

# Vote is against Sherk

Don Sherk Construction of Penetanguishene lost a contract for work in Midland worth more than \$140,000 Monday evening in part because of a letter that company owner Don Sherk wrote last Thursday to Midland's public works commissioner.

When tenders for the reconstruction of Queen Street in Midland were opened on June 5, Arnott Construction of Collingwood was the low bidder with \$145,306.72. Sherk Construction's bid was second, \$147,162.

Some council members were disturbed by the letter and voted 6-3 against giving the contract to Sherk, and then voted 7-2 to award the contract to Arnott Construction. Some councillors argued that Sherk should get the contract because he is a local contractor and will spend more of the contract money in Midland.

## Don Sherk reacts: See story on Page 3

In his letter dated July 8 to Public Works Commissioner Percy Ehler, Sherk said, "As you are well aware our company is the low bid on Part A of this contract. We have looked at our prices quoted in Part B, and now realize that they are out of proportion with Part A. Our company is prepared to do Part B of this contract for the same unit

prices as part A."

Sherk's revised bid was \$142,070. Sherk went on in his letter to point out the excellent relationship his company has had with the town, and that his company was a local company employing local people. "We need this contract to keep our forces busy."

"We would appreciate your assistance in having this contract awarded to our company. I am prepared to meet with yourself and the Public Works Committee if you feel this would be warranted."


Deputy-reeve Bev Day told council, "I think we'll be laughed at the next time we tender" (if council gave the contract to Sherk). I think our good reputation will go down the drain." But if the contract was to go to Sherk, his lowest bid should be accepted, to save the town some money, Day added. In the recorded votes that followed Day voted against giving the contract to Sherk and for giving the contract to Arnott.

Councillor Ian Ross, in explaining the motion to give the contract to Sherk Construction, said that because Sherk Construction is a local company, the money would be spent in Midland, the cost of administration, such as telephone calls, would be higher with a Collingwood firm, and that the difference between the two construction firms was less than one per cent.

Councillor Richard Platt said that a matter of principal was at issue. Council should not only act in an open and above board manner, but be seen to be acting in an open and above board manner, he said. Sherk's letter was compromising, he said, and the awarding of the contract to Sherk would leave "a bad taste in my mouth."

Council decided against opening the contract for a second round of tendering, which some councillors suggested would save the town money. Councillor Robert Jeffery's suggestion that in fairness the other bidders on the contract should be contacted and asked if they would lower their bids was also not supported.

During the recorded votes Mayor Moreland Lynn, Councillor Ian Ross, and Councillor Al Hennin voted to give the Queen Street contract to Sherk Construction. In the next vote, Mayor Lynn and Councillor Ross were the only council members to vote against giving the contract to Arnott Construction. Both Councillor Day and Councillor Joe Blake requested a recorded vote.



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## Snake bite proves false

Jennifer Ferland has joined the list of one or two people a year who are suspected to have been bitten by, or who have been bitten by, one of the Massasauga rattlesnakes indigenous to the Georgian Bay Island National Park and the surrounding Georgian Bay shoreline.

The four-year-old from Toronto, rushed by boat to Midland and then to Huronia District Hospital last Friday morning, had not in fact been bitten by a rattlesnake. She was kept for a few hours for observation and then released, park Warden Dan Reive said.

The rattlers, on the rare and endangered list in this country, are neither rare or endangered in this area. "It is difficult for anyone to spend any time in the park" and not know what the snakes look like, and what to do in case of a bite," Warden Reive said. The information is well posted and is also contained in the pamphlets describing the island, he said.

A person with a suspected or real bite can be brought to either Penetanguishene General Hospital or to HDH for treatment, the warden said. The bite of the Massasauga rattler is not necessarily fatal,



## False alarm

Jennifer Ferland, four years old, of Toronto, is understandably upset as she is transferred from a boat to an ambulance waiting at the Midland town

he said. The age of the person bitten and the location of the bite are important factors.

The area around a bite would swell within one to two hours, he said. A boat can travel

dock to take her to hospital. Fears that the child had been bitten by a Massasauga rattler were proved to be unfounded.

from the island to the mainland within 10 minutes.

Ferland was a

passenger on a boat that docked at McCabe Rock, a picnic area in the national park.

## Citizen briefly

### ESPSS has 12 scholars

Twelve of this year's graduates from Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School have been named Ontario scholars.

ESPSS's 1982 Ontario scholars are Janice Desroches, Yvonne Desroches, Elizabeth Gammell, Elizabeth Glover, Leonard Lefaive, Paul Marchildon, Carolyn Maurice, Anne Merkley, Michelle Morrow, Denise Preston, Christopher Sibbald, and Val Smith.

### Annual bikini

#### contest on Aug. 1

The third annual Bikini Contest at Penetanguishene's Dock Lunch will be held on Aug. 1. Dock Lunch owner Nick Boudouris says. He is arranging for some well known hockey players to act as judges this year.

About 15 girls (and, last year, one man) have competed on a stage erected in the parking lot at the town's dock in each of the last three years. Boudouris estimates that 3,000 people watched the contest last year.

### Bicyclist injured in collision

Paul Windross, 17, of Robert Street, Penetanguishene, was seriously injured on July 5 when his bicycle collided with a car. The car's driver, Louise Gauthier, 39, a Penetanguishene-area resident, has been charged with making an improper left turn.

The collision took place at the intersection of County Road 26 and Tiny Township Concession 13 at 5:35 p.m.

### Personality

#### to host teen contest

Television personality Sherisse Laurence will host the Miss Maple Valley Teen contest on the final day of the 1982 Rockin' Blue Grass Festival July 23-25 at the Maple Valley Club near Lafontaine.

At least 10 girls, all 16 to 19 years of age and daughters of Maple Valley Club members, will compete for the teen title.

The contest will take place from 2 to 4 p.m.

### One accident leads to another

Two residents of a Mississauga home were injured in separate traffic accidents near Sawlog Bay in Tiny Township last Friday evening. A third person was killed.

Dead due to suffocation after being pinned under the International four wheel drive vehicle which he was driving, when it rolled on Bush Road, is Kirk Wallace, 16, of Rexdale.

A passenger, Kerry Taylor, 17, of 761 Willowbank Trail, Mississauga, was injured. About an hour later, Valerie Taylor, 42, of the same address, was injured when her car also went off a curve on Bush Road while, police said, she was attempting to get help for an accident.

### SCBE top brass meet this evening

When Simcoe County Board of Education trustees meet tonight for an 8 p.m. general meeting they'll be faced with a rather large agenda.

The meeting itself at the Education Centre will be open to the general public.