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Lifeline survey to take place this week, info program airs on Channel 13

By Dave Chmara

The Disability Action Group (DAG) will be conducting a survey of all Terrace Bay and Schreiber residents in order to determine the need for Lifeline, a personal emergency response system.

Lifeline is a system which allows the user, usually somebody who is disabled, has heart problems, has diabetes or is bed ridden, to obtain whatever attention (medical or otherwise) is necessary.

The person has a button which is worn around the neck or on a belt. If an emergency arises, the person pushes the button, which is linked to the phone.

A call is placed to the other end of the system, which at this time is planned to be located at the ambulance phone station or the house keeping department.

The subscriber to the system must provide the names of three people, either family, neighbours or someone else, who can be the first to go to check on the individual. If none of these three are able to respond, then personnel at the emergency response centre obtain the necessary police or medical attention for the person in need.

Gertrude Cotton, chairman of DAG's survey committee, said, "The system has helped 120,000 people in the U.S. and Canada. It gives family and loved ones peace of mind to know their loved ones are not alone."

Cotton said the three people who are contacted first should have their own key to the person's home.

The survey, which starts Monday, Nov. 28, will contain questions such as:

1. Would you need such a ser-

vice at this time.

2. Would you utilize such a service if the need arose.

3. Do you know of anyone who might need such a service.

The cost to an individual who wants a Lifeline system is \$25 for initial installation and \$20 per month. The amount is added to the phone bill.

Cotton said DAG is willing to lend assistance to needy individuals who can't afford the machine.

At first, if the system is implemented, DAG will set up 25 units. Cotton did say though, that if there is enough demand, more units will be added in the future.

In order to more fully inform Terrace Bay residents about Lifeline, a special program will be aired on channel 13 December 1, 2, and 5 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The show lasts 30 min.

The total cost to set up the system will be around \$25,000 said Cotton. McKellar Hospital in Thunder Bay already has the Lifeline system in place. The Nipigon District Memorial Hospital began a fund raising drive for Lifeline in August and currently is just \$5,100 short of the amount needed to install the system.

Cotton said Nipigon received government funding of \$10,000 towards Lifeline. Nipigon also received assistance from the Ministry of Northern Mines and Development. Cotton said she is hoping for support from the ministry and will be applying to them for assistance.

She added that a person does not need a doctor's referral to subscribe to the emergency response system.



Photo by Dave Chmara

The 3rd Annual Kleenex Huggies Ladies Bonspiel was held last weekend. Above, Lori Zeller lets a shot go as Karen Purdy and Laurie Allen sweep away. Sixteen teams took part in the weekend tournament and organizers got what they had hoped for, a final between the Chris More and LaDawn Funk rinks. The bonspiel was a chance for Terrace Bay residents to view top caliber curlers in action. For more photos and story see page 11.

Futures meeting well attended, board of directors now formed for business development centre

By Dave Chmara

The Nov. 17 meeting to form a board of directors for the Superior North Business Development Centre was a success and a board has been formed.

The board consists of 15 members, with Clyde Gordon acting as president, Duncan McEwen as vice-president, and Jim Johnson performing the duties of secretary/treasurer.

The program was in danger of being cancelled due to a lack of interest at the Oct. 27 meeting, which was called to form the board of directors.

The Nov. 17 meeting was a last ditch attempt to save the Business Development Centre program, and, with a board of directors now in place, the next step is to locate office space for the centre.

Leslie Dickson, program coordi-

nator, said the centre is currently advertising for three positions: a general manager (full-time), administrative assistant (full-time), and a coordinator for the committee which is a part-time position that lasts for one year.

Dickson said the board will try to locate a visible location for its office. "We're now in the process of incorporating, and, if all goes well, we should be ready to go in early January. Time will tell if that's a realistic goal."

The centre will offer services to small business in the form of technical assistance, advice and information.

The centre is also able to offer business loans. "Although we're in a position to be able to offer loans, we're not competing with banks," said Dickson. "We can provide start up capital for first time

entrepreneurs who can't get funding through traditional sources."

The maximum loan the centre can offer is \$75,000, but Dickson expects the majority of loans will be considerably smaller.

The federal government is committed to funding the Business Development Centre for five years, with the amount of funding decreasing in the fourth and fifth years.

The centre has been allocated \$100,000 of investment income. Loans come from this fund, and, the amount can be as high as \$250,000 per year if there is enough demand for loans.

Dickson said it is hoped the Business Development Centre will be able to operate on the interest generated from this fund after the government funding is cut off after five years.

Another program the centre will offer is a self-employment incentive. "This program encourages people receiving unemployment or other social assistance, to become self-employed," said Dickson. She added that the program gives a weekly living expense benefit for the first year of this program. "Since there's usually not enough profit in the first year of a business to live on, this is a subsidy, in effect, for the unemployed and welfare recipients."

The office will be able to provide information, help filling out forms, ideas and advice for the individual or business. It will also assist with business and financial planning.

The main purpose of the Community Futures Committee is to oversee the community initiatives fund and the purchase of training option.


The community initiatives fund is a fund for the public sector and has no specified loan maximum.

The project must be innovative and generate employment growth. Dickson said an example of such a project would be the development of a marine. "Although the marine itself would not create that many jobs, there would be spin-off jobs as the result of such a development."

The private sector can apply for loans up to \$50,000 under the initiative option.

The option will provide up to 50 per cent of the funding, with the rest coming from the province and local fund raising.

The committee will also purchase training in two areas. First, one for entrepreneurial training and the other program will be for food preparation.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Safe driving tips <i>Take the driving quiz</i> Page 2	New Car Laws <i>They could save you a bundle</i> Page 3	Curling comes to town <i>See the pictures and the story</i> Page 11
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