



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

The march through downtown Fort Frances Wednesday was organized by ENGAGE, a local young professionals network.

MARCH

► continued from A1

government, and to work on behalf of the district's people to find a resolution for this issue. She also applauded the participants for remaining vocal on the issue, and keeping it on the minds of provincial officials.

Reopening the kraft mill, which has been dormant since November 2012, would result in 200 jobs at

the facility and another 800 jobs related to the operations. Recent talks between Resolute and Expera have broken off due to Expera not being able to purchase fiber at a feasible price.

Resolute owns the sustainable forest license for the area, which allows it to control the cost of wood. Local officials are seeking an enhanced sustainable forest license, or ESFL, for the area, which would allow municipalities, harvesters and other stakeholders

control over the wood.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne can grant an ESFL, which has led local officials to work with the Ontario provincial government to bring attention to the issue. Officials are also working quickly to find a solution, as Resolute officials have indicated they have no intention of heating the mill during the winter.

A recent letter from Avis to Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and For-

estry Bill Mauro, among other provincial officials, calls for the province to commit to paying the costs of heating the mill, in order to protect it as an asset.

Expera started in 1883 as Thilmann Pulp and Paper Company, according to the company's website. The company owns four pulp mills in Wisconsin, in Mosinee, De Pere, Rhineland, and Kaukauna. The Wisconsin-based company is led by president and CEO Russ Wanke.

COUNCIL

► continued from A1

and shows that a rehab program serving 13 rental units would alleviate substandard housing conditions for 11.3 percent of low to moderate income rents and increase availability of adequate rental housing by 10.7 percent.

"That really shows the need," he said. "This would be a shot in the arm and get some more affordable units up to standard."

Eklund noted the report shows a tight rental vacancy rate of just 1.9 percent, which is lower than the statewide vacancy rate of



Ken Anderson



Gail Rognerud

"It's not out of the general fund. It's money that has to be used for (low and moderate income property owners)."

Gail Rognerud  
Falls Councilor

5.2 percent.

Mayor Bob Anderson said the grant is needed in the city. He pointed to a portion of the application which shows the local unemployment rate at 9.5 percent, compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 4.3 percent.

Councilors also pointed

to a report in the application which found 62 percent of renters in Koochiching County are unable to afford a two bedroom unit.

Meanwhile, Administrator Anderson said applications for the state grants funds will come from cities across the state, but said the Falls numbers on need looked good.

"I have no idea what

competition looks like," he said of the applications. "I think this will be favorable and is worth pursuing."

Lions Club gathers for meeting Nov. 3

LIONS CLUB DEN REPORT

International Falls Lions Club gathered for a brief meeting Nov. 3 at the AmericInn.

The main discussion centered around the upcoming Christmas party-auction. The event has not taken place for the past few years, but it was decided to bring back the tradition. Members report that it is a good time, good food, and participants can pick up some last minute items for Christmas.

Funds made from the auction are used for the needs of community members. The club will contact businesses in the next couple weeks for auction donations. The party is planned for Dec. 6 at Almost Lindy's. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Dick Briese at 286-5508 or Sally Schaak, 283-2074, by Dec. 1.

The club was asked to assist someone in Koochiching County who was in need of a hearing aid, through the hearing aid recycle program. They were put in touch with the Lion who handled the

program, and the community member received the much-needed hearing aid.

The club collects old hearing aids and reworks them for those in need of a hearing aid but who cannot afford to purchase one. Eyeglasses are also collected and recycled by delivering them to developing countries to be distributed to those who have sight issues and are in need of eyeglasses.

The Spring Raffle brought in \$1,800. All those who participated are acknowledged. Half the funds are going to diabetes research, and the other half is to be shared with community members who have diabetes related needs — from gas cards to be used for out-of-town doctor appointments, test strips, and other diabetes needs. Contact Bev Mayfield at 283-3394 or Schaak, 283-2074, for more information.

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at the AmericInn. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion or who would like to learn more about the club are welcome to attend.



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# County Market LIQUOR



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