

Study complete soon

Birchwood de-centralization?

By Ken Lusk
The News

There have been many rumours lately about the fate of Terrace Bay's Birchwood Terrace.

Tom Gash, administrator for the Thunder Bay District Homes for the Aged, has assured *The News* that residents do not have to 'pack up and leave' Birchwood Terrace.

Gash said the board of management of the Thunder Bay Homes for the Aged commenced its Master Plan back in November of 1986 to assess the existing facilities at Birchwood to see if they meet the present and future needs of the seniors.

He said the plan is being formulated "in response to the needs of the seniors in the district given the ideal of the local service capability."

The plan and the new homes

will "concur with the needs of (present and) potential consumers."

The outcome of the study will probably advise to de-centralize the service (from just one home in Terrace Bay and one in Thunder Bay).

The idea here is that many people have to go far from the town they have lived in for a long time to receive the kind of care Birchwood and Pinewood (Thunder Bay) offer.

The plan, in part, is looking at whether something can be done to offer these services in people's hometowns instead of having those people travel many miles to get the services elsewhere.

Gash said the study (Master Plan) will be completed by this November.

When it is completed, it will be presented to the board for discussion.

Not designed to meet needs

Pinewood Court in Thunder Bay was built in 1968 and cannot meet the present and future needs of seniors.

Birchwood Terrace was built in the '40s, and from step one, was not designed as a home for the aged. It used to be a motor hotel.

Birchwood and Pinewood are strictly residential care homes, meaning the residents can basically look after themselves.

They only need minimal personal assistance with some support (less than one and-a-half hours of care per day).

The residents are "here for other reasons than health," Gash said.

Birchwood has the capability for 62 residents. There are now 38 living there.

Level of care changes

"People are not prepared to

travel to receive care," said Gash.

If people don't have a place like Birchwood in their hometown, they will try to tie-in to local support services, he said.

Gash said he and Project Manager Betty Chalmers have talked to seniors, met with clubs, potential users of homes for the aged and present residents during the study.

The study is looking at downsized versions of Birchwood which would probably be 20-bed units.

There would be one each in Terrace Bay, Nipigon and Geraldton. Pinewood in Thunder Bay would be updated to meet today's needs of seniors.

These towns have been chosen because each already has an acute treatment hospital and community services.

These new units would be designed "to accommodate the

needs of seniors; barrier-free access and wheelchair accessible," Gash said.

The new units would be modeled around being wheelchair-accessible.

Gash said this is a must. In 1968, Pinewood had three wheelchairs; now 39 of the 75 residents use them.

The homes just do not meet the present (and future) needs of residents, he said.

Board of Management

The board of management of the Thunder Bay Homes for the Aged consists of representatives from 17 municipalities in the Thunder Bay district.

Five members represent those municipalities and there are two provincial appointments to the board.

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Vol. 42, No. 45

Wednesday, November 4, 1987

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Economic development discussed

By Ken Lusk
The News

Terrace Bay Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Lorne Mitchell told council at the Oct. 26 Terrace Bay council meeting about the idea of an economic development committee being formed.

Council is split on how quickly this idea should be followed through.

Mitchell said that even though

he is looking at Terrace Bay's economic situation from a relative-newcomer's eyes, he has seen rapid changes brought about by quick industrial growth in the past, which has had both negative and positive impacts.

"Future economic development, he said, could be a benefit to small business growth within the community."

Terrace Bay has had "some tough times in the business area,"

said Mitchell. There could be "some problems down the line."

On the good side, he sees Minnova Inc. as good for Terrace Bay.

The committee he talked of would be informed about what effect that company's (and K-C's) present and future plans will have on the town.

Committee mandate

Mitchell's discussion about the committee's formation touched

upon the fact that it could work at arms length with council in an advisory capacity.

The committee would work on a mandate with strong tie-ins with Kimberly-Clark and Minnova Inc.

Mitchell said the committee (and an economic development officer if necessary) could help Terrace Bay to be "viable, to expand and to grow."

He said a committee could put the town in a position of being "ahead of a (bad) storm."

"I'm asking permission of council to get volunteers for a committee (that could formulate) "a mandate and game plan."

Access to financial assistance could be found, he said, that would help the committee carry through with the mandate at no high cost and in a relatively-short time.

A percentage of the funding would come from the government.

To tree or not to tree

Terrace Bay Reeve Ollie Chapman said that at the last council meeting, Counc. Houston was saying the trees around here won't hold out much longer and that Counc. Ramsay was saying they will hold out for years.

Chapman said she was taken up in a helicopter recently near Lake Nipigon/Little Jackfish area and the trees are cleared out.

"It makes you sick," she said.

Counc. Ramsay said council should ask Kimberly-Clark just how long the tree supply will hold out.

"It's my understanding that there will be trees for our grand-

children.

"I heard K-C is prepared to cut into the '90s, and then to start again where they started back in the '40s," said Ramsay.

"I hope the mill is viable for many years," said Counc. Houston.

Ramsay, as he stated at the last council meeting, is worried that once the government money runs out that helps municipalities with economic development, the town will be put into a dilemma.

"We have to watch these things," he said. "Personally, economic development people have not impressed me."

Reeve Chapman said economic development works well, very well in some places.

"I would like to know where," Ramsay told her.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Mitchell said the right people in the job can get the job done.

"If you want to sell used cars, you need used car salesmen," he said.

"10 years ago you could say I will retire with Kimberly-Clark, but times are changing fast."

Dead against

What started as a discussion about the economic development of Terrace Bay turned into a discussion about *who* should be looking into development.

Councillor Chris Joubert was "dead against" Mitchell's proposal that night.

"It is not Lorne's position (to suggest it). It's a political position. It is not Lorne's job to look



Motley Crue

This motley crue of ghosts and goblins assembled at St. Martin School last week to pose for a picture for the *News*. The next night the ghastly creatures were let loose

on the streets of Terrace Bay and Schreiber. No reports have yet been received on the havoc they reeked that night.

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