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Schreiber Fire Department now better equipped to handle emergencies

new training program and tools help

By Greg Huneault
 the News

With the recent acquisition of a specially equipped vehicle, the Schreiber Fire Department will now be able to respond to hazardous spills and automobile accidents where victims are trapped.

Funded by the Joint Emergency Planning Program (JEPP) and the township of Schreiber, the department received a total of \$45,718 to modify, equip, and put into service a 1978 Suburban Van.

The total cost was shared equally between the township and the federal government, with the province administering the program.

The Suburban, dubbed the Haz Mat Vehicle, carries emergency tools and rescue equipment to help provide better emergency response services to the area.

Chief Peter Doig of the Schreiber Fire Department said the program is directed to groups who provide emergency help in accidents on federal or provincial property.

Under this definition, the department has quite a large area within its jurisdiction. The vehicle will be required to respond to any hazardous materials spills or accidents on the Trans Canada Highway to a distance of approximately 25 miles west to Gravel River.

Its easterly boundary will take it as far as 25 miles to Steel River, and it will also provide back-up for Terrace Bay.

It also will respond to any area of the CPR right-of-way which is accessible from within the easterly and westerly boundaries.

The vehicle is set up to act as a mobile command post for other emergencies and to coordinate emergency operations from an accident site.

Chief Doig told the News that a compartmentalized trailer will soon be purchased by the department, and will be towed by the Haz Mat Vehicle when necessary. The trailer will contain extra equipment to deal with hazardous spills such as flood lights and a generator.

So far, nine Schreiber firefighters and two Terrace Bay firefighters have received 40 hours training on the new equipment.

The team of specially trained firefighters recently put on a demonstration at Marathon, and completed a two-week training program at the Schreiber Fire Hall.

One new piece of equipment the department has practised with is The Phoenix Rescue Tool. Commonly recognized as the "Jaws of Life," it is a hydraulic tool used to spread apart wrecked cars to rescue victims.

The department also has two encapsulating suits, which completely cover firefighters and their air tanks. The suits will be used to remove victims within a contaminated area if a spill of hazardous materials should happen.

With The Haz Mat Vehicle and new equipment, the chief feels that the department has addressed a "moral obligation" to provide improved services to the area.



The Girl Guides and Brownies have been selling A Cookie Blitz will take place on the evening of Wednesday, April 20 from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Each box sells for \$2.25. The funds raised through cookie sales are used to buy badges, make crafts and organize trips to camp. You can support your local Girl Guides and Brownies by purchasing these cookies. photo: G. Huneault

Disability Action Group address issues affecting area's disabled

By Elizabeth MacLean
 special to the News

The Terrace Bay/Schreiber Disability Action Group (DAG) held a day-long meeting on April 7 to address issues of concern to the area's disabled residents.

The purpose of the Special Transit System Workshop held at the Terrace Bay Recreation Centre was two-fold.

The first purpose was to present D.A.G.'s rationale for the need of such a system to the appropriate people.

The second purpose was to gather together all parties concerned with the funding and operation of such a system, and to establish the role of each.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Simon Hoad, community services manager with the March of Dimes in Thunder Bay.

Shirley Mikus, president of D.A.G., presented the group's reasons for wanting to see the establishment of such a system.

Mr. D. Smith, head of program development and evaluation with the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, explained what portion of capital and operating costs can be funded through that

ministry.

To get MTC funding, the system must be administered through the municipalities who have the option of operating the system themselves, or contracting out the operation and maintenance.

Mr. Smith also presented speci-

fications for vehicles to be used, as well as eligibility requirements for those wishing to use the service. He noted that people who do not meet the eligibility requirements can be carried on the vehicles, but would not be subsidized through MTC.

see "Special" on page 3

Schreiber receives grant funding for sewage plant

By Greg Huneault
 the News

The Township of Schreiber has recently received approval of grant funding for the expansion and modification of its sewage treatment works.

Schreiber Clerk-Treasurer Aurel Gauthier told the News that the township is currently looking at different proposals and studies, so it's premature to give a final figure for costs.

"It's still in the early stages. We're still in the stage of (determining) how we're going to upgrade the plant," he said.

The Ministry of the Environment has allotted a grant worth 77.8 per cent of the total

cost, and the Ministry of Northern Mines and Development will provide half of the remain cost, or 11.1 per cent. The township be required to pay the remainder.

The Ministry of the Environment indicated that the estimated cost of the project is \$1,672,000, but Mr. Gauthier said that figure is too high.

"The township is not going to go for that cost," he told the News, adding that the township will look for the lowest possible cost.

An engineering firm is presently conducting a study to find the best system. Mr. Gauthier said it will be July or August before a decision will be made on the final cost and design of the project.



New HAZ-MAT Vehicle

The Schreiber Fire Department's new Haz-Mat unit will better assist the department to provide extrication and rescue services. Eleven fire-