



The  
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**Fire's cause is 'undetermined'**

**Damage set at \$485,000 in blaze**



by Doug Reed

Cause of last week's Peoples Store fire in downtown Midland has been listed as "undetermined" by an official from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office who with other investigators sifted through rubble left in the wake of last week's major inferno.

Midland's Fire Chief Terry Lethbridge said yesterday, damage has been set at \$485,000 to both the building and contents and to adjoining buildings on either side of Peoples Store.

Penetanguishene firefighters under the direction of Fire Chief Ted Light helped to quell last week's 12-hour, three-alarm fire.

Ten firefighters, meanwhile manned the Midland fire hall during the height of last week's blaze.



**Day One at Le Caron**

Last Thursday Ecole Secondaire LeCaron vice-principal Denis Chartrand helped students like Charles Robitaille, centre, and Raymond Grondin, right, find out their new locker numbers.

Dec. 17 was the day the students and staff moved into their new school in Penetanguishene. In BOTTOM PHOTO more students stand in front of their new lockers.

**Volunteer praised**

**Former Penetang mayor named to Housing group**

Gil Robillard, of Penetanguishene, has been appointed to the North Simcoe and Orillia Housing Authority, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Claude Bennett announced this week.

Robillard, a businessman and former mayor of Penetanguishene, will serve on the eight-member authority which manages Ontario Housing Corporation's 722 assisted housing units in the northern portion of Simcoe County.

The federal, provincial and municipal governments are invited to nominate individuals for appointment to the housing authority by provincial order-in-council. The province appoints the housing authority chairman.

Commenting on the appointment, OHC chairman Allan Moses, noted that the day-to-day

management of all of OHC's 93,000 housing units is carried out by local housing authorities, although the primary responsibility for assisted housing remains with OHC.

"By volunteering their time to serve on the local housing authority, private citizens like Robillard are helping to ensure that Ontario's assisted housing program is sensitive and can respond to the needs of the many communities it serves", said Moses.

The North Simcoe and Orillia Housing Authority manages 519 senior citizen assisted housing units and 203 units for low-income families. The authority also provides housing for physically-disabled and mentally-retarded persons who are capable of living on their own.

**Citizen briefly**

**Four two-car pile-ups probed here**

Since Friday members of Penetanguishene police force have investigated no fewer than four two-car crashes in town.

One occurred on Sunday, one on Saturday and two on Friday, reports Police Chief Dennis Player.

As a result of Sunday's two-car pile-up, 33-year-old Andrew Forget of Robert St. East, has been charged with "turning not in safety."

**It was a team effort in Penetanguishene**

Penetanguishene police and firemen joined forces Sunday not to arrest people or quell fires but to host their annual childrens' Christmas party at the fire hall.

Several dozen youngsters took part in this popular annual event.

**Two general alarms in Tiny**

Northwest Basin firefighters were called out Sunday afternoon to quell a small chimney fire in their coverage area, reports Tiny Township's Fire Chief Guy Maurice.

Meanwhile, Wyevalle smoke-eaters were summoned yesterday morning to extinguish a small fire in a furnace room in a township home.

No other details were available at press time.

**Remember these publishing dates**

The Friday Citizen will be published on Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas eve.

The Penetanguishene Citizen will be published next Tuesday and The Friday Citizen again on Dec. 31 because of the Christmas-New Year's holiday(s).

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**Wows audience**

Social workers David Boyce (left) and Larry Radko helped kick off Wednesday night's annual Christmas variety show at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre. Their rendition of the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies from Tchaikovsky's The

Nutcracker Suite may not make it to the O'Keefe Centre, but it wowed the audience. More than 200 patients, staff members and their families turned out for the pageant in the hospital's gymnasium.