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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF TERRACE BAY - SCHREIBER - ROSSPORT AND JACKFISH LAKE

Towns considering one welfare administration

by Darren MacDonald
Staff

Schreiber and Terrace Bay are in the process of finalizing plans to merge the two townships' welfare administrations. If the proposal is approved by both town councils and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, one person could be administering welfare cases for both towns as soon as Jan. 1.

Both councils agreed to pursue a joint system of delivering welfare at their joint meeting last month. They agreed to have both Clerk-Treasurers and the present Welfare Administrators meet to come up with a proposal.

"The basic motive is economic," says Schreiber Clerk-Treasurer Aurel Gauthier. "The ministry would pay 50 per cent of the cost of the administrative part of delivering welfare programs, where we received absolutely nothing before."

The province pays 80 per cent of the cost of most welfare benefits, with municipalities picking up the remaining 20 per cent. However, the townships pay the full cost of having their employees administer welfare.

A Ministry of Community and Social Services subsidy is available for communities who have welfare caseloads totalling more than 50. The subsidy covers 50 per cent of the salary of a Welfare Administrator.

Schreiber's caseload averages 35-40 a month, while Ter-

race Bay averages 15-20 cases a month. So in order to qualify for the grant, the towns would have to integrate their welfare administrations.

"It looks as though, because we have a heavier caseload, Schreiber would be the delivering agency," says Gauthier. "So the person designated as the Welfare Administrator would go to Terrace Bay two-half

days a week —basically the same as it is now, I believe."

The proposal doesn't include hiring someone new to become the administrator. Instead, an existing township employee in Schreiber would

take over the job for both towns. Right now, Judy Wilcox handles welfare administration for Terrace Bay, and Nadine Anderson does it for Schreiber.

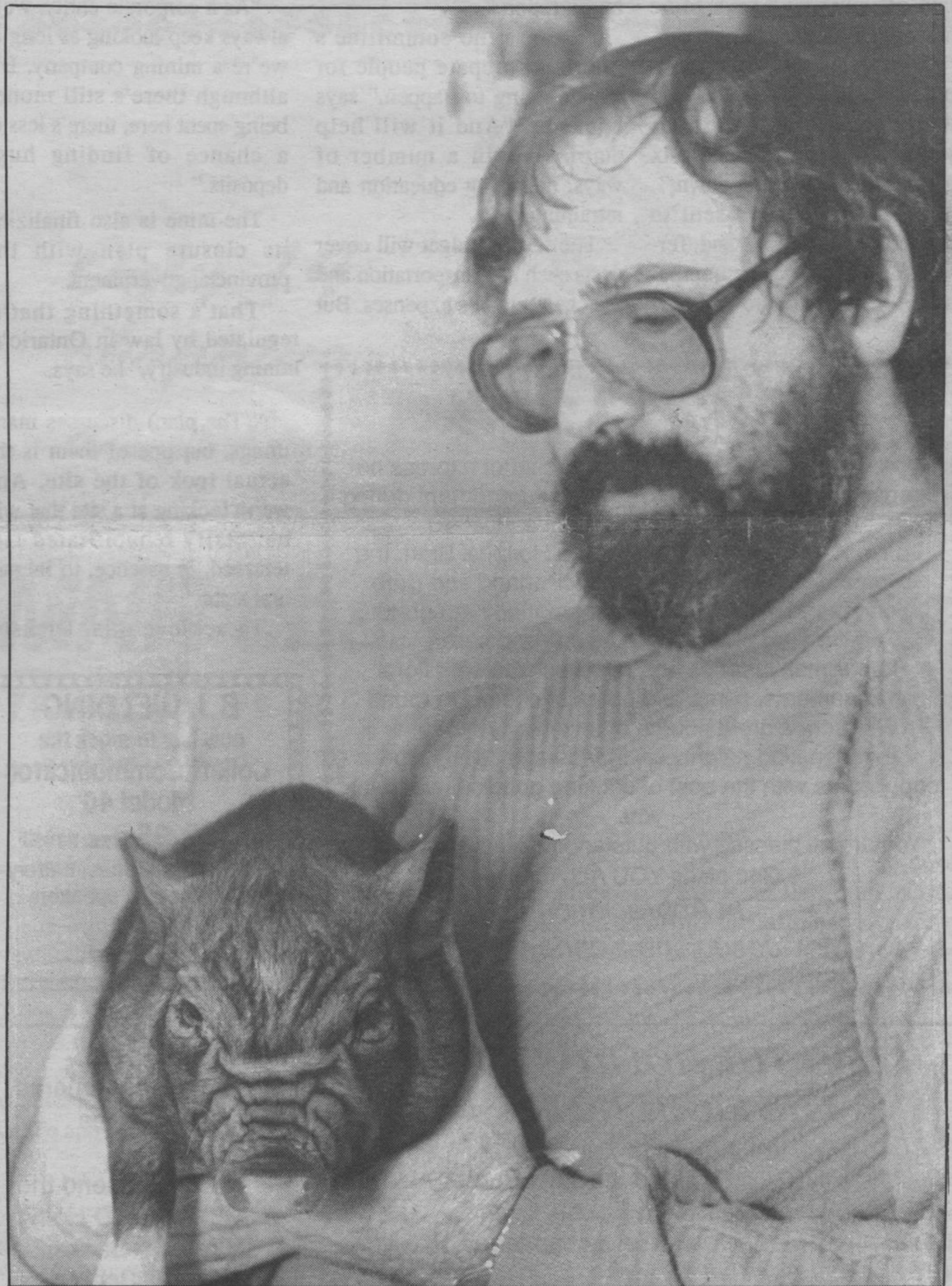
"The administrator would handle all of the paperwork involved with the cases, and we would pay our portion of welfare claims to Schreiber," says Terrace Bay Clerk-Treasurer Dave Fulton. "And all the claims would be submitted to the Ministry by the Township of Schreiber."

Fulton says there are advantages of having one person handle welfare cases besides economic ones.

"There would also be the advantage of standardizing welfare policies between the two communities so that each place deals with welfare on exactly the same basis," says Fulton. "Whether you applied for assistance here or in

continued on page 2

It's a pigs life



Phil holds Charlotte, the 11-week-old Vietnamese, potbellied pig.

by Darren MacDonald
Staff

Phil's Pet Birds and Supplies owner Phil Desilets has come up with a unique solution to a common problem. Because his daughter and his wife are allergic to dogs and cats, the family couldn't have a traditional family pet.

However, as the owner of a pet store Phil

was in a position to acquire a rather unusual pet—an 11-week-old Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pig.

"I heard that they're smarter than dogs," says Phil, explaining why he bought the pig.

"And that they're really clean, and make good pets."

continued on page 15



DIANNE O'NEILL



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