CANADIAN LAKEHEAD
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INDUSTRIAL - COMMERCIAL NEWS REPORT

Volume 1 #1 August 30, 1967

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MONTHLY NEWS BULLETINS TO BE ISSUED BY THE CANADIAN LAKEHEAD INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION INC.

It also serves to introduce the officers and members of the Commission, all of whom are anxious to assist in the development of industry in the Lakehead.

OFFICERS

President	S. J. Shaffer	Vice-President	A. M. Paton
Vice-President	J. L. Hinsperger	Treasurer	W. G. Brayshaw
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DESIGNATED OR INCENTIVE AREA

A BETTER DEAL FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKEHEAD AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO is the prime objective of the Industrial Commission.

Working closely with NODC and NWOACC the Commission plans to concentrate efforts to impress on government officials the need for some form of incentive to stimulate growth. It is quite apparent growth has been slow in the past and with new designated areas periodically being declared, for adjacent communities, an uncompetitive condition now exists.

However, interested individuals and organizations are not sitting back deploring the situation -- they are building up a suppressed demand for action, not indefinite promises, and undoubtedly with so much pressure being generated success will ultimately result.

Meantime, local industry and commerce, the backbone of our economy, are being assisted and encouraged to expand, and develop new lines of production.

"PLANNING IS INVENTING THE FUTURE,

INSTEAD OF LETTING IT HAPPEN"

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OMSIP DECENTRALIZING?

A representative of OMSIP (Ontario Medical Services Insurance Plan) visited the Lakehead recently to examine available office space. New regional areas are being drawn and the Lakehead is included in the northern section extending from the Parry Sound area to the Manitoba boundary. Main competition appears to be Sault Ste. Marie.

Approximately 75 employees are involved. The Commission is naturally anxious to do everything possible to have this branch of the Department of Health establish an office here.

9,000 square feet of office space is required and it was possible to show Mr. Robert Nye a fine selection of available space and also point out excellent building locations for construction of special facilities.

AVERAGE WAGES

National Revenue figures released in July show the Lakehead standing 35th in a long list of Canadian communities. Oshawa is tops with average wage $5820 vs the Lakehead $4958. Even North Bay, now in a designated area, ranks 25th with $5032.

INDUSTRIAL BROCHURE

Supplies of the new Industrial Brochure on the Lakehead Cities produced for the Commission are now available. This is the second annual edition of the brochure which includes statistics, growth figures and background information. Copies are available on request.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Two questionnaires are currently being circulated by the Commission seeking information on use of Hot Dip Galvanizing and also Freight Rates. The purpose of the questions on galvanizing is to assist Mid-West Steel of Murillo in assessing the market potential in the area for this process. The Freight rate questionnaire is in preparation of an analysis of the ponderous question of pyramiding rates and discriminatory actions against industries using rail, transport and water services to reach markets.

Commission President S. J. Shaffer, offered the services of the Commission to steer this project, in conjunction with NWOACC, to a successful conclusion.

NODC is co-operating in surveying Northwestern Ontario industry.

From time to time the Commission plans questionnaire surveys, on other matters, particularly the use of imported products by local industry which could, if volume permits, be produced locally. Appreciation is expressed to those industries who assist so greatly by compiling the information required on the questionnaire.

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HIGHRISE APARTMENTS

The Lakehead's first high rise apartment project is slowly becoming a reality. Located with a tremendous view of the harbour and cities, on high ground at the junction of Waverly and St. Patrick Square it will likely be named "Waverly Towers". To be built in 2 stages, plans call for a structure of 10 or 12 stories with underground parking and indoor swimming pool. Electric heat is planned. The present outdoor swimming pool on the former Baker property will also be retained which could be another first for the Lakehead -- a two swimming pool apartment house. A number of houses are presently being cleared from the site.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The Commission has recommended to the Cities of Port Arthur and Fort William that a feasibility study be initiated to assemble a well planned, serviced and attraction industrial park in each community.

There is a great need to have such a project available to remain competitive with many other communities who have prepared excellent facilities to entice industry to settle or expand.

Local developers are also encouraged to establish Industrial Parks, surveyed and properly cleaned and marked. Like many other packaged products, the land purchaser likes to know and see what he is buying in the package.

NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES

DC 9 service to the Lakehead will be initiated Sept. 8. The big 99 passenger planes give direct service daily to Chicago and connecting service to Minneapolis through Duluth.

HARNESS RACING - LAKEHEAD RACEWAY

The Lakehead's venture into harness Racing at the Exhibition Race-track proved very successful. Plant improvements and new construction was necessary and highly complimented by racing participants.

Breaking into a racing circuit is difficult but now happily established. Next season, officials are planning for 28 days of racing with over 250 horses participating. A substantial new industry has been initiated with this project.

A growing number of enquiries for Commercial properties are being serviced by the Commissioner. Quite a few of these originate in the U.S.

ECONOMART - FOOD SALES

Western Grocers (Wholesale) Ltd. has acquired property surrounded by Court St., South, Fort William Rd., and Queen St., Port Arthur.

It is planned to build a structure next spring, bringing to the Lakehead a food Supermart without the frills. A number of these new units have been built in western Canada and proven very popular and successful.