

Inquest into deaths at abandoned mine shaft scheduled for next week

by Darren MacDonald
Staff

An inquest into the deaths of two men in a mining shaft near Schreiber last July will be an educational process, says Coroner Dr. William Govon.

"The purpose of any inquest is to learn the who, where, when and why," says Govon. "And to obtain recommendations from the jury in terms of what can be learned from it, and what can be applied in future to try and prevent such tragedies from happening again."

Because the deaths occurred

in a Mine, Govon says the Mining Act makes an inquest mandatory.

Govon will preside over the Dec. 9 proceedings, during which witnesses will be called to determine what happened.

The Crown Attorney will ask questions on behalf of the Coroner, but Govon says individuals or groups who have been granted standing, such as family members or specific companies that may have been involved, may also question witnesses.

"At the end, the Crown will summarize, and then each of

those with standing are invited to speak," says Govon. "Then the jury retires to consider the questions and make recommendations."

A jury at an inquest is made up of five people from the local area. Govon says he expects the proceedings will take about a day to complete.

"Even though (the inquest) is mandatory, there's always something to be learned from them," he says.

"But they are not intended as preliminary proceedings to legal actions. As matter of fact, if there is an issue where criminal charges may be pending, no inquest is held until the other issue is resolved."

Timber wolf

continued from page 11

"In court, (Fontaine) testified that he wanted to get the wolf mounted," says Dennis. "The wolf is a black wolf, and that's not a common colour."

He also says this is the first time that he has been involved with successfully prosecuting a case like this.

"I think every CO in the province knows that this happens from time to time," he says. "And wolves are vulnerable to the speed of snowmobiles when they're out on the ice."

As for the wolf, Dennis says it will probably be tanned and used for educational purposes.

"These kinds of cases don't

happen every day," he says. "And I think the fines reflect the seriousness the courts place on matters like these."

In passing sentence, Justice of the Peace Gordon Buterin said that "the animal had died a horrible and violent death."

The incident took place on a frozen lake near Dubreuilville.

Waste less Xmas

continued from page 9

Avoid buying any gift made of ivory—half of the world's elephants have been lost to poaching in the last 10 years. Carvings, bowls or boxes made from tropical hardwoods contribute to the destruction of rainforests. Buying locally-made items helps discourage harvesting of these trees.

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,

I have been pretty good this year. For Christmas I would like a radio-controlled Chevy Blazer, an echta-skech, a trouble game, and a Dalmatian puppy named "Patch."

It would be nice to have a racing car set, which I will share with my Dad. He really wants one. I like school lots too, and maybe it would be fun to have a computer at home.

I will leave you some cocoa, and mini-chip butter crisp cookies, which are my favourite!

Have a safe trip.

Love,
Erik Prager
almost 5

Dear Santa,

I have been a really good boy this year. I have been waking up dry. For Christmas, I would like a radio-controlled Big Bubba, a magna-doodle, a Thomas the Tank Engine play set, and a Dalmatian puppy named "Rolly." Please remember to bring Dusty a milk-bone and a jerky treat. Her stocking is at the front door. She will kiss you if you pat her head.

I will leave some lemonade, and a hallowe'en treat.

Santa, please be careful on your sleigh.

Love,
Brent Prager
3 1/2

Dear Santa,

My name is Korrie and I am 7 years old. I have been pretty good this year. My teacher said I am doing good in school. My grandparents and uncle Geoff are coming up from Windsor. One of my wishes is for them to make it up to Schreiber okay.

I am also wishing for a toy sewing machine, an Ariel doll and My Pretty Ballerina doll.

I have a little brother. His name is Brian and he is only three so I'll write his list for you. He wishes to have a turtle and Batman toy and a playskool remote car. I will have cookies and milk waiting for you Santa.

Love,
Korrie Charles

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! Thank-you for the presents you brought last year. I hope you and Mrs. Claus had a good year. Mom says my brother and I have been not "too" bad this year. For Christmas I would like a tournament table, a Fast Traxx Pickup, an electric drumset and a Hat Full of Magic.

My brother Mikey would like "The Claw" truck, a batmobile, some Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and a Fast Traxx Pickup. We will leave you some milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Have a safe trip.

Thank-you
Jay Slavin



Letters to Santa

Hey kids! Get into the Christmas spirit and send in your letters to Santa. Each letter will be featured weekly until Christmas.

Don't forget to include your name and age on the letter!

All letters must be received by Dec. 18 to be printed.

Send letters to address below:

TERRACE BAY - SCHREIBER NEWS

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