

Ontario and Quebec sign fine deal

If you're caught for a traffic violation in Quebec, beware.

Effective April 1, 1989, infractions committed under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) of the neighboring province will result in demerit points being recorded on your driver's record - just as if those infractions were committed in your home province.

Ontario Minister of Transportation, Ed Fulton, and Quebec Transport Minister, Marc

Yvan Cote, signed the first reciprocal agreement between two Canadian provinces to monitor road infractions at a recent Canadian Symposium on Road Safety in Montreal.

The agreement also provides for the suspension of the right to drive in the neighboring province when any fine for a traffic violation has not been paid.

Furthermore, it will facilitate exchange of driver's licences for

Quebecers and Ontarians moving to the other province.

In 1987, Ontario drivers were responsible for 17,913 infractions under the Quebec Highway Safety Code. Those infractions represented 65 per cent of the total number of offences committed in Quebec by non-resident drivers.

During the same period, there were 18,631 offences committed by Quebecers under the Ontario

Highway Traffic Act.

In both Quebec and Ontario, offences such as exceeding the speed limit and failing to obey a red light or a stop sign represent 94 per cent of all demerit point infractions committed by drivers from the neighboring province.

During 1987, approximately 500 infractions under the Criminal Code were committed by Ontarians in Quebec and 304 were committed

by Quebecers in Ontario.

While this agreement is the first to be signed between two Canadian provinces, Quebec has had a similar pact with the state of New York since the beginning of 1988.

Cote and Fulton said they hope the signing will mark the first step toward a series of similar agreements which will eventually bind all the Canadian provinces and North American states.

Terrace Bay - Schreiber

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Vol. 43, No. 4

January 25, 1989

40 cents

Sound business plan needed

Well thought out plan can lead to success

By Dave Chmara

A sound business plan is one of the keys to starting a successful business say Harold Wilson, business consultant with the Thunder Bay branch of the Ministry of Industry, Trades and Technology (MITT) and Norman Rolfe, senior business consultant of small business with the Queen's Park branch of MITT.

Rolfe and Wilson hosted a "Starting Your Own Small Business" seminar last Thursday. The seminar was held at Birchwood Terrace and was co-hosted by the Terrace Bay Community Futures Program and the newly opened North Shore Business Development Centre.

The 2 1/2 hour seminar was attended by about 20 people who have some sort of an idea in the back of their minds as to starting a small business.

Rolfe and Wilson said MITT offers advice and counselling for starting a small business.

Wilson said, "take a look at our office as your information broker."

He added if he or his office don't have the answers to questions, they'll either find the answers, or "will refer a person to the appropriate office or people."

Wilson said MITT has trade offices in the U.S. and Europe and these are of service to those requiring assistance.

In one instance, Wilson said an



Harold Wilson discusses business details with Gigi Dequanne. Wilson and Norm Rolfe were on hand last Thursday to present a "How to Start Your Own Small Business" seminar. Both men were available afterwards for personal consultations. They are with the Ministry of Industry, Trades and Technology and will be back in a couple of months to present a seminar on marketing. Photo by Dave Chmara

inventor wanted to attend a trade show in California to display his product and try to find backers for his idea.

The MITT contacted their office in California and Wilson discovered the trade show being held there was not anything at all what the inventor needed.

"We saved that person about \$3,000 when you add up the travel and accommodation expenses and the time that would have been

lost," said Wilson.

Rolfe said, "It's easy to start up your own small business, but it's more difficult to succeed."

MITT offers a wide variety of services and has a large amount of information to offer.

"You can never get too much information when you're planning to start your own small business," said Rolfe.

Small businesses play a very important role in Ontario. Rolfe

said his Ministry's definition of a small business is one which employs less than 50 people - which makes about 95 per cent of all businesses in Terrace Bay and Schreiber small businesses.

Rolfe went on to explain the importance of small businesses to Ontario. He gave figures which show that 95 per cent of the 350,000 businesses in Ontario are small businesses. These businesses provided 48 per cent of all private

sector employment in 1982 and were responsible for 62 per cent of new jobs in Ontario between 1974 and 1982.

During the past five years, small business has created 90 per cent of all new job opportunities.

Rolfe and Wilson described the advantages of being an entrepreneur. First, you have the independence of making all the decisions. You control your own

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