

Friday comment

Seatbelts, lower speed limit laws are saving lives

More often than not politicians and newspapers are at odds. But this time, we've found a set of regulations set down at the provincial government level that we can wholeheartedly support.

According to statistics release this week by Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communications James Snow, traffic-related deaths on our province's highways have dropped to their lowest levels since 1962.

Considering the ever increasing numbers of automobiles on the road and the upgrading of roadways in the province that's quite a startling figure.

While it is true that the number of people injured in traffic mishaps in Ontario has risen 14.2 per cent over 1976, the total number of people killed in traffic accidents has been on the decrease since the 1976 figure of 1,511

1,418 in 1977.

In December 1977 alone there was a decrease of 24.2 per cent from December 1976.

Ministry officials are pointing to the seatbelt and lower speed limit legislation passed two years ago as a major factor in these statistics and back them up with more.

Last year 377 drivers without seatbelts were killed in comparison to 144 killed while wearing belts.

An even more staggering set of numbers say that 254,499 drivers wearing belts escaped injury, while only 46,243 not wearing belts were as fortunate.

Obviously the laws passed making seatbelts mandatory and lowering the limit on major highways from 100 to 80 kilometres per hour are helping to save lives.

Local tourist sites are preparing to open

by Terri Howell and David Fuller

There's a flurry of activity going on this week at the local tourist sites in order to prepare them for opening weekend.

On May 20, the beginning of Victoria Day weekend, all of Midland and Penetanguishene's local tourist sites will open. According to Ste. Marie Among the Hurons manager Bill Byrick, "it will be hectic."

At Ste. Marie maintenance crews are busily repairing and rebuilding buildings on the site. In the past few weeks the Indian hospital has been redone, according to maintenance man Ray Piitz.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. Piitz was building a palisade. He says it takes common sense and a lot of imagination to do carpentry work at Ste. Marie.

"It's a completely different job here from any other job I've ever done," he said.

The summer students who will work on the site as tour guides start on Monday. According to Bill Byrick, they will undergo a one week orientation program. On May 14 local residents will be invited to visit Ste. Marie. Admission will be free.

Across the road at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre things are not quite as hectic. The displays can be worked on over the winter since there is an indoor display hall.

Bob Whittam, head biologist, said some of the summer students have started and are on an orientation course now. On Wednesday afternoon they were taken on a canoe trip similar to the one they will be taking marsh visitors on this summer.

In Midland work crews are busily preparing the Huron Indian Village operated by the Y's Men's Club.

Over the winter employees on a winter project revamped main lobby and worked on the theatre.

The Huron Indian Village is 35-years-old and needs constant attention according to one of the workmen.

On Wednesday afternoon Peter Molloy and Kim Gamna were

working on a long house. Old elm bark had been peeled off so they could repair the understructure Vines which they found in the bush were used to securely tie the supports in place.

Over in Penetanguishene various work crews are busy at the Naval and Military Establishment. In one of the log houses Nancy Hunter and Dan Beausoleil swept and cleaned.

According to Mr. Beausoleil they started working on the buildings on Monday. By Wednesday afternoon they were on their fifth and had one more to go.

Miss Hunter and Mr. Beausoleil are summer tour guides at the site. The rest of the summer students are arriving on Monday for an orientation program.

May 20 will be the start of a busy weekend and a busy summer.



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Letters to the editor

Praise for Howell, Whittington for cancer coverage

Dear Editor:

Now that the Cancer Society's April campaign is over the Midland Unit would like to thank you and your staff for helping to make our campaign a success.

Both Mr. Bruce Hold (Campaign Chairman) and I have contacted Terri Howell on numerous occasions and have had her co-operation. The articles written by Shirley Whittington have helped to present our never-ending battle against cancer in a very straight

forward manner.

When our campaign figure is complete I will notify Terri so that the news can be passed on to your readers. At that time I will also write a thank you letter to our canvassers which we would appreciate being published on your editorial page.

Sincerely,
Gwen Patterson,
Publicity Chairman,
Midland Unit.

University program seeking assistance from the public

Dear Editor:

I would like to enlist your co-operation again this year in assisting to carry out a research program on Ruffed Grouse supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources. If you could bring the following information to the attention of your readers, I would be most appreciative.

As part of a continuing research program on Ruffed Grouse at the University of Guelph, we are again attempting to collect a sample of eggs from the wild. The eggs are required to provide grouse for use in the research project.

Because of the great difficulty in locating nests, it is necessary to have the co-operation of as many people as possible. Anyone locating a nest within 200 km (125 miles) of Guelph is asked to mark the location, but not to disturb the nest. He should contact us by phoning

collect to: Betty Campbell (519) 824-4120 ext. 2703 during office hours.

At other times, call collect to: A.L.A. Middleton (519) 836-3033, Allan Garbutt, (519) 836-5346.

We will come and pick up the eggs as soon as possible, and will pay the locator one dollar per egg for his trouble.

The number of eggs collected in an area will not be sufficient to harm the local grouse population. All captive birds are, of course, given the best possible care.

Your co-operation last year was most appreciated. The birds raised from eggs we collected have allowed us to make a number of significant findings.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,
Alex L.A. Middleton,
Associate Professor

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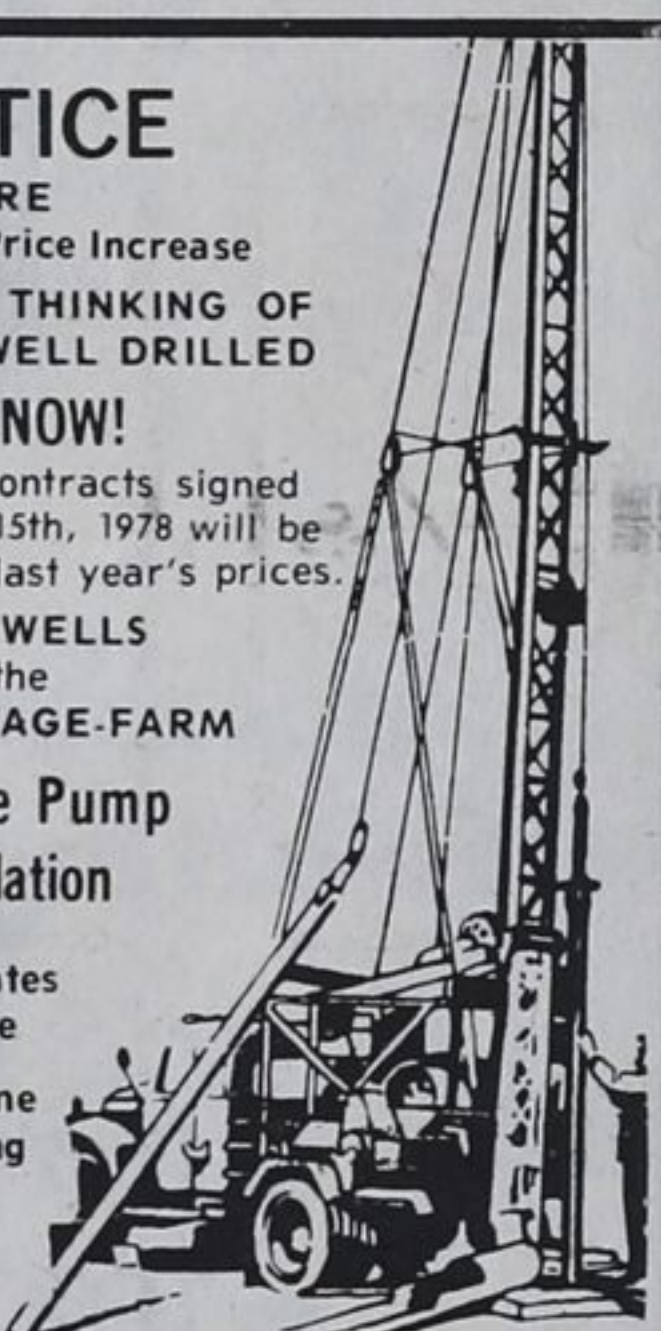
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