

# Terrace Bay - Schreiber

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# VIEWS

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SERVING TERRACE BAY, SCHREIBER, ROSSPORT & JACKFISH LAKE

## Serious water pollution problems

*Ministry of Environment says "Dangerous Dioxins and Furans CANNOT be eliminated from our local water supply."*

By Dave Chmara

The Jackfish Bay Public Advisory Committee met in early January to continue their study into the water pollution problem in the areas of Blackbird Creek and Jackfish Bay.

The committee is in the final stages of preparing a survey which will be sent to all residents

of Terrace Bay and Schreiber probably sometime in February. The survey will ask people for their views on the pollution problem and also for recommended goals the PAC should strive for.

Audrey Ferguson outlined some of PAC's proposed goals which include actions to make the water drinkable once again.

But, Jim Murphy, Water Resources Scientist with the Ministry of the Environment's Northwestern Region, said certain chemicals can't be eliminated such as dioxins and furans. He added that because pulp mills have to use chlorine, or some derivative of chlorine, to bleach their products these chemicals

can't be eliminated.

Murphy said current technology doesn't provide the means to use alternatives to chlorine.

Safe drinking water, however, remains one of the main goals of the group, and PAC chairman Chris Joubert said, "it would be our ultimate goal."

A meeting of all Public

Advisory Committees (American and Canadian) will take place in Thunder Bay March 22, 23, 24.

PAC's next meeting will be held in the Birchwood Terrace Conference Room February 1. The Ministry of Natural Resources will show a videotape

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## Communities to study Snowmobile Trail System for Northwestern Ontario

A group of eight northwestern Ontario communities will receive a \$14,700 provincial grant toward a study on the feasibility of establishing a snowmobile trail system for the region, Northern Development Minister Rene Fontaine has announced.

"Establishing a snowmobile trail system is an innovative way to take advantage of the winter season and tap into new tourism markets," Fontaine said. "A project such as this could generate significant economic gain for the region."

The Ignace Otters Snowmobile Club will co-ordinate the project. The study will

examine the potential Canadian and United States markets, identify existing services and trails for snowmobilers and measure the economic benefits that can be derived from this type of tourism activity.

The \$53,000 study is also sponsored by economic development offices in Atikokan, Sioux Lookout, Fort Frances, Dryden, Ear Falls, Red Lake, Kenora and Ignace. The Ministry of Natural Resources and five Community Futures committees from the area are also participating in the project.

The study is expected to be completed next spring.

## Fisheries Management

*Program to enhance sport fishing industry*

More than \$9 million in revenue Ontario's resident sport fishing licence funded a total of 510 fisheries management projects throughout the province in 1988-89, according to the second annual report of the Ontario Fisheries Advisory Council released in late December.

The report, which covers the fiscal year April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989, also includes several recommendations made by the council to the Minister of Natural Resources on the use of licence revenues and the ministry's overall fisheries management program. The Minister's responses to the recommendations are also printed in the report.

"I am pleased to accept this report, and would like to assure the council that I will follow-up on the responses my predecessor made to its recommendations," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said.

"I fully support the role of the council as an independent citi-

zens' advisory body, and look forward to working closely with its members in the future."

"It is a major concern of the members of the council that the funds made available through the sale of resident licences be used to enhance and extend the fisheries program," council chairman Dr. E. J. Crossman said. "As a consequence, they have placed great stress on the need for the base budget of the Fisheries Branch to be maintained at a level that will continue to support what might be termed core programs. The council feels it is in this way reflecting the wishes of those people who purchase a licence."

The council was established in June 1987 to advise the Minister of Natural Resources on Ontario's fisheries management program.


The report notes that since being introduced in November 1986, the resident sport fishing licence has generated more than \$20 million in revenue. Total revenue was \$9.42 million for the

1987 licence and \$9.28 million for the 1988 licence. While licences are sold on a calendar basis, with advance sales beginning in November, the council reviews revenues and expenditures on a fiscal basis.

Funds from the licence are spent on projects ranging from the inventory and assessment of fisheries to enforcement, habitat management, stocking and research.

"With funding from the licence sales, the ministry is better able to ensure that our fisheries remain a sustainable resource for the benefit of all Ontarians," McLeod said.

Among the council's recommendations is the proposal that MNR undertake cooperative funding of projects with other agencies, as well as proposals on revamping the licence system and various methods of increasing fishing opportunities.



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