

Too much red tape already, Tiny says

Township opposes health council

by Adrienne
Graham Gardner

Although "perfectly willing to meet" with the steering committee appointed to study the feasibility of a district health council for Simcoe County, Tiny council remains unanimously opposed to the concept of "another layer of bureaucracy

between us and Queen's Park."

Reeve Morris Darby told Tiny council Wednesday that "in speaking to people associated with health councils across the province, I found most appointees asking themselves 'What in the heck are we doing here?' after a few meetings."

The Reeve suggested that the money required to set up and maintain a district health council could be better applied to providing health services at existing hospitals.

The Ministry of Health is using the health council "as a

club over our heads, (a pre-requisite) in order to acquire other related health services" said Darby.

The steering committee appointed this spring by the Minister of Health, Larry Grossman, to

study the efficacy of a health council for Simcoe County is chaired by former county warden John Fennell. Simcoe County is one of only two areas in Ontario without a health council.

Tiny councillor Ron Hamelin theorized that

the province was instituting health councils "because they're just too damned lazy or incompetent to deal with hospital boards independently," preferring to deal indirectly through fewer bodies.

Councillor John

Butler called health councils "just another level telling those who know what they're doing," and suggested that the "initial \$250,000 cost of setting up a council should be used for more beds at both local hospitals."

Prejudice is official in South Africa: student

Inge Schwauss, recently returned from a one-year Rotary Club-sponsored exchange visit to South Africa, says, "I found a lot of prejudice (in South Africa) but I sometimes wonder if there isn't as much here." The prejudice against the natives of the country by the ruling European-descended whites is obvious because it is written into the country's constitution, she said.

Schwauss, a 19-year-old resident of Penetanguishene, graduated from Grade 12 with honours before going to South Africa. Her mother is from Southwest Africa.

During her stay she was the guest in the homes of five Rotarians in the farming centre of Viljoenskroon, in Orange Free State. Two of the Rotarians who hosted her were millionaires and the others were wealthy, she said.

During her stay in Viljoenskroon, she was a student at Solomon Senekal Hoerskool. "The method of teaching was disastrous," she told Midland Rotarians this week. Education for the school's students was a matter of memorizing information handed to them and regurgitating it for examinations. Since students there are not encouraged to think for themselves, it is not surprising that the failure rate at South African universities is much higher proportionately than at Canadian and United States universities, she said.

The conformity extended to all areas of the school life. Schwauss wore a green and yellow uniform to school. Students walked in single file along corridors, and mingling of the sexes was discouraged.

The question most frequently asked of Schwauss was about the relationship of the French and the English in this country. The South African questioners seemed to think that the situation here is parallel to the situation in their own country, Schwauss said.

Schwauss returned home with a greater appreciation of everything she left behind, her parents, her friends, her school, and her country. "To be honest when I saw the CN Tower tears came flooding into my eyes."

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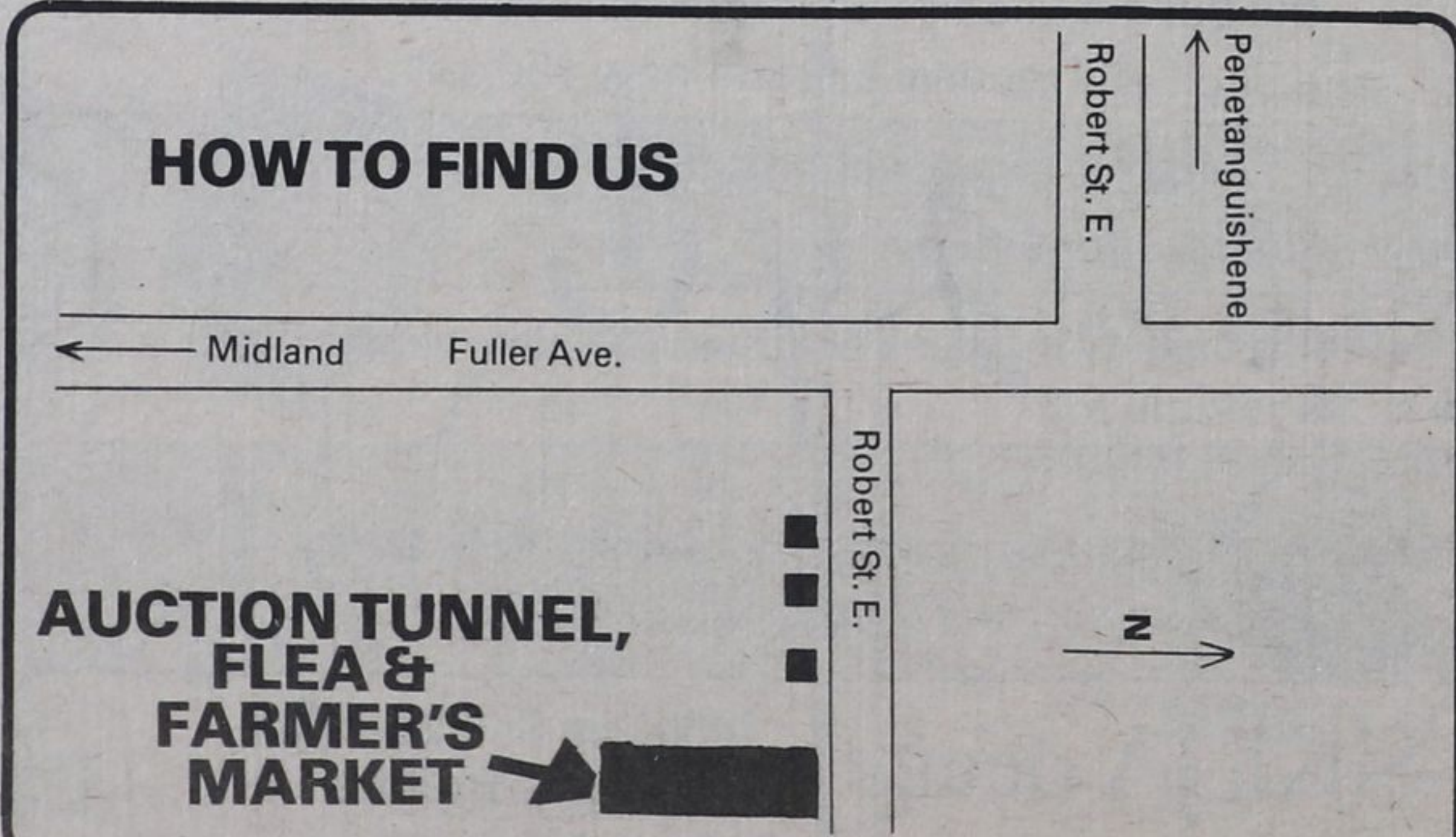
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