

Homemakers get raise of over 30 %

Red Cross Homemakers will receive wage increases of about 30 per cent with the raise being retroactive to September 1, 1989.

Charles Beer, Minister of Community and Social Services, made the announcement on behalf of his ministry and the Ministry of Health.

The changes will raise homemakers' average wages from \$6 to \$7.85 per hour. The compensation package also ensures that homemakers who provide publicly funded services will be paid a minimum of \$7.25 per hour.

"For the first time, homemaking agencies will now receive funding specifically to pay homemakers for travel time between clients," the minister added.

"Assume a homemaker works 30 hours a week, and spends an additional five hours travelling to and from clients. This new policy means that he, or she will be compensated for 35 hours instead of only 30, as was the case until

now."

"Under this scheme, such a homemaker would make \$14,325 a year, instead of the present \$9,385. That's an increase of 52 per cent. Needless to say, this will be welcomed particularly by those homemakers working in rural and northern areas where travel time can be extensive," said Beer.

In addition, \$2.2 million has been set aside to provide training for homemakers. The total package comes to \$28.9 million.

This compensation package is part of the \$88.8 million committed by the government last May to improve the salaries of front-line workers in Ontario's community agencies.

Homemakers' services assist those in need - mainly the frail elderly and people with disabilities - to remain in their own communities in their own homes without having to resort to institutional care.

\$100,000 grant starts CNIB fundraising on way

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) will use a \$100,000 provincial grant to help buy a new mobile eye care unit, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rene Fontaine has announced.

"These services are extremely important to communities without

resident ophthalmologists, and it is essential that the equipment be current and functional," Fontaine said.

The new eye care unit will replace the current one, which is becoming very expensive to operate due to its deterioration. The new unit consists of a vehicle and

a trailer containing the ophthalmologic equipment and examination area. A new \$79,000 laser surgical instrument will be installed in the trailer for on-site surgery.

The estimated cost of the complete unit is \$250,000. The CNIB is organizing a fund-raising campaign to raise the balance of the cost.

The unit visits about 30 remote communities each year and examines more than 5,000 patients.



Terrace Bay Police Chief Don Kidder stands with graduates of a babysitters course recently held at Terrace Bay Recreation Centre. Child care, child safety and behaviour were taught and the obligations and rights of babysitters and employers were outlined.

North Shore Community Band presents
"A Musical Sleighride"
Thursday Dec. 7th
7:30 p.m. at the High School in Schreiber

Adults \$5 Students/Seniors \$3
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also appearing

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