

That's My Line



Gary Posey 'My home is worthless'

by MURRAY MOORE

Gary Posey will be one of a very small group of residents of this area who will pay substantially less tax to his municipality on his home: \$200 less, representing a drop of \$17,000 in assessment, or 35 per cent.

But Posey isn't happy. Posey is one of several property owners in Perkinsfield whose well water is contaminated. His home is worthless, Posey says. No one would buy it, so why should he have to pay taxes?

An assessment review board heard applications this week from a number of Perkinsfield residents for a drop in their property assessment. Posey asked for a 55 per cent decrease on his home, and also a decrease for his business, Perkinsfield Rustic Furniture Ltd., located on property adjacent to his home.

Posey was informed in December of last year that his well water was contaminated at such a high level that the water should not be drunk. Since then he has made trips to Elmvalle two and three times a week to fill plastic jugs with water from the free-flowing well there.

Posey is the treasurer of the lobby group Tiny Ratepayers Against Pollution (TRAP). He lays the blame for the dumping of powerful and, in large enough amounts, hazardous, waste at the nearby dump operated by Eric Pauze Construction at the feet of the Ministry of the Environment.

Posey doesn't hold Eric Pauze, a cousin, responsible for the problems that have resulted from liquid industrial waste moving underground from the dump into nearby residents' drinking water. "If (Eric Pauze) thought that he was hurting anybody, he would do something about it," Posey said. Pauze was required by the terms of his contract to operate the dump to accept everything that has gone into it, Posey says.

Posey says that he won't move because he has too much invested. "I will sell my property to the govern-

ment. They bought some towns in the United States. Maybe they'll buy ours!"

The provincial government spends \$40 million on its Ontario Is Beautiful campaign but it can't spend \$1 million in Perkinsfield to correct the environmental problem, Posey complains. "They can't spend \$20,000 to \$25,000 to move the sludge."

Contaminated sludge was dumped on a part of the Eric Pauze property which was outside the border of the dump. The ministry proposes to move the sludge into the area zoned for the dump, and to cover it. Analysis of the sludge showed that the quantity of chemicals has six or seven gallons mixed among 25,000 gallons of sludge, says Ministry spokesman Neil Embree.

Posey bought a \$2,500 humidifier last fall for the work area of his furniture factory as a measure to make the work area healthier for his 10 employees. Since the humidifier uses contaminated water, it is run only at night, when the building is empty. A water cooler for the 10 employees is covered with dust and junk.

Town holds up its payment to Tiny

A motion at Monday's meeting of Midland council for the town to pay Tiny Township \$42,303.21 was withdrawn.

The Ontario Municipal Board awarded the township the money last December. Tiny Township made a claim that Midland should pay for its costs in fighting Midland's annexation bid for 2,600 acres of the township's land.

The decision to order the payment of the money was withdrawn until the town's solicitor determines whether the town is to receive copies of the studies which the township commissioned to use in its defence.

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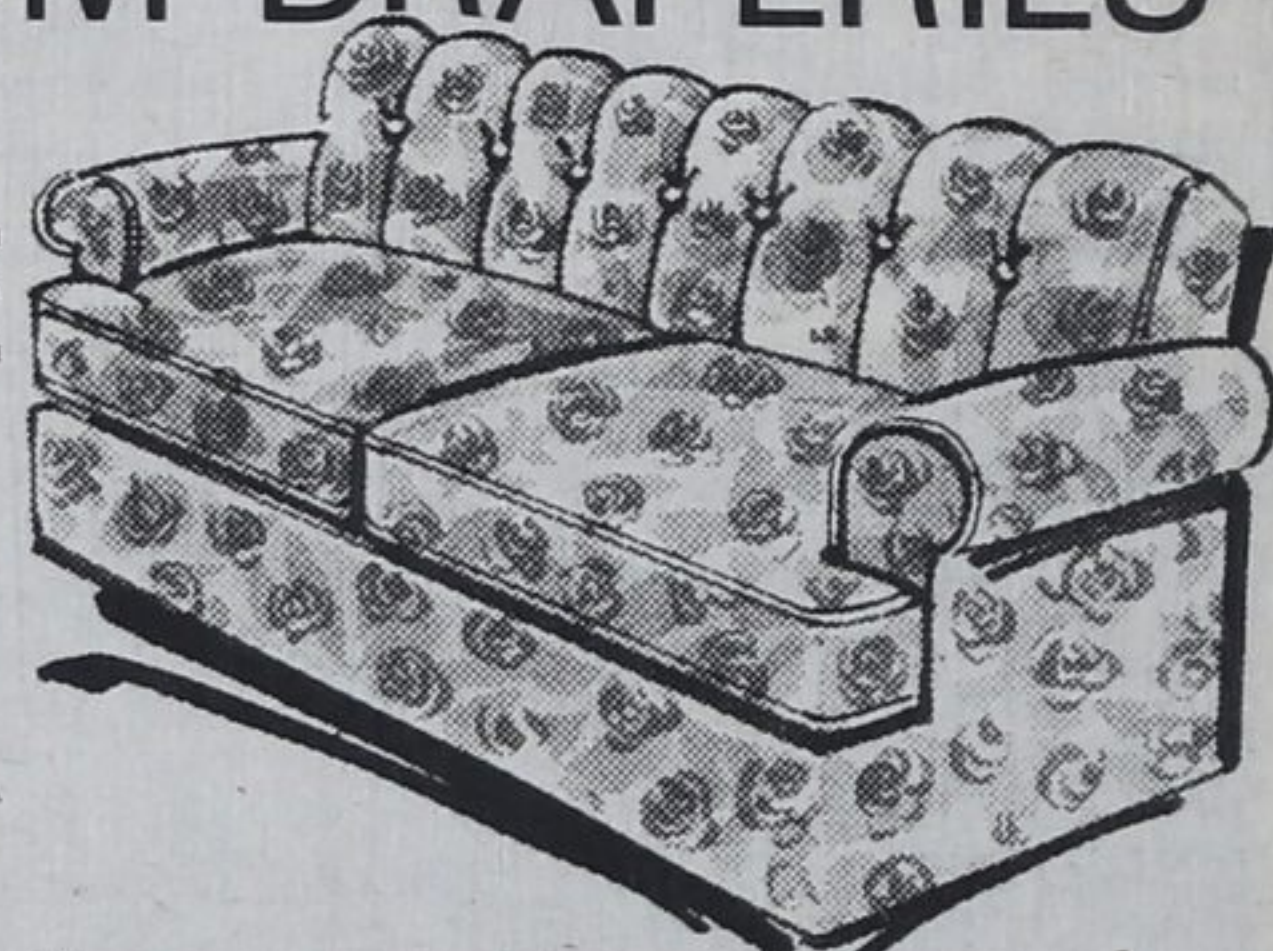
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The Friday Times

Second Class Mail Registration Number 3194

and Friday Citizen

Second Class Mail Registration Number 2327

Published by Douglas Parker Publishing Ltd. at
309 King Street, Midland, Ontario / 526-2283
75 Main Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario / 549-2012
Publisher: Douglas Parker
Editor: Douglas Reed

The Friday Times and Friday Citizen are distributed free each Friday to households in Midland and Penetanguishene

Parker Publishing Limited also publish The Midland Times, The Penetanguishene Citizen and Elmvalle Lance each Wednesday in the Huronia market.