



Pass 'em up!

The Penetanguishene Cubs and Scouts took part on Saturday in the Annual District Bottle Drive. They raised between \$400 and \$500, and the money will go into the group committee, for use meeting general ex-

penses. Here Paul Fournier, left, and Cub David Quesnelle, hand a case of the empty bottles up to Grant Ivens who is loading them onto the truck.

Staff photo

Sagging markets blamed

Motorola to close Midland plant

The Motorola Canada plant in Midland will cease operations on July 29.

That announcement was made last Friday morning by the company's vice-president and director of human relations, James Scurr. The news was broken to the employees at the plant at 10:00 in the morning, and was released to the general public at 11:15.

In his remarks to the press, Scurr cited vertical integration of the company's major contract customers as the cause for the move. This means simply that the automotive entertainment centres which Motorola Canada has been making for such companies as Chrysler and Ford, are now being made "in house" by the automobile companies themselves.

A committee made up of employees of the company, working with the Departments of Labour and Manpower are in the process of counselling and locating work for the company's 256 employees, while other company executives, representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and local officials attempt to find a buyer for the plant, who would keep it open manufacturing some other product and continuing to employ as many of the current employees as possible.

The announcement of the plant's imminent closure follows four years of declining production at the facility. The plant opened in June of 1966, at which time it was worth an estimated \$2 million.

In 1972-73, the plant employed 675 people, and turned out approximately 8,000 radios a day. Since then, reduced demand has caused cutbacks to the point where the plant now employs 256 persons, and turns out only 800

units a day, although the units produced now are more complex than the ones turned out in 1972-73. In terms of man-hours, the present output represents approximately 2,400 of the old units a day.

From its opening until this February, the Midland plant produced a total of 8,558,376 radios for major automobile manufacturers.

Scurr emphasized that the management of Motorola Canada had been engaged over the past two years in a search for other markets, and had considered the possibility of supporting aftermarkets only, but had found these alternatives uneconomical.

Plant manager Ron Macaskill said at the press conference Friday that the announcement had been greeted by a reaction of shock at the plant. "It is not by any stretch of the imagination a happy situation," he said.

Scurr pointed out that the loss of the company's markets had not taken place because of any deficiency in the organization. "We did not lose our position through lack of initiative on our part," he said. He said Motorola was the most competitive supplier of these products, and added that no other company could have edged them out of the market if the automobile companies had not taken their automobile entertainment centre production "in house".

Made thorough search

He said the management of Motorola had made a thorough search within the corporation to see if the plant could produce any of the other products Motorola Canada makes at its other plants, but had come up dry. He said the plant should be an attractive prospect for some other company to purchase as a going concern, especially because of the fine work force available in Midland. "Midland has one of the finest labour forces in North America, bar none," he said. "There's 250 people at the plant now who are completely trained."

Midland Chamber of Commerce president Bill Vidler said at the press conference that the town is going to let everybody know they have a plant to sell. He emphasized that the chamber did not want Motorola to sell it as a warehouse or retail facility, but as a going concern.

"I do hope we can find somebody to employ our people," he said.

Friday Citizen coming

Andrew F. Markie, publisher of Markie Community Newspapers has announced the introduction of a new publication in the Midland Peninsula Group, **The Friday Citizen**.

Starting this Friday, **The Friday Citizen** will be distributed without charge to every residence in Penetanguishene and will be for sale at local newsstands. The first issue will be introduced with a full colour photo.

The **Friday Citizen** will feature up-to-the minute news coverage, people and events features, sports and a synopsis of what's happening 'in and around town'.

Included also will be a special 'HOMES' supplement which will provide readers with the latest real estate listings, features on home buying and decorating, gardening and 'fix-it' tips.

For the first time advertisers in Midland and Penetanguishene will have the opportunity to promote their businesses in the prime selling area through the Total Market Coverage being offered by the combination of the regular Wednesday paper, the **Penetanguishene Citizen**, and the new publication, **The Friday Citizen**.

French program to be improved

by Bill Schiller

The Simcoe County Board of Education is about to take steps to improve and expand the teaching and learning of French as a second language.

In its meeting last week, the board resurrected its ad hoc committee on oral French to report to the board, as soon as possible, with recommendations concerning the teaching and learning of French as a second language.

The move came after trustees tabled a comprehensive report on the subject from Thomas Wells, the Minister of Education. The report announces the ministry's intention to increase the teaching of French to English students throughout the province, and outlines "incentives" by which the ministry intends to "encourage" school boards to step up such programs.

Among the more notable incentives are "greatly-increased" for boards which decide to increase the availability and depth of French instruction.

Expansion program

The ministry presented other strong initiatives to expand and improve French instruction to English students in Ontario:

- The preparation of practical curriculum guidelines for teachers

- The gathering, reprinting and redistribution of good existing curriculum materials presently being used in teaching French

- Strong financial encouragement to stimulate the development of new curriculum materials and aids in French instruction

- additional grants to transform vacant classrooms in elementary schools into French learning centres

- Major steps to increase the number of teachers qualified to teach French as a second language.

As for the instruction itself, the ministry proposes three types of programs: core, extended, and immersion.

Students in core programs will receive instruction in French 20-30 minutes a day. Those in extended programs will receive core instruction and will take one or two other subjects in which French is the language of communication. Students in immersion programs will be taught mostly in French.

A representative of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism from Orillia, Bob Sheeley, said the ministry has contacts with people in Canada and around the world, and would be looking for a buyer. "Having a plant and a proven work force is a definite plus," he added.

Vidler pointed out that the plant was a very flexible assembling facility for any company to take on.

May be transferred

Many of the plant's employees may be transferred to other spots within Motorola Canada, but Scurr said the Midland area is a

very difficult place to leave, and he speculated that a large number of the employees would not want to go anywhere else.

Scurr said that an estimated 85 to 90 per cent of the plant's employees were women, and many of those were probably not the principal bread-winners in their families.

Although the manufacturing operations will cease in Midland, Motorola Canada will continue to market automotive and audio entertainment products throughout Canada. Motorola employs 900 people, not counting those in the Midland plant, in communications, semiconductor, data control and government electronics operations throughout Canada.

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The Penetanguishene Citizen

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Airport commission hasn't received writ

by Bill Schiller

The Huronia Airport Commission has not yet received official notice that it is being sued by Lemaire Services for an alleged breach of contract in June of last year.

Consequently, the commission does not intend to make any official response until either its chairman or secretary are served writs announcing its part in a \$380,000 law suit commenced by Lemaire Services in Ontario Supreme Court last Wednesday.

The position of the commission was formed at a meeting at airport offices on Monday night in consultation with Midland lawyer Ted Symons.

"As far as the commission is concerned," Symons advised, "it still hasn't been officially served with notice of any court action and is under no obligation to respond."

The suit officially got off the ground on Wednesday morning when Peter Crampton former Lemaire employee, was served with a writ at 9:30 at Huronia airport announcing that he was being sued for \$140,000 for allegedly inducing a breach of contract between Lemaire and the airport commission.

At approximately 10:00 a.m., Moreland Lynn, a member of the airport commission, was served with a writ announcing Lemaire's intentions to seek \$140,000 from the commission "and all defendants" for breach of contract and \$100,000 from "all defendants" for "exemplary and punitive damages".

But at Monday night's commission meeting, all members concurred with their lawyer's advice that no action should be taken by the commission as a whole. General agreement was that Moreland Lynn, as an individual "defendant" should make a response "within 10 days" of notification as stated on the writ.

Cited in the writs served on Wednesday are: the Huronia Airport Commission, Collingwood Air Services, and commission members Donald Johnston, Peter Kreamp and M.A. Lynn, all of Midland, Guy Maurice and Morris Darby of Tiny Township and E. Desroches of Penetanguishene.

The commission is a co-operatively organized body consisting of elected representatives from Midland, Penetanguishene and the Township of Tiny.

Nine page statement

In a nine-page "Statement of Claim" delivered by Toronto solicitors Chappell, Bushell and Stewart, Lemaire outlined its reasons for seeking court action.

Lemaire states it was granted a contract to manage the Huronia Airport and to comply with a number of contract terms beginning the first day of April, 1973. The agreement was to be binding for five years and six months and during that time the commission was not to negotiate with any potential operator without notifying Lemaire.

Further, the statement claims, the commission was not to enter into any contract with any potential operator that would exclude Lemaire.

On June 18, 1976, solicitors for the Huronia Airport Commission delivered a letter to Lemaire, notifying the air service to vacate the airport by June 30th. The commission was terminating the contract on the grounds that Lemaire had not complied with certain terms of the agreement and had not attended to several problems with airport operations after receiving specific and extended notice.

In October of 1976, the commission entered into an agreement with Garrison Aviation, owned and operated by Peter Crampton,

former employee of Lemaire up until May of 1976.

Lemaire claims that it fired Crampton as airport manager in May, 1987 for general "negligence" and "mis-management" of airport operations.

Crampton claims he officially resigned, "by hand-written letter," prior to any alleged firing.

Lemaire suggests in its statement that Crampton acted in his own behalf as an employee of Lemaire, and induced the split between the air services company and the commission.

Consequently, Crampton and Garrison Aviation are being sued for \$140,000 for "inducing breach of contract" and for breaching a position of "trust" handed him by the air services company.

All defendants are cited in the statement of claim as the targets for a \$140,000 suit for "breach of contract", and "all defendants"

are the targets for an additional suit of \$100,000 for "exemplary and punitive damages."

Press criticized

Commission members openly criticized a story which appeared in the Friday edition of **The Free Press**, another Midland newspaper. Members called the headlines "premature" and referred to the story as "unfair" and "one-sided".

"There are always two sides to every story," one commission member said, "and they've never contacted us to get the other side."

After the meeting, the member admitted that any strong statements on behalf of the commission would now seem "retaliatory" and reactionary.

Meanwhile, commission members still await official notice of the Lemaire suit.

News briefs

Still no word on Wintario

The Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce is still awaiting word from Global Television regarding the acceptability of the Curling Club as a site for the June 9 Wintario Draw.

Chamber secretary Ruth Rose said yesterday Global has been in touch with her and has said that as far as it is concerned the draw can go ahead in the Curling Club, but it is still awaiting word from Bell Canada regarding some of the technical aspects of broadcasting from the Water Street building.

A further complication has been thrown into the works by the provincial government. The up-coming election is slated for the same night as the draw, and Global may have to change the time of the draw to accommodate election coverage.

The chamber is still finalizing plans for the Queen's Silver Jubilee picnic, to be held on June 26 at Bayfield Park, and for Summerfest, to be held July 28, 29 and 30, in conjunction with the town merchants' sidewalk sale.

Riding directors elected

Three Midland men were elected to the board of directors of the Simcoe East Riding Association at their annual meeting held last Wednesday in Orillia.

Rod Ferguson, a Midland lawyer with the firm of Teskey, Heacock, Ferguson and Gignac was named first vice-president of the association while Dick Platt and John Gignac were named as directors for the Midland area of the riding.

Ralph McDonald of Orillia was named party president. He succeeds Bill McGill as the first officer in the riding association.

Other directors named from the Midland area include Medonte reeve Ingram Amos and Midland lawyer Art Teskey. Both men will represent the Medonte area on the board.

Margaret Woloski and Tom Savage will represent the Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour areas on the board.

Mrs. Florence Burrows will represent Matchedash on the riding association board, but so far, there is no one representing Tay Township or the Village of Coldwater. Those representatives will be selected by the board of directors at a later meeting.

Will plant 2,000th tree

Members of the Penetanguishene Town Council and of the Penetanguishene Horticultural Society will be on hand tomorrow night at the trailer park, to commemorate the planting of the 2,000th tree in the town's tree planting program.

A joint effort of the town and the Horticultural Society, the program was started 12 or 13 years ago, when trees were planted on the boulevards throughout town.

For the first year, it was decided that no more trees could be planted on the boulevards, since many of the recently

planted trees would eventually have to be taken down again to make way for road widening projects.

At that point, the town and the horticultural society decided to make trees available to private citizens, to be planted on their own property. The trees are available at a cost of \$ 2.00, and are planted by the horticultural society. A number of extra trees have been planted in the town's parks as well.

The 2,000th tree will be planted at 7:30 tomorrow night.

Private builder can go first

The Penetanguishene Planning Board is now giving serious consideration to a proposal for an apartment building west of Church Street between Don and Yeo, thanks to a decision made at last week's town council meeting.

The board was worried that the proposed development, in conjunction with the proposed apartment building to be built in the municipally owned sub-division, would bring more multiple family units onto the market than are allowable under the town's housing policy.

Council decided that, since the purpose of the town sub-division is to take up the slack when private developers are not around to develop the town as required under the housing policy, the town should allow free enterprise to "go first".

Accordingly, council decided that if the developer in question were able to come up with a development acceptable to the planning board, the town would postpone the building of its own building and allow the developer to go ahead.



Getting into the paper work

Monday was opening day for the Student Manpower Centre in the Chamber of Commerce building on Main Street, Penetanguishene. Danielle Paille, left, is in charge of the operation, and here she takes an ap-

plication for employment from Sharon Beatty, a University of Toronto student who lives in Sunnyside, and is looking for a summer job in Penetanguishene. Sharon is a former student of Penetanguishene Secondary School.

Student Manpower open

Penetanguishene's summer student Manpower Office officially opened Monday morning at 8:00.

Despite the handicap of being without a phone until about 3:30 in the afternoon, Danielle Paille, the person in charge of the centre, managed to process about five applications during the course of the day.

More people are expected to use the centre when Penetanguishene Secondary School lets out for the summer.

One of the services available at the centre, aside from the usual services to job seekers and employers with jobs to fill, is the Ontario Youth Employment Program. Forms are available at the office for employers who wish to cash in

on the \$10 million program.

Under the program, businesses can receive \$1 per hour for each person they hire for a position which would not normally exist within the company. The person hired must be between the ages of 16 and 24, and the job must be a full time job, 35 to 40 hours a week, must be for a minimum of four weeks, and must be created after May 31.

Employers who feel they can make use of this program can get the appropriate form from any Manpower Centre, and the completed forms must be returned to the centre. The Manpower people then forward the forms to the province, and the province notifies the employers directly if their application has been approved.