

# Guild members get lesson in silkscreening

Thirteen members of the Guild gathered at the Castle Village Gift Shop on May 24 for an all day session in learning the basics of silkscreening, given by Paul DesRoches.

Paul DesRoches presently owns and runs the well stocked Gift Shop. His various occupations in the past included a stint at silkscreening which proved to be a very successful business venture. Members were shown several examples of his plaques depicting early scenes from Canada's history.

Silkscreen printing is the youngest of the graphic arts media. Since 1907 methods and techniques have been further developed and made more efficient by many craftspeople and artists who began with a simple paper stencil and progressed to the photographic techniques. Silkscreening is not confined to artists and craftspeople but has broad commercial and industrial applications. Midland has been well known as a commercial silkscreening centre for many years. Chances are that the control panels on your stove or

washer were printed using a silkscreen process. Designs and decorations on pottery, china, glass and plastic are often applied by silkscreen. It is also much used in the textile industry for applying patterns on cloth. One of the most contemporary applications is the printing of words and pictures on the front of tee shirts.

The process demonstrated by Paul was a straight forward photographic technique utilizing simply made equipment and readily available supplies. Polyester fabric was stretched on a sturdy wooden frame and stapled in place. A photo sensitive emulsion was wiped on the fabric and the frame was then placed in a dark container to dry. The design was drawn on a special plastic film and when the fabric was completely dry this design was exposed on the screen using a simple light box.

All members participated in the final step of the process of drawing the ink across and through the screen with a squeegee to create the design on a piece

of wood or paper inserted beneath the screen. started on his own silkscreen project. The Guild is indebted to Paul for demonstrating that skills, ability and generosity of time exist within our own community.

Applications for the use of silkscreening by the artist and craftspeople are endless and each member completed the day full of enthusiasm and eagerness to

## Municipality plans to develop Huronia Park

Huronia Park, a small municipally owned park on Fox Street in Penetanguishene should be improved to bring it up to standards, town council decided at their last meeting.

The park is presently leased to Mr. and Mrs. Herb Desjardins, but the facilities provided by the park don't meet Ministry of Industry and Tourism regulations.

According to a report presented to council by administration and finance chairman Ron Bellisle, the park has facilities sufficient to serve only 80 people. There are 20 camp sites and 10 cottage cabin structures in the park, and all are served by a central washroom.

"The buildings are old and the cost of renovation of these structures cannot be justified on the basis of a short lease," Mr. Bellisle stated in his report.

Since the condition of the property is poor, the municipality should either grant a long term lease to the present operators, or regain control of the park, the report said. By granting a long term lease, it would be possible for the present operators to make improvements to the property over a period of time.

Alternatively, if the park comes back into the

control of the town, it could be developed as a municipal park, similar to the trailer park on Robert Street.

The park could be developed under the Park Assistance Act, according to Mr. Bellisle, and in that case the provincial government would subsidize up to 50 per cent of the total cost.

He also pointed out, however, that if the park were to be developed under the Parks Assistance Act, new buildings would have to be constructed as the present buildings would not qualify for that program.

The administration and finance committee have discussed the matter,

and they made a recommendation to council that the town regain control of the park, after the present lease expires.

It was also suggested that the Ministry of Industry and Tourism be contacted to find out what improvements would be required to the park to bring the facilities up to the standards required by Section 33 of the Regulations made under the Tourism Act.

The Arena, parks and recreation board will be working with the administration and finance committee in the near future, the report concluded, to establish

methods of development for Huronia Park.

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The Penetanguishene Hotel was one of the largest and most luxurious hotels in the country. It was a resting

place for prominent politicians and businessmen, and even royalty at some point. Photo by David Dupuis

## Hotel was a luxury spot

by David Dupuis

To one who is foreign to this town, Penetanguishene is a small southern Ontario town in which many inhabitants speak French and where a mental institution is located, usually the latter being remembered most.

Penetanguishene is a town so full of history it is excitingly unending. Most of us know that the town was first officially occupied by a Naval and military establishment at the North end of the bay.

But few of us know that Penetanguishene was once a booming industrial town occupied by complete railway and shipping services, five hotels (one of which was one of Canada's most luxurious) and a successful racetrack and horses, large sawmills, factories, and various churches.

Having been born and raised in Penetanguishene, I have come to appreciate the who, what, when, where and why aspects of our history.

Being hired to work at the Centennial museum for the summer was, I thought, a good place to gain researching experience that a young journalist should have. The museum has been that and a lot more.

A week and a half at the museum has shown me not only a town's history but also its character.

And also it's a museum, the town can jointly take pride in.

Dan McNamara, and Jane Huson, my working companions, we plan through research and donations to expand the historical artifacts displayed at the museum.

So I have decided to inform you of Penetanguishene history in this column and to show you what our town's beginning was like and give you a peek at what the museum displays, but only a peek!

What better way to start off this weekly display of our historical town than to talk of The Penetanguishene.

I found it suitable because it characterized the rich or booming atmosphere which the town had in the late 19 and early 20th centuries.

The Penetanguishene was a place where wealthy businessmen, celebrities and sometimes royal guests stopped to relax, at a time when wine was cheap and fish were plentiful.

The community became a tourist mecca hosting guests such as the Seagram Family, large distillery builders, and the Wright brothers, the

aviation pioneers.

It was built in 1889 offering everything from manicured bowling, tennis lawns, an orchestra that played through the lunch hour to full electricity, steam radiators and fireplaces.

Transportation to and from Penetanguishene was easy as it was the stopping point for such passenger ships as "The Georgiana", "The Waubic", "The City of Toronto", and the "John Lee".

From a pamphlet published earlier on in the

century the hotel prided itself on the "annual patronage of the best class of people" and stated their aim "to provide the best first class hotel at the lowest possible prices, consistent with creditable maintenance".

Mr. George Robinson was the manager of the hotel which was completely destroyed by fire in 1916.

The picture, is a replica of the 3x3 ft original displayed in the Centennial Museum on Burke St.

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Mr. E. Jardine (left) is shown here accepting the \$400.00 TRAVEL VOUCHER from PIZZA DELIGHT MANAGER Frank Maguire.

Mr. Jardine entered his ballot here in Midland for the special BAHAMAS PROMOTION put on by the PIZZA DELIGHT stores throughout Canada. He plans to use the \$400.00 voucher for a trip to British Columbia this summer.



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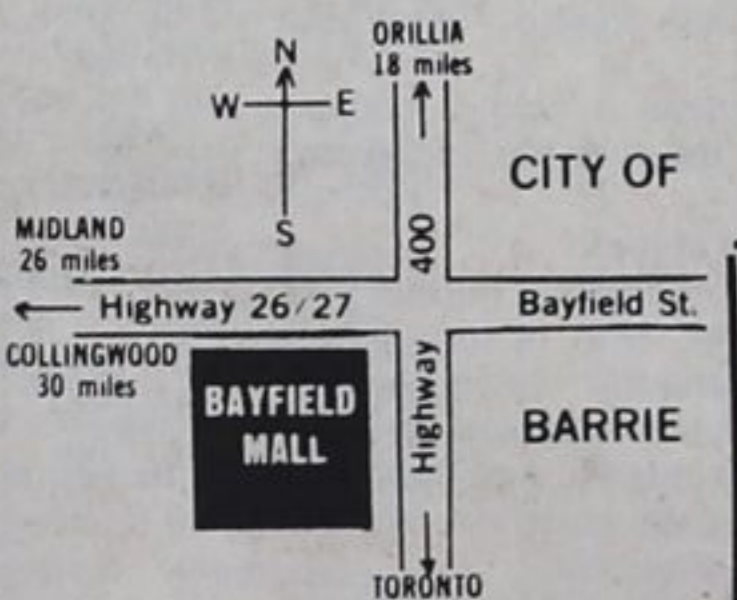
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