

## Colossal sigh

by Beulah Barr  
Residents of Hobart Community breathed a colossal sigh of relief on March 9 when the ALL CLEAR signal was given by our Simcoe County Health Officer, Dr. David Korn and Ontario Solicitor General George Taylor via radio and tv. With the announcement came the assurance that life could proceed normally once more.

Little did one realize on that beautiful sunny morning of Feb. 28, that disaster was about to strike in our midst in the form of a CP Rail derailment of 30 some cars with several tank cars containing various toxic chemicals including one with deadly hydrofluoric acid. If that tank had erupted or exploded on impact or when the fire was raging out of control what a traumatic experience the area residents and those of neighbouring communities would have faced and suffered the consequences of. But thankfully that horror did not materialize and one and all can consider how extremely fortunate everyone was.

Sure there were inconveniences and much anxiety felt throughout the nine-day period when many folks were evacuated from their homes, some for over a week, but with the owners being permitted to return to the area daily to feed and water

their livestock and pets during that interval, much of the worry was alleviated.

One cannot begin to extend properly the profound thanks of Hobart and Medonte Township, for the care and thoughtfulness extended to each and everyone by Dr. David Korn and Mr. George Taylor and the radio stations CKBB Barrie and CFOR Orillia and CKMP Midland with round the clock up to the minute reports and advisory warnings. Also thanks to the local press for their coverage of proceedings and human interest stories.

The kindness and courtesy of the OPP officers when they approached the many homes advising of impending evacuation will long be remembered also as they gave people involved the knowledge that they were being protected and cared for in the face of possible catastrophe. Moonstone School students returned to the classrooms on March 9, after their unexpected holiday with mixed feelings. Oh well!

To all our Medonte Township volunteer firemen and their Simcoe County compatriots who did a magnificent on-the-spot job, losing many, many hours of sleep and facing continual danger while fighting the furiously blazing railway cars, which

were piled on top of each other and strewn along the railway tracks, with water freezing in the hoses in the sub-zero weather and all the other disadvantages they had to contend with -- a most grateful THANK YOU.

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Many thanks to everyone who assisted at the site or in the vicinity in any way, providing lodgings, sending in lunches for the fire-fighters and others at the site. Hobart residents are indeed appreciative of their efforts. The milk of human kindness is indeed not lost or forgotten. People do care. As Tiny Tim would say "God Bless Us Everyone."

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The sympathy of the community is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bannan of Vasey and Myrna Thompson of Barrie and June of Toronto in the sad loss of their daughter and sister Bonnie Catherine Lepard of St. Catherines who passed away suddenly on Feb. 23, 1982. Also left to mourn her loss are her husband David and son Sean and daughter Catherine of St. Catherines. As a youthful vocal trio of merit the Bannan sisters sang at many church functions.



**Picture tells it all**

In the Simcoe County Area 3 Girls' Basketball Tournament hosted by Huron Park Public School and held at Midland Secondary School on Feb. 27, this team from Port McNicoll Public School eliminated Parkview School from Midland by a score of 22-13 to win the championship. They were scheduled to play in the Simcoe County final at Barrie North Collegiate on March 13. Front row

left to right, Honalea Jackson, Lisa Smith, Lori-Anne Larmand, Janice Richardson, Fiona Hanratti and Laurie Polmateer. Back row left to right, Mr. Glen Macklin, Susan Bugow, Tracy Banks, Karin Voegelé, Pam Larmand and Kathy Scott. Not present for the photo - Patti Twigg.  
—Bob Murray, photo

## Cenotaph to get a new look

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

The Penetanguishene cenotaph will be renovated jointly by the town and the Royal Canadian Legion in honour of the centennial.

The cost of the improvements is estimated at \$11,500, of which the town will pay \$5,500 and the Legion will grant \$6,000.

Councillor Bob Klug reported to council Monday night that the new cenotaph will be set back off the street, surrounded by landscaping and facing both

ways.

The work is to be done prior to the June 29 parade.

On view at Monday night's council meeting was a plan of the proposed renovations prepared by the firm of Moorehead, Fleming and Corban.

Penetanguishene Downtown Redevelopment Officer, Brian Murrant will supervise the construction.

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