

Here's a final look back at 1981

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the PCs standard-bearer for the upcoming provincial election.

A total of 1,728 Tories showed up for the rally at Orillia. And it was Winterama Time in Penetanguishene. The annual fun-fest has been called Ontario's oldest winter carnival and it should be, having been in existence for 34 years.

Tiny and Tay townships were vocal in their desire to pull out of the area planning board while plans for a roller skating rink to be established in the former B. F. Goodrich building on Highway 12 was shelved.

It was during this month that long-time policeman John Geere announced plans to leave Penetanguishene Police Department after a career that spanned 17 years.

For the last eight years, the 41-year-old Penetanguishene native had been police chief.

Geere said he submitted his resignation because a raise was held back that was due him the previous November.

Simcoe County's budget rose by 10 mills. County councillors put their stamp of approval on a new \$15,116,357 budget for '81.

And at month's end Brian Orser was packing his bags to head to Hartford, Conn. where he was to compete in world's competition.

March

Sgt. Don Westcott was appointed interim police chief in Penetanguishene.

Midland council holds its first full-scale day-

long caucus meeting. Sam Ancio is found guilty and later in the year sentenced to two years minus a day in jail. He has since been released pending a new trial.

The 1981 Seed and Feed Show in Elmvale was termed a success. Midland council by a vote of 8-1 hikes its stipends and Joe Clark pays tribute to Midland lawyer Fred Hacker who resigned from the national PC executive.

Meanwhile Brian Orser left his mark on the international figure skating world after placing sixth in Hartford, Conn.

His flawless performances included his trademark...several triple axles.

The young figure skating sensation proved to the world that training, lots of it can pay off.

A blood donors' clinic at Midland Legion topped its target.

The provincial election heated up. George Taylor was returned as MPP for

Simcoe Centre while Allan McLean won the race in Simcoe East.

SCBE's 1981 budget rose to in excess of \$101 million.

Members of the Junior Civitan Club staged a rock-a-thon at a Highway 27 mall as March went out like a lamb or was it a lion?

The RC board ended the previous year in the black, it was reported at the outset of this month.

The '81 shipping season opened in the Bayports after the Scott Misener left Port McNicoll and the John E. F. Misener departed Midland after wintering here.

Liz Downer was named new manager of the Midland Business Improvement Area (BIA).

Telecare commenced its 24-hour service in Midland. Lorne Watson celebrated his 60th year in photography while a zoning order to regulate land use and building for commercial development in an area along Highway 27 west of Midland and south of

Penetanguishene was issued by the province.

That action opened a flood-gate of charges and countercharges and eventually paved the way for the town of Midland to announce plans to annex a goodly portion of Tiny west of the town.

April

Long-time, and very popular Midland Secondary School teacher Douglas Brooks died at his home following a lengthy illness.

During the course of '81 several missions of mercy were conducted by neo-natal teams from Toronto's Sick Children's Hospital who were flown to Midland by Ambulance Helicopter-Bandage One landing at Huronia

District Hospital.

And they started coming out of the woodwork over Midland's plan to annex "the golden mile" west of the town.

Much of the reaction as one might expect came from Tiny Township's elected officials.

Thousands of visitors jammed into Elmvale for that community's annual Maple Syrup Festival. It too was a gigantic success.

Penetanguishene's Reeve Art Stewart announced plans to seek the warden's chair late in the year. He later ran for the post but failed in his bid at county council.

Plans were announced to construct a multi-million-dollar hotel-motel complex in

Penetanguishene. At year's end it still hadn't gotten off the ground at the foot of Main Street where it was to have been housed.

Plans were also announced to expand the shopping mall on the west side of Highway 27 west of Midland.

Although a building permit has been issued no construction has taken place there either.

The \$15 million project was to have at least 60 shoppes and was to have been opened during the fall of 1982.

May

Midland council was locked in contract talks with its unionized staff.

The local historical society planned a salute "to our town." And the Midland Salvation Army's campaign for

funds rolled into high gear.

The Flos-Elmvale Arena was the scene for Wintario's 194th weekly draw.

A new logo for Tiny Township was designed and approved by township law-makers.

A \$30,000 master plan (cultural, recreational study) was budgeted for during May in Midland.

Plans to stage a Summer Festival in Penetanguishene were unveiled and Education Week in the province rolled into high gear including here in the heart of Huronia.

Here in Midland, Fr. Stephen Somerville of St. Margaret's Church marked 25 years in the priesthood.

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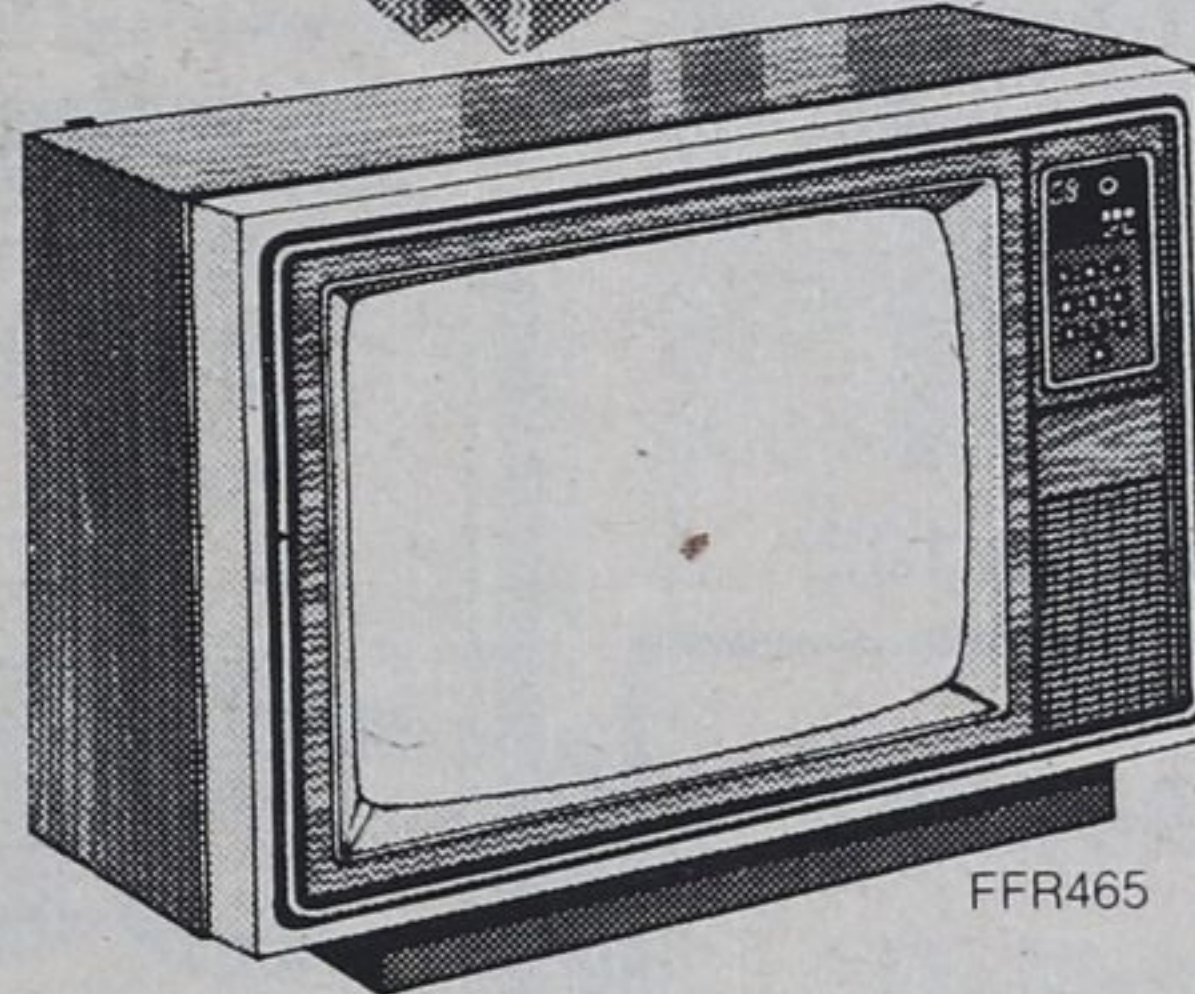
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