

K-C won't be building lagoon for its effluent

continued from page 1

Kai Millyard of Pollution Probe's Toronto office said he began an investigation of K-C's Terrace Bay mill in June, when he received a letter of complaint from an area resident about the mill's effluent.

Jack Lavallet, President of K-C in Canada, said at a news conference held last month that the mill simply cannot afford to take the suggested environmental measures which are not guaranteed to work anyway.

K-C Director of Industrial Relations Al Chisholm repeated that on Monday, pointing out that the mill has reduced the toxicity levels in its effluent by 70 per cent since the implementation of the existing control order.

When asked about the Pollution Probe allegations, Chisholm replied "they are entitled to their opinion, but we are not out of compliance with the existing control order."

He said the mill's current economic conditions prevent K-C from even considering a lagoon system, which would cost at least \$15 million to build and \$500,000 a year to operate.

Drummond, stressing that he was speaking for himself only, said he cannot blame K-C for being wary of

the lagoon system.

He said to build such a secondary treatment system today might cost as much as \$30-million with potentially little if any effect on the toxicity in the effluent.

"There's a lagoon at the Great Lakes mill in Dryden, but their effluent is still toxic," he noted, explaining that lagoons are traditionally unable to break down the chlorinated organic material in the waste, which contribute to the toxicity.

One possibility which will be included in the new control order will be to bring the pH level of the effluent to a neutral balance, as he suspects the acidity might also be contributing to the toxicity.

Following that suggestion will still cost the mill "millions" of dollars, but even that capital expenditure will still be considerably less than an investment in a lagoon, Drummond said.

Drummond did confirm that the new control order will not ask the company to build a lagoon system, unless Bradley intervenes in the matter, which is not expected.

Requirements to improve the aesthetic nature of the effluent where it crosses Highway 17 in the township will also be included in the new con-

control order. In addition, the order will address the mill's current problem of discharging certain gases without fully treating them, Drummond said.

Millyard said he won't be satisfied with anything less than a lagoon for the mill, since in-plant methods of controlling the effluent are "too vulnerable" to future changes.

He admitted that the lagoons have not been shown to be perfect in the past, "but we are interested in progress, any progress." He also disagreed with the cost for such a project as quoted by company officials.

"It won't cost \$20 million," he insisted. "It will be closer to \$10 or \$15 million, hardly unreasonable. A figure of \$20 million would be for a pretty large system."

Millyard also did not accept company arguments that the mill has to fend for itself and cannot rely on help from K-C's head office, located in the United States.

"That's the old shell game," he explained. "K-C does not publish a Canadian annual report, but I have been able to glean that they have nine plants in Canada which had \$700 million in sales and \$10.5 million in profit in 1985 alone."

Millyard said the K-C pulp mill in Terrace Bay is not expected to be a

money-maker all by itself because the value of the product eventually made by the company for sale is added elsewhere within the K-C system, which is why the company should contribute money to the cleanup in Terrace Bay.

"They have a certain social responsibility to the community," he added. "They have an obligation to protect the environment which should be a priority...their mismanagement should not have to pay the cost for the cleanup."

Millyard admitted that what he is really doing is calling the company's bluff.

"They shouldn't pretend that Terrace Bay sits all by itself," he said. "Maybe the government should raid K-C's books and check things for themselves." If the economic situation is then shown to be what the company says it is, then Millyard said the government should step in with financial assistance for the cleanup.

Millyard said he feels the jobs at the mill are just as important as the environmental problems, but that those problems should not be overlooked in light of the recent layoffs.

A total of 255 permanent and 100 temporary employees at the mill and at the company's woodlands operations based in Longlac were laid off

on August 25.

"We do want to see a long-term, viable operation at Terrace Bay," Millyard said. "But if they (K-C) are not willing to make a go of it, then let someone else operate it. I'm assuming K-C is going to stay, so they should also include the environment (in) their priorities."

He said he finds it "quite despicable" that the control order negotiated four years ago has not been met, though Chisholm pointed out the company has indeed strived to cover all of the order's requirements regardless of the mill's economic difficulties.

Millyard claimed that the government could even lay charges the way things stand now, but the goal of Pollution Probe is to have K-C cleanup, not spend time in court.

"Something has to be done," he said, noting that he has been in the area in person and was "shocked" by what he saw during his investigation. He did not say if Pollution Probe will be in attendance at the Ministry's public meeting. The tentative date for that session is Oct. 28.

Seniors told to act now or never

continued from page 1

"It's fine what you say that this information stops in your office (and) is confidential and all, but this is what gets the people to say they don't want to fill it out," he added.

"We have to have some indication as to whether these units would be market value or RGI (Rent Geared to Income)," Kowalchuk responded.

A market value rent would be a straight amount per month, such as \$475 for a two-bedroom seniors unit, while RGI would be for those with

a maximum income of \$1,900 for seniors. If the gross income of a potential unit resident is over that limit, they would automatically be classified as a market value renter.

Kowalchuk said he will not set a deadline and will now try to renew interest in the proposal.

"If a need is established for this, you are looking at 1988 for an allocation (from) OHC," Jarvis noted. "That would mean spring of 1989 before it would open."

"In that time, things could change," Reeve Chapman pointed

out. "Maybe people will change their minds about this."

"Things can turn the other way too," Kowalchuk reminded her. "All you can do is call it the way you see it now...you have to get immediate results or you'll have to update it all later."

Terrace Bay clerk-treasurer Larry Simons agreed that getting in as many questionnaires as possible right now is crucial.

"If we don't go ahead this time, we won't be able to try again for three years," he explained, citing OHC

guidelines. "We have to get the true demand for these units now."

"You must get behind it as a community," Kowalchuk said. "I'm prepared to hold another open house and invite the whole township."

"These people might want to fill it out now," he added.

Kowalchuk said he did bring some

extra questionnaires with him, and they are now available at the Terrace Bay Municipal Offices.

Also at the meeting were Vesa Jarvela of Doggett and Kowalchuk, Sue Fraser-Wilson of the OHC's Thunder Bay office, and Terrace Bay Councillor Jim Ziegler.

Fall programs announced

The Schreiber Parks and Recreation Department has released its Fall Program Schedule. All post and non-post secondary programs require a minimum of 10 participants. All general interest courses will be organized with the same number of registrations; however, if 10 registrations are not received, the program may be offered at an increased registration fee.

Post Secondary Programs

Basic Communications, Child Psychology, Conversational French, Introductory Accounting, Introductory Psychology, Effective Business Communication, Commercial Law, Introduction to Marketing, Human Relations and Organizational Behaviour, Food and Beverage Control, and Personal Financial Planning.

Non-Post Secondary Programs

Microwave Cooking II, Anglais Comme Langue Seconde, Habit Control Workshop, Mixology, Small Motor Repair.

Brochures on the post and non-post secondary programs are available at the Recreation Office in Schreiber.

General Interest Courses

The Schreiber Parks and Recreation will organize any general interest course such as Cake Decorating, Sewing, Crocheting and Knitting, Arts and Crafts Courses or any other

program that the public expresses an interest in. If you have an interest in any of these programs or an idea for any others that could be offered, please contact the Recreation Office at 824-2317.

Instructors Wanted

If you have a skill or a craft that you would like to share with others, please contact the Recreation Office and leave the information with us. We will be more than happy to organize a course in your field.

Aerobics

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there is no aerobics instructor available at this time. We will have an instructor available for our evening classes beginning Nov. 4. A seven-week evening session will commence at this time.

We hope to be able to offer our regular afternoon and evening courses as early as possible in the new year. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

1986-87 Arena Schedule

The 1986-87 Schreiber arena season is scheduled to start on Tuesday, Oct. 14. All ice rentals are to be booked through the Recreation Office. For tournament schedules, please stop in at the office.

Liquor Management Policy

Please be advised that the Town-

ship's new Liquor Management Policy will be in effect as of Wednesday, Oct. 1. No Community Hall rentals involving a Special Occasion Permit will be made by telephone. Anyone wishing to rent the facility must do so in person.

The new rental rates for all facility rentals will also go into effect on Wednesday, Oct. 1. For more information, please drop by the Recreation Office. Regular office hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lost and Found

Anyone who has lost or found articles over the summer months during any of our programs may drop them off or check for them at the Recreation Office.

Belly Dancing

The Recreation Department is offering a Belly Dancing Class, to be run on Thursday evenings. Classes will be held once a week for an hour and a half. Registrations will be held as soon as there is enough interest shown in the class.

Floor Shuffleboard

Anyone in Schreiber and Terrace Bay interested in floor shuffleboard or "discing," as our American friends call it, should contact Gino Caccamo at 824-2695 or call the Recreation Office at 824-2317.

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