

TUMBLER RIDGE Observer

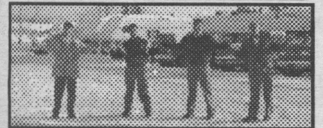
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Volume 8, Number 03

Tumbler Ridge, B.C.

January 19, 1997

RECORD SALES & SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING



Timberline Pontiac Buick GMC are entering into their 17th year of business and have surpassed all previous sales records. President Reg Saunders, Sales Manager Darcy Friesen and staff are very proud of the record sales results, which have resulted in a low vehicle inventory.

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All Star Banquet and Auction

Rooms 4 and 5 were packed with hockey fans last Saturday afternoon. In a room beautifully decorated for the occasion, the All Star Banquet and Auction, the mood was very festive. Everyone was there to welcome our Northwest Hockey League All Star players to their competition that will show whether Alberta or British Columbia is number one in the Northwest Hockey League.

The festivities started off with a 'cocktail' hour and then a wonderful banquet catered by Gail Cameron

and her staff. Then it was time for speeches by the dignitaries assembled and an introduction of each of the players to the assemblage.

After that the auction was held and autographed pictures, jerseys and sports trading cards were auctioned off for everyone to bid on.

The occasion was brought to you by The District of Tumbler Ridge, Tumbler Ridge Inn, ShopEasy Foods, City Sports of Dawson Creek, Stardust Creations, Molson Canada, Safeway, and the Tumbler Ridge Computer Centre.

Hockey Fans Take Note

by S. K. Jones

The weekend of Jan. 24-26 1997, TR is hosting the Annual PeeWee Minor Hockey Tournament. If you want to see some exciting hockey, come on out and support the kids. PeeWee level hockey can have you involved in the play and on the edge of your seat! Put two competitive teams on the ice and there's rivalry and contention for those desired goals! Admission is by donation this year. There will be a door prize and draws. So come down to the arena, bring the kids and check out the action. Posters will be put up giving game times.

See you there!



Doug Cameron, Josee and Tiger Williams at the All Star Banquet and Auction last Saturday.

TRE News

Division 8 thanks Mr. Turner, Mrs. Stanek and Mrs. Strasky for coming skating. Thanks also to Mrs. Hassenstein for helping out every Monday. There were many appreciated volunteers who helped out to make the Christmas concert a great success: Mr. Thiessen, Mrs. Pike, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Hounsell, Mr. Fox, Mr. Turner and Mr. Colledge.

Happy Birthday to: January 2-

Robyn Hynes; 3- Mrs. Bransgard; 4-Marcie Doonan; 5-Lindsay Kara-siuk; 7-Chris Genge; 7-Jason Hamel; 7-Brent Parsons; 8-Reginald Kirkpatrick; 9-Karolina Bielecka; 10-Dale Cope; 10-Jonathon Holowatiuk; 11-Jenna Smid; 12-Trevor Bellows; 12-Amy Smallwood; 17-Richard Dolihan; 17-Brandy Leduc; 18-Travis Barrett; 21-Xochitl Smith; 22-Hailey Cooling; 23-Nicole Turner; 24-Brandon

Harper; 24-Samantha Pike; 25-Frankie Hynes; 26- Candice Mercer; 26-Susan Scott; 27-Spencer Goodman; 28-Jamie Muise; and 31-Ryan Dupras.

Friday, January 31 is a Professional Development Day, there will be no school for students.

TKD AGM

The Tumbler Ridge TaeKwon Do Annual General Meeting will be held on January 21 at 8 PM in Room 1 of the Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Do you have a winning Number?

Tags Food & Gas has a number of outstanding winning numbers available for their 30 litres of free gas. If you have numbers 0876064, 0876242, 0876307, 0876742, 0877243 could you please bring your winning ticket(s) to Tags Food & Gas and collect your free gas.

Sports Star

Local resident Christine Walsh is not only an Honour Roll student at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School but she also excels in sports. Two very divergent sports, at that. Christine has been playing hockey for years and she has also found her forte in volleyball. So much so that she tried out for the BC Northern Ladies Volleyball Club last month.

Christine, a fourteen year old, grade nine student at TRSS tried out for the Women's BC Volleyball Club but she also was given the opportunity to try out for the Zone 8

Women's Hockey Team for Northern BC.

Both tryouts taking place on December 14 and 15.

Christine opted for the Volleyball tryouts.

She made the team. From now until April 20 she will be practicing every weekend in Fort St. John and will play three tournaments. The first one in Grande Prairie on Feb. 22 and 23, the second in Edmonton on April 7 and 9 and the final one in Vancouver from April 17 to 20.

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TUMBLER RIDGE
OBSERVER

Editorial

by Kathy Cope

A few days ago two of my children were sledding on the sledding hill across from Willow Rd on Monkman Way. They were busy with a few friends and a variety of other children sledding down the hill and climbing back up again. But, someone joined the group and without a sled. An adult brought along his snowmobile and proceeded to go up and down the sledding hill with it. Weaving in and out of the children sledding on that hill. Not what most people would call a 'bright' idea.

After checking with the RCMP I found out that this is perfectly legal, because there is no bylaw stating that snowmobiles are not allowed in this part of town.

After checking with District staff I am told that although there is no bylaw stating this is not acceptable. There are signs, maps, etc. stating that this is not a snowmobile area.

There are corridors for those who want to take their snowmobiles out of town and ride them. The District has been very understanding about the use of snowmobiles in town. Most snowmobile owners trailer their machines and take them out of town before riding them. Not everyone has this capability, nor do they want to ride them way out of

town. That is understandable. If you are just going to the trails behind the Heritage Highway and live on Gwillim Crescent or elsewhere up top you might just want to take your machine out your backyard and then drive it to the trail system. Rather than trailing it and driving it to a drop off place.

But driving a snowmobile along the berms beside Mackenzie or Monkman, driving over the Golf Course, or down the sledding hill, or across the fields at TRE are not suitable activities for responsible drivers and if this keeps up those people without snowmobiles are going to be petitioning the District to have them banned from town. It is only a matter of time before a backlash of pent up anger kicks in and everyone will lose the use of their snowmobiles, unless you have that truck and/or trailer to take it out of town to use it. Please snowmobile responsibly and think of the others residents and especially the children when you are out and about.

By the way, whoever let those three children snowmobile by themselves at 8 PM on Saturday night was not being a very responsible parent, and they are not allowed to cross the street the way that they did.

MP Report

by Jay Hill, Prince George - Peace River

My Ottawa assistant told me her young son came home from school recently and told her there had been an altercation in the school yard. Apparently one young boy called another a liar, whereupon the accused asked him who he thought he was talking to, "the Prime Minister?"

Although I can't help but smile at the flood of cartoons, one-liners and jokes circulating about "Teflon Jean", every new disclosure of another "untruth" or broken promise by the Liberals only increases Canadians' contempt for politicians at all levels of government.

Case in point, the recent capitulation of the Liberal government on the Mulroney lawsuit. It seems there is not sufficient evidence of Mr. Mulroney's guilt, at least not at this time. So, rather than jeopardize the ongoing investigation, taxpayers will generously pick up Brian's legal bills in addition to the government's. Reportedly, the total could run upwards of three million dollars.

Does anyone really believe charges will ever be laid in this case? In fact, if the appointment of former PM Kim Campbell to her Hollywood mansion is any indication, I'll wager there is a far better chance PM Chretien will give Mul-

roney a special assignment in the Bahamas before he'll ever be charged in the Airbus scandal.

It seems that among those (including Reformers) calling for the resignation of Justice Minister Allan Rock over this \$13 million debacle is none other than the Tory leader, Jean Charest, a former Mulroney Cabinet Minister. I guess he should know what constitutes a breach of Ministerial standards of accountability and conduct, having had to resign in 1990 himself for calling a judge on a matter before the court. Of course, he only had to sit on the backbenches for a short time before he was reinstated. Shades of Moe Sihota!

Have you noticed that lately the national media have been falling all over themselves to place Mr. Charest front and centre in every "national" news story while carefully avoiding any mention of Reformers? Is it an intentional strategy leading up to the next crucial election? Why would they adopt such a policy?

Is it because, just as they did during the Charlottetown Accord when they pushed Mulroney's line that "anyone who votes No is an enemy of Canada", the national media has decided it again "knows" what's best for you? Maybe they should remember that, in 1992, 76.2% of

Lets Talk Taxes

A weekly commentary by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Throwing Some Light on MLA Pay - Part 1

Appointed by an all-party standing committee of the legislature, a five-member Citizens' Panel is currently reviewing MLA compensation and expenses. The Panel's recommendations are expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Hopefully, the Panel's efforts will result in a comprehensive set of reforms. Currently, change only occurs when someone embarrasses MLAs into taking action. Like pointing out that upon leaving office MLAs could keep, as their personal property, all the taxpayer-provided office furnishings and equipment from their constituency offices. That was dropped in 1995. Or pointing out that taxpayers were contributing, on average, \$5 for every \$1 contributed by an MLA to their pension plan. The pension plan, which was abolished in May 1996, didn't stop several departing MLAs from walking away with millions, but it did stop future MLAs from robbing the treasury with the same vigour as their predecessors.

It has been argued repeatedly that pensions and benefits like the clean office policy compensated like the clean office policy compensated for

low salaries. Indeed, former Premier Mike Harcourt makes this point in his memoirs. In truth however, these so-called benefits were only a way of increasing compensation while misleading the public and avoiding the political backlash associated with more visible salary increases.

If the Citizens' Panel recommends anything, it should be that MLA compensation become transparent. Professor Wally Fox-Decent, who headed a similar commission in Manitoba, aptly summarized the point: "any system of remuneration for MLAs should be simple, straightforward, easily understandable, fair and accountable". But the current system in B.C. is like something cooked up by Stupich-type accountants and Laxton-type lawyers.

And its not just pensions and cleaning out the office -- even something as simple as a salary is muddled in chicanery. Currently, MLAs receive a taxable "indemnity" of \$32,812 in addition to a "tax-free allowance" of \$16,406 which is equal to half the indemnity. Politicians and commentators often combine the two to imply that MLAs are paid a base salary of \$49,218.

Not true.

Any working British Columbian with an income of \$49,218 would be required by law to pay \$14,051 in federal and provincial income taxes. But since \$16,406 of an MLA's income is non-taxable, they only have to pay \$7,418 on the same income -- 47% less than taxpayers earning the same income. In effect, MLAs receive a \$6,633 tax break.

Anybody else would have to earn \$61,050 to receive the same after-tax income as an MLA earning \$49,218. Cabinet Ministers, who currently earn \$88,218 are really earning an equivalent of \$107,176 considering their generous tax break.

the people in this riding voted No, despite dire warnings from media pundits.

The media suggests polls indicate the decline of the Reform Party as more and more small "c" conservatives return to the Tories. Well, I don't know where they're conducting these polls, but I know it's not in our riding. A TeleResearch poll done here last September showed just six percent of decided voters would vote Tory - this in a constituency that was a Conservative stronghold for 20 years.

Obviously, people here are not buying Mr. Charest's new and improved Tory party. Despite their promotion of Mr. Charest, even the national media concedes they have yet to uncover any new policy initiatives. One wonders, will the next election be another popularity contest or will it be fought on policy?

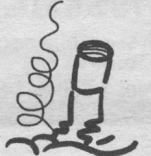
I believe Mr. Charest and his Progressive Conservatives have a lot of work ahead of them before Canadians are going to begin to forgive or forget the Mulroney era. But rest assured, in order to try to split the Reform vote, the national media and the Liberal government will do everything they can to convince you to have a "short memory" when it comes to voting Tory!

Once the full effects of the tax free allowance are taken into account, MLAs pay is 1% below the national average when compared to all other provinces, while cabinet ministers are 3% above the national average. In other words, election officials in British Columbia are not contrary to popular belief, among the lowest paid in the country.

Transparency is important not just for taxpayers who haven't been receiving the straight goods for decades, but also for elected officials. Tax-free allowances, for example, shelter politicians from the effects of the tax decisions they impose upon the public. Moving to a fully-taxable and transparent salary would mean that Premier Clark would be subject to the highest marginal tax rate in North America. Something he imposed upon the public as Finance Minister, but insulated from thanks to a special tax break for politicians. Transparency is the precursor and guiding principle to all other discussion surrounding changes to MLA compensation. More about this in next week's column.

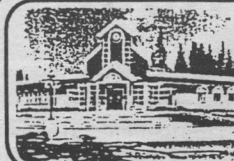
Troy Lanigan.

You called it
"COOL"
Then you called it
"a HABIT"
Now it's
"an ADDICTION"



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TUMBLER RIDGE
Observer

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Art gallery opens Tumbler show

By Cees Mond
Daily News Staff

Of People and Nature, the new exhibit at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, provides a window into Tumbler Ridge's landscape and its people.

By means of two essentially different mediums, two Tumbler Ridge artists, Ron Lukey and Denise Linley, explore the balance of nature to man and industry.

Linley's chalk, pen and ink, acrylic and oil paintings depict nature and animals of Tumbler Ridge's surroundings. The uniqueness of some of the works lies in the fact she doesn't separate heavy industry from the natural surroundings in which it is placed. One notable piece is a painting of deer grazing with the majestic Rocky Mountains in the background. From behind the hills the impressive towers of Quintette coal mine provide a unique sense of co-existence.

"I wanted to show wildlife interacting with the mine," says Linley. "I'm interested in the mine, in the way it fits in the landscape."

The Quintette mine has done a remarkable job in preserving the landscape and its wildlife, she says.

"I always say, 'if you want to see wildlife, go to the mine.' Once I had the opportunity to take a look at the actual mining site. In the space of two hours, I saw a black bear, an elk, osprey, two cow moose with three calves, and a grizzly with cubs."

Though born and raised in Vancouver, the mainly self-taught artist Linley has lived in northern B.C. since 1990, the last two years in Tumbler Ridge.

Lukey, a resident of the mining town since 12 years, is featured at

the show through high contrast black and white photographs.

The Saskatchewan native, who works at the Quintette mine as an electrician, chose to have only his pictures representing the various facets of the mine and its people at the exhibition.

It gives the viewer not only some visual insights into the everyday workings within the mine, but his work may be the industry's strongest promotional tool.

By photographing interesting looking rock formations with large equipment working in the foreground, Lukey manages to put some poetry into the industry.

The way Lukey pictures his co-workers, with mining equipment in the background, gives the subjects a sense of pride and makes the powerful features of the mine come alive.

"A lot of people have worked 10 or 15 years at the mine, and yet have no (photographic) record of their work," says Lukey. "There are lots of great pictures out there."

With a wide angle lens, he creeps up close to the subject while still capturing as much of the background as possible, thus blending in the people in their environment instead of separating the two.

Lukey, who learned about photography as a child in his father's camera/photo business, only started to become interested again in the medium after the birth of his first child, six years ago.

The exhibition will remain at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery until Jan. 26 and can be viewed during regular gallery hours, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 to 5 p.m.

More protection for Children in sport

The British Columbia government is working with provincial sport organizations to ensure that sexual harassment and abuse policies and procedures are in place to protect children and youth involved in sports, Sports Minister Jan Pullinger announced Jan. 10.

Pullinger's announcement follows the conviction of Graham James, a former junior hockey coach in Swift Current, for sexually abusing two of his players.

"This government won't tolerate this type of behaviour," she said. "This is another step we are taking to protect children in this province. I also want provincial sport organizations to designate a qualified individual outside of the sport organization to whom children, youth and parents can go when harassment or abuse takes place. I'm also looking at the feasibility of a 1-800 number to field inquiries from individuals who have been victims of harassment or abuse. Officials in government and within provincial sport organizations have been thinking hard and diligently to address these issues for some time and I have asked them to focus and accelerate their efforts to ensure that children and youth can participate in sports in a safe and ethical environment and that there are places they can turn to when abusive incidents occur."

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Dawson Creek Art Gallery visitors had a chance to talk to the artists Ron Lukey (left) and Denise Linley (right). The Tumbler Ridge artists' exhibition, Of People and Nature, runs until Jan. 26. (Photo by Cees Mond)

Volunteer of the Week

I would like to opportunity to recognize the volunteer efforts of Josee Gagnon. Josee is the Secretary of the ICEMEN Hockey Club. Her responsibilities include everything and anything that has to do with the operation of the organization. She assists in promoting the Club, answering inquiries, arranging ice times, seeing to travel needs, maintaining the books, organizing other volunteers in their responsibilities, and any other requirements to keep the team operational.

Recently she was a key figure in getting Tiger Williams to come to town in support of the leagues All-Star Game. An event which was by far and away a great success, and a big boost to our community.

Thanks to all the contributions of all the volunteers who invested their time in the ICEMEN Hockey Club. The next community to host the All-Star Game will have to put up quite an effort to match the show that the ICEMEN organization displayed. The ICEMEN provide an opportunity for the people of our community to see Junior Hockey. Josee and all the other community volunteers deserve a big pat on the back for all their efforts.

Thank you Josee for adding to the quality of life in our community.

Ridge Ramble cross country Ski Race

A cross-country ski race in Tumbler Ridge? Yes, the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society (i.e. the Tumbler Ridge Cross-Country Ski Club) is holding its first race. The Ridge Ramble cross-country ski race will be held on Saturday, February 8, 1997 on the groomed trails around and beyond the golf course. The recreational event is 7 km long and the racing event is 20 km. There will also be a race for the young ones, with distances of 1 km for 7 years and

younger and 2 km for 8 to 13 years of age. The cost is only \$10 for adults and \$5 for juniors. The Club House will be open for refreshments, both for participants and for those who just want to come down and see what it is all about. Race time is 11 AM, with the awards presentation to follow.

For more information on the race or to obtain a registration form, please contact Birgit Sharman (242-4860), Al Tattersall (242-4940) or Charles Helm (242-3984).

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Tags Has Winners

Last month Tags Food & Gas had a number of draws with some really great prizes to be won. For their employees they had a draw for a trip for two to Grande Prairie, a meal at LaProvence, and a night in the Grande Prairie Inn, with two tickets to a movie to cap of the fun. The draw was won by Tina.

For customers they ran a promotion of free gas with a lot of winners

earning 30 litres of free fuel. They also had a special draw for a huge teddy bear won by Jim Charlebois.

And another special draw of a trip for two to Las Vegas. This trip included air fare round trip from Edmonton to Las Vegas, three nights stay in a hotel in Las Vegas. The contest was sponsored by Uniglobe Travel and Husky Oil. The trip here was won by Donald Dill.

New Books at the Library

Legal and Business Books:

Complete Guide to Canadian Universities; Family Trusts for tax and estate planning; So you wanna buy a car; Start and run a profitable mail-order business; Start and run a profitable tour guiding business; Study smarter, not harder; Trade secrets; Aboriginal issues today; Fight that ticket in British Columbia; Living together contract; Have you got what it takes?; No B.S. time management; Out of work? Get into business; Start and run a profitable craft business; Start and run a prof-

itable student-run business; Better book for getting hired; Please listen to me!; Canadian G/T international adoptions.

Videos: Santa and the Three bears; Jingle Bell Christmas; Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; Wind in the Willows; Barney's once upon a time; The Snowman; Goosebumps: Stay out of the Basement; Goosebumps: A night in terror tower; All Dogs go to Heaven 2; Introduction to the Internet; Scoring: A story about date rape.

Community Calendar

Monday: 3:30 Men in Recovery of Battering, Support Group at the TR Alcohol & Drug Counselling Office.

Tuesday: 8 PM Therapy Group at TR Alcohol & Drug Counselling Office.

Tuesdays: Support Group for Women who are, or have been, in abusive relationships. Call Bonnie at 242-4215 for more information.

Tuesdays: TR Women's Friendship Circle meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Library at 7 PM.

Wednesday: 12 PM at the Salvation Army there are A.A. meetings for family members, relatives, friends, etc.

Wednesday: New Life Assembly, 275 Murray, Bible Study - Book of Hebrews.

The second Wednesday of the month, An Asthma Support Group, 7 PM in the Health Centre's Board Room.

Wednesday: Parents of Special Needs Children Support Group, January 8/97, 7:30 PM, TR Counselling Office Meeting Room.

Wednesday: AA meetings at 1:30 in the Board Room of the TR Counseling Office.

Thursday: Women's Support Group for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Call Bonnie at 242-4215 for more information.

Thursday: N.A. Therapy Group at Alcohol & Drug Counselling Office 8 PM.

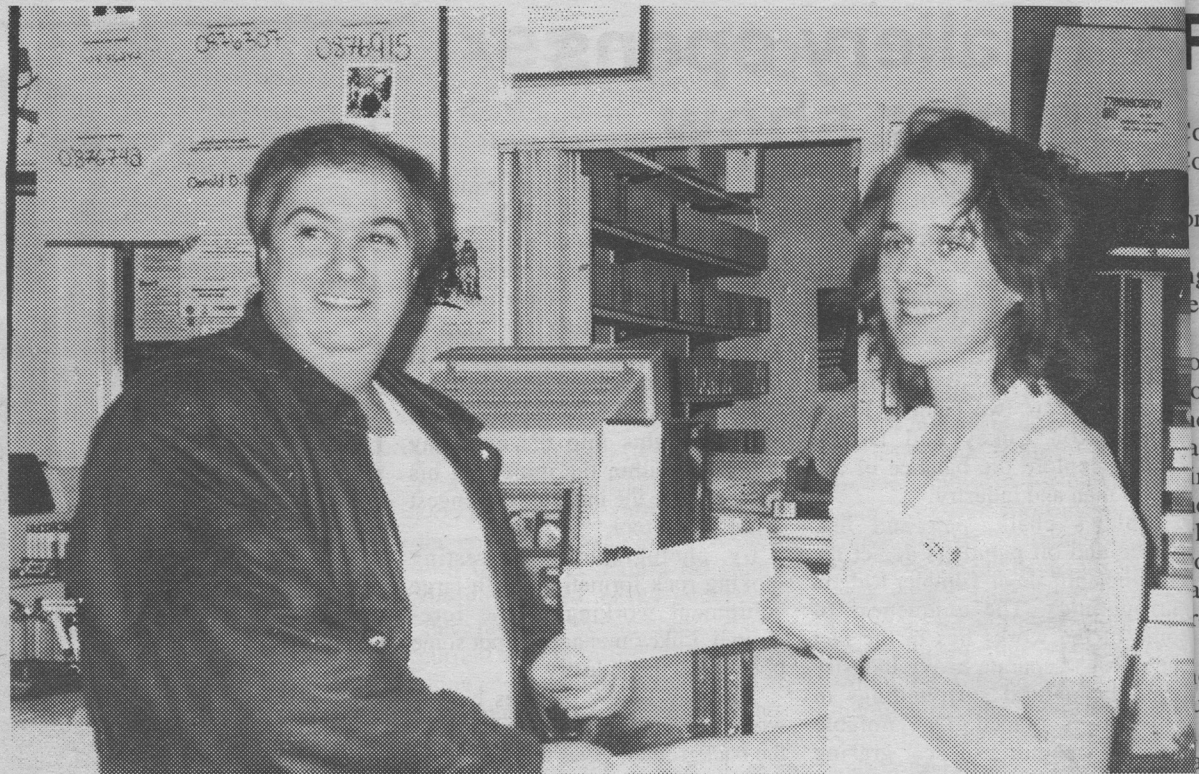
Thursday: The Narcotics Anonymous Group Meeting nights will now be every Thursday at 4 PM in the TR Counseling Office Meeting Room. These are closed meetings.

Sunday: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Sacrament meeting 10 AM to 1 PM, Community Centre Room 4 & 3 for Sacrament, 1, 3 & Library for other meetings, visitors welcome. Branch President: Wayne Merrick.

St. Pauls: (Presbyterian, Anglican, United and Lutheran) Church is back with their regular Sunday services at 10 AM in the Holy Cross Church, across the street from Northern Metallic. Everyone is welcome and they would love to see you there.

Baptist Church, now at 115 Commercial Park, Unit 1, Sunday School 9:45 AM and Worship Service at 11 AM.

Sunday: New Life Assembly (Pentecostal Assembly of Canada) 275 Murray. Sunday School 9:30 AM, Worship Services 11 AM and 7 PM. For more information contact Pastor John Cuyler at 242-3421.



Tags Food & Gas winner of trip for two to Las Vegas, Donald Dill receiving his prize from Brenda Leslie.

Kids Fun

How can you change a piece of chocolate into a vegetable? You toss it into the air and it comes down squash.

If corns have ears and potatoes have eyes, what do chocolates have? Each other.

What did the snake give his girlfriend on their first date? A good-night hiss.

Grow sprouts in an eggshell: You'll need: 1 empty eggshell with top 1/4 broken off, 1 egg cup or small napkin ring, 3 damp cotton balls, 1/8 teaspoon alfalfa seeds, fine-tipped felt markers. Set the empty eggshell in egg cup or napkin ring. Draw a face on the eggshell with coloured markers (a child's self-portrait is especially fun), and set the eggshell in egg cup or napkin ring. Place damp cotton balls inside eggshell. Sprinkle seeds over the cotton and keep cotton damp. In two or three days, the seeds will begin to sprout. Put in a sunny spot. As the seeds grow, the children can give their egg friend a 'hair' cut. Sprinkle the nutritious clippings on a salad or add to a sandwich at lunch time.

Activity from: Prime Time Together with Kids by Donna Erickson and Discovery Press.

Jokes from: 101 Valentine Jokes by Pat Brigandi

Kids & Tobacco
It's a crime.



Recipes to Remember

Sponsored by ShopEasy Foods

"Where you can Win Your Groceries FREE"

Quick Asparagus Quiche

Barbara Duval

15 g. butter

1 onion, finely chopped

1 clove garlic, crushed

1 cup stale whole-wheat bread crumbs

4 eggs

300 ml carton sour cream

1 cup grated parmesan cheese

1/4 cup grated tasty cheese

1 tablespoon self-raising flour

1/3 cup milk

2-340 ml cans asparagus spears, drained

paprika

Heat butter in pan; add onion and cook, stirring until onion is soft. Stir in garlic and bread crumbs. Press evenly over base of 25 centimeter quiche dish. Blend or process combined eggs, sour cream, cheeses, flour and milk until smooth. Pour slowly into quiche dish. Top with asparagus; sprinkle lightly with paprika. Bake in moderate oven for 35 minutes or until set.

From: From Our Kitchen to Yours, District of Tumbler Ridge Chamber of Commerce and Friends Cookbook.

TR This Week

Tuesday, Tuesday Internet Session Genealogy, 7 PM in the Library.

Tuesday, Regular meeting of Tumbler Ridge Council, 7 PM in Town Hall.

Tuesday, TR TKD AGM 8 PM Rm 1, Community Centre everyone welcome.

Wednesday, First Nations Stories and Crafts, all ages 3 PM at the Library.

Wednesday, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) course starts at Northern Lights College.

Thursday, No Me 'N You Playtime, Court instead.

Friday to Thursday, TRSS Provincial exams.

Friday, BINGO night at the Community Centre.

Friday to Sunday, PeeWee Hockey Tournament in TR, check out game times and root on your team!

Saturday, Adult Genealogy Workshop, Tracing Your Roots, Beginning a Family History, 1 PM at the Library.

Saturday, Wolverine Hut Warm-up Family Picnic, official opening of the new hut and trails starting at the TR Golf Course, contact Birgit Sharman at 242-4860. Leaves the Golf Course at 11 AM and ski to Lost Haven for a warm up meal.

Sunday, TR ICEMEN vs. Grande Prairie 3:45 PM at the Arena.

From Council

This letter was received by our Council and appeared in the last Council package.

Dear Mayor Kealy and Councilors:

I am writing to you today regarding a matter of serious concern to people throughout this province.

As I am sure you are aware, this government has recently taken action to cut the provincial share of the municipal grants by, in some cases, up to 60%. This action is a direct violation of Section 2 of the Local Governments Grants Act, which prohibits the government from reducing grants in any one fiscal year by more than 2% of the previous year's grant.

It is apparent that this government, having tabled a fraudulent budget, is now enacting policy that violates the laws of the Province. I have enclosed, for your information,

the letter which I wrote to Lieutenant-Governor Garde Gardom. I have urged him to recall the Legislature so the appropriate amending legislation can be brought forward and debated, thus allowing both the elected officials and the public a chance to hear discussion about and propose changes to this new grants scheme.

I urge you to express to the Premier your outrage about the illegal and undemocratic actions of his government. I am most interested in any information or opinions you may have on how this issue will affect your community. Please do not hesitate to write or phone my office in Victoria.

Sincerely,

Gordon F.D. Wilson, MLA,
Leader, Progressive Democratic Alliance.



Acting Mayor Anne White and Economic Development Officer Sue Kenny at the All Star Banquet and Auction last Saturday.

Council Grants

The Chamber of Commerce will receive a 1997 Operating Grant in the amount of \$9,704 based on 60% of the previous year's business licenses collected by the District. The District will sign a "fee for service" contract with the Chamber of Commerce.

The Tumbler Ridge Library Association to receive its 1997 operating grant in the amount of \$87,070 aid in quarterly installments and a \$5,000 capital grant released upon receipt of invoices.

The Tumbler Ridge Youth Services to receive a 1997 operating grant in the amount of \$48,000 paid in quarterly installments.

The Tumbler Ridge grad reunion to receive a 1997 grant equivalent to

the rental of the curling rink in the summer of 1997 for an amount not to exceed \$400.

The Citizens on Patrol organization to receive a 1997 grant in the amount of \$1,040.

The Parents of the Air Cadets are to receive a 1997 grant in the amount of \$500 to be applied to the operations of the vehicles and to be released immediately.

The Tumbler Ridge Parks and Recreation Commission to receive a 1997 grant in the amount of \$8,000 which is to be allocated as per their mandate and that they will also have \$1,610 to use for travel and \$660 to use for office supplies and advertising.

Tumbler Ridge Counselling Office

Alcoholism, chronic and usually progressive illness involving the excessive inappropriate ingestion of ethyl alcohol, whether in the form of familiar alcoholic beverages or as a constituent of other substances. Alcoholism is thought to arise from a combination of a wide range of physiological, psychological, social and genetic factors. It is characterized by an emotional and often physical dependence on alcohol, and it frequently leads to brain damage or early death.

Some 10% of the adult drinkers in the US and Canada are consid-

ered alcoholics or at least they experience drinking problems to some degree. More males than females are affected, but drinking among the young and among women is increasing. Consumption of alcohol is apparently on the rise in the United States, countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and many European nations. This is paralleled by growing evidence of increasing numbers of alcohol-related problems in other nations, including the Third World.

The Library has winners.

The Library's short story contest, "It happened at the Library", that was run last fall and ended on December 31 has its winners. First place, and \$75 goes to Joenelle Zimmer, second place and \$50 goes to Billy Chiam and third place and \$25 goes to Dale Cope.

The Library would like to thank their judges and everyone that entered.

Winner

The winner of the January 11, Win Your Groceries for FREE at ShopEasy Foods was D. Gies, with \$46.86 worth of FREE Food. Congratulations!

Book Review

F. Paul Wilson Implant
"Once physician Duncan Latham used his surgical skills to save lives. Now he spends his time tucking ingressional tummies and lifting me of the best-known faces on Capitol Hill. To his assistant, Gina, the change is disturbing and sad. But when a series of bizarre accidents befall Latham's patients. Gina finds herself drawn to a frightening plot that might explain her mentor's changes - and a lot more besides."

Margery's Pond Open

Margery's Pond is now open again for your outdoor ice-skating enjoyment. Located at the Monkman Park RV Campground (near the ball diamonds). Free skating till spring.

TR DISTRICT OF TUMBLER RIDGE PUBLIC NOTICE

DISTRICT OF TUMBLER RIDGE RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Two Council-appointed positions are vacant on the Recreation, Parks and Culture Commission, for the two year term beginning January 1, 1997 and expiring on December 31, 1998.

Interested individuals who wish to be considered for appointment to the commission should apply by 4:00 pm on the 30th day of January, 1997 to:

Mayor and Council
District of Tumbler Ridge
c/o Norma Everett, Clerk
305 Founders Street
Box 100
Tumbler Ridge, BC
V0C 2W0

TR DISTRICT OF TUMBLER RIDGE



1997 Dog Tags

1997 Dog Tags can be
picked up at Town Hall
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm &
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Classifieds

TUMBLER RIDGE OBSERVER

8 Personals

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets the following afternoon in Tumbler Ridge at 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays in the TR Counselling Office Board Room.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (N.A.)

Meets every Thursday at 4 p.m. in TR Counselling Board Room.

11 Announcements

The Salvation Army

meets Sunday
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
#107 Commercial Park
Tumbler Ridge, BC

15 Services

H.I.V. (AIDS)

Testing and counselling available at the Peace River Health Unit in Tumbler Ridge. Testing is free and confidential. Call 242-4262 for more information or for an appointment.

WELCOME WAGON LTD.
SINCE 1930

Are you new in town?
Are you recently engaged?
Have you recently had a baby?
If you answered yes to any of these questions, call 242-3204 and have Evelyn of the Welcome Wagon
Welcome You!

36 Miscellaneous

TUMBLER RIDGE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

We Help Injured Birds

If you have any injured birds please call Mark or Nathan at 242-5766 for help.

WE WELCOME ANY INFORMATION ON LOCAL BIRDS

If you have recorded a rare or unusual bird sighting or know of nest sites, please let us know; call Charles at 242-3984.

36

CTFN

41 Cars & Trucks

FOR SALE

1989 Chrysler Dynasty
4 door, V6, front wheel drive
fully loaded, 130,000 km.
Excellent condition.
Must Sell. \$4,900 OBO

Call 242-4496

**Classifieds Do
Get Results**

Is it Legal?

A Weekly article submitted by Muriel Fenton, Legal Services Society

Your Credit Bureau File

Would you like to know what is in your file at the Credit Bureau? The Credit Reporting Act gives you the right to know and to make corrections.

If you look in the yellow pages under Credit Reporting Agencies you will find the following number for the Credit Bureau: 1-800-565-5390. This is the Credit Bureau of Vancouver and they are the branch of Equifax which covers our area. You can request that the Credit Bureau read your file to you after you properly identify yourself. If you want a copy of the file, you will have to send them a letter which has been witnessed by a commissioner of oaths or notary public which establishes your identity. They are also required to disclose the names of all people who have received a report within the preceding 12 months together with copies of the reports provided to them.

When are entries in your file erased? Entries in your file are automatically erased after six years but this may vary depending on the type of activity on the debt. You are best to check this with the Credit Bureau.

Who has access to your file? A report on your credit can be given only to persons who have a direct business involvement. This includes landlords and employers. Before they may obtain a report, they must have your consent in writing or notify you by mail within 3

days of receiving the report.

Correcting your File: Suppose you have a good reason why a debt has not been paid, for instance, the book you ordered did not arrive but the bill did. You may take the following steps: 1) You have the right to send an explanation in writing (try to keep it under 50 words). This statement must be given to anyone who obtains a report in the future. 2) You also have the right to dispute in writing any information in your file (try to keep it under 50 words). The Credit Bureau then has an obligation to investigate and use its best efforts to confirm the disputed information. Again, this statement must be included in your report in the future. 3) Ask the Credit Bureau to report back to you as to the outcome of their investigation. 4) If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can contact the Debtor Assistance Branch of Consumer Affairs which licenses the Credit Bureau by calling Enquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867 and asking for 387-1747. They have a broad range of investigative powers and if they find in your favour they can order the Credit Bureau to amend your file. 5) If you file is amended, the Credit Bureau must provide notification of the amendment to every person to whom a report was given within one year before the amendment.

If you are having problems with debt, consumer, landlord/tenant, family, criminal, welfare, U.I.C., pensions, small claims, W.C.B., etc., call Legal Services at 782-7366.

Upcoming Events

January 28, Internet Session at the Library, Employment Opportunities 7 PM.
January 28, Introduction to German Northern Lights College.
January 28, No Me 'N You Playtime, Court instead.
January 28, Keyboarding classes start at Northern Lights College.
January 28, Bookkeeping Basics start at Northern Lights College.
January 28, Bookkeeping Intermediate starts at Northern Lights College.
January 29, Wednesday Club presents Those Amazing Animals, all ages 7 PM at the Library.
January 29, and Feb. 5, Understanding Normal Nutrition at Northern Lights College.
January 30, end of Semester One for TRSS students.
January 30, Internet Session for Teens- Education, 7 PM at the Library.
January 31, Non-instructional day, no school.
January 31, Defensive Driving course Northern Lights College.
January 31, Sleepover at the Community Centre, 4:30 PM to 10 AM.
January 31, Travels to Warm Climes with Anne LeBlanc, 7 PM at the Library.
January 31, Superhost program at Northern Lights College.
February 1, Toy Day!!!, 1:30 to 3:30 at the Aquatic Centre.
February 1 and 15, Thai Cooking at Northern Lights College.
February 3, and 5, Family Computing at Northern Lights College.
February 3, Harassment in the Workplace Northern Lights College.
February 4, Internet Session, Family 7 PM at the Library.
February 4, Taoist Tai Chi classes start, contact Northern Lights College.
February 4, Regular meeting of Town Council 7 PM in Town Hall, everyone welcome.
February 7, Chinese New Year, welcome in the Year of the Ox!
February 7, Dream Catchers Northern Lights College.
February 7, BINGO at the Community Centre.
February 8, Chocolates for My Valentine at Northern Lights College.
February 8, Tumbler Ridge Loppet, a 7 k fun race, 20 k racing distances, k kids fun race, contact Birgit Sharma 242-4860. Starts at 11 AM at the Golf Course. 1.25 for Rabbits and 20 kms for racing adults.
February 10, TREAT meeting at 7:30 PM in the school staff room, everyone welcome.
February 12, Wednesday Club presents Cupid's Arrows, all ages, 3 PM at the Library.
February 12, 7:30 AM at the TR Inn Lounge Chamber of Commerce Meeting. All members welcome.
February 13, Teen's Internet Session, Teen News 7 PM in the Library.
February 14, report cards issued for TRSS students.
February 14, Introduction to the Internet at Northern Lights College.
February 14, TR ICEMEN vs. Dawson Creek 8 PM at the Arena.
February 15, TR ICEMEN vs. Grande Prairie 8 PM at the Arena.
February 18, Photography workshop for Teens, Limited Registration, sign up early, 7 PM in the Library.
February 18, Regular Tumbler Ridge Council meeting in Town Hall at 7 PM.
February 20, Teen's Internet Session, Teen's Choice, 7 PM in Library.
February 21, BINGO at the Community Centre by TRMYFA.
February 21-23, Mens and Ladies Open Bonspiel.
February 21, TR ICEMEN vs. Sexsmith 8 PM at the Arena.
February 22, Shareware and Children Northern Lights College.
February 22-23, Annual outing to Gwillim Lake for the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society. Ski the trails to Gwillim, spend the night at the Educational Camp, and learn to ice-climb!
February 23, TR ICEMEN vs. Slave Lake 3:15 PM at the Arena.
February 24, Homebased Business Links Internet Session at the Library, 7 PM.
February 26, Wednesday Club presents Simply Science, 3 PM in the Library.
February 27, interim report cards out for Term 3 for TRSS students.
February 28, Sleepover at the Community Centre, 4:30 PM to 10 AM.
March 3, and 5, Children and the Internet Northern Lights College.
March 4 and 5, Early dismissal for students for Parent-Teacher conferences.

Canadian Hemophilia
We're all related



Society
by blood.

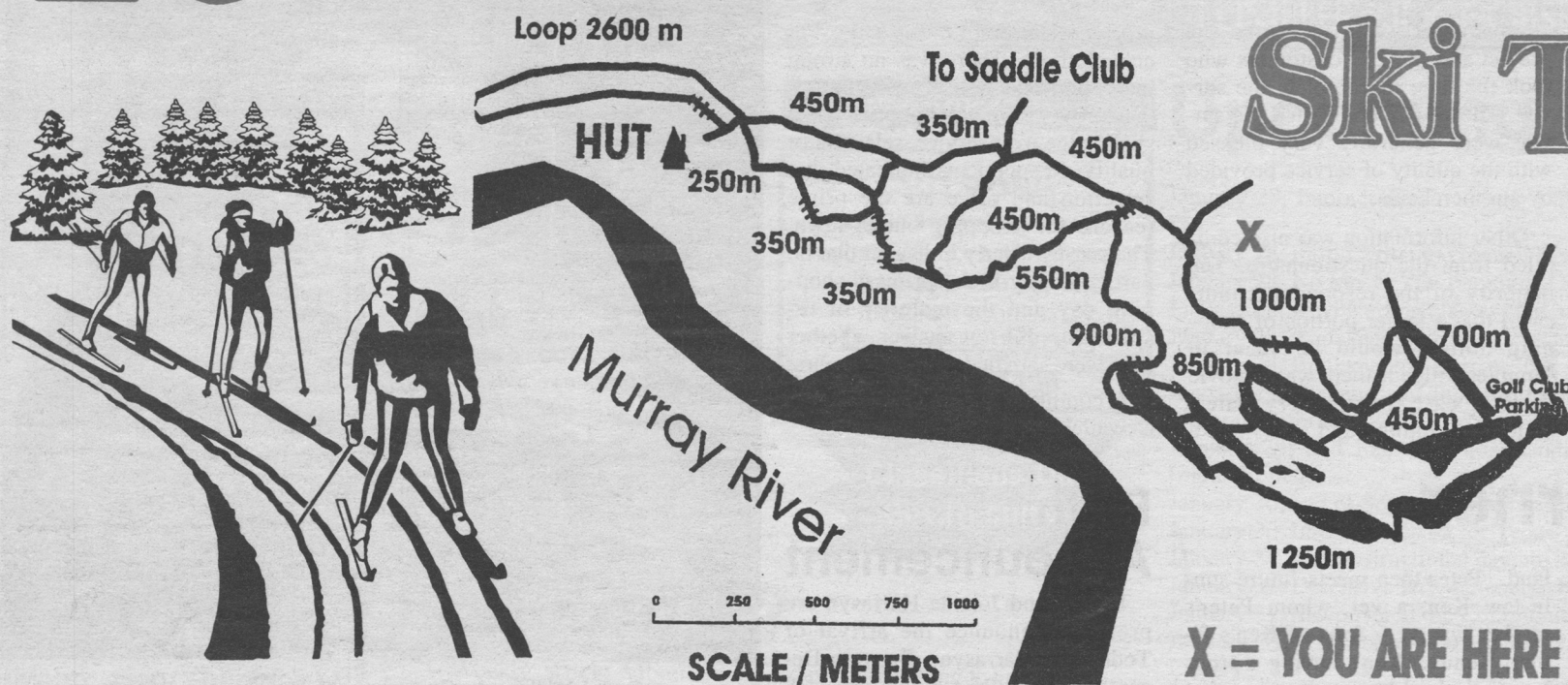
NC

Please, Slow Down.

**Road
Sense**

843-7796

TR Wolverine Nordic Ski Trails



DAWSON CREEK
FOREST DISTRICT



The TR Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society

and the District of Tumbler Ridge

invites you to

The Official Opening of the
NEW Lost Haven Ski Hut and
TR Wolverine Cross Country Ski Trails
Saturday, January 25, 1997 • 11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Golf course Parking Lot

Come out and enjoy a fun ski to the Lost Haven Ski Hut.
Enjoy a day with fellow ski enthusiasts.

Hot Chocolate & Hot Dogs and lots of fun ski stories!!!

The construction of the Lost Haven Ski Hut and extension of the Wolverine Trails was administered by the District of Tumbler Ridge, TR Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society, and the Ministry of Forests. Funding was provided by Forest Renewal BC.



Everyone Welcome