

LOCALNEWS

Mining project calls for suppliers

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A proposed mine, located northwest of International Falls in Canada, is looking for local businesses that may be interested in supplying the operation with goods and services.

The Rainy River Project, owned by New Gold Inc. is located in the Rainy River District in northwestern Ontario, roughly 45 minutes northwest of International Falls and Fort Frances.

New Gold is proposing to construct, operate, and eventually reclaim a new open pit and underground gold mine. According to a release, the company is committed to hiring locally whenever possible, which creates local direct and indirect economic benefits.

To promote that initiative, New Gold is calling for local businesses to fill out a voluntary information form, which will allow the company to determine if a potential supplier is able to provide products and services for the project. Application does not automatically qualify businesses for future bids.

International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Faye Whitbeck said some of the secondary needs for the project include concrete, rebar, iron, plumbing, electrical, installations, heavy containment vessels, tankage, pumps and other supplies.

“New Gold realizes that our growth and success depend on the economic, social and environmental sustainability of each of



FILE PHOTO

Kyle Stanfield, of New Gold Corporation, addresses community members during an International Falls Chamber of Commerce luncheon earlier this year.

the communities in which we live and work,” the release said.

Becoming a supplier for the project would benefit a company’s bottom line, as well as provide an opportunity to extend to contacts within the mining industry, Whitbeck said. A company should also familiarize itself with Certificates of Origin, she said, which are required for selling goods outside of the country of origin. The chamber could assist with these requirement, she said.

“The proximity of the Rainy River project makes delivery quite viable provided the business is prepared to do business with a Canadian company,” Whitbeck said.

New Gold reviews suppliers in two categories: non-technical and technical. Non-technical suppliers provide most off-the-shelf, easily identified products and commonly used services. Technical suppliers will be reviewed on technical qualifications, licenses, financial capabilities and past performance.

Whitbeck said feasibility studies for the project are

complete, and the construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2015. Calls for tenders from suppliers and vendors are expected to start at the end of this year, she said.

The supplier request for information can be found on New Gold’s website at <http://www.newgold.com/properties/projects/rainyriver/rainyriver-project/>.

To assist companies with navigating import and export issues, local Small Business Development Center consultant Jenny Herman has a tentative workshop on the topic scheduled for 8:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 9 at the AmericInn.

“I think we have an excellent panel and the information will be relevant to small businesses in our community, including manufacturing, retail and the hospitality industries,” Herman said. “It may also be relevant for people that already hold dual Canadian and U.S. citizenship, have a parent that was born in Canada or they themselves were born in Canada as they may be eligible to get work permits for Canada.”

Local kettle drive helps serve community

Volunteer bell ringers needed

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

With an increasing need being seen locally, every nickle and dime tossed into The Salvation Army’s kettles helps friends, neighbors and family.

Bev Mayfield, International Falls Salvation Army envoy, said the annual holiday kettle campaign is the organization’s largest fundraiser.

The kettle drive has begun in International Falls with kettles placed at County Market, Stewart’s Super One and Kmart.

“Money received during this time of year helps carry us during the whole year to help people that are in need here,” she said.

Locally, The Salvation Army assists in a variety of efforts, as well as provides lodging, utility and rent support in emergencies. It also offers an emergency food pantry, and in some situations, assistance with the costs of medications and travel costs for medical needs.

Mayfield said the community has been generous in the past, helping to reach The Salvation Army’s \$20,000 goal last year.

“The goal this year is to exceed \$25,000,” she said. “That will help us to meet the increasing needs of our community.”

She said more people are seeking assistance in the community than in years past.

“With the economy, you just don’t know how it all plays a part in the need and what’s available to give,” she said.

Mayfield asked people to give when they can.

“We often see when people don’t have they will give — they will put their change in,” she said. “All that change becomes dollars and that helps. It’s like



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

A paper cutout of Bev Mayfield, local Salvation Army envoy, mans a red kettle at Kmart. Volunteers are needed during the kettle drive, the army’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

planting a seed and watching it grow. They may think their change is minute, it is not — it becomes large when combined with others’ change.”

Volunteer bell ringers are needed to man the local kettles, Mayfield said.

“I was out there the first day, but I can’t be out there everyday,” she said.

People may call The Salvation Army at 283-3394 to serve, or they may register online by going to <http://salvationarmynorth.org/volunteer/bellringing/> clicking on the Greater Minnesota bar below the bell ringing information and finding International Falls. That will take volunteers to the International Falls site where a box can be checked to register to ring at open locations and

hours.

While iconic kettles have become a symbol of the Christmas season, they represent compassion and the spirit of giving in its truest sense, said a news release from The Salvation Army Northern Division.

Money raised stays in the communities served by The Salvation Army.

Volunteer ringers raise, on average, \$53 per hour, said the news release. That money can help the following needs:

■ \$1.79 provides a hot meal

■ About \$20 provides a day of nutritious meals to a family of four

■ \$16 provides a new coat to a child in need

■ \$100 provides nearly 30 homeless people with two hot meals a day

Brita Anderson

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Date:	Monday, November 17, 2014 by noon
Time:	5:00pm – 6:00pm (Appetizers and beverages provided)
Place:	Room 101/102, Backus Community Center 900 5th Street, International Falls
RSVP:	by Monday, November 17, 2014 to skmorque@blandinfoundation.org , 218.327.8732 or 877.882.2257 toll-free

Applications for BCLP are due Monday, December 1, 2014. To apply, visit www.blandinfoundation.org

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For more information, contact BCLP alumni:
Diana Adams at 218.283.8051 or David Cronin at 218.283.2000
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