

Not 'crazy', just doing his part to clean-up, man says



Schreiber cleaner-upper Ray Gionet

by Darren MacDonald
The News

Ray Gionet says he's been described as "crazy" by some people. He's also been officially thanked by Schreiber Council, and has attracted the interest of numerous passersby.

What is Gionet doing to attract so much attention? He's cleaning up public and private property along Highway 17 in Schreiber.

"I've been called crazy for cleaning up lots that don't belong to me," he says. "The fact is, I've lived in Schreiber for going on 13 years now, and I think it's time we stopped complaining and started doing things for ourselves."

Gionet started the clean-up June 4, after the first meeting of the Schreiber Heritage and Tourism Committee, a group he helped to found.

"And I've been trying to get out every night since then, whenever I'm not working late," he says.

He started the clean-up him-

self, but when people passing by in their cars saw him at work, he says they pulled over and began to help, something that's happened most every night since.

"I think the most we had out on a night is about ten people," says Gionet.

"There was one man who's 69 years old that came out to help clear one of the vacant properties of brush. So he sat down and used a machete to help clean the bushes off.

"He was there cleaning for a number of hours even though the bugs were bad. Later on, he apologized to me because he couldn't make it the next two nights. He had to go to Thunder Bay for doctor's appointments because he had a bad back."

Although some people think Gionet has something to gain from his volunteer work, he says the only thing he's getting is the satisfaction of seeing Schreiber look a little better.

"A lot of people think the

town's paying me, but they're not," he says.

"And a lot of people think I've got to do this for community service, but I don't. I think I probably would have given up by now if people weren't stopping to help out. But to see people stop and get out of their cars and grab a garbage bag, it's really a good feeling."

Since June 4, Gionet says he and the other volunteers have collected more than 30 bags of garbage.

"We've found all kinds of things in the ditches—coke bottles, hubcaps, bicycle seats," he says. "You name it,

and it's probably in the ditch somewhere."

Gionet says he doesn't think it should only be up to Schreiber Council to clean up the highway.

"I think people have to remember that just because they pay taxes for garbage removal, that doesn't give them the right to throw garbage on the ground," he says.

"Schreiber's a community like any other community. If you're going to live here, then

treat the whole town like it's yours and put your garbage away."

In the long term, Gionet hopes to start a joint project with Terrace Bay to clean-up the highway between the two townships. But for now, he'll keep on cleaning up in Schreiber.

"We've been getting a lot of nice comments on the way things look now," he says. "So as long as I have volunteers to keep working on it, I'll keep cleaning up."

Services board remuneration

by Darren MacDonald
The News

The provincial appointees to the Police Services Board in Terrace Bay have decided to take only a token amount—\$100—for their remuneration.

Council appointees Jim Ziegler and Chairperson John St. Amand had already decided not to take any remuneration.

St. Amand says the board's decision was made in keeping with the tight bud-

getary guidelines council had already set down.

"Working on the idea that every department was looking at a ten per cent cut in their operating budget, it was kind of hard to ask the police department as a whole to find ten per cent to cut, especially since (the services board is) a new expense," he says.

Cutting back on their remuneration went a long way in finding the necessary departmental budget cuts, says St. Amand.

ATTENTION

Rosspport Fish Derby Fans

The "Greeting from the Schreiber Reeve" section of the Schreiber/Terrace Bay Visitor's Guide incorrectly lists the dates of the Rosspport Fish Derby as July 13 and 14. In fact, the Derby is on July 11 and 12.

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