

Council okays CN land sale

BY SEAN PERCY
HUB EDITOR

Town Council made one of the biggest land sales in Hay River's history Monday evening.

Councillors unanimously approved second, then third and final reading to a bylaw to sell Lot 1917 to CN for \$390,000 – the appraised value of the 156 acres lot.

The property, on the west side of the highway at the Pine Point junction, will be used as a transload facility for the rail company.

Four CN representatives were in town for a presentation to council, which explained the new role CN Worldwide is playing as an overall transportation company - beyond just rail.

CN officials said that with their recent purchase of the Mackenzie Northern Railway for \$51 million, and a further \$52 million investment in upgrading the lines, they're looking for more business in the area, but they're "severely constrained" at the current yard.

Kara Slemko, director of customer solutions for CN Worldwide, told Council that their goal is to get more loads on the rail and have fewer trucks on the highway.

"CN will be investing significant dollars in Hay River," said Anna Lin, director of metals marketing and transload for CN, noting that it will take 125 cubic metres of fill and 8,100 cubic metres of cut, plus installing drainage.

The plan for the property will be phased in as customers are added, with Tamerlane Ventures lead and zinc ore being the major anchor client.

CN said has also been in talks with cement suppliers about moving concrete from Hay River. "We're in negotiations with several companies," said Lin, explaining that confidentiality agreements prevented her from saying more.

A push, pull system will be used to avoid having trains switching frequently.

The location is ideal because it's not

Hay River central and won't tangle traffic in town.

"A key with this location is it eliminates additional rail traffic coming into Hay River. ... We're not anticipating any extra loads coming into the town," said Slemko.

The first phase will develop about 30 acres, and Lin said clearing and topsoil removal and grading should happen this year, with bids being issued in the next couple of weeks for the initial phase of land clearing, drainage and aggregate stockpiling. Further grading, building track and building the transload facility would happen in early 2008, she said.

She said the company has strict environmental rules, and even washes the wheels of vehicles leaving the transload facility, then filters that water.

Beyond moving ore for Tamerlane, CN hopes to move large units, like the crushers for the mine, as well as intermodal containers, and it hopes to move more petroleum, possibly setting up its own tank farm.

Lin said she also hopes that the rail yard will move pipe for the Mackenzie pipeline.

For starters, though, Tamerlane is important, and delays in the mine's permitting process could slow CN's development of the transload facility.

She said that more development is likely to follow CN's development here.

"Almost everywhere we ever go and every time we come and settle somewhere, we bring different industries."

She said that CN will be looking to train and hire local residents, as well as hire local contractors and trucking companies.

"We intend to make this area the hub for transportation," she said, adding that the expansion will be less seasonal than current transportation activities in Hay River.

"It looks like a win-win. There's nothing but good things coming from this from where I sit," said councillor Ron Karp in voting in favour of the sale.

The lot is currently zone as urban reserve, and will have to be rezoned to transportation to accommodate CN's project.

HOUSE RAZED



Firefighters hose down a house fire that sent smoke billowing hundreds of feet into the sky, and rained cinders and ashes on nearby homes. Neighbours were, as a precaution, temporarily evacuated at about 8 a.m. Sunday. No one was hurt, but the home at 7-104 Street was completely destroyed.



Knights of Columbus

PIG ROAST



DEEP FRIED TURKEY

Roast Pork • Corn on the Cob

New Potatoes • Deep Fried Turkey

Sept. 29 • Cocktails 6:30 pm • \$25.00

Catholic Church Basement

Live Entertainment

Tickets on sale • Ring's Pharmacy • Kingland Ford • MSS Ltd.

Phone lines pulled down again

A large chunk of the industrial area was without phone service Wednesday and Thursday, after a raised boom on a truck snagged a cable in the industrial area and pulled down eight spans of cable.

The accident happened at about 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Local technicians isolated and repaired the lines that carry cell phone traffic from the cell tower, but to re-splice

the cables took the Yellowknife-based splicing team until Thursday at 3:44 a.m. About 35 businesses were without phone service for that period. But because cell phone service was fixed, Northwestel call-forwarded many lines to company cell phones.

It was the second time this summer a major piece of phone line was pulled down in the industrial area.



HAY RIVER SPCA PETS FOR ADOPTION

Message Line
874-3667

BALTO



Balto is a gentle giant. He is a husky cross. His owner has given him up. He is friendly & is starved for affection. He is not fixed, but SPCA can help.

TRIXIE



Trixie was abused at one time so she is afraid of being abandoned. She is a small spaniel mix, approx. 1.5 yrs old. She is sweet, smart & affectionate. Loves kids & other dogs. Spayed & housetrained.

MOUSE



This fluffy grey cat was found on Riverview Drive. We are looking for the owner. If she's (we think she's a she!) not claimed she'll be up for adoption. She is a very affectionate and sweet natured young cat.

SPHINX



Sphinx needs a Foster Home! We need a caring family to look after him until we can place him. Medium sized fluffy male. Sphinx is really cute & friendly. He listens well and is responsive.

JACK



Jack is a really cool black male. He is neutered and really needs a good home.

6 PUPPIES READY FOR GOOD HOMES



FEMALES



MALES

These puppies will grow to be med. sized dogs. They have some terrier in them. Their mom looks just like "Benji".

THANK YOU SO MUCH
for your generous donations at the Home & Leisure Show 2007

- Arctech Computers
- La Dee Dah Boutique
- All of the kind Hay River folks who supported our booth & made donations