

Constitution adopted by Disability Action Group

Submitted by the Terrace Bay area Disability Action Group

With their first year now behind them, the Disability Action Group voted at a meeting held on Sept. 18 to adopt a Constitution, Objectives, and By-laws for their fledgling organization.

DAG President Rod Thompson welcomed the increase in attendance at the meeting. Appreciation for the support given DAG in their initial year was expressed and a thank you will be sent for the use of the McCausland Hospital Lobby.

Vice-President Shirley Mikus briefly outlined her findings from the Courier Magazine. In it, she learned that within the next ten years the government will be giving up to \$500,000 into a community action

fund to support the proclamation of the decade of the disabled person.

This will be given to organizations of disabled persons designed to increase opportunities for people with disabilities and to build understanding of their diverse talents; to give computer training for disabled persons to get a job (this portion was started in 1984); and an integrated homemakers program.

A homemaker was described as someone who does everything except professional nursing. Jack Patterson suggested two youths in the area who would be included in the youth pre-location assistance for training.

Rod then presented "The Spoke'n Word" put out by HAGI and which included our organization in their outline. He felt it had some good thoughts.

Shirley showed a proposal from the Township of Terrace Bay sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services with regard to funding for their snow removal program. To their original application the Township had added this year a clause stating persons participating may also pay a portion if they chose.

A fine report was given on the sale of raffle tickets at the Fall Fair on the painting made and donated by Jack Patterson. It was suggested he also sell in the shopping area before the draw date.

Grants

Schreiber will receive almost \$16,000 under the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's Capital Program for New Recreation Facilities, a Ministry news release has announced.

Almost 200 other municipalities or groups in the province were allocated funds for their projects, the release noted. A commitment of \$15 million was made when the program was announced earlier in the year, and groups were invited to apply for grants.

Schreiber's application for \$10,764 to purchase an ice resurfacer for its arena was approved, as was its request for \$5,102 to install a playground at the Holy Angels School.

Groups in Thunder Bay, Red Rock, Atikokan, Marathon, Sioux Lookout, Nakina, Geraldton, Longlac, and Beardmore were also awarded grants.

The release explained that the program provides support for the development of new and innovative sports, fitness, and recreational facilities across Ontario.

Those applying for the funding had to effectively demonstrate their ability to meet the program's principles regarding financing and public accessibility.

John Eakins, Ontario Minister of Tourism and Recreation, said in the release that "changing patterns of work and leisure, an aging population and the increased significance of recreation for personal and community well-being are increasing the need for services and facilities."

Shirley had contacted the Administrator at the Thunder Bay Home Care Program to discuss integrated Home Care Services. It was recommended our organization request a number of private companies to come down and do a survey of the needs of Schreiber-Terrace Bay to determine if it was economically feasible to set up a Homemakers Program here.

She had also conferred with Mr. Clem Fewer, Administrator of the McCausland Hospital, who informed her that the present service supplied by the hospital will end on December 31 and someone new will have to be brought in.

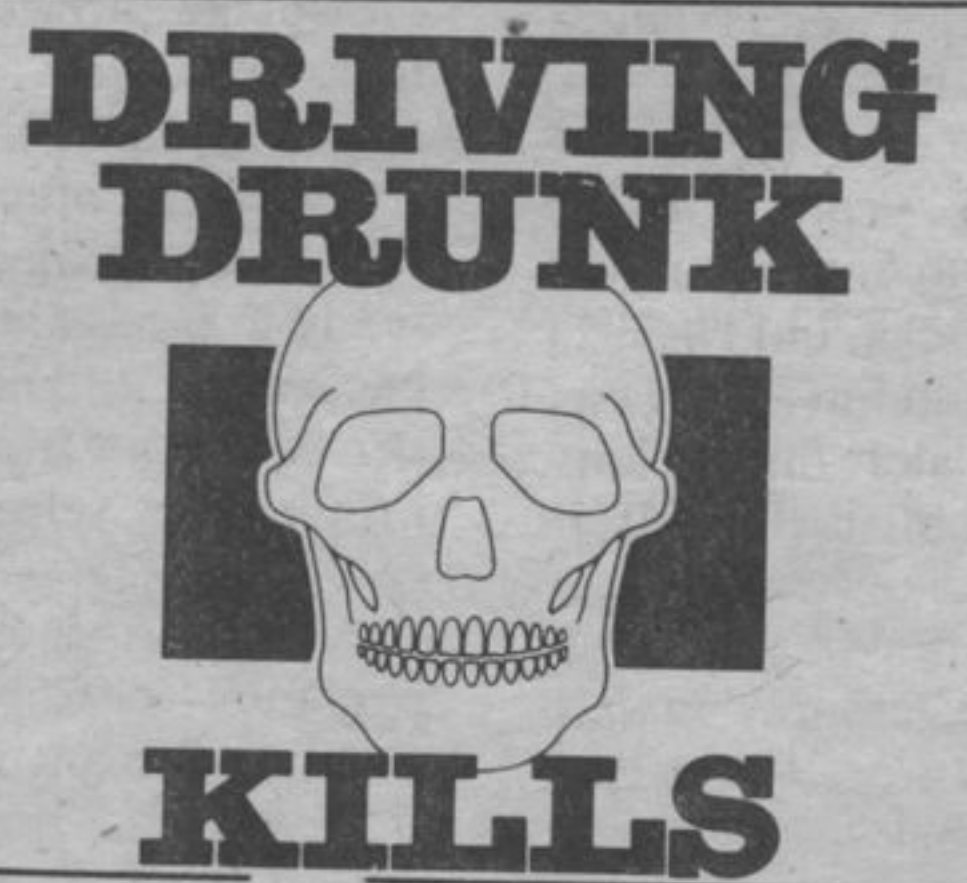
It was recommended a survey exactly as Kenora's survey should be conducted as it was really good in assessing the needs of home care, etc. Secretary Elizabeth McLean will therefore write requesting surveys from the Red Cross Home Care, Com Care, and Upjohn Health.

A meeting had been called by the Ministry of Community and Social Services at McCausland Hospital and Town Council. A recommendation was made to request a DAG representative attend. A further suggestion was to have someone attend regular meetings of Council.

Jack would like to see DAG consider the eventual purchase of a motorized scooter for use of members or rental.

Future considerations for the organization were discussed and one was the transportation of persons to meetings. It was agreed to approach local service clubs for assistance with this project after permission is given by those needing transportation. Another recommendation urged the immediate need of a Home Care Program.

The evening closed and coffee was served. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m. in the McCausland Hospital Lobby.



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Terrace Bay News



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