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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF TERRACE BAY - SCHREIBER - ROSSPORT AND JACKFISH LAKE

Early winter storm buries north shore

by Robert Cotton
the News

Old man winter woke up snortin' and blowin' and definitely cranky last Wednesday afternoon.

The first winter storm of the season brought strong winds and between 25 and 30 cm (9-12 in) of snow.

Highway 17 was closed between Marathon and Nipigon for the duration of the storm, keeping traffic out of the Terrace Bay-Schreiber area and the children out of school.

The schools were closed all day Thursday.

The Schreiber detachment of the OPP reported no major accidents.

Fallen trees, toppled onto wires by the high winds and heavy snows, and lightning strikes caused widespread power outages on Wednesday.

Ontario Hydro line and forestry crews from Thunder to Schreiber worked throughout the night to restore service to over 10,000 customers.

John Jaroz, lines supervisor in Schreiber, said the first trouble call came in Wednesday about 6.30 p.m.

Thursday morning it was still storming with visibility reduced to 400 -500 ft, he said.

Jaroz said 500 customers in the Manitowadge, Rossport, White River and Neys area were without power.

The local radio station, at Marathon, and the CBC transmitter were also without power.

Sandra Stachiw at the Terrace Bay airport said the storm started around 2 p.m. on Wednesday with strong winds blowing out of the north north east at 27-37 km-hr with gusts up to 50 km-hr.

"The visibility dropped to 00 by around 4p.m. Visibility at 0 means you can't see anything, 00 means that it was a very heavy snow," Stachiw said.

On Thursday there was snow and blowing snow all day with visibility at a quarter of mile to a mile. The winds were out of the north at 27 km-hr gusting to 61 km-hr.



Peter Schmitt of Terrace Bay Public Works shovels off the snow bound walkways at Simcoe Plaza following last weeks storm. photo by Robert Cotton

Ontario NDP will not 'piggy back' sales tax on federal GST

The Minister of Revenue, the Honorable Wark-Martyn, assured Ontario consumers recently that if the new federal Goods and Services Tax is implemented as scheduled for Jan. 1, 1991, they will not have to pay the provincial sales tax on top of the federal GST.

This message follows last week's statement by Floyd Laughren, Ontario treasurer, and fulfills the commitment made by the new NDP government.

It reverses the decision of the previous government to "piggy-back" Ontario retail sales tax on the GST.

"It's no secret that this government is strongly opposed to the federal GST," said Wark-Martyn.

"We believe it's unfair, horrendously complex, and will further worsen the economic situation."

"We are also well aware of the complexity people face in dealing with the new federal GST, and we

certainly don't wish to add to the confusion," she said.

Wark-Martyn said she would be introducing legislation in the next session of the Legislature to ensure that GST will not be automatically included in the RST base as required by existing legislation.

Vendors will be notified

The Revenue ministry will immediately inform vendors and consumers of this change in policy and to deal with their questions.

A special notice will be included with the monthly tax return cards which will be routinely mailed to about 300,000 RST vendors in late October. This notice will provide instructions and a toll-free number for further information.

Second, a more detailed RST bulletin will be mailed in

November to all vendors, and generally to tax accountants, lawyers and business organizations.

Third, to reinforce these actions, advertisements will be placed in all Ontario daily, weekly and ethnic newspapers.

As well, the Ministry's multilingual telephone service will provide information and advice on specific questions from individuals.

Wark-Martyn noted that in certain circumstances some Ontarians may have already paid RST on GST levied since September for goods and services to be delivered after Dec. 31.

"Where this has occurred the tax will be refunded," she said.

"Vendors will be authorized to repay any RST previously paid on GST upon customer request," she said, "alternatively, refunds will be paid by our Retail Sales Tax Branch."

Environmental study for hydro transmission line from Manitoba

Ontario Hydro will begin environmental and engineering studies for a new transmission line in Northern Ontario to carry electricity from Manitoba.

"The transmission line would help supply Ontario with a reliable source of electricity at an attractive price," said Bill Morison, Vice-president of Design and Construction for Hydro.

According to a press release issued by Ontario Hydro the line would supply up to 1,000 megawatts of electricity annually for up to 22 year beginning in the year 2000.

The cost of the Ontario portion of the transmission line is expected to be about \$1.8 billion.

The cost of power to Ontario, over the life of an agreement signed with Manitoba last year will be about 3.7 cents per kilowatt-hour in 1989 dollars, Morison said.

Morison emphasized that the proposed 500 kilovolt transmission line is subject to separate review and approval under both provincial and federal environmental regulations.

The line would run approximately 1,100 km from the Ontario-Manitoba border west of Kenora to either Timmins or Sault Ste. Marie where it would tie into transmission lines running to Southern Ontario.

Throughout the study Hydro will seek input from peoples of the First Nations, local governments, interest groups and area residents in addition to consultations with provincial and federal governments..

The study, containing proposals for alternative routes and locations for new transformer stations, is expected to be completed by mid-1991.



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