







Cutting the ribbon is part of any official opening. Last Friday afternoon marked the official opening of the Schreiber-Terrace Bay Futures office and the North Shore Business Development Office. Above, from left to right are: Julie Fels, Community Futures Committee Consultant, Mike Cosgrove, an original Community Futures member, Susan Glad, member of the Futures and Business Development Board of Directors, Duncan McEwen, chairman of the Business Development Centre, Mary Burnett, an original member of the Futures organization, and John Smrke, chairman of the Futures Committee.

Photo by Dave Chmara Fair opening of offices

By Dave Chmara

Local, provincial and federal politicians as well as those involved with originally working on the idea of starting a Futures Organization and Business Development Centre, were on hand for the official opening of the Schreiber - Terrace Bay Futures and Business Development offices.

As with most official openings, it came about three months after the offices actually opened their doors to local business people and entrepreneurs alike.

But that did little to dampen the celebrations. Futures Committee Chairman John Smrke, said, "it's been a long time coming and a lot of work," as he outlined the two-and-a-half years of behind the scenes work that went into getting the two organizations off the ground.

Smrke praised the efforts of volunteers who helped in getting the centres started. "There was a stage in time when it was hard to get enough people interested in the idea of starting a Futures Organization," he said. "Hopefully the next two years will bring forth some new businesses and the expansion of other businesses."

Duncan McEwen, chairman of the North Shore Business Development Centre said, "The first loan was approved at the last meeting. We're off and running."

McEwen said the offices have been allotted \$1.55 million to invest in the local economy.

Others on hand for the opening noted how such organizations help communities grow and

diversify.

Cochrane-Superior M.P. Reg Belair said with the changes to UI, the centre will be of help in providing training for those affected.

Lake Nipigon M.P.P. Gilles Pouliot said, "this is a people program and everyone will benefit from it."

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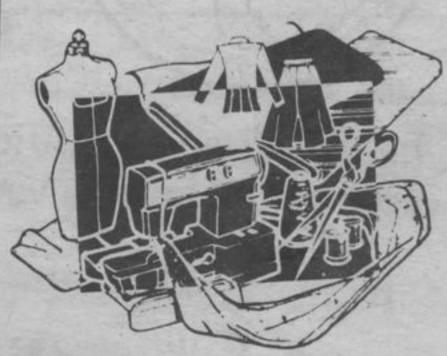
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