

French programs county-wide?

BARRIE—Another request by a representative of Bradford parents to the Simcoe County Board of Education went nowhere Wednesday night.

Robert F. Evans, spokesman for some

parents of elementary school students at Bradford Public School, once again asked the trustees to examine a request to operate a French-as-a-second-language pilot project from the Kindergarten level.

This time, however, Evans' letter requested the Board of Education to conduct a county-wide survey of parents with primary school-aged children to have French-as-a-second-language introduced in SCBE schools as a

"mandatory" program by September 1981.

A few months ago, a more limited request from the Bradford group was turned down by a 9-8 vote of trustees. Funding such programs is not a "priority" in the

board's current spending forecast.

Board chairman, Roy Edwards, filed Evans' letter with no action, pending a motion by the board to re-open discussions at a later date.



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Penetanguishene, Ontario

Road allowance council's problem

French school zoning request before planning board Monday

by Rod Deacon

On Monday night, Penetanguishene's planning board will be asked to study a re-

zoning request by the Simcoe County Board of Education so that things might get moving on the proposed site of the new

French-language high school adjacent to PSS.

Lawyers for the SCBE filed the \$50 application forms Wednesday with municipal officials on behalf of property owner Mrs. Pierette MacLeod. The Ministry of Education, through the school board, has already agreed to purchase the 6.8 acres of MacLeod property if the necessary re-zoning is approved by Penetang planning board, council and the Ontario Municipal Board. Asking price for the land is \$68,000.

Following standard procedure, Penetang's planning board will automatically refer this re-zoning request to committee level for in-depth study. In late September, the board will make a recommendation to council. Although council has final say on zoning matters at a municipal level, Penetanguishene council holds a great deal of respect for its planning board members, and their integrity to make decisions based on sound planning

principles. They rarely reject the advice of their planning board.

The school board needs to have the MacLeod property re-zoned to an "Institutional" category to locate a school building. The property is presently listed in a "Holding" category.

Road Allowance

While the decision to re-zone the proposed school site may be fairly straight forward, a 66-foot wide town-owned road allowance (Skelton Street) which bisects the MacLeod property could develop into a lengthy legal and political mess.

Years ago when Penetanguishene was originally divided up into large lots, unused road allowances were created by the municipality. In fact, when the school board built PSS, the town

closed three similar road allowances between Jeffery Street and Edward giving the board clear title to the land.

At the far end of the road allowance, towards Robert Street East, one property owner is already encroaching upon the town's strip of land. To close the road allowance, for the school board and the property owner, the strip must be "closed" and "conveyed"—in other words, the town would sell their 66-foot wide by 175-foot deep piece of property to Mrs. MacLeod and the school board.

This matter comes under Penetang council's jurisdiction. With the majority of its members dead against the province's decision to build the new school, things could get "political" around the council table.

Man rushed to HDH

An unidentified man remains in Huronia District Hospital where he was rushed yesterday morning following a raging house fire at 26 Fifth St.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Hal Belfry, firefighters were summoned to that address at 2:45 a.m. There, they had to contend with a roaring two-storey house fire.

It wasn't until after 8 a.m. firefighters had the blaze under control and mopped up before returning to the hall.

It is known a man and a woman were in the dwelling at the time. The woman apparently managed to get out without suffering any injuries however the man was less fortunate and received some burns.

An official with the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office along with the deputy fire chief went through the ruins yesterday afternoon in an effort to pin-point the blaze's cause.

Police and fire officials are withholding the names of the man and woman until they can complete their investigation.

Commenting on this week's fire, the deputy chief praised his men in fighting what turned out to be a difficult fire. He also reported that none of his men received injuries battling the early morning fire on Fifth Street.

Citizen briefly

Penetang loses its half of derby

Soap box derby enthusiasts in Penetang will have to get their fill on the Hugel hill next Saturday. This Sunday's CKMP elimination heats in Penetang have been cancelled and moved over to Midland August 23.

CKMP station manager Tom Manton says the last minute switch in locale came about because the derby entrants had "holiday commitments" on Sunday.

Three weeks ago, Penetang council complied with a Chamber of Commerce request to stage the derby on a Sunday, rather than a Saturday. Some Main Street merchants apparently were not thrilled with a major street closing in the middle of a business day.

Midland and Penetang have, in past years, alternated as hosts for the derby finals. Maybe next year will be Penetang's turn.

Cafeteria prices

going up at schools

BARRIE -- Budget conscious students may want to consider brown bagging it more often this year following an announcement by the Simcoe County Board of Education of modest price increases for a number of cafeteria items.

Most sandwich prices will be increased a nickel's worth this year, but hot meals are still a bargain. The caterer requested price increases on 23 of 49 items, but only milk prices have been hiked for the second successive year, due to the good old metric system. Metric containers hold more milk, so you pay more.

In making the request Colleen Fick, president of Jack Rice Caterers Ltd., of Aylmer, noted the company has managed to maintain selling prices on its products which were approved by the board three years ago.

Municipal elections November 10

Monday, November 10 is election day for municipalities across Ontario. Candidates seeking office will have until October 20 to file their nomination papers.

Liquor, cash taken in break-in

The theft of seven bottles of liquor and \$70 in cash from Mama Maria's Restaurant on King Street, Midland, is under investigation by town police.

The break-in and theft was reported to police 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Blaze destroys station wagon

Midland firefighters extinguished an out-of-town car fire off Fuller Avenue in Tay Township late Wednesday afternoon but not before the blaze destroyed a 1974 station wagon owned by Ross Kirkby.

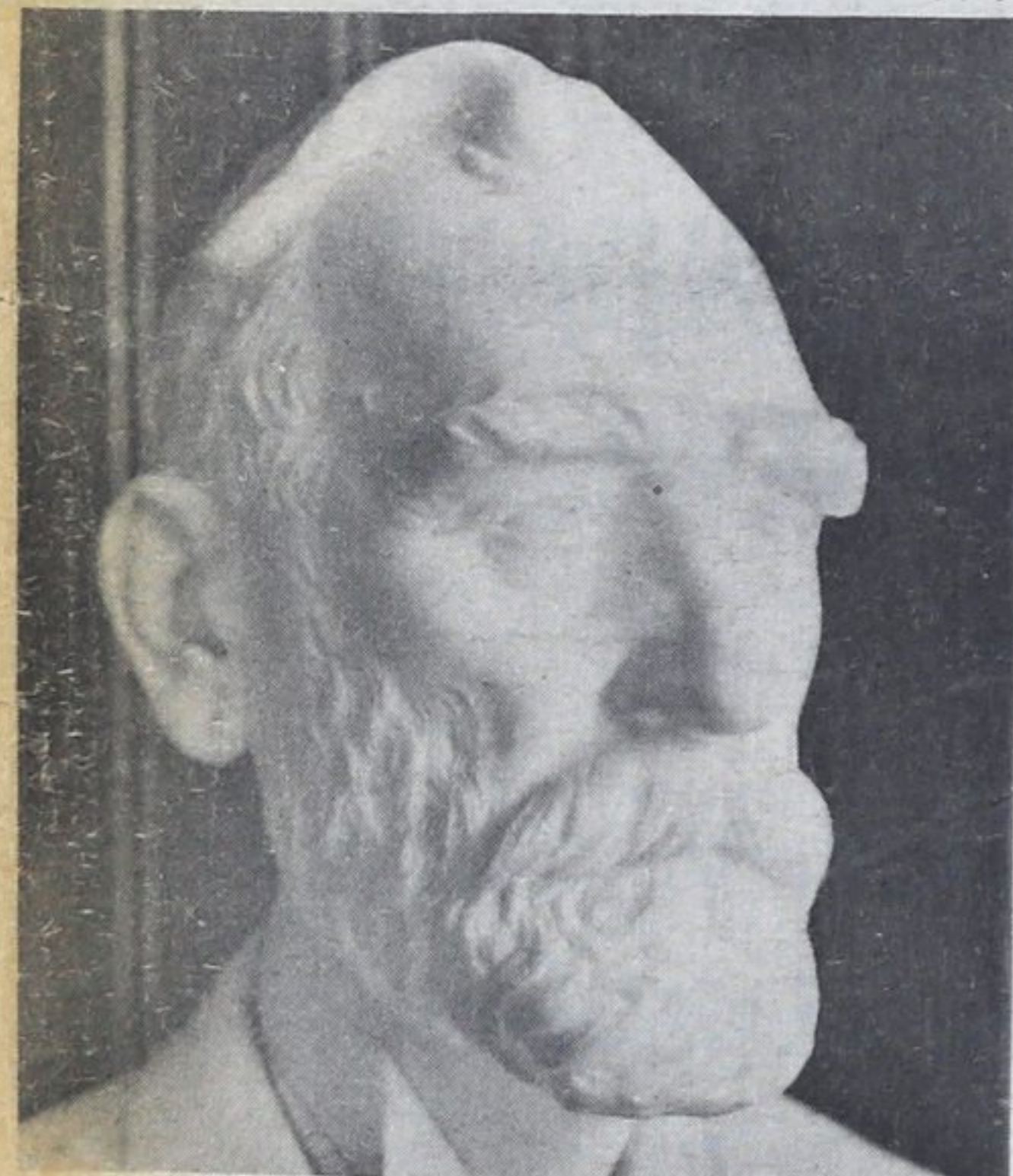
Fire Chief Terry Lethbridge said Kirkby had been working on the vehicle at the time of the fire.

Fall fair season kicks off in Barrie

Although the Tiny-Tay Agricultural Society's annual fall fair doesn't come to Midland until almost mid-September, the fall fair season gets off to a good start in Simcoe County next Tues., Aug. 19 when the Barrie Fair begins and continues through to Aug. 24.

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Carved in marble

This marble bust of Charles Beck, one of Penetang's most prominent businessmen in the late 1800s, is only one of many objects on display at the town's Centennial Museum. Since opening June 1 for the summer season, some 1,500 to 2,000 visitors have gone through the rooms which at one time housed Beck's General Store. The museum will be closing Labour Day weekend.

Midland businesses slow to support parking plan

The decision whether or not to go ahead with a validated ticket parking program in downtown Midland won't be settled until next week at the earliest.

The executive of the Business Improvement Association concluded Wednesday night a further attempt should be made to round up more solid support for the proposal.

Parking committee chairman Bob Voorzanger said yesterday that 80 per cent of the retail and service sector members of the 103 member BIA have to date supported validated parking. The percentage of total BIA membership that has given approval falls to 60 per cent. When all the downtown Midland professional and commercial businesses are taken into account, non-BIA as well as BIA, the percentage falls to 40 per cent.

The point of proceeding with validated parking, Voorzanger says, is to make parking easier, not more difficult, for shoppers. The BIA executive wants to be sure enough support exists in the business community before it goes ahead.

In the interval before the next meeting businessmen who have given only verbal support will be asked to give their support written form, and others on holiday will be contacted, he said.

A good way to inform shoppers which businesses validate and which don't remains to be worked out.

Ten percent of the non-BIA businesses contacted would refund parking ticket money under the validated parking ticket program despite not being reimbursed in turn by the BIA, he said.