

Terrace Bay - Schreiber

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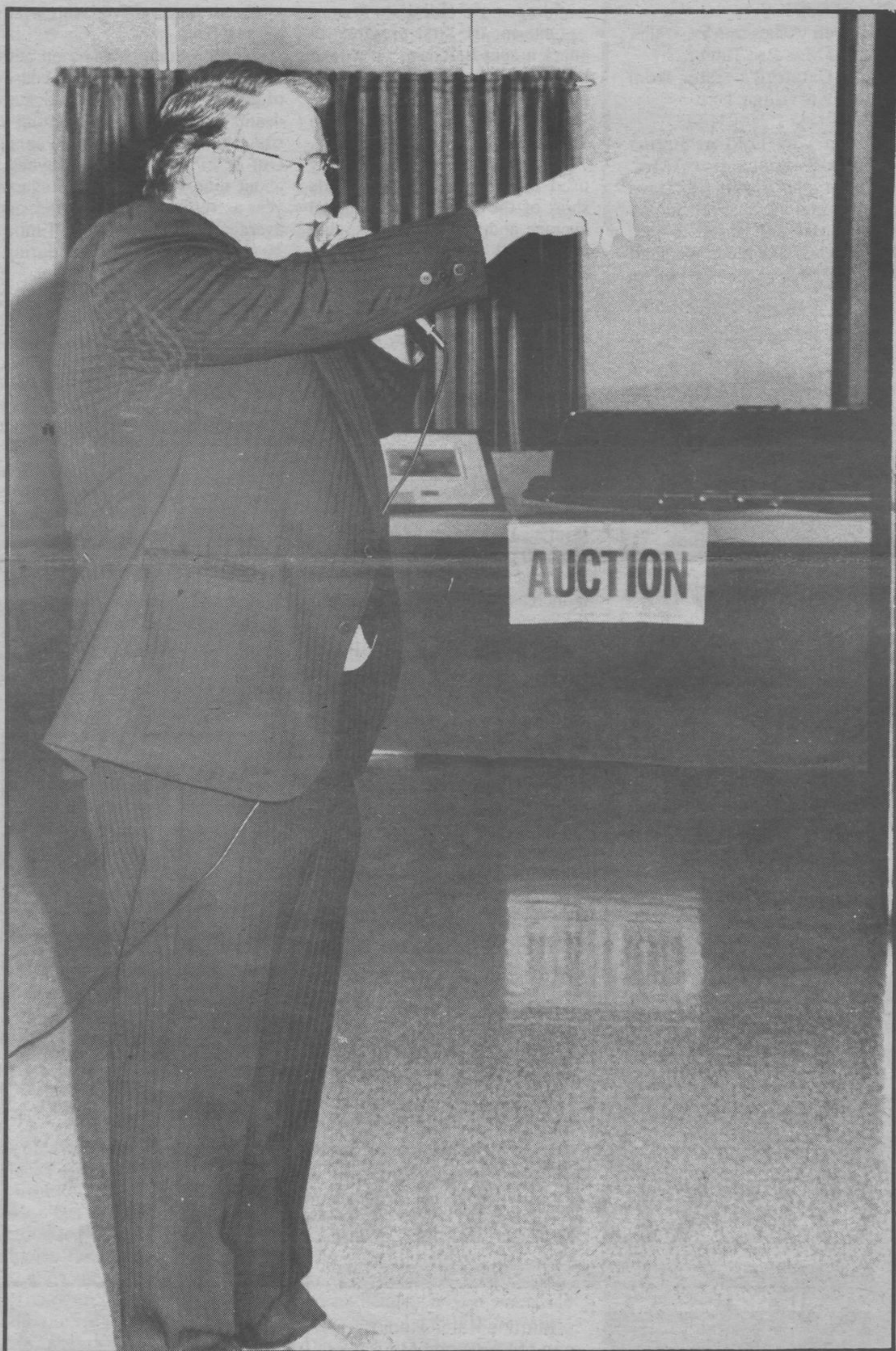
VIEWS

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SERVING TERRACE BAY, SCHREIBER, ROSSPORT & JACKFISH LAKE



Barry Gray asks if anyone will give the price he's asking for during the Schreiber/Terrace Bay Ducks Unlimited third annual Banquet and Auction held in Schreiber last week. The money raised will go towards the many programs D.U. carries out throughout Canada.

Photo by Dave Chmara

Over \$20,000 raised by local Ducks group

By Dave Chmara

Over \$20,000 was raised at the Schreiber/Terrace Bay Committee of Ducks Unlimited Canada's Third Annual Banquet and Auction.

The fundraising evening was held Wednesday, September 20 and a total of 132 people were on hand for the dinner and auction.

Gerry Landriault, chairman of the Schreiber/Terrace Bay Committee of Ducks Unlimited Canada, said the money raised goes to the national organization, Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The money goes towards a variety of projects - the main one being wetlands restoration.

Landriault briefly explained the process of restoring a wetland.

First, the area is drained so work can be done. Then, dikes are built to hold the water in the area and water is then pumped back in. The water is maintained at a constant level and natural foliage, such as bull rushes, are replanted.

"If a marsh can be saved before it's too badly drained there's less work to be done," Landriault said.

One local project being sponsored by D.U. is taking place in the Nipigon area.

Nesting geese are being introduced into the Nipigon river system. Landriault said D.U. is hoping to increase the number of nesting pairs to 150 by the end of the five-year project.

He mentioned another local project is taking place in Marathon where a wild rice program is being conducted in association with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

D.U. also buys feed crop and helps farmers by paying for crop damages which waterfowl cause, mainly in the Prairies.

The auction, which took place at the Schreiber Recreation Hall, was conducted by Barry Gray, an

auctioneer from the Barrie area.

"He donates his time and experience at D.U. auctions and we pay for his expenses in return," said Landriault.

"We'd like to thank all the businesses for their support and hope everybody had a good time," he said.

In the 1930s, a group of conservation minded North American sportsmen acted on the realization that rapid declines in waterfowl populations were caused by deterioration and loss of natural breeding and nesting habitats and formed Ducks Unlimited Inc.

They began raising funds from private sources in the United States for a waterfowl habitat restoration program in Canada, where more than 70 per cent of the continent's waterfowl originate.

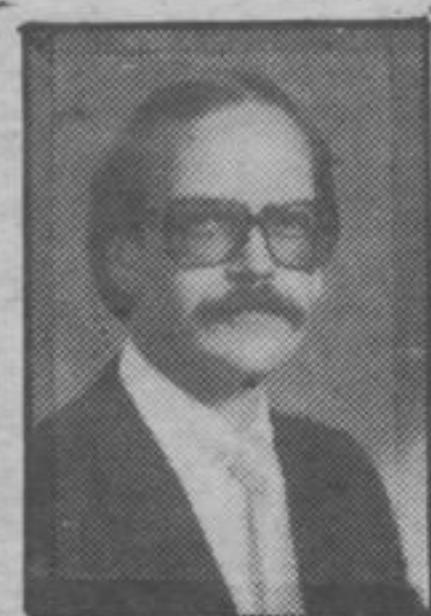
Ducks Unlimited came next, formed by Canadians to use the money by carrying out the actual habitat work. Instead of buying land, D.U. obtains no cost land access from government agencies and private landowners which allows D.U. to use its money for habitat improvement.

In its first 50 years, D.U. Canada has conserved nearly 4 million acres of wetland habitat in more than 3,500 projects located throughout Canada.

D.U. contributions to Canadian habitat development have recently surpassed the \$300 million mark.

Despite D.U. efforts, destruction of waterfowl habitat - mainly from agriculture, industry and urbanization - continues at a rate not matched by current conservation efforts.

More than 50 per cent of the original wetlands in the U.S. have vanished and experts estimate that 3.6 million additional acres of waterfowl habitat are needed by the year 2000 just to stabilize North American waterfowl populations at current levels.



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