

# Bernard refuses to comment after resignation

cont'd from p.1

Reeve Bernard, the object of most of the criticism during the evening, refused to comment after his resignation, saying only, "if you went through that, would you want to talk?" Bernard fired Miller over the phone August 25 after Miller allegedly refused to complete assigned work.

**Petition check**  
The crowd was incensed at the meeting

that Bernard was having a petition, with 567 names that was submitted to council September 2, checked for legitimacy. "I take offence to that," said Ken Whitehorn, spokesman for Victoria Harbour ratepayers and one of the people who signed the petition.

"It's quite possible there would be forgeries," replied Bernard.

"Will you prosecute if you find forgeries," continued Whitehorn.

"That's my business," said Bernard. "No, that's our business," hollered Diane Byng from the front row of the assembly, "you work for us."

It was Victoria Harbour citizen Doug Jackson who seemed to sum up the opinion of most present at the meeting. "Does town council now regard itself as a separate entity from the people?" he asked.

Followed conscience "I believe council is conscientious...and I

followed my conscience," replied Bernard.

The Reeve steadfastly refused to reveal specific reasons for the firing despite appeals from a number of persons, including Miller himself, to get the whole thing out in the open.

"I don't think the facts should be revealed because they're not nice," said Bernard. "There were allegations made that cannot be proven."

When asked if he thought there was anything incriminating in his past performances, Miller replied "no, not really."

Savage was the only member of council to hint at one of the "not nice" actions by Miller. In responding to one of the many ratepayers expounding on Miller's virtues, Savage said, "I hope you're just as fond of him this winter when your pipes freeze up and he holds a gun to your head like he did to us last winter."

He added Miller could operate "better than ever" if hired back. "He wouldn't listen to us (council) at all then."

**Supporters jubilant**  
Dragged away from hand-shaking supporters after council passed the motion to hold another

meeting, Miller discussed the reasons for his vast backing.

"I've always treated everyone fair," he said. "That's why I've received the support."

Would he return to work if council overturned their previous decision? "It would have to be under little different conditions," Miller responded. "If they (council) don't change their tune I might not." He refused to name the conditions.

Reeve Bernard said during the meeting "councillor Connelly and whoever else can throw all the mud they want at me, but I will not engage in mudslinging." However it was Bernard who took the last shot after handing in his resignation. "I hope

you're happy," he said to Connelly.

**Oath**  
"The last meeting everybody was talking about taking an oath (the oath of office)," said Connelly, "and then the first obstacle they run into they all up and quit."

"You're the obstacle," Belcher responded. Gray would not comment to The Times following the meeting. He said the paper "doesn't print the facts". He was repeatedly asked to be specific on the charges but would not respond.

Gray also added that he was going to give the Free Press (another Midland newspaper) a "big story" Tuesday morning. Bernard was at a residence "without a phone" Tuesday, according to his wife.

# CHAY is back on the air

Television station CKVR and radio station CHAY are limping back to life this week, after an airplane in which five people were killed, collided with a communications tower and forced both area media off the airwaves.

News director at CHAY, Bob Boland, said Monday that the station has been broadcasting for the last few days with about 20 watts of power - sufficient to serve the Barrie area only.

"By Wednesday however," Boland said, "the station will be

operating with 100 watts - enough power to serve a radius of about 30 miles."

The news director stated that while the quality of the sound "will not be terrific," the station will continue to make repairs until they return to their normal broadcasting power of 100,000 watts, probably within a month.

"The preparations for the replacement tower is somewhat complicated," Boland said. "The 400 foot tower to be loaned from the CBC to CKVR, and which we will be hooking up to eventually, is

shipped in pieces and we hope to be hooked up to it soon."

While the tower originally cost \$350,000 to erect, Boland said it will probably cost about \$1 million to replace.

CHAY's immediate losses are estimated at about \$100,000, but the news director said it would be difficult to estimate the loss in advertising revenues and in listeners.

"We hope that our listeners will bear with us," Boland added. "Some of the distance areas in our broadcasting area may be affected with

'snow' on the airwaves until we are back to normal," he explained.

Boland said that he was pleased however that the station was back on the air so quickly. The tragic accident occurred at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday killing five and knocking both the local television station and CHAY off the air. The radio station was back on the air at 2:55 the following afternoon.

"It's good psychologically to be back on the air," the CHAY newsman said.

# CKVR should be on air by weekend

"It's starting to look like a TV station again," said CKVR's Doug Garraway on Monday. "By Wednesday (today) they should finish assembling the tower and we could be back on the air by the weekend."

None of the staff of the Barrie television station have been laid off because of the accident last Wednesday.

"You name it, they're doing it," said Garraway. "Terry Thomas (CKVR's news anchorman) is outside working on a snow fence around the area and wearing a hard hat. Everybody's pitching in." The temporary tower being constructed was

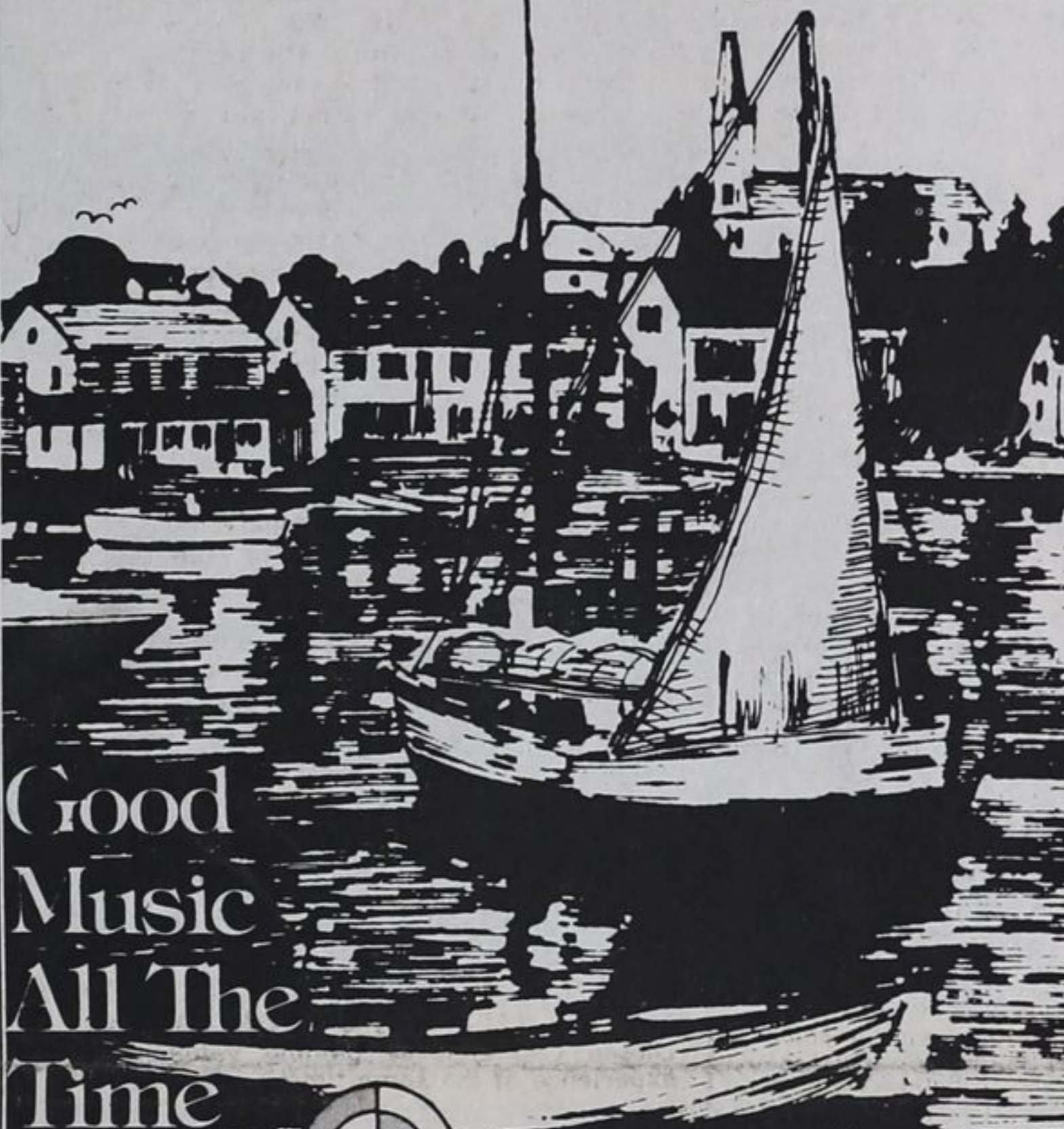
during the blackout. The CKVR lot was a "disaster area" the morning after the accident. Parts of the aircraft were strewn on the roof of the station and broken windows from the craft landed in the flower bed at the front door of the studio. The parking lot was full of rubble and a part of the tower punctured the roof of the studio.

"It was a tragedy," said Garraway, "but the pieces are being picked up and we're getting things back together sooner than we hoped possible."

The station has insurance to cover some of the time they'll be off the air.

"We've got a certain amount of loss of revenue insurance," said Garraway, "but it doesn't cover everything." One of the things it doesn't cover is the loss of revenue due to new advertisers not coming to the station

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