

# Resident concerned about education taxes

Mr. H. E. Stewart,  
Chairman,  
Ontario Municipal Board  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of a group of unhappy taxpayers who live in the area known as the "locality" of the Lake Superior Board of

Education.

We wish the Ontario Municipal Board to investigate what we feel is a denial of our fundamental rights as Canadians.

For three years now the clerks of the municipalities of Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Manitowadge, and Marathon have acted as an arbitration board to distribute the tax levy of the Lake Superior Board of Education.

The "locality" is the area outside the municipal boundaries which pays school taxes, because of the expansion of the school board territory.

We understand that each portion of the locality is "attached" to the municipality adjacent to it. However, we understood at the time of the expansion of the school board that this was done only for the purpose of electing school trustees.

Somehow the municipalities have used quirks in the legislation to "represent" us during the tax arbitration process, arguing that we are "attached".

This "representation" in our view is a direct conflict of interest. The clerks, and the councils that employ them, are primarily interested in keeping down the tax levels WITHIN EACH MUNICIPALITY.

Thus, OUR school taxes have gone up tremendously each year. We do not object to paying our fair share of school taxes. But we do object to an undemocratic process where we are not represented.

Last year for example taxes were increased in the locality by 32 per cent. This year we have not yet been advised of exactly what the increase will be but we believe (from newspaper accounts) that it will be about 40 per cent.

In contrast, school taxes in Terrace Bay are only going up 1.9 per cent. Schreiber has virtually no school tax increase, and in Marathon and Manitowadge school taxes are GOING DOWN.

We do not fault the clerks personally, but rather the councils.

They pass resolutions in each municipal council, accepting the results of the arbitration, and most reeves are present at the arbitration meeting itself.

The results of the arbitration process thus clearly indicate that the clerks in fact do not "represent" us at all. The process excludes us, so we do not have a chance so speak up.

As well, according to newspaper reports, ONLY COUNCILS CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO APPEAL THE OUTCOME OF THE ARBITRATION TO THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD, and they have decided not to appeal.

So, we have been denied fundamental justice by not being

allowed to be present at our "trial", and we have also been told we have no right of appeal.

We understand that the deadline for filing formal appeals is June 14. We would ask that this deadline be extended indefinitely, until such time as you determine your findings on the legitimacy of this process.

Since you may be constrained by legislation, we have also sent copies of this letter to our MPP and the Ombudsman asking them to investigate as well.

We trust that you will give this matter the urgent attention we feel it deserves.

yours sincerely,  
Dave Speer.

## Disability Action Group News

The first annual Disability Action Group (DAG) meeting was called to order by President Rod Thompson in the lounge of the McCausland Hospital on May 21, 1987.

Minutes of previous meetings were adopted and reading of annual reports were presented by the following committees- publicity, scrapbook, resource, bouquet and emergency alerting.

The president also presented a report of highlights of DAG since its inception in September of 1985.

New officers for the upcoming year are: *President-* Shirley Mikus; *Vice-president-* Rod Thompson; *Secretary-* Elizabeth McLean; *Treasurer-* Pam Jones.

Russ Stevens suggested that an ad be placed on local TV with

resource information, insuring that it reaches those who need it.

Local school principals will be invited to DAG meetings to discuss accessibility.

Sweaters donated by Rose O'Javee will be raffled at the Golf Course Beer Gardens on July 1 and buttons will be sold at Simcoe Plaza prior to the Bed Race.

Elaine Mannisto, our new Workshop Co-ordinator, held the first DAG workshop on June 11. It is hoped that Don McKenzie, executive director of EMO, will be able to attend the June meeting.

DAG extends a warm welcome to members of Schreiber, Terrace Bay and Rossport communities.

## Bits and Bites

By Helene Ballard

Another week gone by- our weather could be better but let's keep on hoping.

Our card-playing friends were in to play bridge and we thank them for coming.

On Wednesday the 10th we enjoyed a visit in the morning and afternoon- they bring cookies they make with the teachers' help- it is so cute to them to pass the goodies around to the residents.

We always enjoy seeing these delightful children and look forward to September when they will come again to see us. Our thanks to the teachers.

Our Mina Mahoney and resident Cliff Barker have been busy

in the garden with vegetables and flowers so we will have a nice yard to enjoy, along with fresh vegetables for our table. Our thanks to these dear people for the work.

We are all looking forward to the special events planned for the Seniors- so next week I'll have more news.

Just want to remind our "young people" to please feed the trash cans this summer and to them I wish "good luck" in their final exams.

Until next week- Sign in a barber shop- "We live on long hair and whiskers."

So long.

## TERRACE BAY CELEBRATION CANADA DAY MIXED FUN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, July 1, 1987  
Open to Members and Non-members  
19 years & older  
Limit 84 PEOPLE-Entries Close

7 p.m. Sunday June 28  
Entry Fee: \$4.00/Person

Enter by signing on at **AGUASABON GOLF CLUB** or  
Contact: Jean Megraw at 825-3372

or  
Jack Chapman at 825-3289



## CANADA DAY DABBER BINGO



Monday, June 29th  
Terrace Bay Arena  
7:00 p.m.

\$1000.00 Jackpot  
**MUST GO!**

For more information  
call: Chris Joubert  
at  
825-9295

## CALLING ALL CHILDREN JOIN IN THE CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS !!!

MAGIC SHOW PERFORMED BY TONY GIBBS

AND

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT WITH GLENN PATERSON

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY:

**"POLKAROO"**

Place: Terrace Bay Arena  
Date: Saturday, June 27th  
Time: 2:00 p.m.

For further information call:

LIBRARY at  
825-3819

