

MEETING NOTES
SPECIAL MEETING WITH RESIDENTS OF UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS

DATE: JULY 7, 1999

TIME: 7:00 P.M. - 8:15 P.M.

LOCATION: BLIND RIVER COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE AMALGAMATION

PRESENT: MAYOR GALLAGHER
COUNCILLORS KENNEDY, SHAMAS, TREMBLAY
N. CLARKE - ADM. ASSISTANT

RESIDENTS FROM AREA

*No mention of Assiniboia
on
response to our assets*

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1. Mayor Gallagher thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He advised that he and the Council has grave concerns about the future of Blind River and the surrounding unincorporated townships.

The Provincial Government, seven years ago, indicated they wanted to get rid of two thirds of the Municipalities in Ontario and all unorganized townships if they could. To date, they have decreased the number by one third with one third to go. The Government seems to feel that bigger is better. With their restructuring plans, they also got rid of a number of school boards and made larger board areas.

More disturbing news is that the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Steve Gilchrist, in the last government, engineered the amalgamation of the City of Toronto. There is no doubt in our minds that the Minister will continue to reduce the number of municipalities and if we don't band together to form an amicable partnership, the government will do it for us. Possibly with something we will not like.

In the past, residents of the unorganized townships never paid any costs for policing, health care, social housing, welfare, etc. The government is now looking at adding a new tax to cover these costs. How will they charge for these services? We are not sure, but there will be an additional tax coming.

2. In the Matinenda Lake area, there are several roads very close to being pushed through from Elliot Lake. Blind River does not want to see this happen. Blind River would like to see things as they are. If this area was taken over by Blind River, the Town would, of course, assume all costs for garbage, docks, lights, parking lots, snow plowing,

