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The Terrace Bay-Schreiber News is published every Wednesday by: Laurentian Publishing Co. Ltd., Box 579, Terrace Bay, Ontario, P0T 2W0. Telephone: (807) 825-3747. Second Class Mailing Permit Number 0867

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Single copies 35 rents Subscription rates per year in town \$14 00 out of town \$18 00 Member of Ontar o Community Newspapers Assor ation and The Canadian Community Newspapers

Association





Highway safety

The fact that certain sections of Highways 11 and 17 present driving hazards is not a new development, but, it is a problem that cannot be forgotten for fear of fading from people's minds.

The Nipigon Gazette initiated a petition that now has well over 2,000 signatures. This petition, and one from Dorion, has been given to MPP for Lake Nipigon Gilles Pouliot who has presented it in at the Ontario legislature.

Pouliot also presented a second petition on the matter. It had 265 signatures and it read, "We, the undersigned staff of the Geraldton District Memorial Hospital, wish to express our concern about the rising death toll on Highways 11 and 17 and the extremely poor conditions of maintenance these highways have received this year."

If the residents of the Terrace Bay, Schreiber, Rossport and Pays Plat areas are equally concerned with this situation, no time should be lost in signing these petitions and sending them to the News or to Gilles Pouliot himself. (This issue includes a petition and petition sheets will be circulated to various businesses).

The problem stems from the fact that so many vehicles use those one-laned highways- a large number of the vehicles are transport trucks and the like.

There were nine fatalities on those highways in 1986- who knows what 1987 has in store.

The highways must be made better to accommodate the traffic. The only way will be by public pressure and a community effort to make those who are in control realize it's a much-needed and much-wanted change for safety.

Another plea for community response

In regards to the letter to the editor last week concerning hockey inadequacy, I truly need all parents' support.

Your attendance would be most appreciated by the kids and myself at the Minor Hockey Association meeting, Thursday, February 5, 1987, at 8 p.m. in Room 101 at the Terrace Bay High School (next to the library).

Only a handful of parents is certainly not enough to see action done. If you have any feelings towards these issues (equal ice-time and no swearing in minor hockey) please come forward or send in your letters to the editor or to myself, Elise Kenny, or to the Minor Hockey Association.

My message also goes out to parents

who had children in hockey and they were pulled out for similar reasons. To parents who are thinking of registering their children in hockey in the future, I also need you.

Please come out and help clear this matter so we can make hockey more equal, fair, and fun for all our children.

If you have experienced unfairness in the past or now in any division of minor hockey, your concerns must also be heard.

I cannot do this alone- the more response there is to this problem, the more effectively these issues can be dealt with.

Thank-you for reading and sharing, Elise Kenny.





Long beach in winter

Photo by Ken Lusk

Arthur Black

by Arthur Black

"I don't have any very strong nationalistic instincts. I was brought up in southwestern Ontario where we were taught that Canadian patriotism should not withstand anything more than a fivedollar-a-month wage differential. Anything more than that and you went to Detriot."

John Kenneth Galbraith said that, and he was at least as good as his observation. As a young man, Galbraith heeded the siren call from south of the border and followed it, becoming among other things a world famous economist, U.S. ambassador to India and as the writer Anthony Burgess once put it: "One of the most famous Canada Americans ever produced."

I got to thinking about Mister Galbraith and his econmic litmus test for patriotism after I read a story in the newspaper about the crowds that have been coagulating recently outside the American Embassy and in front ot U.S. consultates right across the country. The crowds are made up of Canadian citizens, and they're not there to protest about shakes and shingles, free trade or the war in

Nicaragua. Consciously or otherwise, these citizens are living, shuffling proof of the Galbraithian five-dollar dictum. These folks want to move to the United States as soon as possible.

Understnad that we are not talking about a handful of malcontents here. We are talking about a stampede. An invasion. A tsunami of would be emigrants. Just consider the numbers of curious American that Canadians diplomatic officials have had to contend with recently:

-US Embassy in Ottawa: 3,000

calls a day. -Calgary: 1800 phone calls; another 1800 people lining up at the door.

-Halifax: 1900 -Vancouver: 1400

-Winnipeg 550

One might think that US officials in the city of Toronto would have been spared the inundation --Toronto being a platinum nail of the Golden Horsehoe wherein life is as gravy-dipped and financially rewarding as life in Canada usually gets.

One would be wrong. During the first three days of a recent week, the harried staff at the US Consulate in Toronto handled more than 10,000 inquiries.

There was a reason for the urgency -- a new visa program that will admit an additional 10,000 immigrants from 36 countries over the next two years. Any immigrant who gets one qualifies for American citizenship even if he or she does not have the usual work skills, sponsorship by relatives or refugee status. The catch is, all applications for visas had to reach Washington by the third week of January -- and they all had to arrive by regular (whatever that is) mail.

Well, I dunno. I'm sure a lot of those folks have a pocketful of

reasonable explanations for their desire to go and play on the big guys team, but dammit, there's something demeaning about the image of tens of thousands of Canadians shambling up to US consulate doors like impoverished bog farmers asking for a few crumbs from The Marsters table. After all this isn't Dogpatch. Canada isn't some flyblown Third World emirate or a lickspittle Communist vassal state. It's a good place -- colder than most, a tad hokey at times, confusing as hell -- but with a lot of virtures that the residdents of a Los Angeles barrio or New York's Harlem couldn't even begin to dream of.

Enough sermonizing. Let me leave you with the story of Doctor Tak Mak.

Doctor Mak is a Chinese-born Canadian genius in the field of Immunology. He also happens to be one of this country's leading candidates for a Nobel Prize in medicine.

Or was. Doctor Mak's reputation is international -- so much so

well-endowed various American institutions have been wooing him for years. Last year they were successful. Yale University offered the doctor his own brand new lab, plus directorship of the \$5 billion Howard Hughes foundaiton. All he had to do was move down and take it.

The offer was too juicy. Doctor Mak, to no one's surprise, accepted. He flew down to Connecticut to check out the facilities, bask in the adulation and find a place to

But then a funny thing happened. Doctor Mak changed his mind. Last week he sent his regrets to the Yale Board of Governors and took the first plane back to Canada.

"My reasons for coming back are very complicated" said Doctor Mak. "One reason is that I love Canada. If everyone who other people think is a hotshot leaves, we won't develop into anything as a country."

Doesn't sound complicated to me, Doctor. Sounds just fine.