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Council under fire by residents

THERE WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY in the Terrace Bay council chamber on January 25 when over 35 residents came to give their opinion on the possibility of an A&W restaurant opening in the Terrace Bay recreation centre.

By Ken Lusk
 The News

The meeting, which broke all attendance records in at least the last year, started quiet but eventually turned into a hot-collared verbal match between two council members and local businessman Joe Marcella.

The present situation regards Diane's Place restaurant in the Terrace Bay Recreation Complex.

The lease for Diane's Place, held by Theo Panpoukas for the last three years, expired last Dec. 31 but was extended to March 31.

Terrace Bay Clerk-Treasurer Administrator Dave Fulton told the *News* the lease was extended to give the township the opportunity to review proposals for a lease renewal.

As these events took place, word of the possibility of an A&W opening at the rec centre filtered out to the community.

Petitions by two different parties began to circulate through the town, one for the idea, and of course, the other against.

Dead against

Joe Marcella, owner and operator of *My Fries*, has many concerns about the possibility of an A&W operating at the rec centre.

informed about what was going on, he said.

Marcella's main concerns are that the business would not be locally owned and operated; there would be no increased business resulting for local business; many more of the towns' kids would go there and there could be increased vandalism; the new owner of the A&W should buy property in town, instead of getting it from the town, in order to pay taxes; and that there is not enough parking.

Marcella concluded by saying that he and the other people who have signed his petition believe the restaurant should "stay as it is, run by local people".

What if the A&W cannot make a go of it, he said, and has to close its doors?

"Who pays the cost and who restores it?", he asked.

There should be no competition for a local business such as *My Fries* from a town-owned complex, Marcella said.

"The original intent was and is to provide for people the use of the complex," he said. "I hope council does not turn the rec cen-

arise from people coming into town from the highway. "Criminals have to eat," he said. "My kids go there; I want them to be protected. It's a rec centre not an A&W."

Joubert also believes it unfair that the taxpayers would have to cover the cost of an \$8,000 electrical board that would have to go into the restaurant.

Joubert told the *News* later that he is not against an A&W being in town, he is against it being in a town-owned building.

He feels the owner should obtain his own property and pay property and business taxes.

Counc. Ziegler added that people talk about this restaurant and the fact that it could become an A&W.

If it was called Jim's or Mike's Restaurant, he said, some people wouldn't be causing so much fuss.

Counc. Houston said he would like to see the restaurant out of the rec centre altogether.

Put a chimo club or a weight room in, he said. Houston added that he has seen the White River A&W that Tom Bagdon has put in there. "Terrace Bay would be well-served to have that type of restaurant in town."

The major problem Houston had was with the fact that there is so much opposition to the A&W idea.

The idea has been discussed, he said, to put a tourist information bureau in Terrace Bay. All the businessmen think it is a great idea.

Now that an A&W might go in, everybody is objecting and do not want the tourists to stop. They will most likely shop as well as eat, he said.

He added that he would not like to see a local business suffer because of something like this. "Joe needn't go out of business—good business brings business," he said.

Don't like—won't vote

Because the vote the councillors were taking at the Jan. 25th meeting was only a vote to decide whether to accept Bagdon's proposal, the councillors reminded the audience that they will not accept Bagdon's offer if the conditions of the lease are not to their liking.

"If the lease is not the way I like it, I won't vote for it," Houston said.

The township and Bagdon are "talking" in "serious negotiations to provide quality service to Terrace Bay."

"A&W is the best deal for the township," agreed Counc. Mike King.

He said there will be more money in the town and more job opportunities. He added that the township has already talked Bagdon down from a 20-year lease to a 10-year lease.

King said the lease has to have in it what he wants. If there are



Leaving The Bay

Northern Stores Bay Manager in Schreiber, Don Robb, right, has accepted a similar position in Red Lake, Ontario. Robb will leave Schreiber near the end of February. He is seen above with Bernadette Maronese, office clerk at The Bay. (Ken Lusk photo)

Hudson Bay manager moving to Red Lake

As is what happens to many Hudson Bay Store managers, Don Robb, manager of The Bay, Northern Stores, in Schreiber, will be leaving for Red Lake, north of Vermilion Bay, near the end of February.

Robb has been manager in Schreiber for the last four years (on Feb. 2), a manager for five years, and an employee of The Bay for 15 years.

He originally hails from Virden, Manitoba, and in the course of his job he has lived and worked in places like Lynn Lake, Snow Lake, Winnipeg and Thompson, Manitoba, and in Saskatchewan.

Robb told the *News* that he simply received a phone call with the offer of this promotion, and gladly accepted.

He said this promotion "is a good opportunity for me; it's a bigger store with more volume. The store is three times the size of this one in Schreiber. And it's a lot closer to home."

Although the move will take Robb closer to his family, he said there is more family there on his wife's side. She has her parents and brothers and sisters there. Robb and his wife Laura have two children, six-year-old David and four-year-old Alaina.

Changes in his time

When asked what some of the major changes are in the Schreiber store that have taken place in the last several years, Robb said now there is a lot more selection. "The store has changed a lot in the last four years," he said.

People used to tell him that there is no selection, that there is nothing in the store. There is a lot more selection than in the previous management's time, said Robb. "It's 95 per cent changed around. There are new fixtures and the store's been painted. There is more and better selection. There is a better presentation (of merchandise) and the customers are more pleased."

Robb told the *News* there are a few more things on the agenda for

....council's vote was to decide whether or not to accept Bagdon's proposal for lease, not to decide whether to have an A&W....

His petition has been signed by many residents of this town.

Other various individuals and Lake Superior High School students also had a petition circulating.

At the council meeting, Reeve George Ramsay quoted figures of 299 signatures on this pro-petition.

"No debate on that"

During the opening portion of the council meeting, Reeve Ramsay, aware of the heated debate that could result, informed the people that "there will be no debate on that (the restaurant subject)."

Ramsay said council would later debate it then move for a vote.

*(It must be kept in mind that the council vote was to decide whether to accept Bagdon's proposal— not to decide whether to put an A&W in Terrace Bay).

My *Fries* owner Joe Marcella then addressed the chair, and from paper, read his concerns about the A&W.

In a tone of voice that gradually became more excited, Marcella said he had written a letter to the township concerning the situation, but that council "did not have the courtesy to reply".

He said he then asked council for a private meeting but again his offer was refused.

The general public was not

tre into an A&W."

*(Marcella did have more concerns, but for the sake of length, they were not all be listed).

After Marcella finished with his argument, Reeve Ramsay thanked him for his presentation.

For the time being, the subject would have to wait, because as Reeve Ramsay put it, questions could be fielded during the question period at the end of the council meeting.

The full house of residents that night would have to wait for possibly more than an hour to continue with the subject that had so drawn them to the meeting.

Should not debate

Finally it was time again for the topic of the A&W.

Reeve George Ramsay again stated that the subject should not be debated but rather, that a vote be held by the councillors.

At this time Councillor Jim Ziegler said, "I would like a recorded vote."

The motion to accept the proposal for lease from Tom Bagdon of White River for the A&W was moved by Counc. Ziegler and seconded by Counc. Bill Houston.

Counc. Chris Joubert, an opponent to the A&W, took this opportunity to tell the audience about how he felt on this issue.

Joubert feels if the A&W existed in town, problems could