

1980-year in review

by Doug Reed
January

For former Penetanguishene residents Douglas and Carol Cote, New Year's day 1980 was a memorable one.

Their first child was born at Penetanguishene General Hospital at 1:30 p.m. weighing in at five pounds and 13 ounces.

More than 15 million notices of enumeration were mailed out on Jan. 11 across the county in preparation for the Feb. 18 federal election which when it was finally held returned the Liberals to power in Ottawa.

On the area municipal scene, planning matters both at the local and area levels were being reviewed on almost a weekly basis but already there were fears in some circles that the Tiny-Tay Peninsula Planning Board was heading for rough waters.

By year's end both the townships of Tay and Tiny indicated in no uncertain terms their desire to withdraw from any further TTPPB matters.

And if that wasn't enough the area planning board started the new year with the problem of finding a new planning coordinator since Judy Dunstan who had held the post for almost a year announced plans to accept a job with the Muskoka District Planning Department.

Doug Lewis (incumbent), PC standard-bearer in North Simcoe, Fayne Bullen, NDP and Alan Martin, Liberal, were out on the hustings seeking votes as the Feb. 18 federal election loomed around the corner.

Meanwhile, Midland lawyer John Gorman failed in his bid on entering federal politics

after he had his hopes dashed during a York-Peel Liberal nomination meeting.

During January Tiny Township approved a joint agreement between the townships of Tiny, Flos, Medonte and Tay for the support of recreation facilities in the hamlet of Waverley which would use the former Waverley School as a community centre.

Bell operators in Midland took to the pickets lines for a few days as a result of a contract dispute at the national level.

Winterama plans in Penetanguishene were well underway while in Midland James Audette, six, was struck down and later died of injuries he received after he and a car collided on Hugel Avenue.

His death later prompted a number of people to meet with Midland council asking council consider crossing guards in that part of town where the mishap occurred.

February

Douglas and Annette Parker (Parker Publishing) purchased The Midland Times, The Penetanguishene Citizen, Elmvale Lance, Friday Times and Friday Citizen from Markle Community Newspapers Limited.

With the transaction came a new look for the above five newspaper as they went tabloid which was well received by their advertisers and readers.

Members of Concerned Citizens for Bilingual United met

with Education Minister Bette Stephenson at her Toronto office over the ongoing saga of whether or not a new French high school be constructed in Penetanguishene.

There would be similar meetings in the future.

A group of Midland residents headed up by Mayor Moreland Lynn accepted an invitation from the folks in Midland, Mich., to visit the U.S. city as part of that city's tribute to Canada and the role the Canadian embassy played in hiding six Americans in Tehran who later fled the country without any harm.

Both Midlands have been "twinning" during recent years thanks to exchange visits spearheaded by Rotarians in both communities.

During the month, Town of Midland was

placed firmly on the national curling map thanks to a convincing victory in Brampton by a curling foursome from North Simcoe: Russ Howard, Kent Carstairs, Larry Merkley and Bob Ruston.

The Midland-Penetanguishene curlers grabbed the Labatt Tankard and in March although not taking all the marbles played very well in the Brier played in Calgary.

The same month Dr. P.B. Rynard, former MP for Simcoe North suffered a slight stroke.

The "doc" never got over that stroke and died late this year much to the shock of his family, friends and political adversaries.

And how did the Feb. 18 election go in North Simcoe? The gala Grits almost stole the show

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'Buzz' Brown retires

The year 1980 saw William "Buzz" Brown retire as principal of Midland Secondary School. The long-time educator was honored at a retirement party staged at Country Mill. That's Mr. Brown at left and MSS teacher Garry Laurin, right.

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