

Sea-plane business

New flying service to get off the ground (water) this spring

A new flying service is to be inaugurated this spring in North Simcoe.

To be called Penetanguishene Air Services Ltd., it will be owned and operated by Joe Rzepecki and Jake Pigeon.

The Penetanguishene-based sea-plane operation will operate out of Penetanguishene Marine and Aviation Inc.

Penetanguishene Air Services Ltd., will maintain a Cessna 172, a Cessna 206 and a Cessna 185, all float-equipped along with a Cessna 182 on wheels.

All the new company is waiting for is final approval from Transport Canada of facilities to be used on Penetanguishene Harbour.

Rzepecki, a former co-owner of Garrison Aviation looking forward to his new flying service.

He was dismissed by his partner Keith Rich back in March of 1980.

Settlement

That action prompted Rzepecki to sue Rich for damages however Rzepecki reports both sides dropped the issue in December with Rich granting Rzepecki "a cash settlement under \$50,000."

The settlement required Rzepecki to sell all his shares in Garrison Aviation back to Rich, a well-known Toronto broadcaster.

Meanwhile Garrison Aviation which has been operating Huronia Airport just west of Midland for the Huronia Airport Commission is in the process of getting out of the flying service and management business.

At present, arrangements are being made to sell Garrison's license to operate the airport to Parks Air-Nautical Services which operates out of Bewdley, Ont., on Rice Lake near Peterborough.

Air Huronia

Parks Air-Nauticals will be known as Air Huronia once the necessary federal red tape is cleared away.

It will be at least the fourth time since the airport has been in operation, since the late '60s, that a new company has taken over managing the tri-municipality-owned airport for the towns of Midland and Penetanguishene and the Township of Tiny.

Shortly after the airport opened, Collingwood Air took over its management. Peter Crampton was the local manager.

Coll-Air later pulled out and LemAire took over. LemAire was owned and operated by Midland industrialist Tom Lembo. The airport was again managed by Crampton.

Crampton was later dismissed by Lembo and later still LemAire was forced out by the airport commission for what the commission termed back then was an alleged "breach of contract."

Crampton returned and along with Rich formed Garrison Aviation.

Crampton later left the organization and

Rzepecki joined Garrison to become a partner in the new company.

However the saga continued with Lembo of LemAire commencing legal action against Crampton, Rich and the Huronia Airport Commission.

Drops Action

Following a cash settlement Lembo dropped any further action against Crampton and Rich although his action against the airport commission, he said earlier this week, "is still pending."

Rzepecki says problems that have plagued the airport in recent years haven't done anything for flying. "I know a lot of student pilots who have quit, they've been so frustrated because of the confusion there..."

He added, I really think what is needed is a solid flying club and that the commission get out of the flying business altogether and sell the airport to a private concern."



Bullen calls it 'slap in the face'

Fayne Bullen, Simcoe East NDPs' standard-bearer in the up-coming March 19 provincial election saw Midland's Mayor Moreland Lynn losing the Simcoe East PC Association's nomination this week "as a slap in the face for Moreland."

Commenting Wednesday, Bullen asked, "What hope is there for a man from Midland to win... coming second isn't good enough?"

Bullen says he'll "be pleased to run against Allen McLean. He has the background at both the municipal and county level however he (McLean) just doesn't know what's going on in the riding and how to tackle the problems we are faced with here such as unemployment."

Bullen also thinks "there's going to be sour grapes over Moreland losing from some of his own supporters."

He said there might be a "backlash of Lynn supporters who won't go out now and support McLean at the polls."

The NDP candidate observed, "There's a lukewarmness and a disenchantment to picking someone from Midland to run for the PCs in Simcoe East...we saw it again this week."

As for his own campaign Bullen was in Midland for the second time this week trying to drum up support. Wednesday he spent the morning greeting blue-collar workers at a local factory.

Brandon feels block vote swayed Tories' decision

Former reeve of Coldwater, Earl Brandon, says he wasn't at all surprised at the outcome of Tuesday night's Simcoe East PC Association's nomination meeting at Orillia Fair Grounds.

In a telephone conversation with Brandon 24 hours after Tories picked former County of Simcoe warden Allen McLean to be their standard-bearer, Brandon said he felt, "A block vote of 217 made the difference in picking McLean over runner-up Moreland Lynn of Midland."

Brandon tells it this way: "There were 152 of us from the Coldwater-Fesserton area and 65 from in and around Matchedash who attended the meeting.

"We were all free to vote as free agents on the first ballot. From

there on we voted as a block."

Ballots

It took three ballots before a final winner was declared.

A total of 1,900 seats had been set up for members, the media and the curious.

A total of 1,728 cast ballots during the first round, 865 needed for a majority.

According to Brandon, "Our group at-

tended the meeting wearing yellow badges with black lettering on them that stressed I Care About The Coldwater Area..."

"The idea came after a committee I'm chairing in Coldwater agreed we needed a candidate who would look out for the smaller municipalities in the riding such as Coldwater, Victoria Harbour, etc.

"The committee is an off-shoot of a recently formed Business Association in Coldwater. We are against regional government and we want someone to pay attention to our needs."

Brandon said a recent survey conducted by the Coldwater Journal, a newspaper he owns and operates, indicated there are about 385

people gainfully employed in Coldwater "which means about \$4 million in wages a year so you can see our town of about 1,000 is a community that needs some attention from government."

The former reeve also confirmed his newspaper earlier this month, in an editorial, opposed Lynn's nomination.



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