

Premier promises funds to assist Terrace Bay

By Conrad Felber
At a meeting in Terrace Bay on Sept. 12 with town politicians, community leaders, and Kimberly-Clark mill managers, Ontario Premier David Peterson promised to contribute approximately \$100,000 to a fund which would create a problem-solving group which would address the recent K-C layoffs in the area.

Peterson also hinted that the provincial government might also help to fund a training program for some of the 255 permanent and 100 temporary employees who lost their jobs on August 25.

"This is extremely high priority for us," Peterson told the group. "The object of today's meeting is to go out and pick up the pieces...I would recommend that we all throw some dough into a pot and get working on this."

He admitted that the layoffs created a "highly emotional situation" in Terrace

Bay, and accused K-C of not doing a good job involving the community in its survival plan, designed to keep the pulp mill open.

"I have talked to a lot of people about this, and at the moment there is an enormous amount of distrust (with) the company," he explained. "You're dealing with people who have invested their lives here." Peterson then added that he didn't really wish to cast blame on any one party, and felt that all involved should now stop worrying about the past and concentrate on the future instead.

"In my view, there is a sense of realism today which there may not have been three or four years ago," he explained. "You didn't have to be too bright to anticipate this happening, but we didn't anticipate it...It was a sense of complacency."

The Premier said his government will now have to bring "a little more stability" to the affected

communities. He said expanding the local tourist trade might be one idea.

"What you need now is aggressive local leadership here," he noted. "There are positive ways to approach these things. I have a sense of optimism...the problems are soluble."

He told the audience that the government will be there to help, but that it cannot impose a plan, as the solutions should come from area residents. At that point he added that his government would be prepared to make a large contribution to a problem-solving group.

After the meeting, he told the *News* in an exclusive interview that the \$100,000 amount he had mentioned as a possible contribution was merely a random figure, an idea of what his government is prepared to do.

"There will be that commitment here," he added. "We all have to work together on this."

Terrace Schreiber News

Public Library
TERRACE BAY, ONT.
POT 2WO C.C.T.F.N.

Wednesday, September 17, 1986

Vol. 41, No. 37

Serving Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Rosspoint

35¢

Gov't approves grant

A grant of \$60,000 from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for the Terrace Bay Recreation Centre's heating system project was the largest single grant among 38 approved on September 10 for North-western Ontario.

A total of \$565,000 under the Ministry's Capital Conservation Program will be made available to improve existing recreational facilities in the area, a news release noted.

The Terrace Bay grant will pay for almost half of the cost for the heating system, which is to be expected to be in operation by the first week in

December.

The grant approval was mentioned at the Sept. 8 meeting of Township Council, but there was little comment aside from a general sense of relief from most present that the grant application had gone through.

The Ministry has allocated \$5 million for new commitments during the 1986/87 fiscal year under its Capital Conservation program.

Other grant recipients in the area include Nipigon, Upsala, Kenora, Longlac, and Confederation College. The City of Thunder Bay received the

second-largest grant, \$57,539, for its Canada Games Complex.

Notice

Due to technical difficulties with our typesetting computer, a number of stories were unavailable for publication this week, including those relating to the Sept. 8 meeting of Terrace Bay Township Council, and the Sept. 15 press conference held by Kimberly-Clark in Terrace Bay. These articles will appear in next week's issue of the *News*.

Terrace Bay — Schreiber News



Soccer playoffs

The championship tournament for the team in the Terrace Bay Recreation Office's Minor Soccer program was held on Sept. 13. Shown here are members of the Blue Thunder team and the Eagles squad playing

in the 5 to 8 years old division. These teams tied for first place with a 3-3 final. The Canadians won the 9 to 16 years old division.

Plan working with union's help

A spirit of co-operation between Kimberly-Clark management and Local 665 of the United Paperworkers International Union was evident at a meeting held on September 12 between company and union representatives attended by Ontario Premier David Peterson.

"Progress has been made," Union Local President Don Lavigne said in response to a question regarding the union's relationship with the company. He used the union's recent vote to accept a one-year contract extension as an example of the union's efforts to work with the company.

A total of 336 unionized workers voted in favour of the contract extension, which did not allow for any increase in wages. There was one spoiled ballot, and 75 against. The contract, which was to expire next year, is now extended until April 30, 1988.

K-C Director of Industrial Relations Al Chisholm stressed at the meeting in Terrace Bay that the company has treated its employees fairly in the wake of K-C's recent layoff of 255 permanent and 100 temporary workers in the area.

"The press have jumped on the fact that we've eliminated 355 jobs," he said. "But we've saved

1,500 jobs.

Jack Lavallet, K-C of Canada President, agreed and added that the main goal of the company's 'survival plan' is to keep the mill open and operating. "Never lose sight of the fact that none of us have a guaranteed job," he said.

He explained that if the plan fails, 'we could all be out of a job... the plan is not an option.' When asked by Mike Moore, a town businessman, about a time frame for the plan, Lavallet replied that 'so far you've seen about 25 per cent of the plan.'

Lavallet added that any specific details about any time frame may not be proper to be discussed, but he did say that the union 'has certainly pitched in' since the layoff announcement on August 25.

Terrace Bay Reeve Ollie Chapman, also present at the session, accused the company of not answering questions in the past and of not being a good corporate citizen since the company's economic difficulties were made public by K-C Chairman of the Board Darwin E. Smith earlier this year.

"We've communicated as openly as possible," Lavallet answered. Chisholm added that 'we

don't see ourselves as being poor corporate citizens... we're proud of what we've done.'

"I defy anyone to say that you have been the same corporate citizen as you have been before," Reeve Chapman responded. "Your stocks are going up... if you're part of K-C family, aren't they going to help you out?"

"This branch has been helped out a lot, over the year," Chisholm replied, pointing out that the K-C mill in Terrace Bay has lost \$78 million since 1978.

"Why did you lose this money?" Reeve Chapman then asked. "Is it the people you brought in who didn't know what they were doing?"

"I wouldn't touch that with a ten-foot-pole," Lavallet responded. "I'm here as a Terrace Bay person. I'm part of this community. My kids go to school here." He added that the mill has not been sold, nor is it in the process of being sold, to the best of his knowledge.

There was a bright side to the session, however. John Smrke, Employee Relations Supervisor for the Winston Lake zinc

continued on page 2



News booth

For the first time since the Terrace Bay Fall Fair began five years ago, the Terrace Bay — Schreiber News had a booth at which subscriptions were sold at a special in-town rate of \$10 each. Shown here at the booth at the Sept. 14 fair is the new advertising

manager at the News, Betty St. Amand. She has lived in the Terrace Bay area for all of her life. Betty is married to Holy Angels schoolteacher John, and the couple has two children, 14-year-old Danielle and John Junior, 10.