

Opinion

MUSKOKA MOSAIC

Introducing Howard Nadrofsky

BY PAULA BOON

Last December, exactly 50 years after quitting school to work in the bush, Howard Nadrofsky retired.

"The Wood Man," who has supplied firewood to area customers for the last 27 years, is also known in Huntsville as an umpire, long-time coach of women's softball teams and active member of the Salvation Army.

Nadrofsky was born in Trout Creek, the second of seven children. Following in his father's footsteps, he grew to love spending time outdoors, whether it was working, camping, hunting or fishing.

"I could never get in gear at school," Nadrofsky says. "I always had dreams of the bush."

And so, just before turning 14, he quit school and began working with his father's crews from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., five days a week. His starting pay was \$10 per week.

Nadrofsky saved up and bought his first car, a 1956 Pontiac, when he was still 15. "My friend drove it for me until I was of age," he recalls with a laugh. "The day I turned 16 I got my 365 in the morning and went to Burk's Falls for my licence in the afternoon."

In the winter of 1961, Nadrofsky met his first true love, Linda Knight. Although she was at first more interested in his friend, he persevered and won out in the end. They married in 1965 and had two daughters, Lisa and Lana.

A skilled woodsman, Nadrofsky won chainsaw competitions at winter carnivals with five different categories of saws, and also an all-Ontario trophy.

In 1978 he suggested to his father that they start a saw mill. "I thought we could make more by selling the finished product," he explains. "My younger brothers were interested and we all went in as a team."

Nadrofsky ran the bush crew in winter and helped in the mill in the spring. But in 1985, he sold out his share to pursue the firewood business he had been building.

Three years later, he made a huge decision: to invest in big trucks, a new loader and a wood processor and reduce his number of employees from 12 to two. "It was a lot of money," he says, "but I told my wife, 'No matter what happens, people have to stay warm, so we should be all right.'"

By hand, his men had been processing 150 cords of wood a week. With the new setup, Nadrofsky produced one cord every eight minutes.

Nadrofsky says his business approach was always to be fair and honest in dealing with people. He found that if customers left one year thinking they'd do better elsewhere, they usually came back the next.

In 2002 he invited his son-in-law to join him and learn the ropes. The hand-off of the com-

pany took place at Christmas, and it is now called The Woodman's Daughter.

Nadrofsky can tell vivid stories of various brushes he's had with death, both as a child and while working in the bush, but his life was always spared.

"One time a huge limb came from the top of a maple tree and drove into the ground right in front of me," he recalls. "I started serving the Lord right there."

His religion is a central part of Nadrofsky's life. "If you're in the word and do the walk and do the talk, you'll never go wrong," he says.

His mission in retirement, he says, will be to bring comfort to people in prison and hospital.

Sadly, Nadrofsky's beloved wife died last March of diabetes. She had been completely blind for five years.

"We promised each other if one of us passed, the other would go on with their life," he says. And that's just what he's doing.

Nadrofsky is planning several trips and looks forward to spending time on his houseboat in Temagami. Thanks to a new artificial knee in January 2005, he is more active and healthy than ever. And, he has even met a "nice Christian woman" with whom he spends much of his time. They are talking about getting married in the summer.

"I've got the rest of my life ahead of me, and I want to enjoy myself," says Nadrofsky.



Thanks to Mary Karreman for suggesting that Howard Nadrofsky be profiled. If there is someone you'd like to see in this space, please call Paula at 789-5541 or e-mail pboon@metrolandnorthmedia.com.

Interview with ministers Tony Clement and John Baird

Last week the Forester sat down with Environment minister John Baird and area MP, and minister for FedNor and Health, Tony Clement and asked the following questions:

As incandescent lights are phased out by 2012, how does the federal government plan on dealing with the increase in mercury produced by fluorescent lights?

JB
"Coal-fired electricity generation produces five times more mercury (that) goes right into the air versus the trace amounts in (energy-efficient bulbs). One retailer has stepped up to the plate (in terms of recycling) and I suspect we're going to see more... At least with (energy efficient bulbs) we have the capacity to recycle. When you put the mercury right into the air it has a huge effect on human health. Yes it is going to cost more for

the disposal, but your (electrical) savings are significant."

Can you give us a description of the government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

JB
"The objective in Canada (is) to see the absolute reduction of 20 per cent. Half of our emissions come from big industry and half of our industry comes from basically everything else... The biggest part of it is reductions in big industry (and) we've identified the big 700 polluters in Canada responsible for about 50 per cent of the greenhouse gases in the country.

What we're doing is we're requiring them to reduce their emissions on an intensity basis by 18 per cent between now and 2010 so right away they've got notice, six per cent, six per cent, six per cent.

We've front-end loaded the pain for industry and then a constant improvement of two per cent from 2010 to 2012... to the absolute reduction of 20 per cent by 2020.

What we're doing is a) they can reduce their emissions in-house, find existing technologies and clean up their act; b) they can make contributions to a tech fund that will help with reductions.

The other one would be trading where we'll have a Canadian trading system where, for example, if Tony's plant can reduce by more, they can sell their emissions to me as a temporary measure for me. We are very keen to work with other jurisdictions like the United States and Mexico...

(In total) you have like six compliance options and the law just gets tougher and tougher each year. What we want to see is basically industry's got to pay to clean up their act, so polluter pays is

a central principal in that."

What will the tech fund contributions be based on?

JB
"Per ton, \$15 per ton."

You've been quoted as saying you're not for a carbon tax. It's the prime minister's standpoint as well. What is the difference between donating to a tech fund and a levy?

JB
"What a tax would be basically is an unlimited license to pollute. There's no requirement to ever reduce your emissions.

The hope is that if the tax is high enough you'll cede to clean up your act.

What we're doing is we're regulating, like we regulated lead out of gasoline, like we regulated

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LETTERS

Those who helped flood evacuees proved what a great town we live in

I am writing this letter to thank all the people who gave so much of themselves to assist evacuees during the recent flooding along the Big East River.

I'll start with a local family who immediately came to our assistance.

This family, who I now

value as great friends, opened their home, offered up delicious meals, acted as chauffeur and rearranged their schedules, (and sleeping arrangements) to assist us.

We can't thank you enough. Next, I would like to thank the Salvation Army, who ensured that those of us displaced by

this event had suitable accommodations.

You really helped make a very difficult time a lot easier. To the owners and staff of The Family Place Restaurant, what can I say except — absolutely delicious meals and fantastic service. This is really what all restaurants should be like.

Thank you all.

To the hotels and fast food establishments who offered their assistance, thank you for your hospitality.

Huge thanks to the firefighters and rescue personnel, who braved frigid floodwaters to safely evacuate those in need. Last but by no means least,

thank you to Mayor Claude Doughty and all his support staff, who scrambled to organize all these and many more resources to assist. We greatly appreciate all your efforts.

I'm sure there are individuals and organizations that I have missed, and to you I also

offer a sincere thank you. Since my days at the family cottage on Lake Vernon as a youth, I have always felt that Huntsville was a great place to live. You all have proved just that. Thank you.

Shawn Stockman
Huntsville

No time for political opportunism

The recent announcement by the Harper Government of intent to create a billion-dollar Community Development Trust to help the forestry and manufacturing sectors comes with some arm-twisting.

In order for this funding to be used, the next federal budget has to be passed in the House of Commons. In this carefully planned coercion, opposition parties will have to overlook their objections in other budget areas or be branded as the group who failed to rescue the forestry and manufacturing sectors.

The manufacturing sector in Canada, especially in Ontario and Quebec, has been hit very

hard in the last two years, and inaction by this government has only made the problem worse. By inactivity, Mr. Harper's government has allowed the bleeding of these sectors. By his activity, he has done no better: he cancelled the Liberal Forestry Strategy, let the softwood lumber industry down by negotiating poorly with the United States, and ignored the cries for help from the manufacturing sector for two years.

The games have to stop. Help is needed now.

Having lived in the political arena for the last 23 years, I have seen many provincial and federal governments come and

go. Every government made you feel that you had to be beholden to them for the money to solve problems. This "New Harper Government" said that it was going to be different. Well, there hasn't been a change.

It is long past the time that the taxpayers' money was used to solve our nation's problems based on merit and urgency, not on political opportunism. The nation needs to know that its government has the wellbeing of the citizenry as its top priority, not the maintenance of political power.

Jamie McGarvey
Liberal candidate, Parry Sound-Muskoka

'Gay organs' policy is silly

It was with some interest that I read the recent criticism of the newest Canada health directive by the Honourable George Smitherman, deputy premier of Ontario.

In effect, he tore into our current bureaucrats, who felt fit to declare that gay people have no place in donating organs to their fellow Canadians. This is, of course, silly in the extreme.

No sensible person would turn down healthy organs no matter where they come from. However, I was shocked to read our own Member of Parliament, the Honourable Tony Clement, was only too happy to

dodge this issue with a press release citing the "risk assessment" of using gay organs. Of course, this is ignoring the fact that it is the risky sexual behaviour and not the sexuality of a donor that is to be examined.

Really, if a gay man has only the one (married) sexual partner in his entire life, how exactly is that dangerous to his blood supply or organs he might wish to save a life with? Far better off than many people (and I'm not naming names) that I've met here in university.

I'm surely not the only one to raise their eyebrows on this subject, and surely our own

Tony Clement isn't fooled by the homophobic stereotype of the diseased gay man.

He must be above that. This must surely be a case of bureaucratic mix up. Certainly in a country where thousands are currently waiting for an organ to keep them alive, and hundreds die each year still waiting, then certainly a personal homophobic prejudice by any bureaucrats is impossible to consider. If not, our politicians might be better off to consider another line of work where they don't put the health of Canadians at risk.

Tyler Austin
Huntsville



HEALTHCARE HEROES

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Masonic Unity Lodge #376

Since 1990 the Masons of Huntsville (Unity Lodge) have donated over \$5,000 to Huntsville Hospital for the purchase of priority equipment for our healthcare. We are grateful for their continued support and for all those community groups who understand the importance of keeping your hospital up to date and ready for you.

Paul Stephen dropped by in December with the annual gift for the hospital. Paul and his Masonic brothers welcome new members. Learn about masonry, you will be amazed at the charitable work of this worldwide organization.

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Foundation continues to support:

- Huntsville District Memorial Hospital
- Fairvern Nursing Home
- Burk's Falls & District Health Centre
- Muskoka-East Parry Sound CCAC



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