



Reaping the harvest

Various area politicians and dignitaries gathered around Simcoe East MPP Gordon Smith as he presented John Cooper, chairman of the St. Andrew's hospital board, with a cheque for close to \$600,000 — the first installment of the government's contribution towards the new area hospital, presently under construction on the Old Penetanguishene

Road. From left to right, Tiny Township deputy-reeve Hilda Sibthorpe, Tiny reeve Morris Darby, chairman of the hospital board John Cooper, MPP Gordon Smith, Port McNicoll reeve Bruce Dockray, Midland deputy-reeve Catherine Dion, Midland reeve Moreland Lynn, and Tay reeve Tom Robinson.

John Brennan elected chairman of separate board

John Brennan of Barrie was chosen chairman of the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board last Thursday at the newly-elected board's first meeting of 1975.

Operator of a meat market in the city, Brennan has been vice-chairman of the board for the past two years, and has been a member since the board was established in 1969. Earlier, he served as a

trustee for several years on the old Barrie Separate School Board.

Chosen by the members as the new vice-chairman was Colgan's Vice Egan, a farmer and also a founding

member of the board.

Egan is serving or has served on a wide range of committees, including budget, playground, community education, catechetics, animal care, and the Bradford building committee for the new school being built in that community.

Also at the meeting, John Consitt was named to sit on the Midland Public Library Board, and trustee Lloyd LaPlume was appointed as a representative of the board to the St. Theresa's Private High School Board.

As in past years, the board voted to continue its practice of meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Child clinic begins Jan. 23

Beginning January 23, the Simcoe County District Health Unit offers its annual pre-school screening clinic designed for children going into kindergarten in September.

The clinic is supposed to detect any health problems a child might have and help correct them before school

begins. The child's health history will be looked at, along with a physical examination by a community nurse. He will receive a screening for general development, a vision and hearing check, along with a urinalysis and hemoglobin test.

Good health habits, im-

munization, and dental care will be discussed with both the parents and the child.

The complete check-up takes approximately an hour. The clinic will move around the area, and parents are requested to phone 526-9325 for an appointment or further information.

Tiny complains about Ma Bell's service

At its last meeting of the year on December 30, the Tiny Township Council once again voiced complaints about the service of Bell Canada within the township and decided to support a petition sent to the telephone company from people in the Lafontaine calling area.

A resolution moved by councillors John Lackie and Hilda Sibthorpe received unanimous support from council. Along with supporting the petition about free calling privileges between Lafontaine and Elmvale and the request of meeting between Bell Canada and Tiny council the resolution stated: "The Township of Tiny considers it a deplorable state of affairs when over half of the township does not have free calling privileges to all parts of the township."

In a letter sent to Mrs. George Troyer of RR 1, Perkinsfield, W.I. McCullough, a district manager for the Bell, said free calling between Lafontaine and Elmvale could not be planned "until after 1978."

He explained that council was told on January 25, 1973 the free calling privileges were a years off due to "provisioning and capital limitations." At that time, the Elmvale Lance carried the story. McCullough added in his letter that "planning

and provisions do not allow us, at this time, to change the statement..."

In 1973, the Bell changed a group of people from the Penetanguishene exchange to the Lafontaine one because the lines were becoming overloaded on the Penetanguishene exchange. He stated "serious criticisms were being received from residents, and in April 1972 Tiny Council asked the Bell to improve service."

Changing areas, according to McCullough's letter, was

the "most practical and economic alternative available to improve customer service." At the time of the change, only four complaints were received.

In a telephone interview with McCullough on Friday, he stated that he had not yet heard from the council about its recent resolution, but assured this news paper he would make sure representatives from Bell Canada met with the township as soon as he received the request.

He agrees a great portion of the township does not have free calling to the rest, but explains that centres of interest had been assessed when the system was set up and that the township residents have free calling privileges to many places outside the township.

He said the change in areas from Penetanguishene to Lafontaine did take away some free calling privileges for a small group of residents, but it greatly increased the quality of their telephone service.

Separate school board applies for \$9,390 in grants

The Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has applied to the province for a total of \$9,390 in grants for three community projects, under a new program set up by the Ministry of Education this year.

The province is supplying \$500,000 to the 100-odd school boards in Ontario, to help promote greater community-school liaison and co-operation.

The most expensive project suggested in the board's Community Education report involves a series of courses at Ecole

Ste-Croix in Lafontaine.

To be taught in French and open to anyone in the community, the courses, if approved, will include mathematics, with the emphasis on metrication, as well as physical education, sewing and rug hooking and crocheting.

In Colgan, south of Alliston, the board wants to offer courses in conversational French and yoga.

And for all schools, the board hopes to allocate \$200 to each principal as part of what it calls Operation Reach Out, a program designed to bring the

community and the school together. According to director of education, Frank MacDonald, the aim is to use guests speaking on topics of current interest, discussions of family life and behaviour patterns to draw parents and others into the schools.

Macdonald stressed that the projects are all just proposals, adding he did not expect to hear from Queen's Park until about February 1 as to whether or not any or all of them have been approved.

"I'm quite sure," he said, "that all projects requested won't be approved, unless

fewer than I anticipate" are applied for by local boards of education.

If approved by the

Ministry, the projects will be completely funded and operated at no cost to the board.

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