



Vol. 13, No. 20, Folio 39 Wednesday, May 14, 1980 40 pages, 25 cents

Helicopter ambulance

There's some good news out of Queen's Park these days, the Ministry of Health's helicopter ambulance service, which often frequents hospitals at Midland and Penetanguishene will continue on a permanent basis.

The management board of cabinet approved continuance of the service which literally got off the ground for a trial period back in September of 1977.

Iniated as a one-year pilot project in September 1977, the helicopter program was later extended to March 1980.

This allowed the Ambulance Services Branch to prepare an evaluation report on its effectiveness, compared with alternative methods of delivering care to the critically injured across the province.

Most cost-effective method

Wayne Stott, manager of the province's air ambulance program, said the helicopter was compared in all respects with other ways of providing critical-care service, such as land ambulance, critical-care vans and fixed-wing aircraft.

It was found the most efficient and cost-effective method.

"Because it's impossible for local hospitals in small Ontario communities to match the capabilities of the larger centres, the only practical alternative is to bring critical patients to specialized hospitals by the quickest and best way," said Stott. "From our evaluation, the helicopter proved to be that way."

Staff specially trained

The service will continue to operate with a complement of six staff, specially trained in critical care methods and familiar with the land ambulance system.

The helicopter service is designed to cover the Niagara Peninsula, the Bruce Peninsula, Parry Sound, and the Minden, Haliburton, Trenton and Bancroft areas, but has flown as far as North Bay, Sudbury, Earleton, Ottawa and Chatham. Individual decisions are made on each case.

Last year the helicopter transported 232 critical patients.



Letter to New France

Sunday's open house at Ste. Marie among the Hurons and the Naval and Military Establishments was a popular event. In the meseum at Ste. Marie, Jana Luker of Guelph acts out

the role of a woman in Normandy, France, writing to her "brother" who is a *donne* at Ste. Marie. Jana stays at her parents cottage in Port McNicoll during the summers.

Fired airport manager seeks legal action

Former Huronia Airport manager Joe Rezecki who was fired by Garrison Aviation on March 24 of this year has taken legal action against Garrison's

president Keith Rich, a popular Toronto broadcaster.

Rezecki told this newspaper yesterday that he is seeking compensation for

"wrongful dismissal."

The former airport manager had been connected with Garrison for two years prior to his firing. According to Rezecki he was "chief pilot, chief flying instructor, chief radio examiner, chief everything."

Rich says Rezecki, as president of the company held 51 per cent of the shares while he had 49 per cent.

Rich could not be reached for comment.

It isn't the first time legal problems have faced an operator of the airport or the airport commission itself.

Several years ago, LemAire Air Services was dismissed by the commission from managing the airport. Tom Lembo, owner-operator of LemAire later sued Garrison Aviation, Peter Crampton manager of the airport (a former employee of LemAire) and the airport commission.

Later action against Crampton and Garrison was dropped after Garrison worked out an agreement with LemAire.



Young inspector

This youngster got a close-up look at an old firearm used in the daily drills at the Establishments. Although the morning was cloudy with periods of

drizzle, the sun shone brightly in the afternoon to bring out the visitors to Open House. The site opens for the season this Saturday.

Citizen briefly

Midland, Penetang on Governor General's itinerary

Governor-General Ed Schreyer and his wife will also be paying a visit to Midland and Penetanguishene when the vice-regal pair comes to Huronia June 18, 19, 20.

On Thursday, June 19, the Governor General will visit the Naval and Military Establishments, have lunch at Martyrs' Shrine, visit Sacred Heart School, the Midland Public Library and the newly opened Midland municipal building.

Later in the afternoon the Schreyers will visit Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

The day before, students at Fesserton Public School, Waubaushene Public School (where grade 4 student Debbie Hawke initiated the entire trip) and St. John's School will visit with the Schreyers.

The Governor General has also scheduled visits to Barrie and Orillia during the three-day trip, before leaving for Winnipeg from Muskoka airport.

Midland faces legal action

Corporation of the Town of Midland will be represented in Supreme Court of Ontario in Toronto of May 21 as a result of an action being taken by local ratepayer W.J. Ogilvie.

A notice of motion by Ogilvie seeks to have squashed or declared invalid a resolution passed by Midland council on March 24 authorizing the payment of legal fees incurred by Mayor Moreland Lynn in defence of conflict of interest allegations previously brought against him by the same ratepayer.

Back in March councillors agreed to pay the mayor's legal fees subject to them being taxed.

So far the fees have not been taxed, however members of council agreed this week at a regular meeting of council Monday night that they should be before any final payment is made.

It was at this point a vote was taken to respond to the notice of motion by filing with the courts the town's intention to oppose the motion.

The vote saw Reeve Sam Ancio, Deputy-reeve Catherine Dion and Alderman Richard Platt in favor of the move while Councillors Bev Day and Jack Gerow were in opposition.

It was Alderman Day's belief the town couldn't win. (Mayor Lynn vacated his chair during discussion of the above and left the room).

Alderman Day said he was concerned that legal fees have increased as a result of this "matter dragging on...each time we seek advice."

It is the intention of the majority of council to have town solicitor Douglas Haig's correspondence regarding the matter tabled with supreme court.

It was on the basis of his advice that council originally decided to go along with paying the mayor's legal fees, after they were taxed.

At that time it was drawn to council's attention that members were in a legal position under current regulations to pay for the costs involved since the mayor was not found guilty and since the Municipal Act covers such events.

Alderman Richard Platt felt the courts would finally rule one way or the other on whether council has the power to pass such a bylaw saying, "It will let us know if we are empowered to pay the bill."

Reeve Sam Ancio cited, "We have a limited time in which to respond to the notice of motion" in endorsing a resolution to proceed.

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