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Zinc mine worth its weight in gold

The fortunes of the area have truly been enhanced with the opening of Minnova's Winston Lake Division mine just west of Schreiber.

The impact this mine will have on the local economy is something to celebrate and consider. Employees are buying, building and renting homes; local merchants and suppliers have been and will continue to benefit greatly; tertiary sector services are sharing a piece of the pie.

In all of this excitement however, there are a few who are wondering how they can get an extra serving of that pie. And rightfully so.

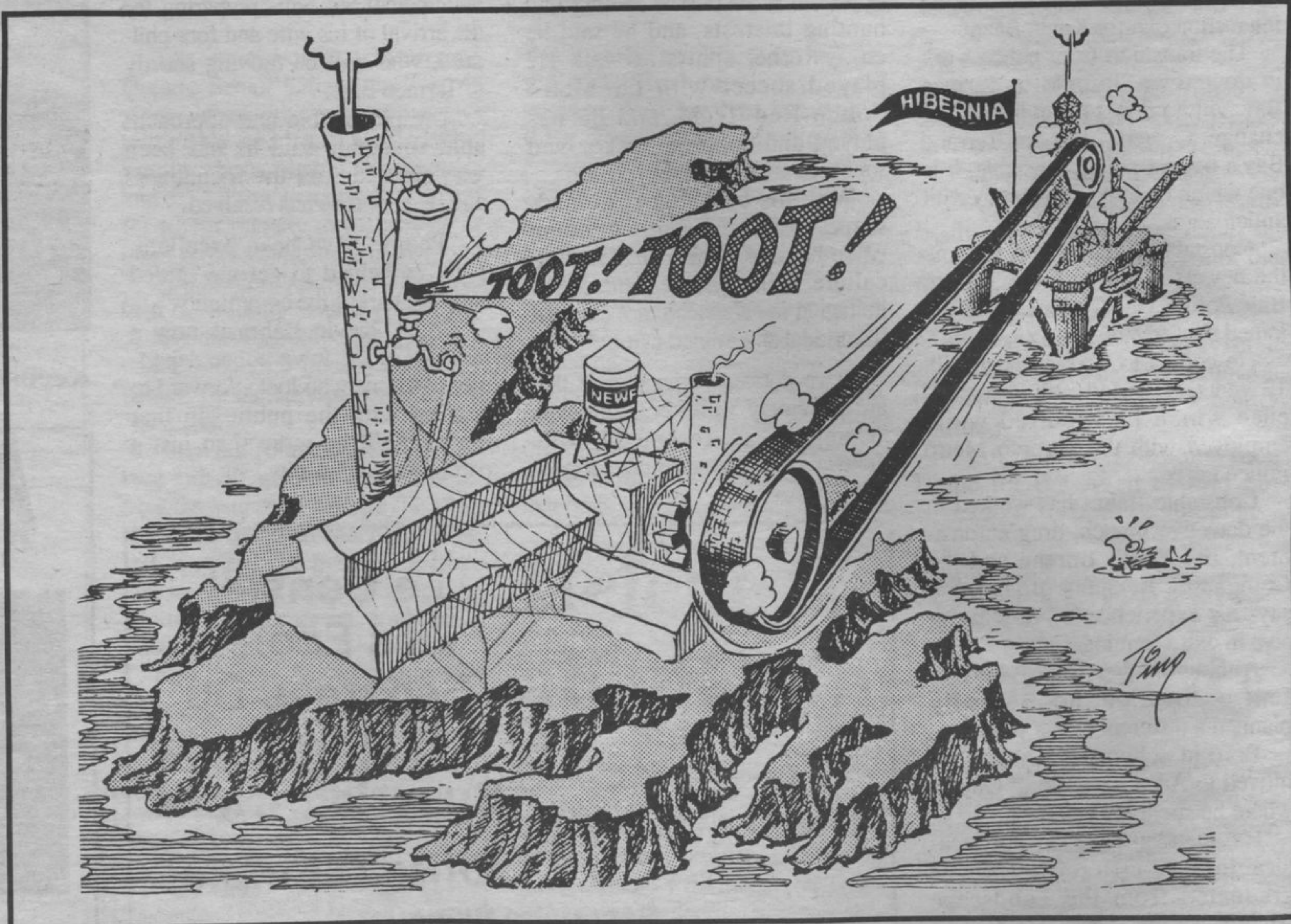
Since Minnova's mine is located in an unoccupied territory, it still remains to be seen where its tax payments will go.

Players in the mining industry cried foul when the federal government eliminated the flow-through shares incentive, whereby exploration was subsidized and encouraged through the use of these shares. Many are concerned that exploration will be drastically reduced now that this incentive is gone.

It is now time for local politicians to do their own digging and exploring because the incentive is there for the public coffers. It is their responsibility to determine to who the money will be distributed. Councils must give this issue high priority and act with a sense of urgency. 'There's gold in them thar hills.'

We deserve collective ear of ministers too

Some councillors said it was a positive opportunity to speak with Lyn McLeod,



Minister of Colleges and Universities, and with Sean Conway, Minister of Mines, when the two cabinet ministers toured through the area last week.

It ought to be very productive because how often have political leaders and ministers visited or spoken with people from Terrace Bay, Schreiber and the area?

We may not have the population base—hence the political and voting clout—of larger urban centres, but we play a very important role in our province's and country's economy. When was the last time a provincial or fed-

eral leader or cabinet minister stopped by and spoke to community leaders?

It's perhaps time to stop being grateful for the occasional visit and time to start letting our provincial and federal politicians know that we deserve to be heard on a more regular basis. To have the ear of ministers while they are on campaign tours before anticipated election announcements should not be considered enough.

Letters to the editor are encouraged

Write: Letters to the editor
 P.O. Box 579
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Diary of a chronic record breaker

Here are three things I am certain of:

1. I am typing these words.
2. You are reading these words.
3. Ashrita Furman is doing neither. He is juggling instead,

Yes, juggling. It's what Ashrita calls it when he laces on his running shoes, picks up three balls and goes out for a run. He juggles whole he jogs -- ergo, juggling. And we are not talking about twice-around-the-cinder-track fun runs here. Ashrita Furman runs -- er, juggles -- full 26-mile marathons.

You'd never know it to look at the guy. Ashrita Furman is a smallish, trim 33-year-old with short black hair, an easy smile and just a hint of a Big Apple bray in his voice. He manages a health food store in the Queens section of New York most days, but it's what he does when he leaves the store that makes jaws drop and brain pans strain at their moorings.

Here are just some of Ashrita's umm, achievements over the past few years:

JUMPING JACKS. You know those dopey things that sadistic

gym teacher made you do in high school -- legs apart, arms outstretched, then legs together arms over your head? The ones that mad your legs twitch and your breath rattle in your throat? Ashrita Furman did 'em twelve straight hours.

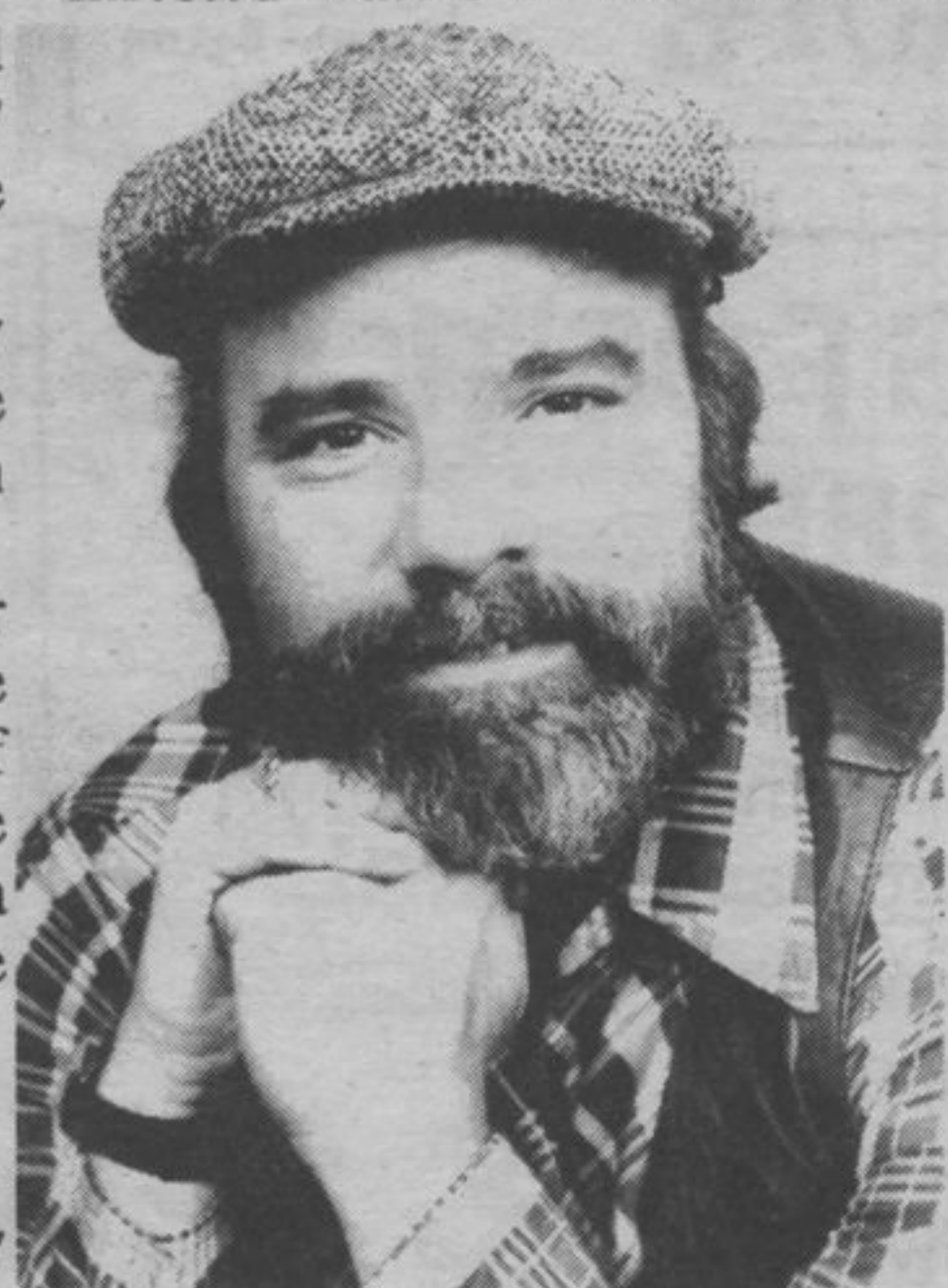
Twelve hours and twenty minutes to be precise. Forty five thousand and twenty seven jumping jacks all told.

SKIP RUNNING. Another Furman refinement on the otherwise dreary pastime of running -- running while skipping rope. Ashrita ran/skipped ten miles in a little over an hour.

LONG DISTANCE POGO-STICKING. Maybe by now you're getting jaded with Ashrita's performances. Maybe you think that the fact he went 11.6 miles on a pogo stick is no big deal. And maybe it wouldn't be -- if he hadn't pogo sticked the 11.6 miles up Mount Fuji in Japan.

UNDERWATER POGO STICKING. Yes, he's done that too. For five hours and 38

minutes in San Francisco Bay. And more spectacularly if not quite as long in the piranha-infested waters of the Amazon



Arthur Black

River. (Only three hours and forty minutes there -- the stick kept getting stuck in the clay river bottom.)

MILK BOTTLE BALANCING.

A few years ago, Ashrita wondered how long he could balance a bottle of milk on his head without spilling it. So he got a bottle of two percent out of the fridge, popped it on his noggin and went for a stroll. Twenty-four miles later, he stopped.

LONG DISTANCE STRETCHER BEARING. Ashrita's only "tag team" event. He and three others carried a stretcher (with 140 pounds of weight on it) 127 miles and 44 hours.

It'd be difficult to choose the most bizarre feat Ashrita Furman has performed. He once clapped his hands in front of Lincoln Center in New York longer than anyone else ever has. Loudly and often -- one clap every two seconds, audible from 100 yards. Try that one for a half hour. Ashrita did it for 50 hours and 17 minutes.

He has also recreated Paul Revere's ride. Back in 1775, the Boston patriot made the original trip on horseback. Ashrita Furman somersaulted the whole

thirteen and a quarter miles -- 8,341 forward rolls by actual count.

Right now, Ashrita is warming up his pogo stick again. He's planning an assault on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Wants to be the first person to pogo stick up the steps right to the top. Which is not as easy as it sounds -- what an I saying -- which is more difficult than some of Ashrita's other feats. Apparently the steps are very narrow and he'll have trouble maintaining his balance. Ashrita's not worried. He plans to lash himself to the Pogo stick and use ski poles to keep himself upright.

Why does Ashrita put his poor body through all these crazy trials? Because he likes being a world champion. A record holder. And he is. The Guinness Book of World Records recognizes Ashrita Furman as the very best human on the planet when it comes to performing all of the aforementioned feats.

But don't take my word for it. Look it up on page 587. And 445. And 621. And...