

Provincial Air Travel too Expensive-Fulton

Ontario Minister of Transportation Ed Fulton has released figures from an Environics survey showing that 51 per cent of intra-provincial air travellers believe Ontario fares are unreasonably high.

"This figure becomes even more significant when you consider that 46 per cent or more than three million Ontario adults made a trip by air within the past year, and that many of these people depend heavily on air transportation," said Fulton.

"You can be assured that based on the results of this survey, I will seek the co-operation of airlines in offering more attractive fares to Ontarians who rely on travel by air within the province."

NorOntair recently increased their rates from Terrace Bay to Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie by 63 and 67 per cent respectively.

Fulton noted that reasonable air fares, even with some travel or booking restrictions, would help to fill otherwise empty seats on many intra-provincial flights.

"However, I am pleased that 71 per cent of those who travelled by air within Ontario rated the quality of service as good or very good," said Fulton.

Metro Toronto residents surveyed had harsher words about their airport facilities. Some 33 per cent rated them as poor, Fulton noted.

Fulton concluded, "This undoubtedly reflects the present situation at Pearson International Airport and once again supports the view that Hamilton Airport and other airports in the Greater Toronto Area should be utilized to a far greater extent by the major domestic air carriers."

MNR Kicks off Wildlife Week

By Dave Chmara

April 9 to 16 marks the 25th anniversary of Wildlife Week and the Ministry of Natural Resources helped kick off the week by holding presentations at schools in Terrace Bay and Schreiber, as well as in Manitouwadge and Marathon.

Conservation Officers Mike Kenny and Paul Dennis gave a presentation to students in grades three to six at St. Martin elementary school.

The theme of this year's Wildlife Week is "Act Today for Wildlife in the Year 2000".

Students were impressed with a poster which displayed an Eastern Cougar, but disappointed there were not enough posters for every student.

There was iron on transfers for every student which showed a picture of a deer running in the bush with buildings behind.

The students were quick to grasp the message behind the scene which demonstrated the removal of wildlife habitat for human shelter and development.

Dennis explained that wildlife (or any living thing for that matter) requires four essential elements to survive: space, shelter, food and water.

At this point the students headed outside to learn how they could build a simple, but effective shelter for smaller animals.

Within the span of ten minutes, the students had helped construct a brush pile hide-out.

Kenny explained that the hide-out the students helped build was a demonstration model only, and that a real one should be bigger, higher and denser.

"Go nuts, build a big one, but remember to leave spaces inside," said Dennis.

To build such a hide-out, take some logs and pile them on the ground, but be sure to leave spaces in between them. These spaces are the area which the animals will move about inside the hide-out.

Next, take dead or loose branches and pile these on top of the logs. This should bring the hide-out to a height of five feet or even more.

Finally, take branches (preferably not from living trees, but ones which have fallen to the ground and have leaves on them - again, preferably evergreen) and pile these on top of the hide-out.

In all, the hide-out should be no less than about six feet, because, as Kenny explained, once the snow falls, the hide-out will be considerably shorter.

When finished, you shouldn't be able to see inside the hide-out.

Kenny concluded by saying, "in the year 2,000 we want people to be able to walk in the woods and see rabbits and other wildlife."

Forming a committee

By Dave Chmara

The possibility of establishing an Economic Development Organization will be discussed at a meeting to be held Tuesday, April 25.

The meeting will take place at the MTC Room of the Schreiber Recreation Complex at 7:00 p.m.

This initial meeting will take place among interested businesses in the Terrace Bay, Schreiber area.

Mike Moore, a Terrace Bay businessman who is helping with trying to get the organization started, said businesses in the two communities (listed in the Chamber of Commerce's business directory) have been notified by mail and invited to the upcoming meeting.

He said many of these businesses have been contacted on an informal basis and a positive response has been received so far about forming an Economic Development Organization.

"People have indicated they're willing to step forward and take an active role," said Moore.

He said such an organization has been established in Upsala and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

(MNDM) is looking to form another one east of Thunder Bay.

The MNDM would provide funding of up to \$500,000 over a period of five years. After that, the organization would have to be self-supporting.

A representative from the MNDM as well as Bob Axxeford, a consultant working for the federal government and involved in setting up the Economic Development Committee in Upsala, will attend the meeting on April 25.

Businesses joining the organization would be expected to take out a membership, said Moore. This money would then be used to conduct a study to see if an Economic Development Committee is needed in the area. The study would also identify the types of business that would likely succeed in the area.

The Economic Development Committee, if formed, would complement the activities of the local Futures Committee and the Business Development Office, said Moore.

While these two organizations support prospective business with funding and business planning, they do not necessarily identify

the need for various businesses in the area.


This is where the Economic Development Committee would step in - once businesses which may succeed in the area are identified, they could take advantage of the services offered by the Business Development Office and the Futures Program.

Moore said because the Terrace Bay council was elected on a platform of economic development, they are supportive of the idea of establishing an Economic Development Committee.


He commented that Schreiber does not really have such a strategy and this is one reason why the meeting is being held in Schreiber - to give full opportunity for businesses in Schreiber to become involved in starting such a committee right from the start.

Moore said discussions to date have been informal and the information above is a result of those discussions.

He said because businesses are major stakeholders in the community, they can benefit from such a committee which would help to lead to economic diversification in the area.



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