

That's My Line

Frances St. Amant

**Civic
sparkplug**



I believe that I was the first lady to sit on Penetanguishene council, 1960-1962. Jerome Gignac was the mayor then. It was pretty heavy because I had just had my eighth child. It was a little bit much to get out to 7:30 p.m. meetings.

I've always been interested in politics. I was nominated from the floor at a town hall meeting and Jerome asked me to stand. I got in by acclamation when the others dropped out.

I next sat on council when Mary Rogers resigned and I was asked to finish her term.

That was less than a year, around 1973. And I've been on council the last seven years.

I'll be running again. I want to see finished some pet projects of mine that are hanging, and I can do that in another two year term.

I have no desire to be mayor. I'd rather be out in the field rather than acting as the head of council. I've been asked

to run for mayor many times, but I'll continue as deputy-reeve if the public wishes.

I was president of the local Liberal association for three years. Now that I'm a past president I'm very involved in federal and provincial politics. Not that I would ever run. I'm also president of the Ladies Softball League. For 18 years before I got involved with council I headed up the local swimming program.

I'm very proud of Penetanguishene. We have a beautiful waterfront with lots of room to expand, and I can see it being one of the most, if not the most, beautiful waterfronts in Ontario.

One of the highlights of my life was raising \$9,000 for the floor fund of the arena with the help of 76 volunteers in a one-night blitz. I would have been happy to raise \$3,000. Raising that amount of money is just fantastic for a town the size of Penetanguishene.

I'm not a native, I'm from up north, but I've been here so long I feel like a true Penetanguishener. My home town is Spragge, 19 miles from Elliot Lake. I came here in 1947 to work at the Mental Health Centre, until I got married.

I sailed on the lakes for a year with my husband as a second cook, and then came back here to raise our family.

I'm perfectly happy here in Penetanguishene, but I've got to stop some time. I'm a grandmother five times. Two children are in ESPSS, two in university and the rest are married. I have six boys and three girls. I'm going to want to make more time for them and for my husband.

McGuire Park is one of the projects I want to see finished. The park needs bleachers and a proper change room, a concession stand and a good sound system.

A fire in the arena's

lounge in the spring caused damage to the floor that isn't covered entirely by insurance.

I'm donating my time to run a snack bar at the arena to raise funds that I hope the arena board will see fit to use towards a new floor before this winter. They can put it together with the insurance money, and it won't cost the taxpayer a thing.

My family has given me a lot of help. When I've had a meeting, the family has pitched in many, many ways, around the house and outside the home with my projects.

The people here are very receptive to progress. If they know you're sincere, they don't mind pitching in. Eighteen people sit on the arena floor committee, and others volunteer off the street. One person can only do so much.

I say they're good people because they sure put out a lot of time for the projects that I have spearheaded.

Kenney reunion held at Midhurst

More than 200 descendants of the late Michael John Kenney and Bridget Gallagher

gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Russell of Midhurst on Sunday, August 3, to

take part in the Kenney Reunion held there. Four generations were in attendance for

the day, and activities available to all included hay rides, pony rides, horseshoes and swimming. Mrs. Mary Minnings, the eldest lady in attendance, and Mrs. William Macdonald acted as hostesses for the event. Both of these women were from Phelpsston, as was the eldest gentleman participating in the day, Mr. Adrian Craddock.

winner were Patsy McNeil of Barrie and Sandy Craddock of Toronto. The successful event was organized by Basil MacDonald of Toronto and Jim Kenney of Elmvale. Reunion day ended

with a picnic supper, much enjoyed by all of the guests. Some came from as far away as New York City, Montreal, Petawawa, Guelph, Hamilton, Peterborough, Gravenhurst, Toronto,

Barrie, Elmvale and Phelpsston.

Helping to set up the day for the descendants, was the treasurer Mrs. Jim Kenney of Elmvale and the secretary Mrs. Gerard Moran of Phelpsston.

N.S. Junior Farmers

The North Simcoe Junior Farmers are a group of young rural people who are more than involved in community and social activities.

a group effort to attend a Blood Donor Clinic in Barrie. The clinic begins at 8 p.m. in Barrie.

All of the Junior Farmer activities are planned on the theme of

"Community Betterment." This group is very alive, and active in our area. The Junior Farmers are to be complimented and recognized for their fine work in the community.

The Junior Farmers have several plans for the remainder of August. At the Barrie Fair, Aug. 18-24, the Junior Farmers are planning an Old Macdonald's Farm, with a variety of farm animals represented. In addition, they will be assisting with the Casino and selling soft drinks.

On Aug. 22, the North Simcoe Junior Farmers will host a delegate from Australia. She will be living with a family for a full week. In welcoming her to the County, a corn roast is planned for Aug. 23. She will get a good indication of North Simcoe's hospitality.

On Aug. 26 the organization is planning

Explosion leads to fire

The deck and cabin of a 25 foot Nassau steel-hulled boat was destroyed by fire Saturday night in Georgian Bay off Gin Rocks.

OPP say the operator, Mississauga resident James Sharpcott, started his bilge pump around 6:30 p.m. An explosion followed that filled the cabin with flames.

The OPP's General Williams received Sharpcott's Mayday signal. The Coast Guard Mobile Unit and the Georgian Bay Islands National Park wardens put out the fire.

Damage was set at \$8,000. Sharpcott took to an aluminum dingy tied to the boat with a line after broadcasting the distress signal.

At the time of the explosion he was on a northward heading on the way to Giant's Tomb Island.

The highlight of the schedule of activities was the horseshoe tournament for the men and ladies. Winners of the men's division of the match were Del Frankcom of Toronto and Randy Minnings of Oakville, while ladies

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