

"Information is the hallmark of democracy"

Yes sir, it makes for good reading...

IF YOU LIKE YOUR news "juicy" last week's communiques must have been right up your alley.

First, top brass at Queen's Park officially announced plans to scrap Tiny-Tay Peninsula Planning Board.

That announcement really didn't come as any shock since the area board has been heading down-hill for the past couple of years what with Tiny and Tay both wanting to opt out.

The area board served its purpose and we are happy it is going to be given a suitable burial.

The other bit of medium-rare news that might have whetted your appetite last week was Tiny's decision to break its year-long silence concerning Midland's bid to grab some choice township (Tiny's) land west of the town in an annexation bid.

Both of these issues have been given considerable play and in the case of the area board the curtain is quickly coming down... and that's good.

As for the fight ahead by Midland to grab off a chunk of Tiny that's one pier-six you'll be reading and hearing about for months to come.

Good news for those who like their news "juicy."

Some deserved words of praise

POLICE CHIEF Dennis Player and Fire Chief Ted Light have come in for some well deserved praise.

During last week's town council meeting both were cited by Public Safety Committee chairperson Frances St. Amant for their "fine reports."

According to Mrs. St. Amant, "We've never had reports as extensive as we've had this year."

The documents were 1981 annual reports prepared for council by both departments heads.

We have watched both men in operation... they are very professional in what they say and do.

It can be said our town is all the better for having both Player and Light at the helm of our police department and volunteer fire brigade.

Getting back to normal? Let's hope

THREE CHEERS! The runways lights at Huronia Airport are fully operational, AGAIN.

Over the years the tri-municipal airport in Tiny Township has had its share of runway-lighting problems not to mention a host of other ups and downs (no pun intended).

In any event an inspector with the Department of Transport who inspected the lights recently gave them a clean bill of health although he said he planned to make recommendations to his boss that lights be installed leading to the apron of the facility.

The real shocker concerning this most recent lighting saga was word the airport's night licence is to be reinstated since it was revoked "months and months ago."

And here we thought everything was running along smoothly according to Hoyle.

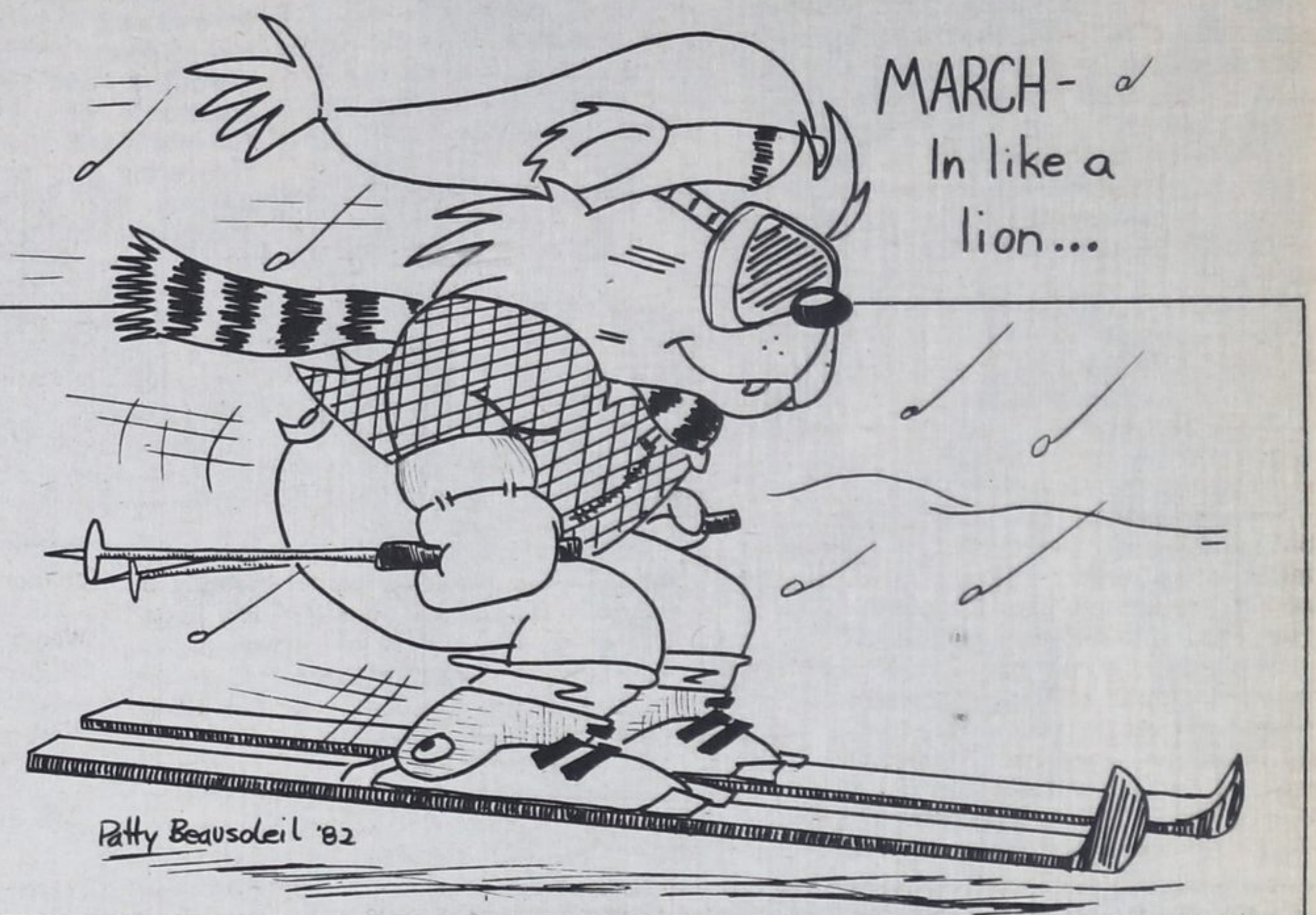
We hate to think of what would have occurred had there been an aviation accident at the airport after dark what with the airport's night licence being yanked and all.

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Letters

Our readers say...

Calls it 'mismanagement'

Dear Editor:

Like a dutiful citizen, I attended last week's meeting of Council. I was surprised at how our fire department is being used as a sacrificial lamb.

Seems to me, if the council of the Town of Midland would have considered the needs of the tax paying citizens before we would be much better off today.

A presentation was made at Monday night's meeting, by a representative of the fire fighters union and by the Fire Marshal's office.

Both presentations really hit home... that is, with most of the audience, but unfortunately didn't seem to have much influence on the already decided minds of our elected officials.

Councillor Bev Day explained that he holds

down two jobs, and doesn't make the same wages as a full time fire-fighter. Perhaps Mr. Day should honestly consider the fact that just maybe his job doesn't involve the risk of that of a fire-fighter.

I personally have a good education, and what I consider an important job, and I too don't make as much money as our firemen, and in all honesty, I can say that I don't think I deserve their salary. I wouldn't get out of my bed in the middle of the night to go and fight a fire, and chances are, nor would Mr. Day!

And to Councillor Dick Platt, who so pompously spelled out that the firemen had no recourse or no chance against the already decided council, but to take drastic cuts in pay and benefits, which by the way he would not do himself.

Perhaps if Mr. Platt would don the gear of a fire-fighter and enter a burning building, crawling on his hands and knees in search of the body of a child, he would find it possible to justify the salary of the firemen... I watched our firemen go in and out of the Peoples Store building when it was ablaze, and I can honestly say, that I wouldn't have gone into that building for a million dollars a year... And probably nor would Mr. Platt!

Certainly we are faced with very difficult economic times, but the fact that many people are losing their jobs and will be living on unemployment benefits or even welfare, as Mr. Platt so readily pointed out, does not mean they should be entitled to less fire protection. Even if families are leaving the area, the buildings that they are leaving behind are still potential fire hazards, and must be protected.

Seems to me the Town of Midland deserves better treatment than this from our elected officials. Surely cuts can be made elsewhere, beside our essential services.

And if roll backs are the only alternative to layoffs, then all municipal staff should be involved, and not just the fire-fighters.

I ask, why are fire-fighters suddenly becoming responsible for all of the economic problems of this community, when most stem from simple mismanagement on the part of the council.

Yours truly,
—R.J. Roberts
Midland

Winterama says thanks

Dear Editor:

The Penetanguishene Winterama has come and gone once again and the Chamber of Commerce and Winterama committee would like to express their thanks and gratitude for the excellent coverage given us these past few months by the Penetanguishene Citizen / Midland Times.

Such co-operation is a must for the success of such a major undertaking and we feel that this past Winterama was one of the most successful ones to date. We have heard nothing but favorable and positive comments and this is due in good part I am sure, to the local media. Special thanks to the Penetanguishene Citizen for sponsoring the Parent-Child Look-alike Contest.

The following people are also very deserving of accolades: The Arena Parks and Recreation staff, the Works Department, the merchants who sponsored contestants and gave prizes and donations for the "Winterama Queen Contest", as well as for the children's events, Nick at the Dock Lunch who gave the senior trophy for the Rubik's Cube competition, the Municipal Office for donating medallions and Centennial pins for special events, John Dubeau and E.S.P.S.S. for supplying the ribbons for the awards, Huronia Insulation for the parade trophies, the Centre d'activites francaises for their participation, Brian at Hindson's Marina for sponsoring the "Bubblegum Contest", the merchants who sponsored contests and donated prizes for all the "Main Street Contests", and all the volunteers who gave so willing of their time and effort to help in any way. A special thanks to Glen Bryant for the extra work done to engrave the trophies on such short notice.

Once again, a "Big Bouquet" to all of you who have helped in one way or another to make our 35th Winterama the huge success it was.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Joyce Sauve,
Secretary,
Penetanguishene
Chamber of Commerce

What's Your Opinion?

The Midland Times, The Penetanguishene Citizen and Elmvale Lance welcome Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed, (by hand) and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification purposes. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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