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



More funds for Freddy

Cheryl Duhaime and Shirley O'Reilly of the CIBC Service Quality Team, with the rest of the staff, organized the barbeque in front the bank on Tuesday July 9 to raise funds for Freddy the Fracture Finder - the new X ray machine for McCausland Hospital.

New bulldozer for landfill site

by Rob Cotton
The News

The purchase of a Caterpillar D7H bulldozer, primarily for use at the Terrace Bay landfill site, was approved by Terrace Bay Township Council at the July 8 meeting.

The bulldozer will cost \$273,964 and be used to compact and cover garbage at the landfill site.

A grant from the Ministry of the Environment will cover \$156,000 of the cost.

Garbage at the site, according to Ministry of the Environment regulations must be compacted and buried. It can no longer be burned.

The small bulldozer currently in use cannot compact the garbage, said Ray Mikkonen, township engineer.

As a result the garbage is just pushed into large piles.

The high-drive Caterpillar D7 track-type tractor can compact and cover the garbage. It can also dig trenches or be used to clear land for future roads or other reasons, he said.

He said the larger machine will allow them to get caught up with compacting and covering the garbage presently on the site.

A system, similar to the cell method, that will better utilize the available land will eventually be started, he said.

Thunder Bay uses the cell method whereby they dig down about five feet, dump in the garbage and compact it, Mikkonen explained.

They continue to dump and compact on this area building a cell of garbage above the ground. This method can extend the life of a landfill site considerably.

Union says miners in a Catch 22

Four miners are in a Catch 22 situation, unable to return to work at Minnova Mines, Winston Lake or receive compensation or benefits, according to a press release issue last week by the union representing the miners, the Steelworkers of America.

The union's release said the four miners were examined by family doctors and specialists who ordered them off work.

It also claims that while Minnova's insurance carrier says there is no evidence to show that the miners cannot return to work, the mine will not allow them back to work.

Moses Sheppard, Steelworker staff representative, said in the release that while four out of 120 miners have been identified as having chest problems, there are more likely three times that number who haven't reported their condition to the Workmens' Compensation Board.

"If asked they'll tell you hey don't want to be caught like the four men who are sick and have no income and no job," he said.

Brian Gemmill, Safety and Training Supervisor at Minnova, said anyone who has been declared fit for work has been brought back to work.

Extensive testing has been done by the mine itself as well as by independent labs and the Ministry of Labour and there have been no indications that problems in individuals are connected to the mines or the environment of the mine, Gemmill said.

"Our mine meets or exceeds ventilation requirements. We have mine inspectors come in and when there are deficiencies noted they have been repaired right away," he said.

"Individuals on site have expressed concern about lung problems," Gemmill said.

However, he continued, the problem and what is causing it has not been identified.

"If there is that type of problem in one of our mines we want to know about it - we need to know about," he said.

"Everything we've done to this point indicates that there is isn't [such a problem.]"

"Certainly the doctors have said 'You can't go back to work' and we can't have people back to work at a time like that," he said.

However, he pointed out, any of our employees that are in a situation like that are receiving benefits of one type or another.

"We are a typical base metal mine. Our products aren't any different than other base metal mines and the type of equipment we use is all standard in the industry," he said.

Beach and Gorge program

In other business Council passed a resolution to accept the recommendation of the Tourism Committee and proceed with the development of the gorge as the first phase of the Beach and Gorge Development Program.

Council also passed a resolution to hire a marine engineer to report on the feasibility of removing the shoal at the mouth of Aguasabon River and that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines be requested to provide 75 per cent funding of the cost.



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