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# The Nipigon-Red Rock Gazette

Volume 26 No. 47  
 Tuesday November 20, 1990

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## Red Rock gets recommendations for recreation

by Greg Giddens  
 the Gazette

After a year of preparing and studying, the final report for Red Rock's recreation master plan was released last week.

The plan makes a number of recommendations covering the next seven years for the recreation department.

Among the recommendations were a number of renovations to the recreation centre. These included a series of maintenance measures, the establishment of a teen centre and the replacement of the outdoor swimming pool.

The replacement of the swimming pool is estimated to cost \$400,000.

There is little change from the recommendations of the final

report and the earlier preliminary report, however, the final report has detailed financial analysis, including possible funding sources for the projects.

An increase in membership fees was also recommended. The fee has been \$2 per month since it was first charged.

The report recommends that the monthly fee be raised to \$5 per single person, \$7 for couples or families, \$3 per senior and \$5 for senior couples.

The report was done by an independent consulting firm in the hopes of providing an objective perspective to the recreation department.

Red Rock council will have the final say on which recommendations are accepted.



Members of the Nipigon Indian Band met on Saturday November 10 to discuss their claim to reserve land around McIntyre Bay on Lake Nipigon. photo by Greg Giddens

## Northern Ontario Business awards

Nearly 500 people gathered at the fourth annual Northern Ontario Business Awards Dinner on Tuesday, November 13 in Thunder Bay.

The event was held to recognize six companies and individuals for their achievements in business in Northern Ontario.

"The NOB Awards program is a significant event. It brings together business leaders from across Northern Ontario to pay tribute to the immense wealth of talent we have in the north," said Greg Miller, spokesperson for the event, adding, "Those we honor serve as true role models for others striving to achieve entrepreneurial excellence."

Tri-Care Services Ltd. of Sudbury was named company of the year in the 51 or more employees category.

Robert Morel is president of

Tri-Care Services, and CEO of member companies Directcard Identification Systems Ltd. (RX Plus), Multi-Care Systems Ltd., and HealthNet Systems Inc.

Tri-Care helps process health insurance claims for an estimated 530,000 Canadians.

Intercity Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Clinic in Thunder Bay was honored as Company of the Year in the 26 to 50 employees category.

Physiotherapist Fred Stoot and John Porter, an orthopaedic surgeon, recognized a need to improve a physiotherapy services in Thunder Bay so in 1984 they teamed up to open the area's first full-time private sports clinic. Three more partners, John Burrell, Gord Porter, and Kieran Moore joined soon thereafter.

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## Nipigon Band seeks land

by Greg Giddens  
 the Gazette

The Nipigon Indian Band is a Band tied together only by membership cards and hope.

The Band represents some 150 descendants of Ojibway people from the Lake Nipigon area, but the members are scattered throughout the province. The problem is they are a band without a home.

A number of members met on Saturday, November 10 to discuss the next steps in their on-going efforts to have an area of land in McIntyre Bay on Lake Nipigon designated as reserve land for the Band.

The land in question is reserve land that has not been set aside for any Indian Band.

Band Chief, Joseph Thompson said that violence is not one of the options for the Band.

"We will achieve getting this land in a peaceful way," he told the gathering, adding, "We are a peaceful people and we have always looked after ourselves."

Thompson is as determined to get the land as he is to using peaceful means.

"We need a land base for our people - a place they can call their own...It is our rightful place in Canada to have our community," he said, stressing the need for a place where Band elders can pass on the Native culture.

"It is our right to have this land - it is our aboriginal right...and we will get it," he said.

Thompson told the group there are many ways to push for action on the settling of the land. He said that the message has to be taken to the people in the area, members of parliament, members of provincial parliament, and even the prime minister.

"He (the prime minister) has the legal responsibility to us," he told the group. He stressed the importance of gaining public support for getting land for the Band.

"It hurts and it's hurting bad that we don't have a land for our people," he said, "We must all individ-

ually do this (push for action) and we must all say the same thing."

The group was also urged to have patience by Diana Dampier, who has worked with the Rocky Bay Reserve for 20 years.

"It's not going to happen just like that," she said, "You have to keep fighting...never give up...anything involved with the government is going to take a long time." She went on to say that it takes even longer for Indians.

Dampier said later that although the band has made progress, there are still obstacles.

"It's been going for five years now and it's not resolved," she said, "some claims have been going 20 years."

"This band doesn't even have a foot of land to call their own."

She also said that Chief Thompson has done a lot of organizing, including locating the members, who are scattered throughout northwestern Ontario and even as far away as Hamilton, Ontario.

Nipigon Indian Band member, Ossie Brisard says he feels the land would be an important step for the welfare of band members.

"It would be better for the whole community," he said, explaining it would be good to have hunting and fishing lands, they can utilize, and live off of, without having to worry about Ministry of Natural Resources regulations. However, Brisard also said the land is important to giving the Band a sense of identity.

"Right now we have a card and all we do is put that in our pocket," he said, explaining that land would give the Band a place to build a Band hall and recreation facility, as well as providing an area for members to retire. He mentioned the possibility of providing education to young band members on the reserve.

"When you send your kids away, it's hard," he said, recalling when he was young and went to boarding school.

"We only saw our parents on holidays...it's not right," he said.

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