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

Business development office receives funding

By Rob Cotton
The News

The Terrace Bay - Schreiber Superior North Business Development Centre has received \$382,276 from the federal government's Community Futures program.

The Centre's investment fund will receive \$200,000, the Self-Employment Incentive program, \$52,200 and the operating budget \$130,000, said Mary Long, general manager of the Centre.

The Centre loans money from the investment fund to people who want to start a business but don't have sufficient funds, she explained.

The Self-Employment Incentive is a grant given to people collecting social assistance unemployment insurance benefits and who want to start their own business.

"They receive a grant of \$10,400 in lieu of wages while they get the business going," she said.

Centre in third year of operation

The Superior North Business Development Centre, now in its third year, has been applying for this money annually.

At the end of its fifth year of operation the Centre is expected to be self sufficient and the government money will stop.

It looks like we are going to be self sufficient, Long said.

"By the end of the five years we hope to have \$1.5 million invested in the

communities."

She pointed out that the Terrace Bay - Schreiber development centre has been busier in the past four months than the centre in Marathon with the number of new businesses and training programs.

Loans to 14 local businesses

The Superior North Centre presently has loans to 14 businesses employing 50 people.

"It would have helped greatly if we had a municipal economic development agency (MEDA) office," she said.

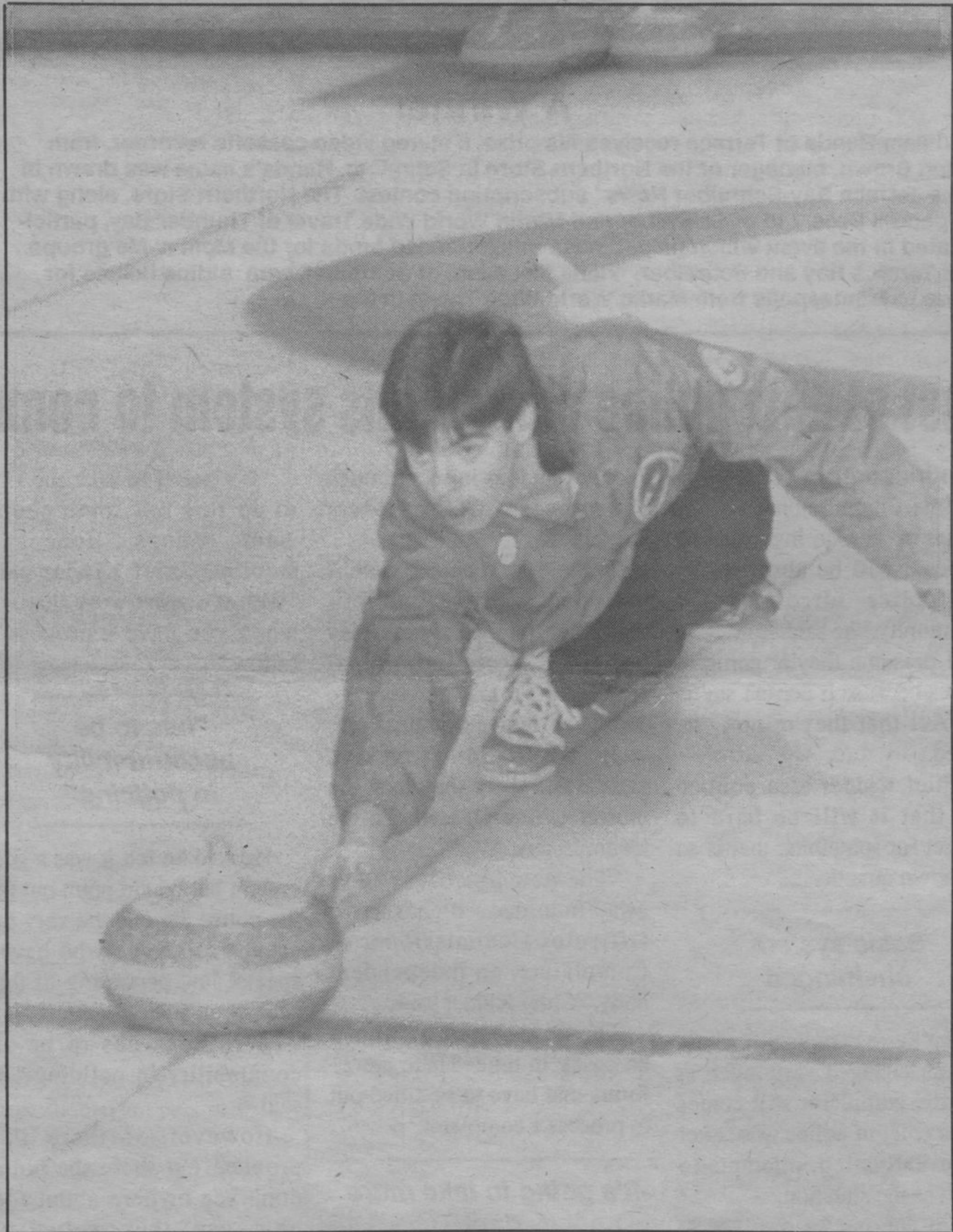
The Centre is not allowed by its mandate to go outside of the community to attract business but rather must develop businesses within the area.

Long said she is aware of a few businesses in Thunder Bay that are considering opening branch offices here.

There are also people in other communities that would like to start a business in their own towns but are looking to this area because a business in their community is not viable.

An economic development office would have worked with these people and negotiated with the townships to try and provide the services necessary, she explained.

When the Centre becomes self sufficient the operating costs will be generated by workshops and training programs on subjects such as marketing, hospitality and customer service.



Executed with style

Scott Merkley, skip of the Terrace Bay Junior Men's Team practices his form for the upcoming Northwestern Ontario Junior Men's Playdowns to be held in Terrace Bay Jan. 31 - Feb. 2. See story on page 11.

photo by Rob Cotton

Police chief in favor of new police act

by Rob Cotton
The News

The new Ontario Police Services Act will help to create a co-operative partnership between the police and the communities if Police Chiefs do their job and tell the public

that the doors are open, said Chief Don Kidder of the Terrace Bay Police Services.

One of the most significant changes has been the creation of the Office of the Public Complaints Commissioners to ensure an independent civilian

review of police conduct.

Chief Kidder is in favour of the new system but is concerned about the costs in time in time and money it will present to the community.

"If a complaint is reviewed

Continued on page 2



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