

MTC traffic study 'unsatisfactory': Reeve

The conclusions reached by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications from its traffic study conducted in June at the Highway 17-Terrace Heights Drive intersection in Terrace Bay were "unsatisfactory," Township Reeve Ollie Chapman said last week, because the study did not address all factors involved.

At the Oct. 14 meeting of Terrace Bay Council, a letter from MTC Regional Director W.D. Neilipovitz was read. In the letter, Neilipovitz claimed the study revealed that the traffic volumes at the subdivision access "are still not sufficient to warrant a left turn lane or traffic control signals."

Reeve Chapman pointed out, however, that the study was supposed to be held to investigate the need, if any, for a secondary subdivision access point. The only other access route, Ridgewood Drive, was closed down several years ago and is now only opened by police in emergencies.

The Reeve and the rest of Council agreed to ask Neilipovitz to attend a meeting at which the MTC study and other matters would be discussed. Council set aside Nov. 12 as a possible date for that session.

Reeve Chapman said she would like to ask Neilipovitz why his study did not consider the potential of a traffic bottleneck at the intersection during an emergency. Council had asked for the study to be conducted following the evacuation of part of the subdivision during a forest fire last May.

A traffic report which accompanied the study noted that pedestrian traffic across Highway 17 at the Terrace Heights intersection has gone up 104 per cent since the last study was held in the area in 1982.

Vehicular traffic along Highway 17 was up 30 per cent, as was traffic at Terrace Heights Drive. The study took place on June 10 and 11.

The report admitted that the volume of traffic turning right from Highway 17 to Terrace Heights Drive "is sufficient that a right turn lane could be considered in conjunction with a future highway improvement project." It also suggested that the Hudson Avenue and Terrace Heights Drive roadways could be aligned from their present offset configuration.

"These conditions, however, do not appear to be contributing to any operational problems and do not require immediate improvements," the report concluded.

A letter from Ontario Premier David Peterson to Reeve Chapman dated Sept. 19 was also read at the meeting.

In that letter, the Premier said he was writing to confirm his government's willingness to participate on a shared-cost basis in setting up an economic development agency for the area, which would act in response to the recent lay-offs of 355 Kimberly-Clark employees in Terrace Bay and Longlac.

"There is a difficult challenge to be faced, and there are no simple or easy

remedies for the effects of the major restructuring that is going on in the resource industries," Peterson said. "You are not alone in facing this challenge."

He also told the Reeve and Council that he was "encouraged" by the "determination of the local people to seek a positive outcome through the diversification of the economic base" and by the "expressed intention" of K-C management to restore the mill to profitability.

"The provincial government will help your community in every possible way to identify, evaluate and pursue any practical and reasonable opportunity to diversify the community and regional economic base," the Premier added.

He explained that the Ministry of Northern Development of Mines, of which he is now Acting Minister, will accelerate mineral survey and mapping programs aimed at stimulating exploration activity and the discovery of new minable ore bodies.

"Encourage you to maintain your community determination to meet this challenge, and offer the assurance that my government will support your efforts in every possible way," he concluded.



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Letter

Dear Editor:

Recently, two letters to the editor appeared in the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News concerning Mac Rogerson's usage of Crown land at Jackfish Lake for the purpose of conducting war games. Several incorrect assumptions were made by the authors which must be clarified.

Mr. Rogerson has not been issued any land use allocation or tenure from the Ministry of Natural Resources in this regard. Mr. Rogerson has the privilege to use the land in question, as does any other member of the public, for recreational purposes providing no charge is being levied for the use of the land and no improvements are developed.

No special permits are presently required to conduct war games on Crown land. Similarly, we do not charge berry pickers, hikers, or other recreationists for their activities out-

side of maintained and designated provincial areas, such as Provincial Parks.

It should be understood by all concerned that Mr. Rogerson is simply charging a fee for his equipment and services in this activity and has the legal right to do so.

The same letter left readers with the idea that this Ministry is soliciting public comments on this activity. This is not the case. We suggest that anyone wishing to know more about the war games program being offered should contact Mac Rogerson, whom we are sure will be more than pleased to explain what is being offered.

P.A. Strassburger
District Manager
Terrace Bay District
Ministry of Natural Resources
Terrace Bay, Ontario



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