



PILES OF PYTHONS

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LOCAL A5



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SPORTS D4, D5

Showers, high 19

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Councillors flock to Rock

Eight from Lakeshore at Nfld. summit

BY CRAIG PEARSON
STAR STAFF REPORTER

Eight of nine Lakeshore councillors will attend a five-day municipal conference in St. John's, Nfld., this week — at a possible cost of more than \$17,000 — more than any other local municipality.

While a national taxpayer advocate called

the contingent "awfully high," Lakeshore Deputy Mayor Tom Bain said that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference is an ideal place to make contacts and pick up information on running a town.

"It's by far the best conference going, as far as I'm concerned," Bain said. "You get excellent contact with your MPs from across Canada. And they hold top-notch workshops."

Bain said he was not aware all but one Lakeshore councillor was attending.

He nevertheless felt there will be no duplication for the town of 30,000 — where councillors this month approved a 3.9-per-cent tax hike.

"What we do when we get there is split up," he said.

"There's maybe 20 different workshops going on at the same time, so you each attend different ones."

The only Lakeshore councillor not heading

to St. John's this week is Jack Morris, who will instead attend his son's wedding out west. He declined comment.

Lakeshore Mayor Bob Croft, who left Thursday for the conference because he is driving and who will represent Essex County, could not be reached for comment.

In 2004, four Lakeshore councillors attended the FCM conference in Edmonton, while one attended it in 2003 in Winnipeg.



Tom Bain

PLEASE SEE CONFERENCE / A2

Riders raise \$70,000

Funds aid research on prostate cancer

BY DON LAJOIE
STAR STAFF REPORTER

When rider Mel Hodgins heard about the Ride for Dad at his local Harley Davidson dealership in Wheatley, it hit close to home.

"My father had prostate cancer but it was detected early on," Hodgins said. "Because of that he had 10 more years to enjoy his grandkids. They'll find a cure someday. Until then, every little bit helps."

Hodgins, who himself has been recently diagnosed with cancer after finding a lump on the back of his head, was one of more than 400 largely black leather-clad hog-riding motorcyclists who cruised their way to raising \$70,000 as the Windsor area held its inaugural event.

200 kilometres

Organizers said the event far exceeded their wildest expectations as the thundering pack covered the 200 kilometres through the city and Essex County, doubling the funding goal they had set. All the cash raised will go toward prostate cancer research and education programs.

"We expected from 150 to maybe 200 riders," said organizing committee member Brett Corey.

"But we've doubled that, easily. For the first time we've ever done this, we're extremely happy."

PLEASE SEE RIDERS / A2



RIDE FOR DAD: More than 400 motorcycles roll down Riverside Drive on Sunday while taking part in the inaugural Ride for Dad. Money raised from the event will go to support prostate cancer research.

Star photo: Tyler Brownbridge

Feds try to gauge work of illegal immigrants

Up to 400,000 are fuelling the underground economy

BY GRANT ROBERTSON
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE
OTTAWA

The federal government has no idea how many people might be working in Canada's underground economy, but officials believe the number of illegal immigrants employed in low-paying jobs could be as high as 400,000.

A House of Commons committee discussing the issue said many of the workers enter the country on temporary visas and are now filling jobs most Canadians refuse.

However, the inability of officials to gauge how big the situation could be has made it difficult to devise government policy to deal with the issue, said Liberal MP Andrew Telegdi, who chairs the committee.

The introduction of exit visas, which track the number of visitors who stay beyond their scheduled trip to Canada, has been discussed as a way of collecting data. But with underground workers quietly relied upon to fuel the economy, Canada may also look to study U.S. efforts to legitimize underground workers, a process also known as regularization, Telegdi said.

Workers needed

The federal government has acknowledged Canada's immigration standards are not addressing the inability of some industries, such as construction or agriculture, to fill vacant positions.

"We have to change the criteria for people getting into the country. We have to give more weight to people that are working in jobs that are hard to fill," Telegdi said in an interview. "With these people if they are staying out of trouble and they are working, then they would be fairly easy to regularize."

PLEASE SEE HIDDEN / A2

A model cuddles some Needies.

TOYS CO-DEPENDENT WITH KIDS

Needies require love

Everyone knows kids love toys. Now a New York design collective suggests what would happen if children's toys loved them back.

Needies are a trio of interactive plush dolls inspired by co-dependent, high-maintenance relationships.

PLEASE SEE NEEDIES / A2

Climbers barely survive ordeal

BY GLENDA LUYMES
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE
VANCOUVER

Two of the three men trapped in a fierce snowstorm on Mount Logan over the weekend will be released from hospital in a few days, while their friend, Eric Bjarnason, undergoes surgery to amputate his frostbitten fingers.

"I may lose my hands, but I can still hold my kids," he said from his hospi-

"I may lose my hands, but I can still hold my kids."

ERIC BJARNASON

tal bed in Anchorage, Alaska Sunday. "I'm doing pretty good, considering I didn't think I was going to live."

Bjarnason and two other members of the North Shore Search and Rescue team, Don Jardine and Alex Snigurowicz, were airlifted to safety Saturday af-

ter being trapped at 5,500 metres on Yukon's Mount Logan.

The experienced mountaineers were climbing Canada's highest mountain to celebrate the team's 40th anniversary when a storm trapped them on an exposed ridge.

In the 48 hours before they were rescued, temperatures dropped to -30 C while 100 km/h winds blasted away their tent and supplies.

PLEASE SEE RESCUED / A2

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