

Letters to the editor

Let's be frank

Reveal 'plan' or resume talks, reader challenges Kimberly-Clark

continued from page 4

Dear Editor,

Kimberly-Clark of Canada's 700 woodlands workers, members of IWA Canada Local 2693, went on strike May 9, 1988, when Kimberly-Clark refused to sign a job security clause in their contract negotiations.

Picket lines have been set up at the Terrace Bay Pulp Mill.

Weeks have passed since the strike began, and although the union is willing to return to the table to talk with KC, the company has made no move to contact the union.

Workers on the picket line are peaceful, displaying only placards in protest. They stand frustrated on the picket line as trains with carloads of wood chips, engineered by C.P. Rail staff, ignore their protest in order to replenish the supply of chips the mill needs to produce their pulp product.

The workers are only asking for security of their jobs. They would like to provide a guaranteed percentage of the wood KC requires each year. There are no wage or benefit disputes — only JOB SECURITY.

The strike is frustrating for the workers and their families, who receive only a small sum of money each week from a strike fund supplied by the union. This amount of income hardly puts food on the table or pays the rent.

I feel that when Kimberly-Clark constructed their mill here they made a commitment by doing so, to the people who came to live and work here and to the town they helped create.

There is no doubt that Kimberly-Clark has been a good corporate citizen. They have been instrumental in: the expansion of Terrace Bay; in helping employees buy and build homes; in helping with personal problems and making firm commitments to solve environmental problems that arise from the production of pulp. For over 40 years, they have provided trades and jobs at comparable

wages and benefits for the residents here.

However, if K-C won't guarantee our woodlands workers their jobs by giving them a percentage of wood supply — instead, buy it from outside sources — then they are hardly generating any economic growth for this town, or providing food and homes for those of us who live here.

Speculation abounds as to whether this strike situation is simply a ploy to shut down woodlands as part of their "survival plan," for the operations here.

Only the decision-makers at Kimberly-Clark know the answer

to this question as they continue to manipulate our lives with their plans.

I personally challenge Kimberly-Clark to come forward with the truth about their plans, or return to the negotiating table with the union to settle this dispute, so that we can get on with our lives and Kimberly-Clark can continue as a good corporate citizen.

Sincerely,
Mary Deschatelets

P.S. I personally thank all those people who have shown their support during the strike.

Thank you

To all who attended and worked at the Shower held in my honour. Also thanks to everyone who donated to the lists at the Bay, Spadoni's, Western Tire and Cebrario's. Thank you to Carole Ferland, and Bonnie Scott, for organizing and putting on the shower for me.

Darlene Bourguignon

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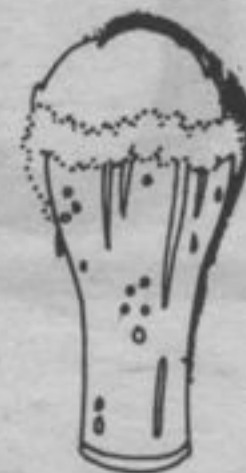
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Thank you

Thank you to all who attended the Stag and Doe in our honour. Special thanks to Cindy & Marc Tremblay for organizing and all their hard work.

Also thanks to Pat Bourguignon, Shane Riley, and all the girls of the family for all their help to make it such a success.

Darlene & Mike
Bourguignon