

# Business section of town should be moved-Task Force

After four months of study and investigation, Penetanguishene's Downtown Revitalization Task Force is ready to present its findings. A public meeting will be held at the municipal offices tonight, and the four-member group will present its finding and recommendations at that time.

The Task Force released a press kit on Monday, basically explaining their major recommendations.

"Cosmetic changes will not be sufficient to revitalize the downtown area, and major changes are going to have to be made", Task Force chairman John Gignac said in the press release.

The major recommendation made by the Task Force is that the downtown section of Penetanguishene be relocated. The business section should be moved to the area of the High Poyntz Mall, according to the Task Force. The municipality should acquire the mall, by way of negotiation or expropriation, the report said, and properties located between Gerrow's Flower Shop and Ken's

Esso should also be acquired by the town. The Task Force suggests that residences on those properties be demolished, and the landscaping changed to provide a major entrance to the plaza as well as parking. It was also suggested that some reworking take place on the mall to make it more suitable for the business core, and eventually the mall should run towards Main Street.

After properties have been acquired, and modified to suit commercial purposes, the Task Force recommends they be sold, either to a company owned by local merchants, or to individual merchants on a condominium basis.

If sold on a condominium basis, each merchant in the mall would actually own the section of the mall where his/her business was located.

A second suggestion made by the Task Force involves the property along the Main Street hill. Presently, that property is zoned general-commercial, and is occupied by businesses and apartments, but the Task

Force feels that the hill is not suitable as a viable business section.

"We believe that the hill area is not suited as a commercial area because of the motor vehicle traffic and parking problems and because of the problems associated with pedestrian access," the report said.

It is suggested in the report that the zoning regulations be changed so that Main Street along the hill would be zoned medium density residential. According to the Task Force the existing buildings may be very well suited to medium density town house dwellings, and properly done the hill could be a very attractive place to live and properties could retain their value. Businesses presently located on the hill should be encouraged to move to the High Poyntz Mall area, the report said.

The Task Force also made some recommendations regarding the parking situation in the downtown section of Penetanguishene. They suggest the town should maintain and improve the small parking lot behind the

Water and Light Building on Main Street. Other possible parking lots are behind the Olympia Restaurant, and Fiesta Hairstyling Shop, and behind the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Charlebois Real Estate building.

Land in those areas should be developed as parking area with "pedestrian walkways leading to Robert Street and on to the main street", the group recommended.

It is also suggested that the town help to pay developing these parking lots, though some of the land is not owned by the municipality.

That the town dock and the Waterfront Park should become a "major attraction for the people of the town of Penetanguishene and for tourists", was another suggestion made by the Task Force in the pre-meeting report.

Waterfront Park should be the major recreational area for the town, the report said, and should also contain a number of attractions for use during all seasons as opposed to just the summer months.

According to the Task Force, the dock area should be the site of "first-rate" hotel-motel complex, and the municipality should "actively seek out a major hotel-motel" and make appropriate zoning changes to accommodate such a facility. The group feels that a recreational complex of that sort would act as a drawing card for people all over the Georgian Bay area, and would eventually increase the amount of business being transacted in the downtown section of town.

Land presently used by Aquarobic and Penetanguishene Motor Sales should be acquired by the town, according to the report, so that a major entrance to the Waterfront Park could be constructed in that area.

Task Force secretary Ken Cousineau concluded the report by saying that the suggestions contained in the report were only part of what the group wishes to discuss at tonight's public meeting. Many other smaller and related proposals will be discussed also, Mr. Cousineau said.

There are three major factors that should be taken into consideration before any development takes place in Penetanguishene, according to the Task Force. Those factors are, the natural beauty of Penetanguishene, the French-English heritage of Penetanguishene and the proud history of Penetanguishene.

Mr. Cousineau stressed that the report was made up of "draft proposals", explaining that all ideas put forth by the Task Force can be revised by either members of the public or municipal council.

Another area investigated by Task Force members was the financial feasibility of a downtown revitalization, and how financing would be broken down. That will also be discussed at the meeting.

"In particular," the report said, "we plan on discussing the Downtown Revitalization Program offered by the provincial government."

If Penetanguishene can qualify for that program, the government will provide some subsidy for the project, up to a certain percentage of the cost.

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## New MHC appointments announced

The Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene has a new medical director, and a new administrator. The two appointments were announced by the Ministry of Health on Monday, and both will take effect on June 1, 1978.

Dr. Ronald Stokes has been appointed medical director of the MHC. Dr. Stokes replaces the recently retired Dr. Barry Boyd. The new medical director has worked as director of the Bracebridge Community Mental Health Service, since 1972.

Dr. Stokes graduated from the



Wayne McKerrow

University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine in 1951. He then obtained his specialist certificate in Psychiatry, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canada, in 1963. Dr. Stokes is a member of that organization, and of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, England.

The new medical director of the MHC has held many positions since his graduation. He worked as assistant director, Forensic Clinic, at the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital, and also as the director of psychiatry at the Ministry of Correctional Services. He held a position as the assistant superintendent and chief of staff at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, and also at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto.

Dr. Stokes is also an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto. He has acted as a consultant for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the National Parole Board as well as many organizations in Ontario.

Presently, Dr. Stokes is the president of the Ontario Psychiatric Association.

Wayne McKerrow has been named administrator of the Mental Health Centre. He will replace Les Moricz, who is leaving his position at the MHC to go to Toronto. Mr. McKerrow has been administrator of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital in Toronto since 1975. He received a Bachelor of Science-Pharmacy degree from the University of Toronto in 1964.

After working for several years as a pharmacist, Mr. McKerrow returned to university and completed the graduate program in hospital administration in 1970.

He joined the Ministry of Health as a consultant in hospital administration and has held administrative positions in the Aurora, Whitby, and Woodstock Mental Health Centres during the period from 1970 to 1972.

In September, 1972, he was appointed administrator of the Adult Occupational Centre in Edgar, where he remained until he was appointed to his present position at Lakeshore Hospital.

Present MHC administrator Les Moricz has been appointed Assistant Director, of the Psychiatric Hospitals Branch of the Ministry of Health.



Ronald Stokes

## Four local men injured in boating accident

A 30 foot sailboat is at the bottom of Midland Bay and four local men suffered multiple injuries as the result of a boating accident Monday night near the Great Lakes

Machine Works. Midland OPP reports that at about 11:30 p.m. Monday a 21 foot inboard - outboard pleasure craft driven by Patrick Laurin of

Midland collided in darkness with a sailboat moored in Midland Bay. The sailboat was unmanned, and after the collision, quickly sunk.

Apparently after striking the sailing vessel, the motorboat careened and collided with another unmanned sailboat which was moored in the bay. As the Laurin boat struck the second sailing craft, some of the motorboat's occupants were thrown into the water and had to be rescued by other passengers.

Laurin sustained multiple fractures, cuts and bruises in the crash, and three other occupants of the motorboat also received cuts and bruises. Laurin and another passenger were taken to hospital for treatment.

Police describe the Laurin boat as a write off, and estimate damage to the other vessels as running into tens of thousands of dollars. The incident is still under investigation by OPP, and no charges have as yet been laid.



Write-off

It's not hard to see why Midland OPP are calling this 21 foot fiberglass pleasure craft a total write off. The boat, belonging to Patrick Laurin of Midland was involved in a smash up late Monday night that sent two of its four occupants to hospital, sunk a 30 foot sailboat, and damaged another. Police haven't laid any charges as yet.

Staff photo

## Autopsy shows drowning caused death

The inquest into the death of nine-year-old Tracy McCrimmon will learn that the autopsy performed on the girl did not reveal any other cause of death than drowning.

### Skeleton was at least 100 years old

The skeleton found by a man digging out the basement under his Tay township house is at least 100 years old and not 50 years old as earlier reports indicated.

According to Constable MacKay of the OPP the skeleton was examined at the Centre for Forensic Sciences in Toronto and

coroner Dr. Robert Besley said Monday. The McCrimmon girl was discovered unconscious at the bottom of the YMCA pool May 20 during a public swimming session,

and died the next day.

Dr. Besley said the autopsy report has been completed, and will be presented to the inquest as evidence when it convenes.

He said he has been talking to the Coroner's Office in Toronto, making arrangements for the inquest. Undecided at this point is who will conduct the proceedings, and who will be called to testify, the coroner explained.

Dr. Besley said the inquest will "Probably be held in Midland", and added that he would like to see it get under way as soon as possible.

"Personally, I'd like to see it next week," Dr. Besley said.

## Gardhouse has heart attack - resting at HDH

Former MSS principal and Area 3 supervisor for the Simcoe County Board of Education Al Gardhouse is reported to be resting comfortably in Huronia District Hospital after suffering a heart attack.

Mr. Gardhouse was taken to hospital Saturday around the noon hour.

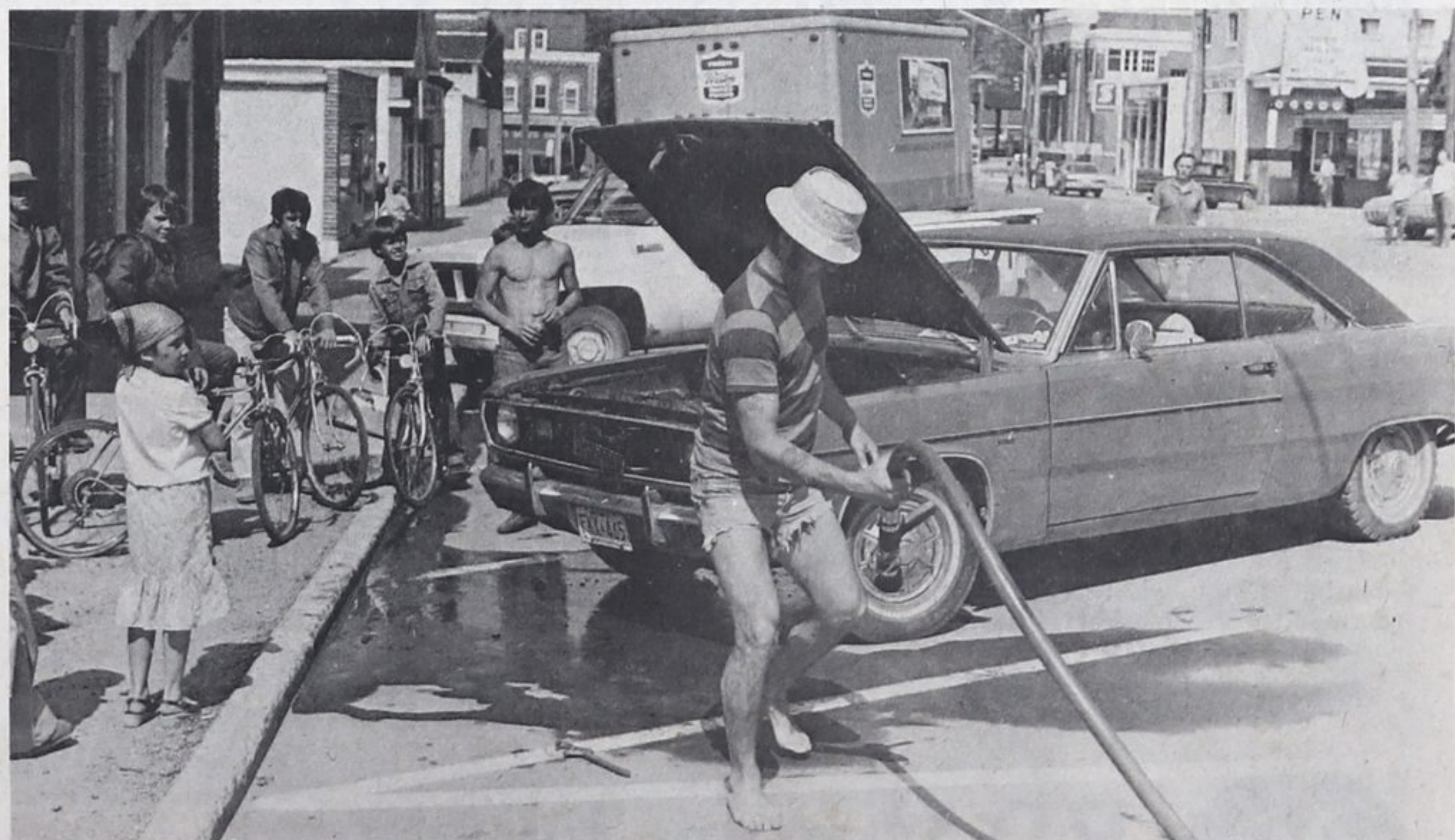
He was reported under observation in HDH's intensive care unit.

time, details of the meeting were not available, although it was learned from Hinnells committee member Paul Henry last Thursday that some Y board members had expressed a preference that John Gorman not attend.

YMCA board member Jean Hartman said Monday that last Thursday's announcement have some bearing on whether Mr. Gorman was allowed into the meeting.

He was reported under observation in HDH's intensive care unit.

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### Car fire

Firemen from the Penetanguishene Fire Department didn't have far to go to extinguish this minor blaze. Caused by a short

circuit in the engine of the car. The vehicle was parked right across the street from the fire hall when the alarm went off, and one

truck drove across the road to hook up hoses and extinguish the blaze. Damage to the car was minimal, and there were no injuries.