

Ralph Gray-prominent politician dies

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon for the late Ralph Gray, a prominent local realtor and deputy reeve of the village of Victoria Harbour.

Gray played an important role in the affairs of Victoria Harbour, and recently had been the driving force behind the municipality's attempts to receive approval for the construction of a badly needed sewage system.

Monday morning, during his life. Mr. Harbour reeve, Theo

Mr. Gray died suddenly at his Victoria Harbour home Sunday. He was in his 50th year.

Mr. Gray was a personal friend of mine, and we're all rather shocked to learn of his death. He's had a great

deal to do recently with the water and sewer business here, and I think if we get these sewers, he'd be very happy," said

Reeve Bernard. "Ralph had been a sick man for a long time. He did a lot of work for the community and he'll be sadly missed," the Harbour reeve commented.

Upon election to Harbour council in 1975, Mr. Gray began to play an instrumental role in Harbour politics when he was first elected deputy reeve in 1975. His father had served on village council years previously, and Mr. Gray himself had lived in the Harbour for 30 of his 49 years.

He spent his early years in the Victoria Harbour area, and at the age of 22, went to work as a construction superintendent for a large construction firm. During the 19 years he spent with the company, he was involved in large scale construction projects ranging from the building of the Trans-Canada Highway to the construction of racetracks in the United States.

In 1970, he returned to village affairs, acting as a representative on Simcoe County Council, serving on both village and planning boards, sitting on the Huronia District Hospital Board, and chairing the water committee of Harbour council.

Work experience

Calling all students who want some experience in the business world and calling all businesses who want good, reliable help for a week, free of charge.

This year once again, Midland Secondary School and Penetanguishene Secondary School are holding a "work experience week", April 24-28. Secretarial and clerical students as well as some accounting students will be given a week of practical, on-the-job experience.

According to Roger Flint, Business education director from MSS, this is the 17th year the program has been offered at MSS. Last year, he says, the response from businesses volunteering to take

students was the best ever. Mr. Flint says the experience the students get is invaluable. In years past, before the unemployment situation got out of hand, some students would end up with a job. However, even if they don't, they get "contacts in the business world, and an understanding of business functions which is valuable in interviews."

The program is voluntary. Students apply and are interviewed by Mr. Flint. Some of them don't get accepted because of attendance, marks or attitude, says Mr. Flint. They are expected to keep up their school work during the work period.

Once they are accepted, they are matched up with a business. Each business which applies for a student must supply a list of requirements. Mr. Flint says he prefers the students to get a real work experience where they start and finish in regular office hours and do the work expected in that office. He says this presents a real challenge for students who live out of town.

Most of the students who are placed from MSS wind up with placements in Midland. Students at PSS end up in either Midland or Penetanguishene. Mr. Flint says that some students go as far as Toronto or Barrie. Last year, he says, they had more businesses applying for students than they had students to fill them.

About 30 students have applied for the work week this year. This is the first year that accounting students have been given the opportunity to take part in the program.

Mr. Flint is still waiting to hear from all the businesses interested in participating in the program.

FASTMATICS CHAMPIONSHIP

during Education Week sponsored by Penetanguishene Secondary School.

PARKVIEW vs HURON PARK live on TV

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Auto thefts keep OPP busy

Midland OPP were kept busy this past weekend investigating a string of auto thefts.

The first auto theft incident they received report of occurred between midnight and 2:30 a.m., on April 1. Cyril Charlebois of Viel Street in Penetanguishene reported that he had abandoned his red and white 1973 Oldsmobile on Concession 16 of Tiny Township after it had a flat tire. He told police that he returned to the vehicle at midnight, and made sure that it was still secure.

Returning two and a half hours later, however, Mr. Charlebois discovered that it had been stolen. Police say that the

ignition keys had been left in the car.

On April 2, an OPP cruiser stopped a vehicle on Highway 69 on suspicion that it was an auto reported stolen from the Highwayman Inn in Orillia.

Police subsequently charged two adults and a juvenile with possession of stolen goods valued at over \$200.

Police say that the three subsequently admitted under questioning to the theft of a citizen's band radio and a vehicle from the Bracebridge OPP area, and another auto from the Hamilton-Wentworth OPP area.

The two adults have been remanded to Barrie provincial court.

Guild attends PR workshop

The Huronia Crafts Guild was invited to attend a workshop in public relations for arts groups on Saturday, April 2.

This day-long session was co-sponsored by Arts Etobicoke and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Over twenty representatives of central Ontario arts groups attended, coming from London, Kitchener, Adjala, Orillia, etc.

Speakers were Vera Norman of the Canada Council Touring Office, and Joe Lewis who is Information Director for the Ontario Arts Council. Both have had many years experience in the public relations business, working for performing and visual arts groups among other clients.

Topics covered included aims of public relations such as increasing public awareness, building audiences, expanding facilities and promotion of activities. The speakers dealt in depth with specific techniques of public relations including compiling press lists, writing press releases, forming press contacts, planning publicity campaigns, public service announcements and interviews. This most informative session is one of a series from which Ontario arts groups will benefit.

Pottery Demonstration

The Simcoe County Arts and Crafts Association general meeting on March 30 featured a talk and demonstration by potter Heather Nord of the Barn Studio in Stayner. Heather spoke to a sizeable audience about clay, glazes and techniques of making pottery. Her work included functional pieces as well as decorative and sculptural pottery. She also clarified the difference between hand-thrown or hand-built pottery as opposed to molded greenware, or what is popularly known as "ceramics".

SCACA general meetings are being held in a number of Simcoe County towns, with the general public and local arts groups invited to attend. Each meeting will feature a session dealing with a specific craft, practised by a local SCACA member.

Orillia Guild of Artists

Representatives from the Huronia Crafts Guild were invited to attend a general meeting of the Orillia Guild of Artists to discuss the plans and goals of our Guild, exchange information, and display some of the work of our local artists and craftspeople.

The two Guilds have many areas of common interest and experience, and the Orillia Guild is interested in sharing workshops, newsletters and supply information with us.

The Orillia Guild is comfortably located in the old police station in downtown Orillia. From there, they run a very active program for senior citizens and are involved in many after-school and Saturday programs for students.

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