

Art over law

Standing with one of his paintings in the Athenian Hall Wednesday is landscape painter John Hartman. Hartman went to McMaster

University to study law but changed his mind and became a painter. He lives in Lafontaine.

Art experts depend on their opinion too

People who seem to be able to tell good art from bad art rely on the same criteria as everyone else. The difference between those people, and the majority, who say, "I don't know anything about art, but I know what I like" is that the minority has seen more good art and can make better judgements, says John Hartman.

At the weekly meeting of the Midland and District Rotary Club Hartman explained that he likes to think of himself as an artist who is commercially successful, after he was introduced as a commercial artist.

Hartman is a native of Midland, now living in Lafontaine, who started painting in the style of the Group of Seven, and

who has moved towards abstract landscapes.

Hartman described some of the tactics used by gallery owners to create demand for the works of their clients, tactics that he said would put them in jail if they used the same tactics selling securities.

A group of dealers who owned paintings by Group of Seven painter A. Y. Jackson recently joined to bid the price of a Jackson at auction to over \$300,000, or 10 times the going price, Hartman said. Their greed apparently failed, as the next Jackson sold went for \$23,000. Their ruse might have worked if they had moderated the increase, to around \$60,000, he commented.

Another procedure intended to create a demand for an artist's

work, especially a new artist, is to create curiosity among the art-buying community, announce a showing of paintings, and when the show opens, mark nearly all of the paintings as sold.

Hartman knows of one case when the tactic worked. When the second show was held for a new artist whose paintings had been red dotted - marked with red dots, the indicator that the paintings were sold - at his first show, all of the artist's work in the second show was purchased.

"Hopefully you end up with a dealer with more scruples than that," and one who is a good businessman, too, Hartman said.

His paintings are carried by galleries in Toronto and Montreal.

Bylaw makes it all quite official in town

Midland council has found it expedient to appoint an acting planning and zoning administrator to fill the void when the town's

Zoning and Planning Administrator Brian MacKell finds himself absent from the town for any reason.

Monday night, a

bylaw approved by council, appointed municipal Clerk Mike Owen to fill the post when such occasions arise.

Lease agreement

Tiny, Penetang to share one-half of bay

by Adrienne Graham Gardner
Tiny Township and Penetanguishene will enter into an agreement for the lease of roughly one-half of Penetang Bay by Tiny.

The lease agreement has been reviewed by both municipalities and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Transport for approval.

Tiny had proposed the lease arrangement in order to gain control over its shoreline. The filling of shoreline areas and excessive dockage had presented a problem of jurisdiction for the township.

Under the new arrangement, Tiny would have control over any future leases for dockage or fill in the shoreline area. Leases and permits granted to date remain in effect, but

Councillor Ron Hamelin who negotiated the agreement with Penetang says "There's still enough to make it worthwhile."

Tiny has been troubled by complaints in the past of obstruction of the bay by expanding docks, disruption of the environment by filling, and the operation of marinas in the area.

The area covered by the agreement is roughly one-half of Penetang Bay, and is marked by an imaginary line running from Picottes Beach, not including Magazine Island and running through a point equidistant from the Penetang Town Dock and the Tiny high water mark to the boundary of the last water lots along Champlain Road.

Tiny strikes '81 budget

The 1981 Budget for Tiny Township was formally adopted by bylaw at the Wednesday meeting of council.

The budget represents a total tax levy of \$3,125,494. Of this amount 70.37 percent will go in payments towards education, over which the township has no control.

The municipality will use only 20.81 percent of the levy, or \$650,515 for township purposes, including roads. An additional 8.82 percent of the

revenue will be paid to the County of Simcoe for general costs, and roads.

Mill rates for 1981 have been established at 49.85 for residences and 58.65 for commercial properties.

Garbage collection fees will be set at \$22 per residential unit in 1981, with a 15 percent hike in rates for collection at summer commercial establishments.

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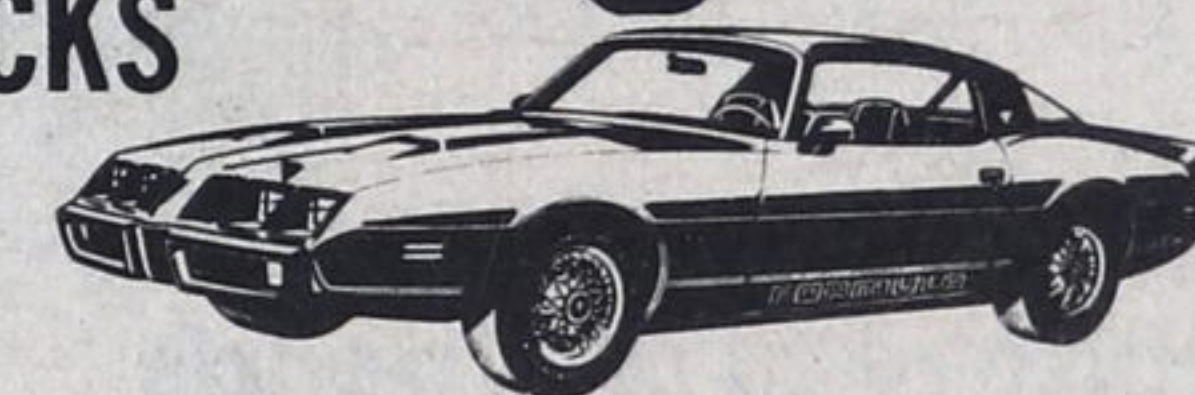
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