

PLEASE CALL US
Story or picture idea:
549-2012 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Information is the hallmark of democracy"

HDH board has priorities confused

DO YOU REALIZE, unlike in the United States blood donors in Canada aren't paid for their precious "gift of life."

Blood is often needed right here at home at HDH which charges well in excess of \$200 a day for patients quartered in active beds.

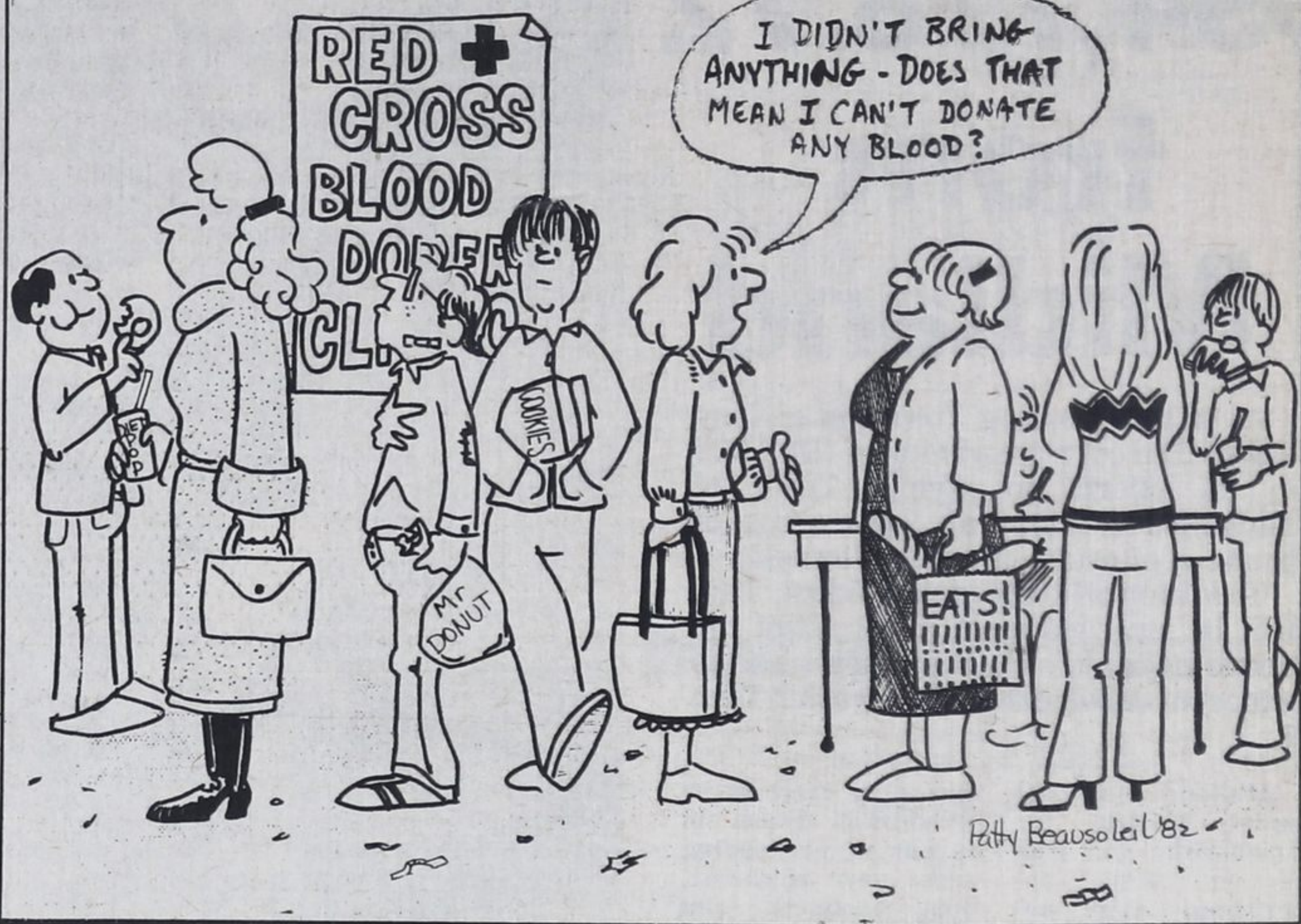
Now out of the blue, hospital board members have become upset upon learning HDH has been footing the bill for many of the related costs for hosting Red Cross Blood Donors' Clinics in Midland.

Most of the costs come under the category of refreshments: juices, coffee, cookies, etc for donors, who we repeat are not paid for their blood donations.

Maybe in future the 400 or 500 donors who show up at clinics in Midland should boycott them if there's so much fuss over the above expenditures.

However that would be a pity since A) these clinics are the most successful ever staged in Ontario and B) every six seconds someone in Canada is helped by a blood donation and is healthier for it.

Exchanging cups of coffee and cookies for the "gift of life" is the least HDH or any other hospital should be prepared to do...wouldn't you agree?



Letters

He has union blues!

Dear Editor:

These days, unions are in the news almost continually, perhaps because they are either on strike or going on strike. Through their democratically elected leaders, unions usually demand the highest of wages, the most fringe benefits, highest over-time pay and reduced working hours.

To my knowledge, there is nothing in union policy that demands the best work of the members for the wages earned. In fact, a major problem with unions is that the lazy and incompetent can hide and survive which makes other members carry the extra work-load.

Unions have been empowered by politicians to hold great authority over those for whom they work, often making the employers their slave. Yet in public they speak of the democratic system as if unions were the only ones practising democracy. May I ask what is so democratic about being forced to belong to a union in order to get certain jobs, the Post Office being one example?

Doubtless, it is politically expedient to allow unions to operate as they do, but it is not morally right? Having to belong to a union is not democratic and is actually legalized discrimination, which is allowed in order for politicians to get union members votes. Post Office employees, to name only one example, have hurt this country a great deal, but are not held accountable for their actions.

Suppose for a moment that sanity prevailed and

our laws were fair.

Then union leaders would have to practise as they preach and if they did not like the conditions offered by the employer, could take themselves and their entire membership and start a business of their own.

Surely a whole union membership and their leaders could run a business, since when one listens to them, one assumes they have all the answers. They could demonstrate to businessmen how to do the "right" thing.

This arrangement should guarantee democracy and be a fail-proof business venture. They would be in the unique position of being able to offer what they have been demanding for years: highest wages, most overtime pay, hiring the most people, giving the most liberal time off and the longest paid holidays.

This would lift our country out of its present economic crisis and put nearly everyone to work, replacing all those union members and leaders who went into business for themselves.

Yes, if unions talk democracy, then they should practise what they preach. I wonder that Human Rights has not investigated this discriminatory practise by unions of forcing people to join their ranks in order to obtain employment. Perhaps your political representative should be asked this question.

D.D. Cranfield
Saskatoon, Sask.

Special thanks from Mike Owen

Dear Editor:

Just a short note of thanks to all of the people in Midland for giving me the opportunity to serve them as Clerk of their municipality.

Thank you seems somewhat inadequate to offer to a community which has given me so much. It is

Thanks to John O'Hara

Dear Editor:

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce regrets very much the resignation of John O'Hara, President of the Chamber. His tenure as President has been such a positive influence on all of us and the increase in membership in the past couple of years is due mainly to John's time and effort.

His many accomplishments in the Chamber and in the community are very much appreciated and we know he will continue this in broader fields.

We would also like to thank him for the many hours he has devoted to any of the Chamber functions and especially at Winterama and Summer Festival.

Thanks again John, and all the best!

Sincerely,
Joyce Sauve
Secretary
Penetanguishene
Chamber of Commerce

my hope and my wish that the people will look to the future in a positive way because the future holds great opportunity, and that the community will grow and prosper.

To the incoming Midland Council, I offer my congratulations and am confident that those elected will serve with the interests of the people and the community close to their hearts.

Thank you very much, and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Michael T. Owen
A.M.C.T., C.E.M.
Clerk

What's Your Opinion?

The Midland Times, The Penetanguishene Citizen and Elmvalle 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.

•More letters on Page 6



Shilling subject

Fred Jackson admires one of several paintings by Indian artists which decorate the offices of the Georgian Bay Tribal Council on King St. in Midland. This contemporary oil

painting is by renowned artist Arthur Shilling, an Ojibway from Rama Reserve near Orillia. The general public is welcome to drop by anytime for a look. Beend Gan!

The Penetanguishene Citizen

Second Class Mail Registration Number 2327

Published every Wednesday by Douglas Parker Publishing Ltd.
309 King Street, Midland, Ontario / 526-2283
Publisher: Douglas Parker.

Penetanguishene Editor: Douglas Reed

One Year Subscription (carrier delivered) \$15.60.

One Year Subscriptions (by mail) \$16.60

U.S.A. and Foreign \$30.00 per year.

Member, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association
and Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association.

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations

