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Committee will need ideas and plans for future

By Greg Huneault
the News

Those in attendance at the Futures Committee meeting last Wednesday left with the sense that there will be a great deal of work and planning ahead to ensure that Schreiber and Terrace Bay can adapt to economic changes in the future.

That was the main message of Bob Micheals, Atikokan's economic development officer, to the group of Schreiber and Terrace Bay politicians and members of the Futures committee.

The purpose of the community futures program is "to assist communities in their efforts to identify, develop, and implement measures to help individuals adjust to their economic environment and to expand employment."

Mr. Micheals said that is a very difficult task and involves a great deal of vision and determination.

"It is a long range proposition.. one might describe it as a lifelong proposition," he said, adding that it is necessary to look to the past when planning for the future.

He referred specifically to the problems faced by the residents of Atikokan in the mid-'70s and how the community banded together to turn hardship into success.

In 1972, it was announced that one of the local mines in Atikokan was to close by 1976. However, in 1974 officials said the life of the mine would be extended.

A group of residents joined together to start discussing and planning for the eventual closing, and by 1978 they realized varied opportunities for diversifying the local economy.

An economic development officer was hired, and did well until the recession came about in 1981.

By then, both local mines were closed and Micheals said at one point there was approximately 60 per cent unemployment in the area.

During that period, the town lost 60 per cent of its tax base, taxes doubled in a five-year period and arrears shot up to 25 per cent.

Micheals stressed that economies such as Schreiber's and Terrace Bay's must be prepared to expand and diversify.

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Pity those pained pins

Local bowlers held a 12-hour bowlathon this past weekend to raise money for the upcoming tournament. Shown above, from left to right: Marlene Dobush, Alice Herculson, Margaret Herculson and Micheal Matson. Other participants in this gruelling marathon included: Lea Falzetta, Linda Falzetta, Justin Pearen, Joan Begin, Benita Vailliant, Tom Long and Charlie Matson. Those who started at 9:00 am were Joan Woods, Ernie Kettle, Mike and Shelley Long. The group managed to raise over \$600.00.

Can you help us out?

The people behind the picture who contribute to the quality of life in our communities... these are the people that we want to know about — the people that we want to share with everyone.

There are people who volunteer knowledge, expertise and wisdom to help others in the community. To show appreciation of the time and energy that these people reflect on our society, the NEWS and Air Canada are "SEARCHING FOR A HEART OF GOLD."

We want these people to be appreciated. Coaches, organizers of special events, grandparents who take care of the kids, members of social committees, anyone who works towards the goal of making our lives a little easier.

We want to say "Thank you" to these people. You can help us find out who they are. Come to the NEWS or call us and we will nominate these people for the Air Canada "HEART OF GOLD AWARD." Contact the NEWS, Box 579 or phone 825-3747. Have a heart...these people are gold!

Thunder Bay gets grant in bid to pursue Nordic games

Thunder Bay— The City of Thunder Bay will receive a \$140,000-grant to pursue its bid to host the 1993 World Nordic Games, Ontario Minister of Tourism and Recreation Hugh P. O'Neil, Taras Kozyra MPP for Port Arthur, and Lynn McLeod MPP for Fort William announced on March 25.

"The City of Thunder Bay and Big Thunder National Ski Training Centre already enjoy an excellent, world-wide reputation for hosting major events," Mr. O'Neil said.

"When the City of Thunder Bay wins the bid, my ministry will provide up to \$3,979,000 over four fiscal years towards the cost of hosting the Games."

Total cost of hosting the Games is estimated at \$13,254,000.

Fifty-eight countries are expected to take part in the 11-day competition, to be held exclusively at Big Thunder National Ski Training Center, an agency of the ministry.

"The World Nordic Games will attract an estimated 1,500 athletes, coaches, officials and media, along with 6,000 out-of-town spectators, who could spend more than \$8-million in the community," Mr. O'Neil said.

The host site will be chosen by the Fédération Internationale de Ski in June of this year, in Istanbul.

AIDS program launched to stop spread of disease

Toronto— On March 22, Health Minister Elinor Caplan launched a two-year, \$7-million advertising and public information campaign aimed at checking the spread of AIDS.

The slogan of the multi-media campaign is "Let's Talk." That message is designed to reach over 90 per cent of the people of Ontario. The campaign includes television and radio spots, as well as print media and transit ads. Services on the province-wide toll-

free, AIDS information hotline have also been expanded.

"AIDS is a crippler of human potential. It strikes people in the prime of their lives," Mrs. Caplan said. "Knowing the facts about AIDS is the first step in self-protection."

An information brochure will be distributed to every household in the province in the next few weeks. All the campaign materials will

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It was a busy day for the "Easter Bunny" (also known as Barbara Cassie, 10) as she delivered chocolate easter eggs to small and big kids alike at the Terrace Bay CIBC. photo by Greg Huneault