

Mayor Ron Bellisle sets his crew's course for the new year

by Carol Dimock

"I am very proud of the past council's record and hereby promise to continue to work for the betterment of our municipality which we all love so much. I hereby pledge to continue to make Penetanguishene a better place to live."

These remarks were made by acclaimed Mayor Ron Bellisle in his address to council at the Inaugural meeting, held Monday evening in the council chambers.

The mayor welcomed back members of last year's council and the two new members, Mr. Larry Bellisle and Mr. John O'Hara Jr., and also the new member of the Water and Light Commission, Mr. Jim Martin.

The officials were took their oath of office in a ceremony conducted by Mr. Paul Devillers, town solicitor.

The Mayor also thanked the two outgoing council members, Mr. Ken Tannahill and Mr. Bob Cascagnette. In particular, he recognized the eleven years of service given by Mr. Tannahill on council and various boards and committees.

Mayor Bellisle spoke of the economic conditions over the last several years which have resulted in a slowdown of capital spending. However, the municipality has been assisted by the "Neighbourhood Improvement Program," spending approximately \$2 million on municipal improvements. He mentioned the storm sewer system, McGuire Park and the Waterfront Beach area, and the turning circle.

One of the basic priorities of council, the Mayor said, is the Sanitary Sewer in the North End, which will be constructed with the aid of a grant from the Ontario Neighbourhood Improvement Program. A public meeting will be held with the ratepayers in January, in hopes of a



consensus to proceed with this project.

Other projects will include renovations to the arena, the Museum on Burke Street, expansion of the Library. Application for assistance through Wintario Grants will be made. The Town is required to have a master plan of culture and recreation approved by council and the province before Wintario grants can be made available.

The administration of the dock area has been entrusted to the Arena, Parks and Recreation Board in the past. In the upcoming year, Council will consider the forming of a Harbour Commission, made up of interested citizens and Council representatives, to assist in planning of the waterfront.

Mayor Bellisle mentioned that Reeve Art Stewart is running for the position of Warden at county level. To assist Mr. Stewart in his efforts, the mayor has minimized his responsibilities to the council this year, nevertheless asking him to continue to

be Deputy-Mayor as his timetable will permit.

The Mayor announced appointments to various committees and boards for the new term:

Deputy-reeve Frances St. Amant will head the General Government, Finance and Administration Committee, and will continue to be on the Arena, Parks and Recreation Board as one of the three representatives of council.

Councillor Ray Baker will continue to head the Public Works Committee, will continue to be the town's Planning Board representative on Council along with the Mayor, and will be council's representative along with Mr. Dion and the Mayor on the Midland/Penetanguishene Joint Manpower Assessment and Planning Committee.

Councillor Don McNee will head the Public Safety Committee and continue his work on the Penetanguishene Arena Parks and Recreation Board. Councillor Robert Klug, will head

the Development and Housing Committee and continue to be one of Council's representatives on the Penetanguishene Museum Board and the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, L.A.C.A.C.

Over and above these chairmanships, all members of council have been appointed to assist the Chairman of the various committees.

During the Inaugural Meeting, a devotional service was given jointly by Father Jacobsen and Reverend Arril. Reverend Arril spoke of the serious economic situation and the unemployment in the area. "Your job will not be an easy one, he told council, and asked that everyone pray for council to be given "faith, courage and vision," to deal with the challenge.

Mayor Bellisle introduced members of staff who were in attendance, and several guests offered their congratulations to the new council.

Tay Reeve Bruce Tinney extended season's greetings to council and wished them well.

Councillor Gabe Brunelle from the Township of Tiny also congratulated the new council. Mayor Bellisle spoke of the association between Tay. Tiny and Penetanguishene as one we can all be proud of. "I feel we are on the right track", said the Mayor.

The new council performed their first duties in passing several by-laws and resolutions confirming the Town's signing officers and the appointments to various boards and committees.

Following the meeting, refreshments were served at the reception which was held in the council chambers.

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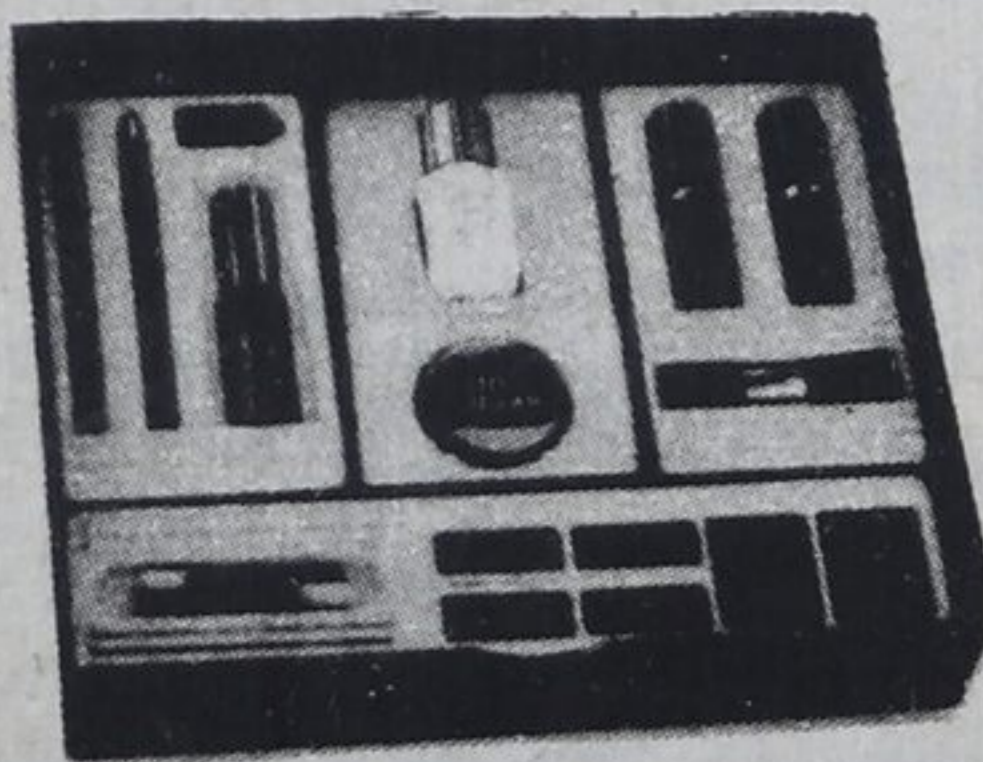
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