

Terrace Bay Schreiber

News

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Safety a concern at mill

Concerns about safety and questions as to how many workers will be taking the company's retirement option are just two of the issues that have arisen following last week's announcement by Kimberly-Clark of Canada of 355 lay-offs at its pulp mill and woodlands operations in the Terrace Bay area.

Don Lavigne, President of the United Paperworkers International Union local in Terrace Bay, appeared at the August 25 meeting of Terrace Bay Council to explain the union's side of the crisis. He said he doesn't know how the mill is going to run with such a reduced work-force.

"We won't sacrifice safety for them," he stressed. In a K-C newsletter released last week, mill safety co-ordinator Bill Love said the company will not compromise health or safety in implementing its "survival plan."

"There is a safe method of doing every job and all of us at the mill have full control over job methods and procedures," Love noted. "There is no such thing as an efficient mill with a poor safety record."

At the Council meeting, Lavigne also said he and many others were "totally amazed" at how many lay-offs took place at the mill itself and how little the company's woodlands operations in Longlac suffered by comparison. He did add, though, that the company's announced two month suspension of those operations will probably be extended.

"Those workers are not expecting to come back to work this year at all," Lavigne said. "We are expecting more to come. It's not over yet...right now the union's feeling is one of paranoia."

The lay-offs touched almost everyone in the area. Jack Chapman, husband of

Reeve Ollie Chapman, and a manager at the mill, was one of those who were laid off, as was Lavigne's sister.

Lavigne admitted that many of those eligible for the company's early retirement option seem to be considering it, but he pointed out that no matter what happens, there will still be 355 jobs gone. A number of those in the union's executive have told Lavigne that even they are

going to accept the option.

There are presently 109 employees who have the opportunity of taking early retirement. They will have six weeks to decide. The company has announced that for every worker who takes the option, that will mean one less laid-off employee.

"It's quite important that the union work alongside Council," Lavigne pointed out. "We couldn't prepare ourselves for this, but we

have to work together now."

He said one possibility might be an ad hoc committee of two or three from Council and two or three from the union executive.

"It seems appropriate that the union and the municipality work together on this," clerk Larry Simons said. He also said another idea might be to establish a clearing-house

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Councils meet

It has been discussed since last May, but it took the lay-offs of 355 workers from the Kimberly-Clark pulp mill in Terrace Bay to provide the final spark, and now the Councils of Terrace Bay and Schreiber will finally be meeting later on this month for the first time since Terrace Bay was incorporated as a municipality almost 30 years ago.

Terrace Bay Reeve Ollie Chapman announced last week that a joint Council meeting will be held on either September 29 or 30 in Schreiber.

She said at the August 25 meeting of Terrace Bay Council that Schreiber Reeve Mike Cosgrove has been discussing with her the possibility of such a meeting for months.

"This will be a first for us," she explained. "It's a very positive step...it will help to do away with any hard feelings, and apathy, and competition." Later, she said she welcomes the new "spirit of co-operation" the meetings will provide.

Reeve Cosgrove was also pleased with the news. He admitted that the rivalry is still there between the two towns, but now it doesn't seem to be as "intense" as it once was.

"I've lived in Schreiber all of my life, and no one had ever considered such a meeting before," he said.

"We would like to get the two Councils working together a little bit," Reeve Chapman said. Reeve Cosgrove had suggested to her that Schreiber could host the first meeting, at which "mutual concerns" will be discussed, with the recent lay-offs to be almost certainly at the top of the agenda.

Reeve Chapman said in an interview last week that she hopes the meetings will now be held on a regular

basis, but she added she's not yet sure how often such meetings should be held.

"This could turn into a sub-committee," she said. Such a committee would only include a few members from each Council, that will be decided by the Councils later on.

Earlier this year, a new group was formed for the heads of Councils in five area communities: Terrace Bay, Schreiber, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina, plus an area Indian band. The next meeting of that comm-

tee will be held in Longlac on September 5, just before the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting, scheduled for that weekend.

Another important session coming up for Council is set for Sept. 18 in Terrace Bay with the Deputy Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

That Ministry, Reeve Chapman said, is now thinking about conducting an impact study about the local K-C lay-offs.



Pow! Pow!

Todd McKie is almost invisible in his camouflage gear as he takes aim on a nearby "enemy" soldier. No, this isn't a Canadian Forces exercise. It's actually a new outdoor game for adults, brought to Terrace Bay by Mac Rogerson. McKie is shown with one of the guns used to play the adventure game. See the story on page 6 in this week's issue of the News for more information.

Contract awarded for new heating system

A tender of \$123,153, the lowest of three bids received by Terrace Bay Council for the township's proposed Recreation Centre heating system, was accepted by Council at its meeting on August 25.

The E.S. Fox quotation was slightly over the estimate that was prepared for Council on May 12, town engineer Doug Baker admitted.

He also said there are other factors to consider over and above the tendered project, such as a necessary hydro upgrade of \$20,000 and required engineering work estimated at \$11,400, bringing the total heating system price up to \$159,400. Council's government grant application for the system was only \$120,000, plus \$12,000 for engineering.

"The big question now is the hydro upgrade," he told Council. "Perhaps our consultant did not allow for it." The town's project consultant, Proctor and Redfern of Thunder Bay, made the tender recommendation in an August 8 letter. E.S. Fox is also of Thunder Bay.

Township clerk Larry Simons pointed out that the additional hydro costs, which will involve the installation of transformers, will be picked up by Terrace Bay Hydro.

"This won't even be coming out of the town budget," he added.

"Our true cost is really \$134,000...we are not that far off," George Ramsay, township Councillor said.

"Maybe we shouldn't have even shown that hydro figure," Baker said. "Hydro had to do this sooner or later anyway," Ramsay replied.

When questioned about the grant, Simons replied

that the provincial government has sent no further word about it to him except to say that they've received the application.

Council then passed a motion accepting the E.S. Fox tender. After the meeting, Baker told the News that work on the system is expected to begin around September 15.

"The materials are on order," Baker explained. Those materials include two boilers needed for the system. "They (E.S. Fox) have already had an on-site inspection, and their estimate for the work is three weeks...it should be operational by December 1 this year."

Council decided to put in a heating system for the centre and swimming pool when it received notice that Birchwood Terrace would be terminating its heat supply contract to the centre next year.

The other bids submitted were \$131,049 from Harnett Mechanical and a total of \$144,490 from Lakehead Acadia. All three companies are based in Thunder Bay.

The Proctor and Redfern letter noted that the Harnett Mechanical bid had to be disqualified as it did not include a bid-bond or agreement to bond, a tender requirement.

"We propose that you award the work to E.S. Fox, the low bidder, as soon as possible to ensure an early completion of the work," the letter from Michael C. Wesa concluded.



Reeve and Reeve

Terrace Bay Reeve Ollie Chapman and Schreiber Reeve Mike Cosgrove, seen here in a recent informal discussion, announced last week that their Councils will meet at the end of this month in what Reeve Chapman called a new "spirit of co-operation." She added that this is a municipal first, as such a meeting has not been held since Terrace Bay became incorporated 28 years ago.

Ducky

A banquet and auction is going to be held on Friday, September 5 by the Terrace Bay area chapter of Ducks Unlimited Canada. It will take place at the Schreiber Recreation Centre starting at 6 p.m.

For more information, call Bob Baxter at 825-9121 or Preston McKeever at 824-2657. Tickets are available at Sun and Fun Sports in Terrace Bay.