

Protective services helps handicapped

By Dave Chmara

Leslie Souckey, the protective services worker based in Marathon, wants people in Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Pays Plat to know that the Protective Services Program is available to help the developmentally handicapped people in this area.

The program assists these people to live in the community as normally and independently as possible. It also helps ensure the developmentally handicapped person gets all appropriate and necessary support services.

Souckey said she is in this area at least once every month and will take references from individuals as well as from doctors, school teachers and other professionals.

"The program acts as a public advocate on behalf of these people and their parents," said Souckey.

Funded entirely by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, it is the only program of its kind in the area.

It is designed to provide assistance to people with mental or

physical handicaps who are six-years-old and older who require assistance in moving towards an independent lifestyle.

Currently, Souckey has 28 people from Terrace Bay and Schreiber on her active case load but said, "there are other people who receive help but they're not on my case load."

In general, the objective of the Protective Services Program is to help the client enter, remain in or change to a residential setting which is appropriate to his/her needs, present capabilities, resources, age and cultural preferences.

More specifically, the program also assists the developmentally handicapped person to reach his full potential in the community by:

- * assisting with locating and retaining accommodation
- * providing services that may not be available in the particular community
- * making arrangements for clients to see a doctor, dentist or some other type of specialist
- * assisting the client with

problem solving and the acquisition of living skills

* providing emotional support to the client which could include counselling

* facilitating the placement of the client in an appropriate school setting and helping the parents to choose the best educational setting

* financial counselling

* social and recreational support

The relationship between Souckey and her clients is a voluntary one. This means she provides advice and assistance to the developmentally handicapped but they are not compelled to accept the service she provides.

Souckey graduated from the two year social work program at Canadore College in 1987 and from there went to work for Wesway in Thunder Bay. This program provides assistance to parents of handicapped children in the form of respite care.

This form of help gives the parents a break by caring for their children for short periods of time.

From there, Souckey moved to

Winnipeg, Manitoba where she worked for Hydra House. There, she worked with people suffering from mental illnesses such as emotional depression, schizophrenia and autism.

In February of 1988, Souckey moved to her present position as protective services worker in Marathon.

In addition to the services described above, she can provide

public information to teachers and support groups such as the Disability Action Group.

Souckey can be reached in Marathon by calling 229-1495. If she's not in the office a message can be left on the answering machine, or for those people who don't like talking to answering machines, a message can be left at the municipal office in Marathon by calling 229-1340.

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Ground work was started last week on what will be the new ambulance garage for McCausland Hospital. Curtis Desrosiers Construction Ltd. is carrying out the work. Photo by Dave Chmara

Women of Moose chapter report

Terrace Bay Chapter #1426 Women of the Moose held their chapter night meeting with Junior Regent Bernice Pytyck presiding. There were 15 co-workers present.

Roll call of officers and chairman was given by recorder Sadie Benko. Receipts and deposits were verified by pro-tem co-worker Yvonne Mallais.

Mooseheart chairman Heather Sechesky introduced her committee and gave a resume of her program for the night.

A report was given on the children's Halloween party to be held on Sunday, October 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Moose Hall.

This party is for children of Moose members only. Members offered to make cookies which will be served at the party along

with coffee for the mothers.

Letter was read from the Outreach Organization in Marathon. Members were in favor of sending a donation to this group.

Vicky Kostuik and Sadie Benko will convene a beef dinner on Nov. 4. The lodge will be having initiation of new members on that date.

Raffle was won by Pat Maenpaa and the pot of gold was won by Yvonne Mallais. Lovely lunch was enjoyed by all following adjournment.

Pat Maenpaa was our birthday girl for the month of October. Co-worker of the month of August was Bernice Pytyck and alma Hart for the month of Sept.

Next meeting to be held on October 29.

Garrity's DINNER SPECIALS

Thursday

Barbecue Spare Ribs \$9.95

Friday

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Saturday

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Sunday

Ham Roast \$9.95

Monday

Liver & Onions \$6.95

Tuesday

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Wednesday

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