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# The Terrace Bay-Schreiber News

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## Schreiber township going after tax arrears

by Darren MacDonald  
*The News*

Schreiber Reeve and Councillors are taking a "hard stand" on collecting the more than \$450,000 in tax arrears owed to the township.

They are sending people who owe tax money a letter asking them to come into the municipal office within 30 days to set up a payment schedule to cover their tax arrears.

People who come in have the option of setting up a schedule to pay only their outstanding taxes, or a schedule to pay this year's taxes and their arrears at the same time.

According to the letter, the

vast majority of people pay their taxes on time, but "the tax arrears due and payable represent 34 per cent of the total taxes levied (in Schreiber) for any given year."

The letter goes on to say that there is a misconception that municipalities must wait three years before they can take legal action to collect taxes.

"This is the case where the municipality chooses to employ the tax registration method of collection," the letter says.

"However, the township may use other methods of collection to insure that tax arrears are kept to an acceptable mini-

mum . . . In this case, the facilities of the small claims court will be used," if a payment schedule isn't arranged with the township.

"It's just gone too far," said Schreiber Reeve Bob Krause during the Township Council meeting Jan. 7.

"It's not fair to the people who are paying their taxes on time," said Counc. Ted Speziale.

"Times are tough, and we have to let them (people who are in arrears) know it."

But the move did not have unquestioned support in Council.

"I think you're going to have a lot of controversy over

this," said Counc. Ed Borutski.

"Paying their arrears and this year's taxes is a big burden for some people."

But Bob Krause said they weren't trying to make people pay everything at once.

"If someone comes in and says they can start making payments March 1, that's fine," said Krause.

The majority of outstanding taxes are owed from last year, and Clerk-Treasurer A.J. Gauthier said Schreiber's 34 per cent arrears rate is higher than in other municipalities.

"I know that in Terrace Bay and Manitouwadge, their arrears is around the 10 or 11 per cent level," Gauthier said.

## Newborn triplets more than a handful for new mom

by Darren MacDonald  
*The News*

Both Susan Webb and her mother, Carol Ricci, let out a small groan when they're asked when Susan, mother of newborn triplets, sleeps.

"An hour here, fifteen minutes there, that's when she sleeps," says Carol, who's here from North Bay to help her daughter out.


Life has changed dramatically for Susan and husband Pat since Katherine Carol, Christopher Patrick and Kelly Yvonne were born last Halloween.

Because of low birthweight, the babies stayed in hospital in Thunder Bay until Dec. 20, when they were flown home by air ambulance, and spent a few days in the McCausland hospital. They made it home to Schreiber for Christmas however, and Susan says since then everybody has been incredibly helpful.



Katherine Carol, left, Christopher Patrick, centre, and Kelly Yvonne at home last week.

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