



Popular Port Severn landmark feels the brunt of stubborn inferno

An early Wednesday morning fire has all but destroyed a Port Severn landmark. The Bayview Hotel is said to have sustained an estimated \$150,000 damage as a result of the blaze which also cut off telephone service to Port Severn-Honey Harbour for a time. Fire Marshal's Office investigators have yet to pinpoint the cause of this week's fire.

Conflagration Bayview Hotel gutted

by DOUG REED

A popular Port Severn landmark, the Bayview Hotel, was all but consumed by an early morning fire, Wednesday.

At the peak of the blaze, more than 35 firefighters from Port Severn, Waubashene and Honey Harbour were seen battling the stubborn inferno.

Matchedash firefighters were also called out to ferry air bottles to the scene to be used in Scot Air Packs.

According to Township of Georgian Bay (Port Severn-Honey Harbour) Fire Chief Norm Boon, firefighters were called out at 2:31 a.m. after a member of the Midland OPP discovered the blaze.

Shortly after the first fire truck arrived, flames had punched a hole in the hotel's roof.

Two hours later, the night sky lit up as most of the structure became totally engulfed.

By daybreak, the blaze had been brought under control. However it wasn't until 3 p.m. that the last of the exhausted firefighters were given the green light to return to the Port Severn Fire Hall after the remaining hot spots had been watered down and an inspection of the ruins had been conducted by John McKenzie, an investigator with the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office who had been called to the scene.

McKenzie was in Port Severn again yesterday sifting through the building's ruins in an effort to pinpoint the conflagration's cause.

It is interesting to note, that at one point, 12 lines of water were played on the burning structure with water draughted from the lake near the hotel.

The hotel itself had been boarded up for the winter, Chief Boon confirmed yesterday.

As for the fire, it is believed it may have started in the building's kitchen near the rear centre of the frame complex.

Boon concluded yesterday, that it may take days, if not weeks, before it's determined what caused the terrible fire to erupt.

Meanwhile telephone service to Honey Harbour-Port Severn was disrupted for a time, after flames licked through overhead phone cables in the immediate area of the fire.

Telephone service late in the day was restored by Bell Canada crews called to the scene to mend the ruins.

Law Day set for April 18

April 18 is Law Day in Canada. This commemoration is sponsored by the Canadian Bar Association, and actively supported by Midland-Penetang Bar Association.

Law Day is also receiving the active support of the Attorney General of Canada, and the Attorney-General of the various provinces.

Here in Midland-Penetang the Bar Association has three active projects:

1. Derek Mendes da Costa, Chairman of the Ontario Law Reform Commission will be lecturing at the Midland Rotary Club on Wednesday, April 13. Those remarks will be taped for broadcast on Law Day at 8 p.m. on Cable 12. In order that the public's attention can be directed to this telecast, the Midland-Penetang Bar Association is embarking on an advertising program on the local radio station and in the local press.

2. The Bar Association is conducting an essay contest for students in the five area high schools and we are making available a \$100 prize for the best essay dealing with the Rule of Law.

3. Each of the members of the Midland-Penetang Bar Association is offering to attend at a local school to give a lecture on the Rule of Law, law making, and law enforcement.

Spring flowers early

With winter 1982-83 just about ready to officially bid adieu, this newspaper received a report yesterday of flowers already growing at a home near Queen and Dominion in

Midland. On closer inspection one of our reporters spotted yellow and pink coloured flowers pushing their way through a flower garden at that location.

Group home bylaw amended

The group home bylaw proposed for Penetanguishene will be on the agenda of the town council's March 28 meeting, with an amendment, Mayor Ron Bellisle says.

The bylaw received its first and second reading at last month's council meeting. A member of the audience expressed his concern then that the bylaw as constituted would allow group homes for drug addicts. Some members of the council wanted more information, and received it during a caucus meeting of council on Monday.

The amendment to the group home bylaw, says the mayor, makes clear the fact that any drug addicts in a group home in the town would be there only after being rehabilitated for their addiction elsewhere. One more reading is required for the bylaw to pass.

It's a first

Midland firefighters joined their counterparts from Tiny Tay who have already quelled their first grass fires of the new year.

Early Wednesday afternoon Midland smoke-eaters snuffed out a grass fire just off Brunelle Sideroad in Tay.

Oil spill clean up begins in earnest diesel fuel in Midland Bay

by MURRAY MOORE
Two Canadian Coast

Guard employees were on hand at the freighter

Beechglen on Wednesday afternoon to

inspect the removal from Midland Bay of diesel fuel.



Cleaning bay water

Diesel fuel leaked from the freighter Beechglen was collected inside a boom on Wednesday and skimmed by suction from the surface

of the water. Coast guard employees there predicted the cleanup would finish that day or yesterday.

The official estimate of the amount of diesel fuel in the bay around and near the Beechglen, moored at Maple Leaf Mills, was 200 gallons.

Employees of Comco of Barrie earlier on Tuesday pumped leaked diesel fuel from the bilge of the Beechglen.

The Coast Guard employees estimated on Wednesday afternoon that the cleanup would be finished yesterday if not Wednesday.

The diesel fuel leaked down the side of the Beechglen, from the side of the ship beside the dock, near the stern, through a crack in the 1 1/2 inch steel plate.

Beechglen chief engineer Larry Bagby speculated that the crack resulted some time when the Beechglen was going through a water lock, such as the Welland Canal, and bumped against the wall of the canal.

The crack was only apparent this week, he said, because more diesel fuel than normally taken aboard was ordered, and pumped aboard late last week.