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Interest in mining throughout area draws prospectors to local seminar

By Greg Huneault
 the News

Referring to prospectors as the "seedlings" of the mining industry, geologist Bernie Schnieders was pleased to see a healthy crop of them attend the recent prospector's course at the Terrace Bay Recreation Centre.

Schnieders, a geologist with the Schreiber-Hemlo District of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, was assisted by Staff Geologist Mark Smyk. The two expressed surprise at the comparatively large number of people who signed up for the course.

Schnieders told the News 44 people registered, and attendance averaged between 30 and 35 during each of the six nights the seminar was held. Smyk compared this number to the 27 he said attended the same seminar in Manitowadge recently.

Schnieders attributes the apparent surge of interest in prospecting to the development of mines in the area.

He pointed out Minnova's Winston Lake Division Mine outside of Schreiber, the Geco Mine by Manitowadge and the Hemlo field, which is comprised of the

David Bell, Golden Giant and Page-Williams mines.

Schnieders said the lure of finding a profitable deposit has grown. "If they can find Hemlo on the highway..." he emphasized, using the estimated 80-million ton deposit by Marathon as an example of possible size and location of ore deposits in the North.

Smyk noted that it was the first time for many attending a prospecting seminar. He told the News that it may be a hobby for most, but there are some who take it quite seriously and become promoters and land speculators.

He said it would be of interest to hunters, trappers and fishermen if they were to become aware of the geology of the area and look for interesting or unusual rock formations.

At the seminar last Wednesday night, those in attendance learned of what to look for and how to get at it.

The geologists explained rock formations which may lead to findings containing ore, and the tools used to remove pieces of rock to see what the rock is made of.

They also explained the simple definition of ore: anything that can be removed from the ground for a profit. Schnieders told the group a find might contain a high percentage of a mineral such as gold or zinc, but when costs such as development and transportation are included, it may be deemed too expensive to pursue.

Conversely, a relatively small amount of metals in an ore body may make a profit if it is close to a transportation route, or if costs of construction and development are low.

Smyk emphasized the importance of prospectors by pointing out that they discover from 65 to 75 per cent of mineral occurrences. "It starts with the prospector," he stated, adding that what they find might lead to development, production and ultimately benefit the national economy.

If a prospector finds something of interest, he or she can call either of the two geologists who will go out to the site and examine the area. Smyk said it adds credence to the find if a geologist studies the area first-hand and informs mining companies of the more technical aspects.

If further studies are warranted, the Mines and Minerals Division provides services and equipment to help the prospector.

Among the services provided, a free assays of samples, which see "Tools" on page 3



False alarm: Terrace Bay firefighters quickly responded to a fire alarm at Birchwood Terrace last Thursday, but fortunately it was a false alarm. Problems apparently stem from work being done on telephone lines at Kimberly-Clark. photo by Greg Huneault

Town fathers having it out with 'Ma Bell' series of service interruptions cited

By Greg Huneault
 The News

The loss of telephone service which affected Schreiber residents on April 6 was just another in a series of reported problems that council is fighting to decrease.

Councillor Ed Krause told the News Bell has reneged on promises to provide better services for the last few years.

"I think it's time Ma Bell was pushed a bit; we were assured a system would be installed by late '87. We can't stress how important telephones are," said Krause.

As a result of the latest reported loss of phone service in April 6, concerns were raised about the ability of emergency services personnel like police, ambulance attendants and fire fighters to respond to calls.

Krause noted that Schreiber Hydro would not have been able to respond to any problems if a phone was needed. There were no reported problems or occurrences during this period.

The telephone lines were not working from approximately 7.05 pm to when the service was totally reintroduced at 1.30 pm the following day.

Krause said Bell officials have told Schreiber council an improved service will be installed later this year or in early part of 1989, but he is uncertain about Bell's intentions.

"They told us that before (but) I want a firm commitment from Bell. They promised us the world," Krause said.

He told the News council has sent a letter to Bell bringing to their attention the problems in the past and mentioning the April 6 outage

particularly. Krause said that local emergency services personnel have not received a copy as yet, but they are "willing to endorse it."

Section Manger of Customer Services for Bell Canada, Georgie Hari, told the News Bell has plans to install an improved system later this year or early next year. She disagreed with Counc. Krause's assertion, however, that Bell had promised to install a system in 1987.

"I beg to differ with that. We at no time ever made a commitment (to council regarding the installation in question)," Hari said.

She told the News Bell "wants to keep a dialogue open" with council, and has offered to establish a committee or have meetings in

the past. Hari said Bell has budgeted for the installation of an improved service by this year's end or by early 1989.

"It's too early to give a definite date," she said, adding that the meeting to determine the date for the installation to begin hasn't been held.

Hari told the News estimates for the change-over range from \$1.3 and \$1.5-million.

According to Hari, the installation will take approximately six months. Bell hopes the proposed installation, which includes modern electronic equipment, will offer Schreiber residents better general service.

Bell customers to get directory assistance '411' now makes it easier

Beginning May 20, 1988, Bell Canada customers in the area code 807 will have access to both local and long distance directory assistance within their area code by simply dialing 411.

Presently, customers are required to dial 1+555-1212 to obtain long distance directory assistance within the same area code.

Charges of \$0.60 will continue to apply if the number requested is listed in the customer's directory or in another directory automatically provided to the customer, unless

there is an exception or exemption as outlined in the front pages of the telephone directory.

However, to obtain calls with a different area code, customers must continue to dial 1+ area code+ 555-1212.

There is no charge for calls to long distance directory assistance operators in Canada. Bell Canada's directory assistance service handles an average of 450,000 local and long distance calls a day in Ontario and Quebec.

Briefly

Terrace Bay is still without a Greyhound parcel depot, and it appears the town may be without one for a while longer.

Terrace Bay Clerk-Treasurer Dave Fulton told the News it appears none of the local businesses are interested in taking over the service.

Fulton said the District Manager of Greyhound, Randy Lent, was in Terrace Bay on April 11 and 12 to try and obtain a local agent, but was unsuccessful.

"So far he hasn't been able to (get an agent), and we haven't been able to," said Fulton of Lent's and the Terrace Bay council's efforts to drum up interest.

The Clerk-treasurer did say an individual has submitted a proposal to take over the service, but council will have to study it first.

Fulton suggested problems with having the necessary storage space and the occasional unfavourable clientele a depot may attract as possible reasons for the lack of interest.

Currently, area residents must travel to the Twin Spot Restaurant in Schreiber to send or receive parcels.