's "wee joke" this week!)

Slo-pitch

continued from page 3
puter" Malcomson said that while money will be kept to support the hockey team, donations will be presented to the McCausland Hospital building fund and the Disability Action Group in both Terrace Bay and Schreiber.

Saturday night saw the ball players get together with local residents and get down to the sounds of Nick DeShane at the Community Recreation Complex in Schreiber.

During the closing ceremonies which took place on Sunday at the Masonic Hall, tournament organizer Rob Viejou promised that next year's event, while adopting the same format, will be even better...if that's possible. He indicated that the number of teams will probably increase from 12 to 16.



Edwin W. (Ted) Paget

Barrister & Solicitor

is expanding his services.
He is pleased to announce

THE OPENING OF His law Office in Schreiber

Located at 302 Scotia Street
(old municipal building - 2nd floor)

Every TUESDAY - Hours 9 to 12 and 1 to 5 p.m.
to accommodate Schreiber clients

BEGINNING TUESDAY, August 26th

For appointments call 825-9379 or 825-9395

Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FLY TO SUDBURY, TORONTO, NORTH BAY AND OTTAWA

Voyageur Airways offers daily flights from Marathon to Sudbury and Toronto as well as connections to North Bay and Ottawa. Depart Marathon at 4:50 pm Monday to Friday and arrive in Sudbury at 6 pm or Toronto at 7:50 pm. Return flights leave Toronto at 7:30 am, stop in Sudbury at 8:40 a.m. and arrive in Marathon at 10:30 am.

On Sundays we arrive in Marathon at 4:25 pm from Sudbury and depart for Sudbury and Toronto at 4:30 pm.

For information and reservations, phone 1-800-461-1636 or contact your travel agent.

