

LOCAL

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MARK ALLAN,
City editor



**HERE
&
NOW**

'Ransom' helps SPCA

The theft of a 300-pound cast-iron penguin from Earl's Restaurant three weeks ago had ransom demands attached to it.

The culprits, Cariboo Brewmasters, negotiated a deal to return the penguin unharmed if all money donated Wednesday was turned over to the SPCA's financial blitz.

The penguin's safe return Wednesday was accompanied by ransom money totalling \$1,400 to help the SPCA stay in operation.

The SPCA made a public plea for help several weeks ago when a shortage of finances put the agency in jeopardy.

So far the campaign has raised about \$19,132 of the \$20,000 needed for the animal shelter to survive.

Coffee time

Friday is Coffee For Kids Day at the Coffee Room in the Coast Inn of the North.

Every cup of coffees old means a 25-cent-donation to B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

The money will be used for research and equipment for sick and injured children.

Discoveries

There's always something new to discover at the Northwood Explorations Gallery in the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum. Staff is expecting yellow baby chicks to hatch on Friday.

Appointment

Daphne Baldwin of Prince George is among five British Columbians appointed to the B.C. Heritage Trust board of directors. Daphne is the chairperson of the Prince George Heritage Advisory Commission and has a degree in history.

B.C. Heritage Trust was established in 1978 to support the conservation, maintenance and restoration of heritage resources.

Home security

Security for home and family will be the theme of a weekend public information fair at the Civic Centre May 13.

"There's lots going on with much of it oriented towards children and family," says Shawna MacIvor, an organizer of the fair.

Block Watch, the fire department and the Community Policing Access Centre are among the groups scheduled to be on hand, she added.

Symphony

The Prince George Symphony Orchestra ends its 24th season early next month with its eighth mainstage concert, Symphonic Voices, at Vanier Hall.

The season finale combines the talents of the PGSO with the Prince George Cantata Singers for a performance of Faure's glorious Requiem Mass. It finishes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor.

Tickets are available at Studio 2880. Or charge by phone at 563-2880.

McLeod land claim deal close

by BILL SEYMOUR
Citizen Staff

A public information program will be in place to explain the details of a treaty between the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the federal and B.C. governments before an agreement is ratified, the band's senior negotiator said Wednesday.

The three groups are close to reaching a formal deal after talks broke off bitterly last fall. Only one issue separates the groups from a treaty, said Andrew Schuck, chief negotiator for the band.

"We have come to an agreement in principle on all issues except one," Schuck said Wednesday. "Once we have an

agreement in principle, I would propose the band go back to the public to explain the process."

The treaty involves about 19,000 hectares of land in parcels starting about 75 kilometres north of Prince George. The outstanding issue could be resolved within days, added Schuck.

But the province's chief negotiator disagrees. Although significant progress has been made, a speedy resolution may not be reached this week or next, said Paul Pearlman.

"I think he may be slightly overly optimistic, but we are certainly making good progress," Pearlman said

Wednesday from Victoria.

Talks stalled late last year when the band and Victoria reached an impasse over what forested land would fall within a treaty. McLeod Lake chief Harry Chingee called on Premier Mike Harcourt to intervene.

Negotiators resolved the issue earlier this year, said Pearlman.

"That was a breakthrough," he said. "That was a major step forward."

The proposed settlement bears little resemblance to the five small reserves, each less than 800 hectares, the band currently occupies. The largest parcel of land under the pro-

posed treaty is an 8,000-hectare plot on the east side of McLeod Lake.

The parcels range in size from the largest to others less than a hectare in size. Other large tracts under the settlement are at Kerry Lake and Weedon Lake.

Under the proposal the province retains sub-service rights to the treaty land, said Pearlman.

The outstanding issue revolves around earlier talks and the efforts the band made to hold off logging in the area before a treaty was reached, said Schuck.

"The outstanding issue relates to land the Indian band got an injunction on to prevent

the province from harvesting timber on it," he said.

The exact cost of settling this issue isn't known, but Schuck said it could be less than \$4 million.

Adult members of the band will have to vote on a proposal before it is formally ratified. The earliest a vote could take place would be this fall, said Schuck.

The parties are negotiating a treaty within the context of the already existing Treaty 8 Agreement. The historic treaty was drafted June 21, 1899 and has been used by many bands under terms called adhesions.

The negotiator representing the federal government couldn't be reached.



Retiring lifeguard Marlene Wenschlag speaks to three young swimmers, something she's done thousands of times over the past quarter century.

TAUGHT THOUSANDS HERE

Swim veteran retires

by BILL SEYMOUR
Citizen Staff

After more than two decades and about 20,000 swimming lessons, Marlene Wenschlag is handing in her lifeguard's whistle and retiring.

The Prince George lifeguard, swimming instructor and aquatic leader retires Friday, after a quarter century of pool-side work that began at the city's old outdoor pool on Watrous Street and ended at the Four Seasons Pool.

"There's a lot of different things you can do in the pool," said Wenschlag, 62. "I think it's a great job."

Wenschlag started working at the pool in the early 1970s as part-time help for the different groups and

organizations that used to run lessons at the city's pool. By 1974 she was on full time.

Swimming at the pool is not the same as it was when she started, said Wenschlag.

Back then, lifeguards ruled over the pool from high deck chairs and whistles screeched at the slightest infraction of pool or deck etiquette.

"It was a terrible place when I started," she recalled. "It's really changed — it's a fun place to come."

Most of the current guards and instructors at the city's only pool were taught swimming by Wenschlag at some point in their life.

Lisa Shaw McLaren, one of three aquatic leaders at the pool, says most people in Prince George who took

lessons at some point in their life, were probably coached by Wenschlag.

"I still have my cards that Marlene gave me when I was in lessons," she said.

From water babies still in diapers to sharks sporting Speedos, Wenschlag says she may have taught 30,000 people.

"One thing I like to teach is adults as beginners," she added. "They're fun to teach and you really feel you've accomplished something when you get them to float and put their face in the water for the first time."

Ironically, retirement isn't going to mean the end of pool days for the grandmother of six. She plans to take aqua-fit and swim more because she never had time to on the job.

MORE BLOOD NEEDED

Citizen Staff

The Red Cross still needs your blood.

You have until 8 tonight to donate blood at the Civic Centre. The Red Cross hopes to collect 1,375 units of blood while here and as of Wednesday was 581 units short.

Wednesday's total was 440 units, up from Tuesday's opening-day total of 354 units.

There is currently a blood shortage in the province, and a Red Cross representative said they are desperate for donors.

Don't forget to bring your Red Cross donor card or another piece of identification.

It takes about an hour to donate blood.

Students visit UN

Citizen staff

Five students from the University of Northern B.C. had a distinct advantage over hundreds of others attending a week-long United Nations session in New York.

The UNBC acronym turned out to be an unexpected advantage over their peers.

"Everyone commented on the UN in UNBC," Laura Ryser said. "It was little thing, but that was something that broke the ice for us. People were friendly right away."

Ryser, along with Paula Ibbotson, Tim Munro, Tom Nieminen and Cameron Ortis, took part in a mock UN session held at the University of Northern B.C. before heading to New York City to take part in the real thing.

"Knowing the rules is a big part of it," said Ryser, who returned last week.

One lesson reinforced for the more than 2,000 students attending was how the process of decision-making is done through consensus.

For example, discussions among five or six countries would expand to 20 to 30 countries and then two blocs. The daily sessions were intensive, with students experiencing the 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. life of a bureaucrat.

"We joined students from San Jose, Calif., the University of Victoria and the University of Northern B.C.," Ryser said.

Looking at specific issues such as forestry from the Papua, New Guinea, perspective was an eye-opener, the student added.

"It was really good to get an idea of how resolutions were passed. You have to stay within your country's perspective."

The university, student association, Kinsmen, Methanex, a Kitimat chemical company, and the Prince George Citizen all contributed to help cover the costs.

Correction Notice

in regards to

Art Knapp Flyer

in tonights

Prince George Citizen

• FRONT PAGE GERANIUMS

Should read:
Reg. \$5.99, Sale \$3.97 not \$2.97

• BACK PAGE FLEXOGEN

HOSE Pictured is 5/8" x 50', it should be 1/2" x 60'

• GOLDEN GLOBE CEDARS

Should read:
Reg. \$25.99 not \$5.99

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

137695

Court, jail bids received

by MARILYN STORIE
Citizen Staff

A substantial part of two of Prince George's biggest construction projects this decade look likely to be completed by Kraft Construction.

The Winnipeg-based company came in with the lowest bid for the second construction stage of the Prince George Law Courts at \$21.95 million. TCL Constructors of Alberta came in at \$22.3 million and Foundation Building West of Burnaby at \$22.94 million.

Site preparation for the new courthouse began after city council approved a development permit last June for the new courthouse at George Street and Third Avenue.

Foundation Building West completed the \$2.4-million contract for the first phase of construction. Its bid was the lowest of six tenders submitted to the B.C. Buildings Corporation, which is overseeing construction for the

Attorney General's Ministry.

It appears the construction start date for the second phase, originally scheduled for April, will be delayed.

Bids must still be studied and the law courts contract is not expected to be awarded for three to four weeks, according to a spokesman at the Attorney General's Ministry.

The law courts will contain 10 courtrooms and a smaller court settlement room. The city block-sized, four-storey building includes a dome above and an atrium below. The lower two storeys will be masonry. The higher storeys, somewhat lighter in color and set back, are expected to give the illusion of a two-storey building.

Kraft Construction has been kept busy with the construction of the \$31-million provincial jail, employing mostly B.C. subcontractors, with a half-dozen or so from Prince George. The first phase of the contract was completed by

Quadra Construction.

Kraft was the lowest bidder of six tenders submitted for the jail. In April, 1993, BCBC had to increase the second phase budget when the six bids for the second stage came in at least \$3 million over the \$30.2-million budget.

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FOREST DEVELOPMENT PLAN DISPLAYS

by Prince George Forest District Licensees

Pine Centre Mall
April 28 and 29, 1995

Forest Development Plans outline development, harvesting, and silviculture activities proposed for the next five years. The general public is encouraged to view and offer input into these activities.

A draw will be held for a FREE HELICOPTER RIDE

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