

Terrace Bay's Royal couple

Serious message underlies fun, interesting fashion statement

By Greg Huneault
the News

Peter Monks is not a wallflower, nor is he a man prone to whimsy. He and his wife Daphne have a definite serious message behind their lighthearted and interesting outfits. But then again, if you are a king and queen such as they, you can afford to do as you wish.

Dubbing themselves the "Northwest Ontario's Pearly King and Queen", the Monks are following a tradition borne of their heritage, which is the basic idea behind the buttoned-filled suits themselves.

The tradition of Pearly Kings and Queens is a British one believed to have started in 1870 by a Henry Croft. He wore a suit entirely encrusted with pearly buttons, and in 1880 he became the first Pearly King of London.

First worn by "coster-mongers," or vendors selling fruits and veg-

etables, the Pearly kings and queens were soon commissioned to attend charity and advertising events to attract attention.

Peter said the fashion statement caught on, and soon most London boroughs had their own royal family of pearly kings and queens, princes and princesses, and even pearly dogs.

The reason they were called Pearly royalty was because the buttons that adorned the suits were originally smoked mother-of-pearl, before being replaced by plain mother-of-pearl. Today, however, mother-of-pearl buttons are expensive and have been replaced by more common types.

A traditional suit can use as many as 60,000 buttons and weigh up to 60 pounds, but the average suit consists of between 15,000 and 40,000 buttons of various sizes and shapes.

Mr. Monks estimates that he has up to 700 on his hat alone, and

approximately another 3,000 on his suit. He does have a few mother-of-pearl buttons, but said the cost was too high to keep buying them, so he has begun using interesting and complementary substitutes.

Mr. Monks wears the suit to express his British heritage, and sees it as a way to encourage others to express their heritage and ethnic background.

In the case of his ethnic dress, he said there is not any costume by which people can really identify his British heritage, unlike a traditional colourful Ukrainian costume for example.

"A pin-stripe suit, a bowler hat and an umbrella doesn't really inspire you," pointed out Mrs. Monk.

Peter is the president of the Terrace Bay Multicultural Association and a member of the Multicultural Association of Northwest Ontario (MANWO).

He told the News the local association is not as strong as it could be, but it is represented in the local Canada Day parade.

As a member of MANWO, he stresses the importance of people in this area maintaining their own heritage while still remaining Canadian.

He also stated that MANWO is

a great help to those whose native language is not English. The association is striving to provide language services to those who need it, particularly in legal or medical matters. See Sharing on page 13



Sew...did that take a lot of work?

Daphne and Peter Monk proudly display their heritage

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULES - GERALDTON DISTRICT

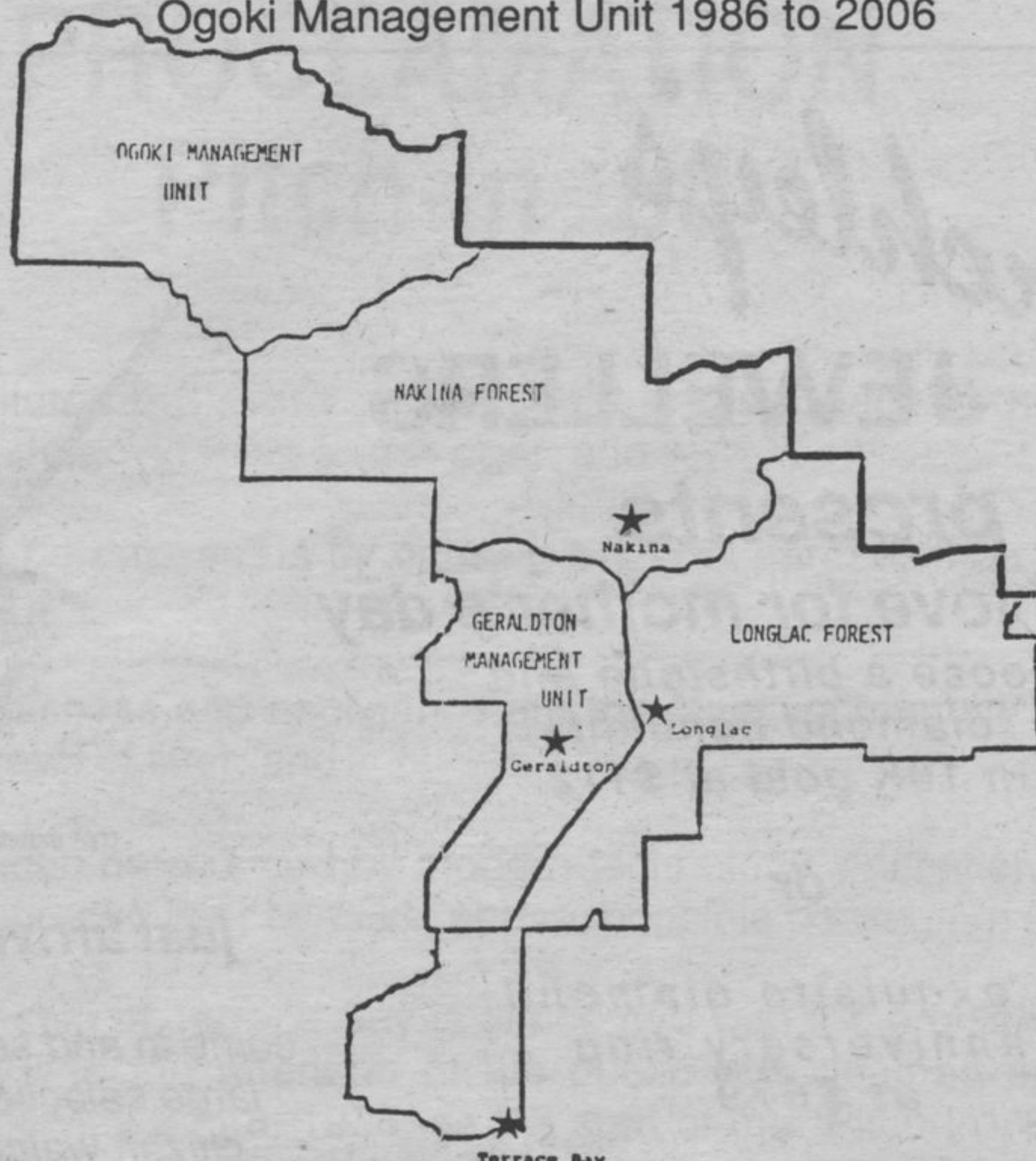
The Annual Work Schedules for the Geraldton Management Unit, Longlac Forest and Nakina Forest have been approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

These schedules outline timber harvesting, road construction and renewal and maintenance activities on each of the above management units for the period of April 1st, 1988 to March 31st, 1989. The Annual Work Schedules are available for inspection at any time during this twelve (12) month period at the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Geraldton, 208 Beamish Avenue West. Any future amendments to the Annual Work Schedules will also be available during this twelve (12) month period.

MANAGEMENT PLANS - GERALDTON DISTRICT

The following 20 year Management Plans have been recently approved and are available for inspection at the Geraldton District Office:

- Longlac Forest 1985 to 2005
- Nakina Forest 1985 to 2005
- Geraldton Management Unit 1986 to 2006
- Ogoki Management Unit 1986 to 2006



For further information, please contact Walter H. Ellis, Project Forester, Ministry of Natural Resources, 208 Beamish Avenue West, P.O. Box 640, Geraldton, Ontario, P0T 1M0, Telephone: 807-854-1030.



Ministry of Natural Resources
Vincent G. Kerrio
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