Town police

Slippery roads cause problems

Although slippery roads made for hazardous driving conditions, causing cars to spin at the gentlest of corners, few accidents were reported in town over the weekend.

On Saturday a car driven by a 24-year-old Penetanguishene man collided with another driven by a man living on Champlain Road. Total damage to the car owned by Kevin Timmons and 17-year-old Jerome Grozelle of Champlain Road was listed at $150. No charges were laid and no injuries reported. Police blamed the accident on icy road conditions.

Man hit by car

Icy road conditions and a power blackout on Main Street contributed to a pedestrian accident in front of Pike's Cleaners. Vern Mayer, 36, of 2 Water Street was struck by a car driven by 20-year-old Leon Saulnier of Main Street.

Mayer walked into the path of the oncoming vehicle according to police. He was taken to the Penetanguishene General Hospital by Ambulance, treated for bruises and released. No charges were laid.

False alarm rings

Heavy wet snow on Saturday night resulted in a number of localized power failures. One of the power failures is blamed for setting off a false fire alarm on Saturday night.

OPP report

Tractor trailer hits rock cut

A tractor trailer accident on Highway 103 just south of Six Mile Lake Road on Friday evening caused $8,000 damage to the tractor and $1,000 damage to the trailer. Thomas Walsh, 51, of St. Catharines, escaped serious injury when the truck he was driving went out of control after it skidded when he tried to avoid a collision with a car which had braked suddenly in front of him. The truck left the road and slammed into a rock cut.

Cars leave road

The same stretch of road saw two more accidents within a half hour after the truck accident as two cars went off the road in separate incidents. Tillie Marek of Parry Sound was uninjured when her car left the road and sustained $300 damage. Another car driven by Robert B. Morton of Weston suffered $200 damage. Morton also escaped injury when his car skidded and left the pavement.

Careless driving charged

Norman Connor, 25, of RR1 Waubaushene has been charged with careless driving after an incident on Friday afternoon when his car failed to make a curve on Tay Township Concession 9 and left the road striking some trees. The Connor vehicle suffered $1,700 damage. There were no injuries in the 12:25 p.m. accident.

Snowmobile hits tree

An accident involving a snow machine sent Richard G. Henderson of Midland to hospital for treatment of fractures after his machine hit a tree. The accident occurred at 3:30 a.m. Saturday morning on private property. The machine sustained $400 damage.

Bad roads blamed

Bad road conditions on Highway 27 early Sunday morning were responsible for a single car accident just south of the Penetanguishene town limits which resulted in injury to two Midland residents and one Penetanguishene resident. The car was driven by Mernette Salisbury, 52, of RR 2 Penetanguishene and it sustained $800 damage. Injured were Herbert Boyer, 21, of Midland, and Rose Marie Contois, 37, of Penetanguishene who suffered cuts and bruises, and Effie Downer, 60, of Midland, who was more seriously injured with fractures. No charges have been laid in the incident.

Mishap on Vinden Street

A two car accident on Vinden Street east of Highway 27 has resulted in charges against a Penetanguishene resident. Charged with following too closely is Ronald Lewis Gignac, 17, of Penetanguishene after his vehicle collided with one driven by Wilfred Bryce, 42, of Midland. Damage to the Bryce vehicle was set at $300 and to the Gignac vehicle at $150.

Penetanguishene's new recruits

The six auxiliary policemen sworn in last Wednesday at the Penetanguishene town council chambers are: (front row, from left to right), Phil Brunelle, Leger Robitaille, Gerard Jolie, and Danny Ladouceur. In the back row are the two other auxiliary officers, Richard Dion and Timothy Vaillancourt, standing beside Mayor Vince Moreau and police chief John Geere.

Staff photo

Ontario Hydro offical explains:

Unforseen problems delayed power lines

Ontario Hydro sent special scanner crews up to check out the only line supplying Penetanguishene and parts of Tiny Township following three power blackouts within the last two weeks. The blackouts occurred on January 20, 21 and 17 completely cutting off all but emergency power sources in Penetanguishene, Balm Beach and Sunnyside.

The special work crews have been using a scanner to detect potential break areas in the old 44,000 volt line (built in 1909). Once the potential break areas are detected Hydro can isolate and bypass the area to prevent trouble.

Ontario Hydro work crews are currently rushing to finish construction of two new 44,000 volt lines which extend from below RCA in Midland, up along highway 12 to highway 27, and north on the east side of highway 27 to the southern part of Penetanguishene near the Angels.

The two lines costing an estimated two and a half million dollars are expected to be finished within two to three weeks according to Ontario Hydro Public Relations officer Ted Johnston. One line will serve Penetanguishene while the other will provide power to Tiny Township.

The infrared scanner creates an image on a TV screen from the heat radiation from the hydro wires. A loose or corroded electrical connection becomes a hot spot which registers white on the scanner's monitor, while warm areas are grey and cold areas black.

The existing Ontario Hydro line was put in 76 years ago. Johnston says the most asked question is why Ontario Hydro has not acted to replace the line years ago. According to the public relations officer replacement was not really necessary. "It has to be an economically sound proposition," he said. "You don't put in a new line just for the sake of a new line."

As things turned out, Johnston said the two new lines would have been in on time if not for the unforseen problems such as material shortage, a strike by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from August to October, and problems acquiring necessary property rights.

Ruth leaves CKMP

J. Mikel Ruth

Disk jockey J. Mikel Ruth of Penetanguishene signed off CKMP Radio for the last time on Friday after being employed at the station for 22 months (15 full time and seven part time).

Ruth was the host of the afternoon "house of music show" and claims to be best known for his outspoken opinions.

In an interview last week Ruth said that "according to most people I gained my popularity because I was unpredictable. I'm very much unlike the format type of announcer; time, temperature, the whole bit. I try to keep people informed with items that would normally be overlooked in a regular newscast." As examples, he listed news items from the entertainment world, ladies fashions, cooking tips and shopping hints.

The former disk jockey said he has no other line of work in mind now, but added that he would very much like to remain in the area. "I'm open for job offers. Call 549-7656."

Before coming to CKMP, Ruth spend two years in London Ontario as an announcer on CKSL and CJOE (now CJBK). Prior to that, he had worked a year in Dawson Creek, British Columbia on CJDC-TV.

Ruth says he would like to get back on radio. "I regret leaving CKMP because I enjoy working with some of the people there and I think that if Midland could progress as much as I think it should be progressing the radio station would be more popular."

As for his immediate plans Ruth said "I plan to take a few weeks to rest and think about the future with my dog Fritz!"

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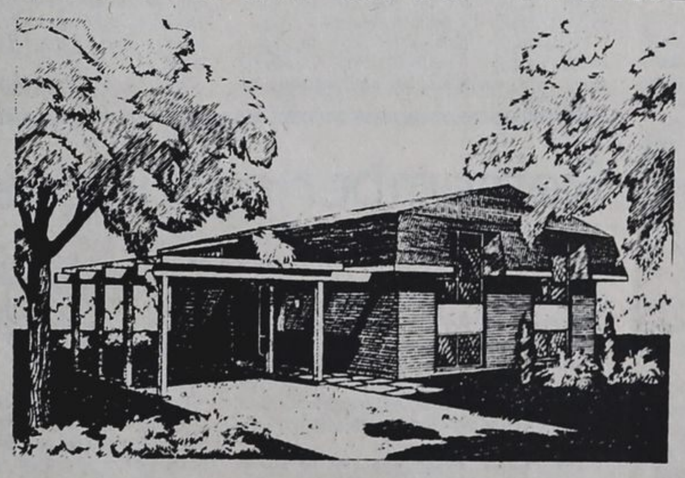

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