

Personnel go through the hoops

Another chapter in the Sunday, Feb. 28 great train derailment in Medonte Township was written yesterday into the disaster's diary at the Medonte Fire Hall in Moonstone.

There, an estimated 100 of 129 registered firefighters and other personnel who had been at the accident scene were tested by officials from the Ministry of Labour's Occupational Chest Disease Section to test if any of those at the derailment site has since suffered any ill effects from the mishap.

At one time an estimated 1,200 people

had to be evacuated from the derailment scene after black acrid smoke billowing above the wreckage prompted fears there might be explosion.

As well there were fears that hydrofluoric acid in one of the tankers that had toppled over on its side might rupture. (It never did.)

Yesterday, battery of tests involved each candidate being asked a series of questions pertaining to his past medical history and a 10-minute test with the Ministry's "vitalograph machine" which was operated by

technician Nicky Booth with Dr. Jaan O. Roose from the Ministry assisting.

The results of those tests won't be known for another month or so. The machine measures lung capacity and is able to detect abnormal chest-breathing in humans.

The procedure requires candidates to breathe into the machine.

Meanwhile the cost of fighting the fire that resulted from the derailment and mopping up afterwards has been mounting since that cold Sunday

morning in February. Simcoe East MPP George Taylor, who is also the province's solicitor general, is to meet at Queen's Park on Monday with officials from Medonte.

At that time he is to be presented with a bill for well over \$100,000 with the hope the province will assist in covering the costs.

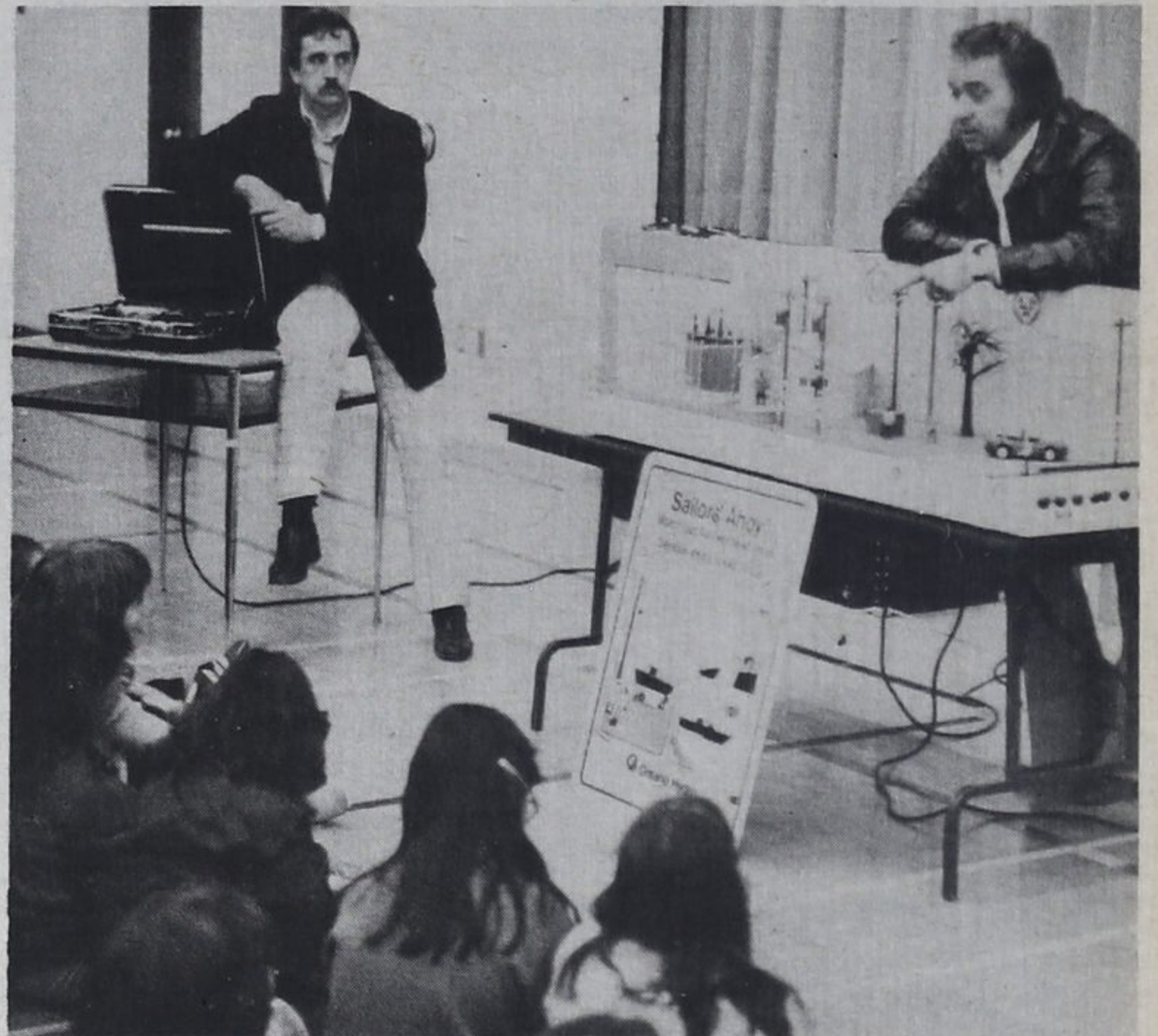
It has been estimated that between \$40-\$50,000 is the total bill from fire departments other than Medonte that responded to the call for assistance.

Medonte's own firefighting bill has been

estimated at \$25,000 while the township will have to come up with an additional \$90,000 to replace vehicles that were damaged during

the course of the firefighting operation. CPR has yet to set a figure on how much railway property and equipment went up in

smoke during the accident which saw 35 cars of a 76-car Edmonton-bound freight car derail and in some cases catch on fire.



Ives awards changed for better, chairman says

Changes in the regulations of the Dr. Raymond E. Ives Horticultural Awards, adopted at the annual convention of District 16 of the Ontario Horticultural Association, will provide increased encouragement for students whose homes are in Simcoe County to embark on the study of horticulture after graduating from high school, awards chairman Miriam Swan says.

Now, each student accepted for a two, three, or four year course in horticulture will be eligible to receive an award of approximately \$100 in the first year of the course, and in each succeeding year in which the student achieves grades satisfactory to the university, school, or college attended.

In addition, this year, because of changes in the awards program, students who have completed the first year of their post-secondary horticulture course will receive \$100 for the first year of the course, as well as \$100 for the coming year, and

every succeeding year in which they achieve satisfactory grades.

The awards program was set up in 1976 to encourage the study of horticulture by students living in District 16, OHA. It was named to honour Dr. Ray Ives of Stayner, a beloved and respected family doctor who did much to further horticulture in Ontario.

It is funded by the 20 Horticultural Societies located in Alliston, Angus, Barrie, Beeton, Bond Head, Brentwood, Coldwater, Collingwood, Creemore, Elmville, Gilford, Midland, Orillia, Oro Township, Painswick, Penetanguishene, Stayner, Thornton, Tottenham, and Vespra. The societies make annual contributions based on their membership. There is interest from a small endowment fund established in 1979 with the proceeds of a horticultural raffle. A few memorial donations have also been received.

The dangers of electricity

Students at St. Joseph School in Penetanguishene were visited a week ago by a team from Ontario Hydro who spoke about the dangers of electricity. Recently a young

Penetanguishene-area youngster was severely injured when he was caught in hydro wires while playing near his home.

Ads help to pay for catalogues

Did you ever wonder how a company like Woolco can afford to give away those thick catalogues full of colour pictures?

The company sells space to companies whose products are displayed in the catalogue.

Don Keck, the manager of the local Woolco Catalogue Store, told Midland Rotarians this week that the Midland store had \$1 million in net sales in

its first year.

Returns last year, however, were high, about eight per cent, over \$75,000.

The Midland Woolco Catalogue Store sells more jewelry and watches than any other of the company's catalogue stores. Woolco is a subsidiary of the F. W. Woolworth Company.

Contact
Community information
526-9333 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

by Irene Quesnelle, administrator

Due to a private individual opening a consignment store for used clothing in Penetang, our Centre will not be operating such an enterprise as previously reported.

We, at Contact Information Centre, would like to welcome our newest member of the Board of Directors, John Hower. We are pleased to have John's experience and expertise as resource to our Centre.

A word of welcome also to two friends who have moved back to the area. Hi, Debbie Swanfelt and Bob Follett. If we can be of any assistance don't hesitate to call.

As of May 17, I will be absent from the Centre on sick leave for six to eight weeks. Barb Emerson will be in charge of the office and capably handling matters in my absence.

The solution to even the most difficult problem begins with the first step. If you have a problem, take the first step. Call Contact your Community Information Centre today.

Meanwhile the report of the National Advisory Council on Volunteer Action to the Government of Canada noted a "new and healthy realization that the volunteer himself does and should benefit from voluntary activity."

It said "Today, many volunteers tend to place less emphasis on a charitable motivation and frankly admit that their involvement in voluntary activity arises from their need for self-expression, self-development and self-protection. Given that large numbers of Canadians are heavily engaged in, voluntary activity, many are seeking to fulfil their personal needs."

People enjoy doing something for nothing on their own terms. Our community could benefit greatly for much more voluntary activity on any terms. The needs are greatest for volunteers to help in training programs for the handicapped, illiterate, probationers, elderly, sick and children.

Welcome to new members

Please call us at Volunteer Bureau Huronia, 526-6878 for further details or visit the office at 246 King St. Midland. Office Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.



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Special prices in effect from Wed., May 26, to Tues., June 1