

Better belt up!

City RCMP are out in force inspecting vehicles and checking for seatbelt use as part of the "80 Per Cent Click" campaign.

Saturday an ICBC-sponsored seatbelt survey will take place in Prince George and throughout the province as officials hope to reach the 80-per-cent level in seatbelt use.

Citizen photo by Ric Ernst

'DISCOUNT' AMOUNT ADDED, TOO

Water, sewer rates hiked

A five-per-cent water and sewer rate increase, effective on the July 1 billing, was approved by city council Monday over the objections of two aldermen.

council

for a discount after first raising the price to cover it, while Alderman George McKnight said it amounts to giving something to "the wealthy"

According to Stauble provincial legislation has recently been changed to give municipalities the power to offer a discount rather than a penalty on utility bills.

pal Affairs wants municipalities to follow. The rate increase and discount were recommended in a report to council from the city's finance and audit committee.

Water and sewer accounts in the various specified areas of the city have run up deficits and utility rates will have to be raised from eight to 10 per cent annually over the next five years.

Committee member Alderman Alan Greenwell defended the "discount" saying it's considered a sound method to ensure the city maintains a proper cash flow.

Effective July 1 annual sewer rates will rise to \$111.51 from \$106.20 and water rates will rise to \$95.13 from \$90.60.

In endorsing the finance committee report, council also approved a system of billing metered utility accounts every other month, rather than monthly.

Don't nab jaywalkers, city fathers tell police

Jaywalkers — bane of the downtown motorist — won't have to worry about a planned crackdown by city RCMP this summer.

McKnight, with support from Alderman Hans Taal moved that no traffic changes be made and that police be asked not to concentrate on jaywalkers.

BABE RUTH DINNER

Rental fee waived

Nine of 11 council members went to bat for the Babe Ruth Baseball League on its request Monday to have the \$635 rental fee waived for an awards night at the Civic Centre on June 25.

Godfrey said that too often council "makes a mockery" of its civic properties and recreation commission by overturning commission recommendations when they come to council for ratification.

It was not certain whether the commission had reviewed the league's request before it came to council's attention this week.

League president Ted Erickson

said the request was made because the league had spent almost \$12,000 on its ball field in Carrie Jane Gray Park, site of a provincial Babe Ruth championship slated for later this year.

Erickson said hockey and football leagues have been given rent concessions in the past for awards nights, but to his knowledge an awards night for baseball has never been held in the city.

The motion was rejected with only Godfrey and Sieb voting in favor.

He suggested the light sequence be altered to give them more time to cross and asked for an engineering report on the feasibility of mid-block crosswalks on Third Avenue and George Street.

City engineer Ernie Obst said due to angle parking on both streets about eight parking stalls in each block would be lost if mid-block crosswalks were installed.

Alderman George McKnight said jaywalking isn't a serious problem and that one of the more unique features of Prince George to out-

Northern problems tackled

VICTORIA — The provincial New Democratic Party will hold a conference on northern development this weekend in Prince George.

Howard said the conference will deal with forestry, single-industry towns, unemployment and resource projects.

Attending the conference will be Howard, NDP members of the legislature Graham Lea and Al Passarelli and national NDP leader Ed Broadbent.

Broadbent will address the conference on north-south issues as they relate to Canada and the U.S.

Sprinkling restrictions imminent

With three days of abnormally hot, dry weather behind us and more of the same in sight, can summer sprinkling restrictions be far away?

Water restrictions are imminent, according to city engineer Ernie Obst, who was asked for his assessment of the water picture at Monday's council meeting.

Residents of Western Acres, on Highway 16 West, should get a hand-delivered notice of sprinkling restrictions today.

As in past years, homes with odd-numbered street addresses can sprinkle lawns and gardens on odd days of the month and even-numbered addresses sprinkle on even days.

However, sprinkling is not permitted at any time between noon and 5 p.m.

City reservoirs were able to keep up with demand during the weekend but started losing ground Monday.

Homeowners can help themselves by draining their hot water tanks to remove any rust build-up, Obst added.

Victoria cancels Isle Pierre ferry

by BILL McEACHERN Staff reporter

Angry Reid Lake residents have fired off a telegram of protest to Highways Minister Alex Fraser in the wake of the ministry's decision to cancel operation of the Isle Pierre Ferry.

The decision marks the end of the ferry's colorful history — dating back to 1922 when service began.

The ferry — a perennial thorn in the side of the ministry — has been cancelled for restraint reasons, says regional manager Seymour Young.

He said the decision was made by Fraser after assessing the region's economic situation.

A copy of the telegram was sent to Education Minister Jack Heinrich, Prince George-North MLA.

Young added in an interview today his department assessed the ferry's cost and other regional highways programs and that was the one the minister decided to axe.

But area residents are not lying down dead. They maintain the service is necessary for regional farming operations because it shortens travelling distance to Vanderhoof supply depots.

In the telegram, residents of Reid Lake, Nukko Lake, Ness Lake, Chief Lake and Hoodoo Lake demand the service be restored because the "70-mile alternate route through Prince George is not economically feasible."

The ferry crossing on the Nechako River, 50 kilometres northwest of the city, has been servicing area farmers and loggers for more than 60 years.

Although normal ferry operations resumed in May last year, the ferry was the centre of controversy in 1981 and it wasn't until several telegrams and meetings that the ministry resumed service.

HOME OWNERS Before you paint or redecorate this spring, see our Ad in classified No. 60.

That could run much higher, he said. He says in tough times the farmers will have to take a little more time and take the city route to Vanderhoof — an additional distance of about 70 kilometres.

Les Broddy, highways regional chief engineer, said the cost of running the ferry, which had a \$5 crossing fee, is estimated at \$35,000 annually.

But he emphasizes that doesn't include maintenance cost or other factors in normal operation.

Municipal officers hold meeting here

More than 340 delegates and guests will attend the 44th Annual Conference of the Municipal Officers' Association of B.C. at the Inn of the North on Wednesday and Thursday.

The theme of this year's conference is "The World Around Us". The conference gets under way at 9 a.m. Wednesday with opening remarks by Prince George Mayor Elmer Mercier.

At 10.30 a.m. delegates again split for workshop sessions.

At 4 p.m. former Municipal Affairs Minister Jack Heinrich is slated to address delegates.

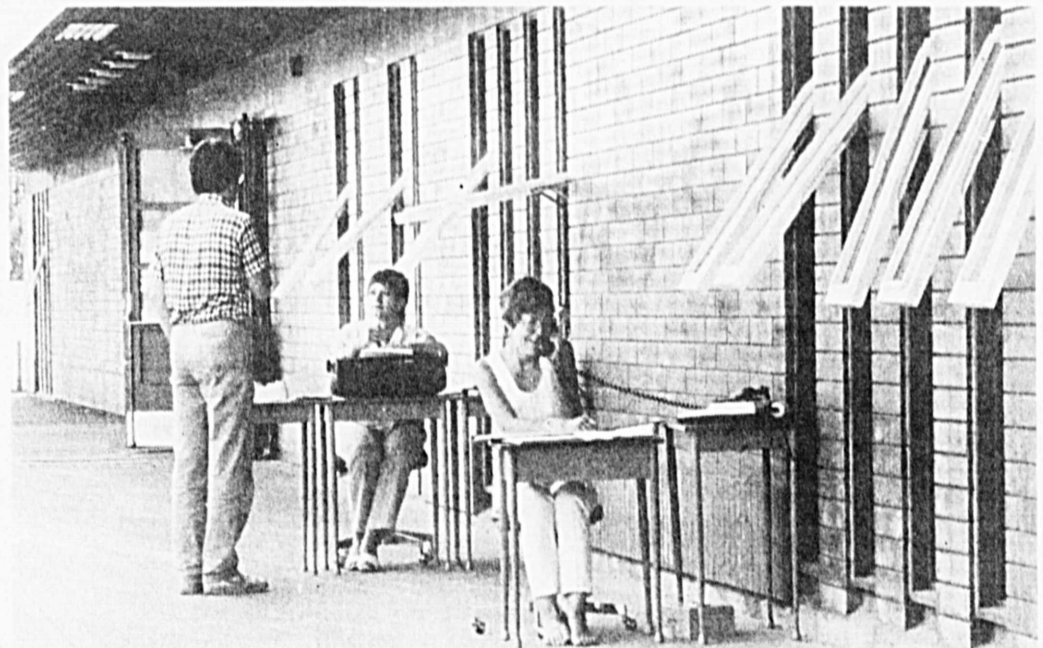
the Bay CORRECTION The Bay wishes to inform its customers of an error in our Celebration magazine.

J. Ian Evans & Associates OPTOMETRISTS J. IAN EVANS D.O.S. F.A.A.O. GREGORY E. EVANS B.S., O.D. ALAN E. EVANS B.Sc., O.D. ALLAN W. JONES B.S.C., O.D. FRANK E. DECKER, O.D. J. SPENCER CLARK D.O.S., O.D.

FURNACE RUNS AMOK

Heat forces Lakewood school holiday

by MIA STARK Staff reporter If you can't stand the heat get out of the classroom. That was the best remedy Monday for students and staff of Lakewood Secondary School when they discovered a malfunction in the furnace had caused temperatures in the building to soar above 35 degrees Celsius.



Students were advised to wait until 10 a.m. while windows and doors were kept open in an effort to cool classrooms to a bearable level. But with outdoor temperatures at record levels, indoor thermometers showed no sign of relief and students finally were given the go ahead by District Superintendent of Schools John Stevens to leave for the day.

Business Manager Joan Bizicki said the heat was "just pumping out of the furnace" when she arrived Monday morning.

Barefooted Joan Bizicki, accompanied by colleagues Jim Sparks and Marilyn Shelest, conducts business as usual on the pavement outside Lakewood Secondary.

NEW DEMOCRATS NORTH Invites the General Public to its Conference on Northern Development "Northern Development—An Option On The Future" Saturday, June 4, 1983 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Holiday Inn