

First settlement was in area



by Dave Dupuis

Looking through the various material we have at the museum I came across a most interesting picture and an "Official Programme of Tercentenary". Interestingly enough, the cover of that 1921 program had the same angel on it that appeared on the cover of the town's Centennial Program published in 1975.

In "The Canadian" magazine in June of 1930 it was written or quoted that, "In All Canada's history, there is no page that glows with such a clear flame of courage and devotion as the story of the early Jesuit missionaries, they were a company always knowing no companionship, needing no sympathy, moving

always forward, before the pioneers. The path they trod led into endless wastes, unknown, untried, unfriendly, where ease and comfort, the sure promise of life were left behind to be replaced by hardship and loneliness and in the end toward a tortured death."

On August 1, 1615, Samuel de Champlain, later to be the first Governor of Canada, landed at Toancho, today the North West Basin on Penetanguishene Bay. Father LeCaron, a Recollet priest accompanied by 12 French had arrived a few days previous.

By the time 1915 came around, which would be the ideal time to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Champlain's and LeCaron's landing, the country was involved in

the first great war and celebrations would be impossible.

Shortly before 1921, a young priest just out of the seminary, by the name of Father Athol Murray came to town and he felt it necessary to celebrate the occasion as soon after as possible.

Therefore he organized a tremendous "Old Home Week" which ran August 1-5, 1921.

Like the early Jesuits who were the driving force around Huronia in the 1600's, Father Murray was the driving force in the organization of the Tercentenary Celebrations.

"Old Home Week" involved horse races, banquets, a baseball

tournament, War Veterans Day, band concerts, open air entertainment, historical pageants, water sports, a football tournament, a soldiers march past and a "Grand Finale Old Home Ball".

Highlights of the celebrations are still clearly visible today. First it started with the unveiling of the Angels at the entrance of the town and the unveiling of different plaques and statues around town.

It also marked the first proof of an official treaty between the Huron and Iroquois nations with three Iroquois and two Huron chiefs burying a hatchet on top of which a large boulder was placed.

The celebrations of 1921 are a reminder that the Penetanguishene Peninsula on which Toancho and various other villages were located became the first settlement west of Quebec to be inhabited by Europeans.



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A picture taken during the Tercentenary celebrations of 1921. The picture is in front of St. Ann's Church. Priest in foreground at far left is Father Athol Murray.

Park to be re-named

A suggestion by Midland's Board of Parks Management to change the name of Pete Peterson Park to the Lion's Club Park was referred to the Public Safety committee after a lengthy debate at a meeting of council on Monday.

The parks board asked the name be changed in order to recognize the Lion's Club contribution to the park. There memorandum also suggested changing the name of Huronia Park to Pete Peterson Park.

The suggestion sparked a lot of comment from the councillors. Several were against changing the name and others felt it was a good suggestion on the part of the parks board.

Deputy-Reeve Bill Ogilvie was the first to speak. He opposed the renaming of Pete Peterson park merely to recognize the Lions Club contribution. He pointed out that other municipalities have the names of sports greats for their pools and parks and haven't changed them to accommodate another person or group.

"I would be very opposed to these changes," he said.

Alderman Bill Orr told council he is against naming any park or street

after someone unless they are a Prime Minister or Premier since a few generations hence no one will remember who the park is named after.

"If we name it the Lions Club Park they may take a continuing interest in it," he suggested.

OMB process starts

Lawyers working for the Robin's Point Ratepayer's Association will begin this week launching an appeal against the Ontario Municipal Board's decision not to allow environmentally-oriented testimony at the Hearings into the proposed sewage system for Victoria Harbour when they resume in August.

The association has retained the services of Vaughan and Williams, a Toronto law firm specializing in environmental litigations, particularly those involving the construction of sewage treatment plants.

The ratepayers are appealing the OMB decision on the grounds that they believe the board has a legal responsibility to hear testimony into the possible environmental effects of the proposed plant. They are primarily concerned about the planned positioning of the effluent outflow pipe in Sturgeon Bay.

Busy week-end for police

The weekend was a busy one for Penetanguishene police. Among the incidents investigated were a number of erratic drivers. On June 9, John Wilson of Alliston was charged with impaired driving and excess alcohol. Mr. Wilson, 37 was pulled over because his car was not under proper control.

On June 10, a Midland man was charged with impaired driving and excess alcohol by Penetanguishene police. William Sammons of First Street in Midland was charged after his car was pulled over.

James Gunther of Cooks Lake in Penetanguishene was charged by police after a disturbance in the parking lot of a local hotel. The incident occurred about 1:30 a.m., and Mr. Gunther was charged with causing a disturbance by being drunk. When he was escorted to the police cruiser by Constable Tiffen of the Penetanguishene Police Department, Mr. Gunther proceeded to kick the window out of the rear of the cruiser.

He was subsequently charged with causing mischief to public property.

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