

Aguasabon Chamber makes a little history at NOACC

by Darren MacDonald
Staff

The Aguasabon Chamber of commerce made a little bit of history at the 57th annual meeting of the Northwestern Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

In the three years the local chamber has attended the NOACC meeting, it has never initiated any resolutions. This year, however, the ACC initiated two resolutions, and both were passed unanimously by delegates.

In all, 28 resolutions were passed, and NOACC representatives will present them to the provincial cabinet in a meeting slated for Dec. 9.

"Even if one chamber disagrees with a resolution, it's dropped," says NCC President Leslie Dickson, who, along with Vice-President Chuck Hutterli, represented the chamber at the Geraldton meeting.

"One of the resolutions has to do with remote area border crossing permits," she says. The permits allow American tourists into northwestern Ontario without first clearing customs in Thunder Bay.

The original resolution urged the government to extend the pilot project to include the communities along Lake Superior.

"But we've since discovered that they were available all summer, but we didn't know about it. So now we're asking the government to make the whole thing permanent, or at least to extend it beyond the April, 1993 deadline."

Because the permits are a federal matter, Dickson says the resolution actually urges the province to lobby the federal government on NOACC'S

behalf.

The other resolution deals with reducing the restrictions on commercial highway signs.

"Many businesses along Highway 17 are having a rough time getting space for signs," says Dickson. "The (sign) laws are very restrictive on where you can put up signs."

The local geography naturally limit the number of locations where signs can go up, and the restrictions complicate the matter even further, she says.

"There may be one commercial sign up, and because of everything, it may be the only sign up for miles," she says. "So basically we're asking the Minister of Transportation to reduce the restrictions."

The resolutions brought forward by other chambers dealt with a wide range of issues, says Dickson.

"They dealt with things like transportation, small businesses, natural resources, health care," she says. "There were quite a number of issues."

According to a press release issued by NOACC, "Forging

ship was forged with the announcement of the Scan-North initiative aimed at further developing open dialogue between First-Nation businesses and non-native businesses.

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines made the announcement, in partnership with NOACC and the native economic sector.

The initiative was announced by Lake Nipigon MPP and Transportation Minister Gilles Pouliot. Pouliot made the announcement on behalf of Northern Development and Mines Minister Shelley Martel.



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Sept 23: Jack Richardson Sr., Schreiber, \$10

Sept 24: Anne Godin, Terrace Bay, \$10

Sept 25: Mr. & Mrs. J. Clayton, Amherstview, \$10

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