

NEWS

Briefs

More bans

The continuing high fire risk has prompted officials to ban open fires at Fred Henne Park, Prelude Lake and Reid Lake.

"There will be no fires at this time until we get better conditions," said regional parks supervisor Gary Tees.

A careless smoker started a small fire Thursday at Fred Henne Park.

St. John bail-out

St. John Ambulance should get a city grant worth almost \$4,000 to pay costs from discontinuing its Handi-Van service for disabled people, a council committee says.

St. John passed the money-losing operation to local taxi companies late last year. The grant will enable the society to keep the vehicle it used as a mobile first aid post. Council will vote on the grant Monday.

Canadian director

Kelly Kaylo of Yellowknife has been appointed regional director of Canadian North airlines.

Kaylo has more than 15 years experience in the Northern travel industry.

She takes over her new position July 18 and replaces Graham Mann, who is retiring.

Ground control

The city should lease six acres of land in Kam Lake to Telesat Canada for a satellite tracking and control station, a council committee says.

The multi-million dollar station, one of three sites in North America, is part of the proposed \$3.7-billion U.S. IRIDIUM communications system. Council will vote Monday on the recommendation.

Smoke-free burgers

Smokers won't be allowed to light up at McDonald's restaurant after next Friday.

The local fast-food restaurant is going smoke-free in keeping with a policy throughout the national chain.

yellowknifer

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Children find used syringes on front lawn

Mother glad kids are educated about AIDS

by Marty Brown
Northern News Services

A mother of two was surprised Monday afternoon when her children reported there were needles on the lawn of her Williams Street duplex.

Jade Graham went outside and found 10 syringes with bent needles decorating her front yard.

"They were right on my front steps," Graham said. "My kids are educated about AIDS. I was glad they didn't handle them."

She called the RCMP office and was told to take the needles to the hospital for disposal.

Graham called the Yellowknife Housing Association, her landlord, and Carson Boyd was dispatched to deal with the syringes. He and Graham, clad in garden gloves, picked the needles up carefully and put them in plastic bags.

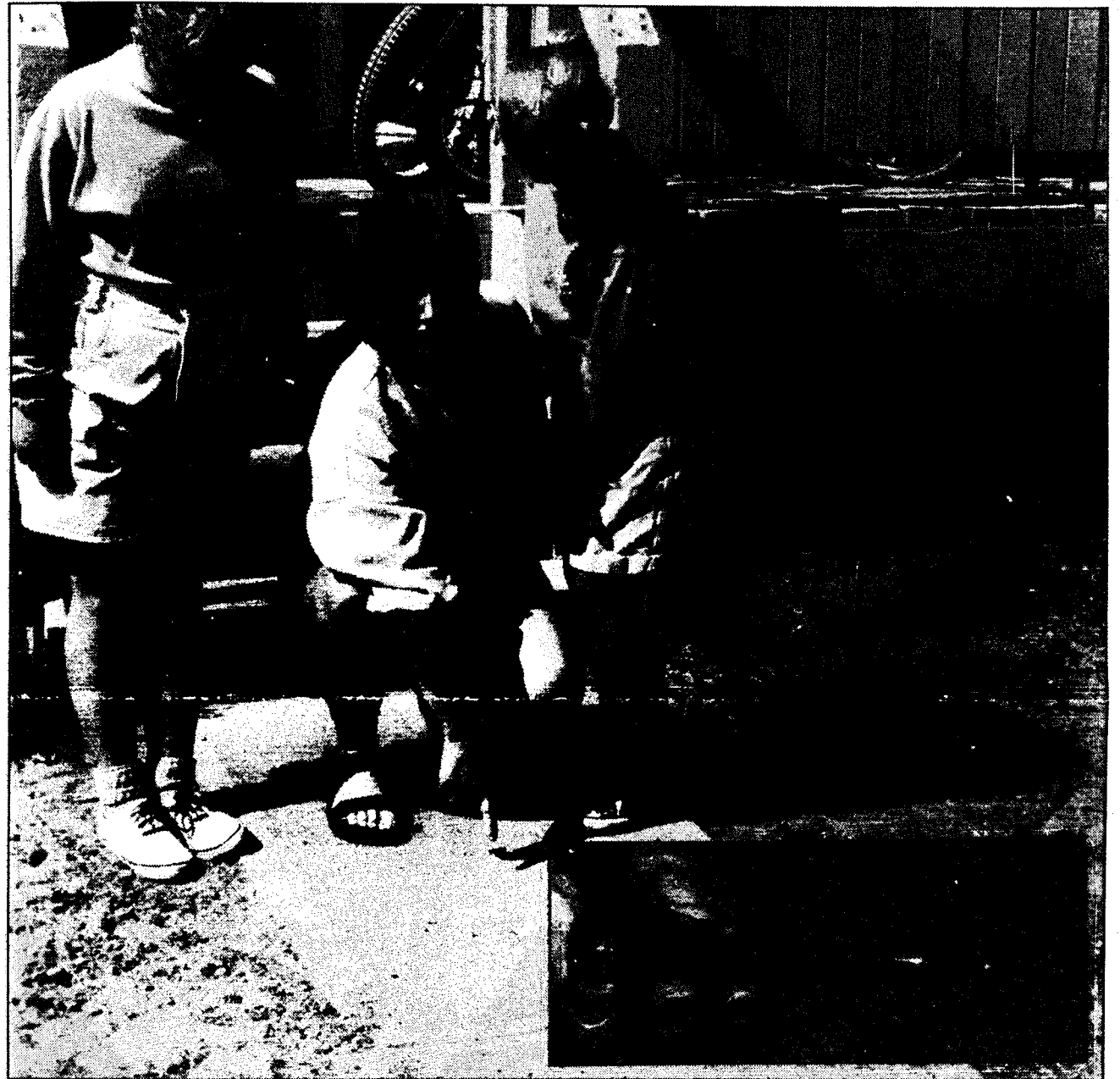
Boyd then took them to the hospital. The hospital told Graham no analysis would be performed because no one was pricked.

Graham thought the needle episode was over but when she took her garbage out later in the day, she found five more syringes in the dumpster.

The children found another one on the lawn the next day.

She's stumped as to where the needles came from. The Williams Street complex is described as quiet.

Graham, who used to work in a medical clinic, said the needles are not the type diabet-



Jade Graham points to the spot in her front yard where her children, Sasha (left) and Lacey, found the used syringes. The Grahams found 16 needles and turned them into the hospital. RCMP are warning people to handle finds like this with care.

ics use. "What scares me is that a lot of kids aren't educated," said Graham. "They say, 'here's a needle, let's play hospital.' They are ignorant about the possibility of AIDS."

Const. Don Lewis of the RCMP said the needle discovery didn't surprise him.

"There's rampant drug use in this city," he said.

"People aren't familiar with

drug use, yet."

The Yellowknife public health department provides needle disposal, so do drug stores and the hospital.

Frank Russell, executive

director at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, said Graham did the right thing.

He warned people to be careful when picking up used syringes.

Giant in spotlight with air quality guideline

Environmental protection act gets an addition

by Doug Schmidt
Northern News Services

The territorial government hopes a new air quality guideline will provide the extra muscle it needs to get Royal Oak Mines to cut back on air pollution emissions at Giant mine.

Renewable Resources deputy minister Joe

The roaster stack at Giant Mine created the need for the guidelines.

Handley says airborne sulphur dioxide emissions from Giant's roaster stack were "a major factor" behind creating the NWT's first air pollution control guideline.

In announcing the addition to the NWT Environmental Protection Act this week, Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq said "the guideline only calls for voluntary control measures

from polluters.

"But we are prepared to take a harder line to enforce the standards if the need arises."

Handley said the department will use the new standards, which almost mirror existing federal airborne pollution limits, to "encourage" Giant mine to cut back on the roaster emissions.

"We want to be reason-

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City-wide fire ban still in effect

by Ronna Bremer
Northern News Services

The city-wide ban on open fires imposed earlier this week will continue until the dry conditions improve, says the city's deputy fire chief.

"Nothing has changed," Mike Lowing said Thursday.

"The temperature is

dropping... (but) that doesn't matter. It is still dry and windy."

The ban will remain in effect until there is enough rain to reduce the fire risk, he said.

The ban prohibits all open fires, including campfires and fires in fireplaces. Barbecues are not included.

Fire chief Mickey Beauchamp imposed the ban Tuesday afternoon, when firefighters from the city and Renewable Resources battled a small bushfire in the Kam Lake Industrial Park.

A bird-dog plane and two CL-215s water bombers helped fight the blaze. They dropped eight

loads of firefighting foam and water on the fire, which burned an area the size of a football field.

Firefighters were later called out to a smoldering hill of muskeg on Fiddler Lake Road that was reported burning.

A city loader pushed most of the hill into a small, nearby lake.

Gov't, Royal Oak negotiating emission levels

Giant, from 3

able... (but) if they don't take voluntary control action, then I guess we have to go the next step," he said.

That next step, he added, would be in the form of enforced regulations, which could be imposed by simple ministerial approval.

The territorial government has been negotiating with Royal Oak Mines for the past year to have sulphur dioxide emissions reduced at Giant. Handley expects to meet again with the company sometime in the coming month.

Renewable Resources launched its first investigation under the NWT Environmental Rights Act after local environmentalists Chris O'Brien and Kevin O'Reilly used the new legislation to complain about Giant emissions.

Last year, its study concluded that up to 65 tonnes

of daily sulphur dioxide emissions from Giant were killing trees and, at times, pushing Yellowknife's air quality beyond federal pollution guidelines.

Royal Oak Mines was unavailable for comment this week, but in the past it has disputed the territorial government's figures and conclusions.

Handley said sulphur dioxide pollution is created "whenever you burn fossil fuels," including vehicle and furnace use, but he said the emissions from Giant far outweigh all other sources in Yellowknife.

Although the new guideline covers all sulphur dioxide emissions and limits "total suspended particulates" (for example, dust, wood smoke and automobile exhaust), Handley said Giant mine is the only source clearly violating the guideline.

Got any thoughts on liquor control?

Northern News Services

Questionnaires asking Yellowknifers what they think about how alcohol is controlled in the NWT should be in the mail today.

"They're being made available to every household in the NWT," said Alan

Downe, senior advisor on special projects with Safety and Public Services.

"We hope people will take the time to fill it out, it's just a couple of questions."

Downe is working on a rewrite of the Liquor Act. The questionnaire and discussion paper along with public consultations will help the territorial government's hear from people across the North, Downe said. The questionnaires have been printed in Inuktitut, English and French. The other aboriginal languages are available upon request, he said.

No public meetings have been set up for Yellowknife yet but Downe expects some to be held this summer.

But people have been contacting Downe already to share their concerns and suggestions on how alcohol could be better controlled in the Territories. Letters have also gone out to licensed establishments, social agencies, community leaders and other professional industry associations asking them to participate in the review and share their comments.

Downe is also travelling to other regions in the Territories to hear concerns. Next week he will be in the Mackenzie Delta. "We want to hear from as many people as we can," he said.

A legislative action paper will be presented to MLAs this fall. A new act won't be before the legislature until after the 1995 election.

"We have to set the time aside to do it right," Downe said.

Canadian NORTH

Some say overnight package service is only a "southern" convenience. Ha! You've got overnight delivery from the North to almost anywhere Canadian Airlines flies across Canada. With our Express Overnight Door-to-Door service. We deliver your package by 5 p.m. the next business day or it's free. So, who needs the "south" anyway?

[Call your Canadian North cargo office for rates and information.]



Summer Safety

At the Beach

Lifeguards on duty at Long Lake Beach June 27 through August 26. Weather permitting.

On the Lakes

Boaters watch for swimmers and float planes too!

On the Roads

Motorists watch your speed. Look for signs regulating parking. Cyclists please stay off the sidewalks.

On the Trails

Many of these are shared by pedestrians and cyclists. Keep to the right. Be alert.

Department of
Public Safety

**Enjoy a Safe and
Happy Summer**