#### Small business initiatives

Northern Development and lines Minister Shelly Martel as announced three new Minstry initiatives which expand a funding programs for small usiness, improve access to aformation on government rograms and create new portunities for native youth a train for worthwhile careers.

"Cooperation and consultaion have played a key role in
relping my ministry move
thead with these three initiatives," says Martel. "Many of
of the components of these
new initiatives flow from recommendations contained in a
report prepared by the SCAN
North team on Assistance for
Small Business and Native
Entrepreneurs."

As part of its efforts to help small businesses, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), of which Martel is chair, is undertaking a comprehensive marketing program to promote its activities and raise its profile within the business community.

To improve its funding services to small businesses, the NOHFC has developed a new component of its NORFUND program.

The new service sector programs includes sub-programs. They are the Planning and Feasibility Program, which will provide assistance to planning studies to stimulate investment in service sector businesses.

The Marketing Assistance

sub-program will assist service sector businesses improve their business income, create more jobs and expand their market programs.

Finally, the Capital Assistance sub-program will offer capital or financial assistance to establish, expand, modernize or diversify service sector businesses that contribute to economic development in the North

"Norfund has provided funding assistance to hundreds of projects in Northern Ontario, including business, industry and tourist operators," says martel. "This new component of Norfund will help develop the North's service sector."

Martel also announced an initiative to help northern entrepreneurs and businesses tap into information on government services, programs and regulations. The centrepiece of this service is called ACCESS, which stands for Answers to Communicate and Contact Entrepreneurs to Support Services. it will provide a toll-free telephone number available throughout the north.

"We're committed to making information easily accessible to all northerners," says Martel. "We believe quick access to information is a key to helping our small businesses maintain their competitive edge in the marketplace."

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### Computers help students learn

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all, LSHS students will make use of this equipment during their secondary education. With the computers, students will be able to learn skills that are transferable to local industry.

The school's Independent Learning Centre (ILC) policy has not been finalized yet. It is expected, however, that the policy will reflect the school's belief that correspondence courses should supplement, not replace, day school courses. Nor should they be used to bail out students who have been unsuccessful in day school courses.

Mrs. Davey advised that the Contact North network will be available in the second semester. Students who are unable to obtain a course locally may find it available through this system.

Parents at the meeting commented favourably on the interim reports and felt that the lack of a mark for each subject was not a concern. Mid-terms were mailed Nov. 13.

The 1992 Job Shadowing program, organized jointly by the school, local businesses and Community Futures, experienced a 50 per cent drop in participation compared with last year.

The purpose of this program is to give students an opportunity to observe potential

careers first-hand. In the same regard, the Student Services Department of the school is in the process of setting up a "Speakers Bureau" comprised of local business and government employees upon whom teachers can call for help in relating school subjects to real world situations.

Guidance sessions for Grade 9 students are in progress. Included in these sessions is instruction on study skills. Guidance for Grade 12 OAC students on how to fill out college and university applications will take place later in the term.

This year, college and university applications will use a central clearing house for processing. This should simplify and speed-up acceptance notification.

A number of grade 9 parents at the meeting noted that their sons or daughters are struggling with mathematics at the advanced level. Other than the possibility of those students taking math at a level which exceeds their current capabilities, Mrs. Davey and Mr. McDougall felt the problem may be that these students need to apply themselves more (ie., do more homework, seek help from teachers, etc.).

Among parents present, those whose sons or daughters have completed grade 9 advanced math concurred with the view of the school staff that

advanced math is intense but not insurmountable, provided students have the discipline, self or otherwise, to do the work.

On Nov. 2, Linda Falzetta

On Nov. 2, Linda Falzetta began providing a hot lunch service on the Terrace Bay campus. Lunches are available at 11:30 am, and are priced at a maximum of \$4. There are intended for students who need to stay for lunch, but will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. A Schreiber provider is still being sought.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion on whether or not the committee should become associated with the Ontario Home and School Association. This subject will be tabled for further consideration.

The next meeting will be Dec. 1 in Terrace Bay, and it will begin with a tour of the school's shop facilities, including some of the new high tech equipment.

Parents who have concerns
they feel the committee should
discuss can contact LSHS Principal Gail Conrad Davey, or
one of the committee members: Gerry Withers, Cecilia
Kaiser or Onna Grimm in Terrace Bay; or in Schreiber,
Rosemary Alfarano, Sharon
McParland or Lola Spadoni.

#### SKATE SHARPENING

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