

by Eileen Hocken
After many years of planning and working towards this goal, Port McNicoll finally saw their dream realized on Saturday, Nov. 14, when the doors of the new Community Centre were officially opened to all its residents.

Warm weather and brilliant skies favoured this very important occasion and drew a sizable crowd to witness the event.

Reeve John Moreau made a brief speech of welcome and said he hoped everyone would be as proud and pleased with the new facility as he was. "I am sure it will fill the needs of most of our citizens and hope it will be enjoyed by all".

Since the middle of October many groups have been using the center to hold their meetings and activities, so already the community hall has proven its existence is justified. Much effort was put into building by many people and Reeve Moreau took the opportunity to thank them personally for their cooperation and assistance when it was needed.

We join Reeve Moreau in expressing our gratitude to all our

village employees, the Recreation Board, the council members and in particular, Councillor Ross Cameron who is responsible for recreation in Port, for his "outstanding devotion, hard work and personal contribution".

Reeve Moreau then introduced the special guest, Mr. Al McLean, M.P.P. for Simcoe East, who was present to cut the ribbon which officially opened the new building to all Port McNicoll residents.

Approximately 175 men, women and children filed through the doors throughout the day. Much interest was shown in the mini-museum with its old pictures depicting a bustling, active Port McNicoll in its heyday when the C.P.R., grain elevators and freight sheds were going strong.

There were also pictures of the Port McNicoll Bowling Club, Curling Club and Ball Club and old school pictures (which brought a few laughs when people saw what they looked like back in those good old days).

Pictures of the old flower gardens also brought back nostalgic memories. They were a lovely sight and it's a

shame our village doesn't have the money to bring Port back to its former glory.

The Senior Citizens had a bake and craft table set up. Those home goodies were quickly snapped up. The Lions Club and Library Board were also on hand to show their support for the Community Centre.

A buffet dinner was made available between 4:30 and 6:30, a delicious meal prepared by Larry and Elsa Kovacs.

Jim Collins who lives at 778 William Street, Midland, entertained everyone between dinner and the dance later that evening.

Jim, who considers himself a small town boy, has written about

90 songs, a few of which he sang that night.

"You Touch Me" was a song Jim has already had played on CKMP radio station. Jim is a family man and he and his wife Marcia have one son, Evan James, and are expecting another little addition to their family soon.

Jim Collins has big plans for the future. He'd like to make a name for himself in the entertainment field. Well, we've had a sample of his talent and we're sure he'll make it.

The hall was filled to capacity a little later that evening for the dance. The music, supplied by disc-jockey Oliver Ladouceur, kept everyone busy on the dance floor.

The Recreation Board had their draw for a 20 inch colour T.V. the night of the dance. The lucky and happy winner was Mrs. Emily Newton, Fourth Avenue, Port McNicoll. Our congratulations to the happy lady!

Marg and Willie Butineau, Third Street, Port McNicoll, won the spot dance.

The whole day was a huge success! The Recreation Board wishes to express their thanks to all the volunteers who chipped in to help. Without them, the opening would not have been the huge success it was.

This Saturday will be a busy day at Sacred Heart Church in Port McNicoll when the

annual Christmas Bazaar and Tea takes place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There is something for everyone - a bake table piled with the choicest home-baked goodies; a corner grocery store; beautiful ceramics to choose from; a mini-draw table where you get to put your tickets wherever you want, depending on what catches your eye; the touch and take table; a sewing table; attic treasures and more.

A lovely tea will be served for anyone wishing refreshments.

The Grand draw takes place around 2 p.m. First prize is a hand-made quilt valued at \$225; second prize is a

ten room furnished doll house valued at \$200; and there's a bonus prize of \$100.

The Willing Workers of Bonar Presbyterian Church had their own Bazaar and Tea on Nov. 7th. They had a lot of people in, helping to make the event a nice success.

The Parents' Group Committee will be holding their meeting tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Community Centre. This will be the last meeting until after the new year.

The Brownies and Girl Guides had their bottle drive on the weekend. They made a profit of nearly \$140 - another successful fund raising event.

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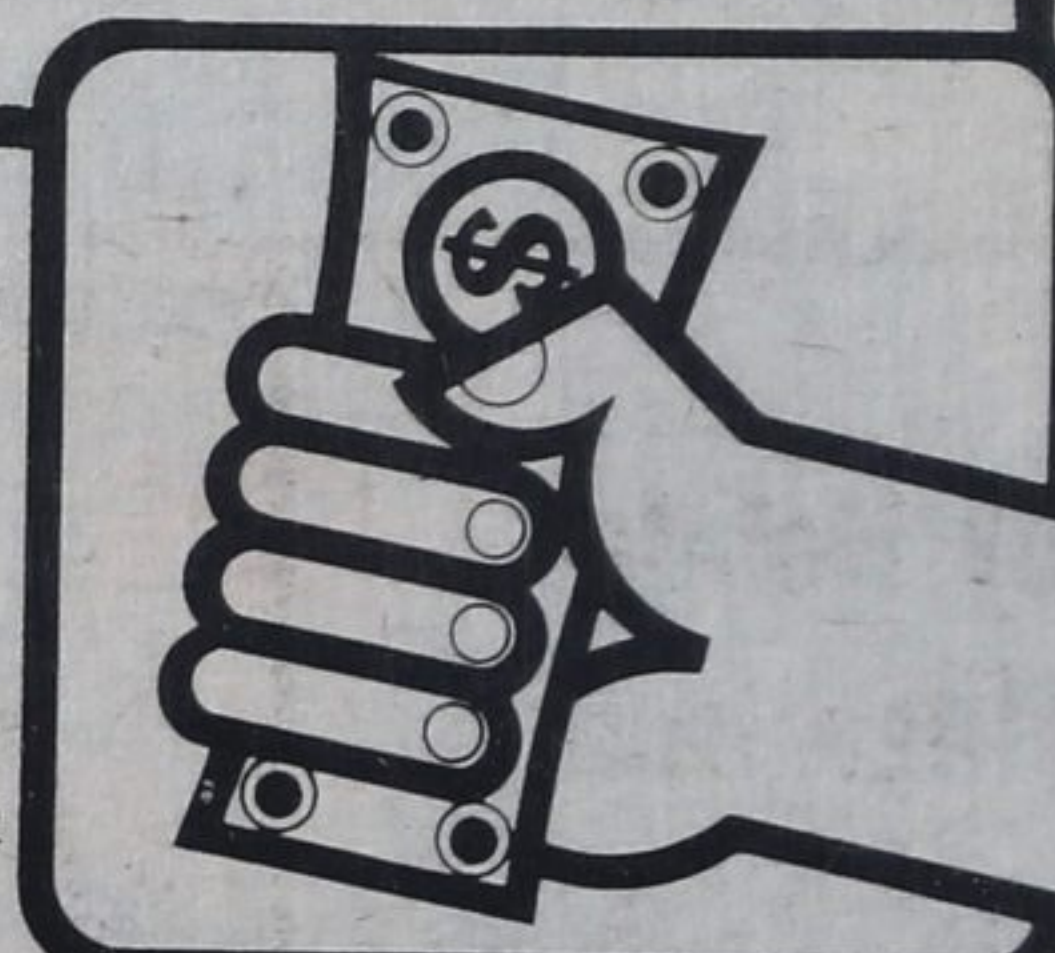
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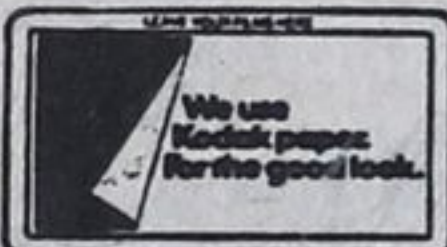
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