

# End of an era

## General Williams to be tendered for sale here

by Bob Murray

What could be called a chapter in the history of navigation on the waters of southern Georgian Bay is about to come to a close.

The "General Williams", the Midland OPP detachment's patrol launch, which at one time was considered to be the flagship of the OPP's marine division will be sold by sealed tender, Nov. 16.

The 35' wooden-hulled cruiser was built by Reginald Lowe of Killarney, Ontario in 1966. Constructed of mahogany planking on white oak frames, the unit is powered by twin 440 cubic inch Chrysler marine engines. Weighing in at 11.5 tons, the craft was capable of speeds up to 35 mph.

The General, as she was affectionately known by her crews

over the years, was retired in late August of this year due to age and was subsequently replaced by a British Columbia built 37' "Canoe Cove" cabin cruiser. The new unit, which is a fiberglass-hulled beauty, is fully equipped with the latest navigational aids and communications equipment including radar.

The new unit was escorted into Midland harbour by the General Williams, following her maiden voyage from Sarnia, Ontario. Aply named for her predecessor, the "General Williams II" was pressed into service shortly after being outfitted with radio equipment and OPP insignia.

Since her arrival in Midland in May of 1976, the General Williams

has been the pride of the Midland OPP detachment and one man in particular, Cpl. W. F. "Bill" Mohan, who is now retired as well.

The General Williams quickly became a familiar sight on the waters of Georgian Bay from shortly after spring breakup to late into the fall. She has had many crews over the years but only one real skipper, namely Cpl. Mohan.

Possessing a high degree of knowledge of the waters of the area, Cpl. Mohan could be relied on to respond to any marine emergency, in any weather, at any time of the day or night.

Knowing that no matter what the risks, Cpl. Mohan knew that the job would be made easier for him and his crew, because the General Williams would serve them well.

Cpl. Mohan, who has an endless chain of recollections of memorable investigations over the years, recounted many events over the years, some with tragic endings and some with heart-warming conclusions.

In 1976, the General Williams, with Mohan as skipper was detailed to assist in providing security for the sailing events of the Montreal Olympics, which were

held near Kingston, Ontario. Part of the duties at that time was to provide an escort through the St. Lawrence Seaway for the Royal Yacht Britannia. In 1977, it was off once again to Kingston for the General Williams and Cpl Mohan. This time to provide security for the CORK races, (qualifying events for the 1980 Olympics).

As for successful investigations, Mohan recalled a near disaster one summer evening when a call was answered late at night to investigate the reported sinking of a vessel off Present Island. The

cabin cruiser, owned by Midland Businessman Graham Patchell struck a shoal and sank almost immediately. Remaining calm, all aboard remained with the ill-fated vessel which came to rest on a ledge with virtually no part of it remaining above water. Two strong swimmers in the group set out swimming and eventually reached an island where help was summoned.

The end result in the investigation was the subsequent rescue of the remaining 17 men aboard the boat. It was a welcome sight that morning when the General returned to

Midland harbour with her precious cargo.

Not all of the searches in which the General Williams was involved turned out as well. On many occasions over the years, after spending hours and sometimes days searching for victims, occurrences ended with the General bringing back bad news. Mohan says these tragedies are part of the job, but something one never really gets used to.

For many years of service to the Georgian Bay area, we salute the General Williams, Cpl Mohan and the many officers who served on her.



### Dec. 1 deadline for plan

Farmers are reminded that the deadline for registration in the Ontario Sow Weaner Stabilization Plan is Dec. 1. The plan is in effect from 1980-1985. It is necessary to register every six months, declaring the number of sows on hand at that time.

hog prices fall below this level for any six month period within the five year program.

Registration forms are available at the local agricultural office. It is possible for producers not already in the program to register for period 6.

This is a voluntary program jointly sponsored by the farmer and the provincial government. Farmers who choose to participate pay one-third of the cost with the government picking up the remainder.

Payments are made from the fund to cover from 90 per cent to 95 per cent of the adjusted cost of production when

### Charges laid here

As a result of a car-pedestrian mishap shortly before noon Tuesday, Lisa Stever, 16, of Midland was rushed by ambulance to Huronia District Hospital for X-rays.

The MSS student was found to have suffered a mild concussion.

Midland police later charged Brian Vermeulen of Midland with dangerous driving.

The accident occurred on Norene Street.

### 102-year-old dies in Midland

One of this area's oldest residents is dead. Lucy Jane Quinlan, 102, had resided for the past four years.

To all my friends and supporters, thank you very much for the vote of confidence.

Councillor re-elect  
**Bob Klug**

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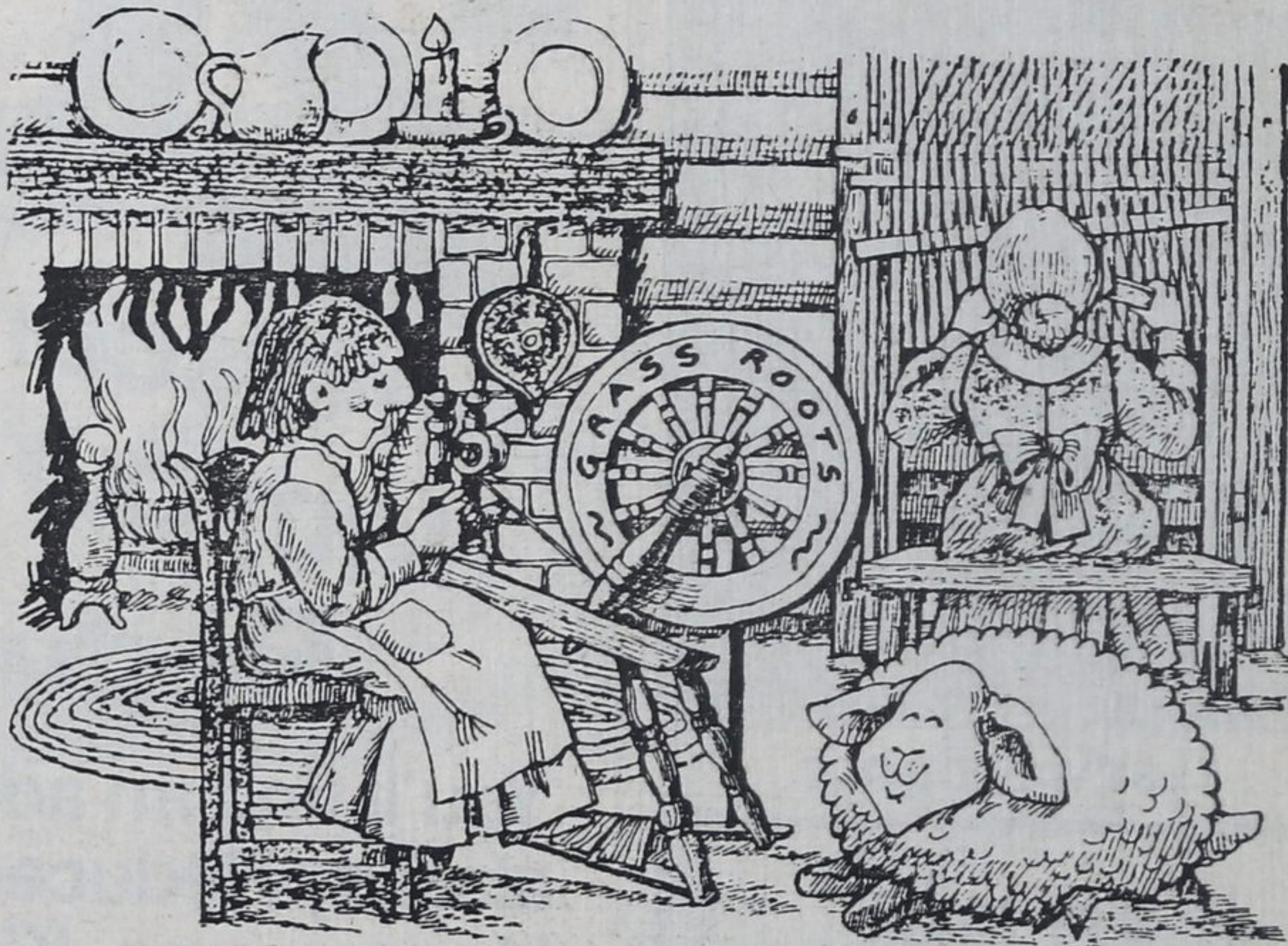


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