

Editorials

Information-honestly, openly and freely shared-
is the hallmark of democracy

Brian Orser makes us proud

BRIAN ORSER, Penetanguishene's figure skating sensation, has been one of the most dynamic athletes on the world figure skating scene for years.

Last week he capped his colourful career with the silver medal at the Winter Olympics.

The figure skating whiz after placing seventh in the figures portion grabbed both a first in the long and short programs to take second place in the overall competition.

Brian Orser's winning philosophy seems firmly planted on a foundation consisting of sacrifice, perseverance, competitiveness and selflessness.

In a word, Brian Orser is a professional through and through. In winning the silver medal last week, Brian Orser proved that he can compete with the best of them.

Next month he'll do it all over again at the World's in Ottawa. We wish Brian Orser, figure skating technician par excellence, all the best as he prepares for the World's.

It is safe to say our Brian Orser has become a legend in his own time as he continues to exercise to the fullest those virtues that make certain human beings greater than great.

Mediation can begin

GOOD NEWS FOR NORTH SIMCOE was announced this week: a mediator has been established in the waste management dispute.

Michel Picher, the Toronto lawyer recommended for the job as mediator by the Environmental Assessment Board, has been accepted by all parties identified as participants in the mediation process.

Until this week, TRAP executive members were objecting to Picher's appointment, doubting the impartiality of a man appointed and paid by the E.A.B. But after meeting with Picher on Monday evening, TRAP was convinced of his neutrality and has withdrawn its opposition.

Now the mediation process can begin. It's a new idea; mediation has never been used before in Canada to solve environmental issues. Anyone who has followed the complex and contentious story of garbage disposal problems in North Simcoe knows that mediation will be put to a rigorous test.

We have high hopes that a solution can be found through mediation. The people of North Simcoe have been "down in the dumps" over this issue far too long.

Best Winterama

WINTERAMA WAS WONDERFUL, the best in years. That was the verdict of everyone who came out to enjoy the wide range of events, new and old, organized for our pleasure by the Penetanguishene Winterama Committee.

The weather was disappointing, forcing the cancellation of many of the outdoor activities, such as the skydiving at the Town Dock and the snowshoe races at Bay Moorings. However, the spirit and enthusiasm that organizers and participants put into the weekend made up for the lack of snow.

Bigger-than-usual crowds turned out to all the events, a sure sign that the Winterama Committee's efforts toward promotion paid off. And the large crowds weren't disappointed. Events were well organized, entertaining, and fun.

Our congratulations go to all the volunteers and participants who devoted their time and talent to Winterama.

A special bouquet goes to Pat Forget and Joyce Sauve, Winterama Committee Co-chairmen, whose hard work and imagination was the secret of success of the 1984 Winterama.

And a tip of the Winterama touque to Bonhomme Carnaval, whose jaunty presence personified the spirit of Winterama.

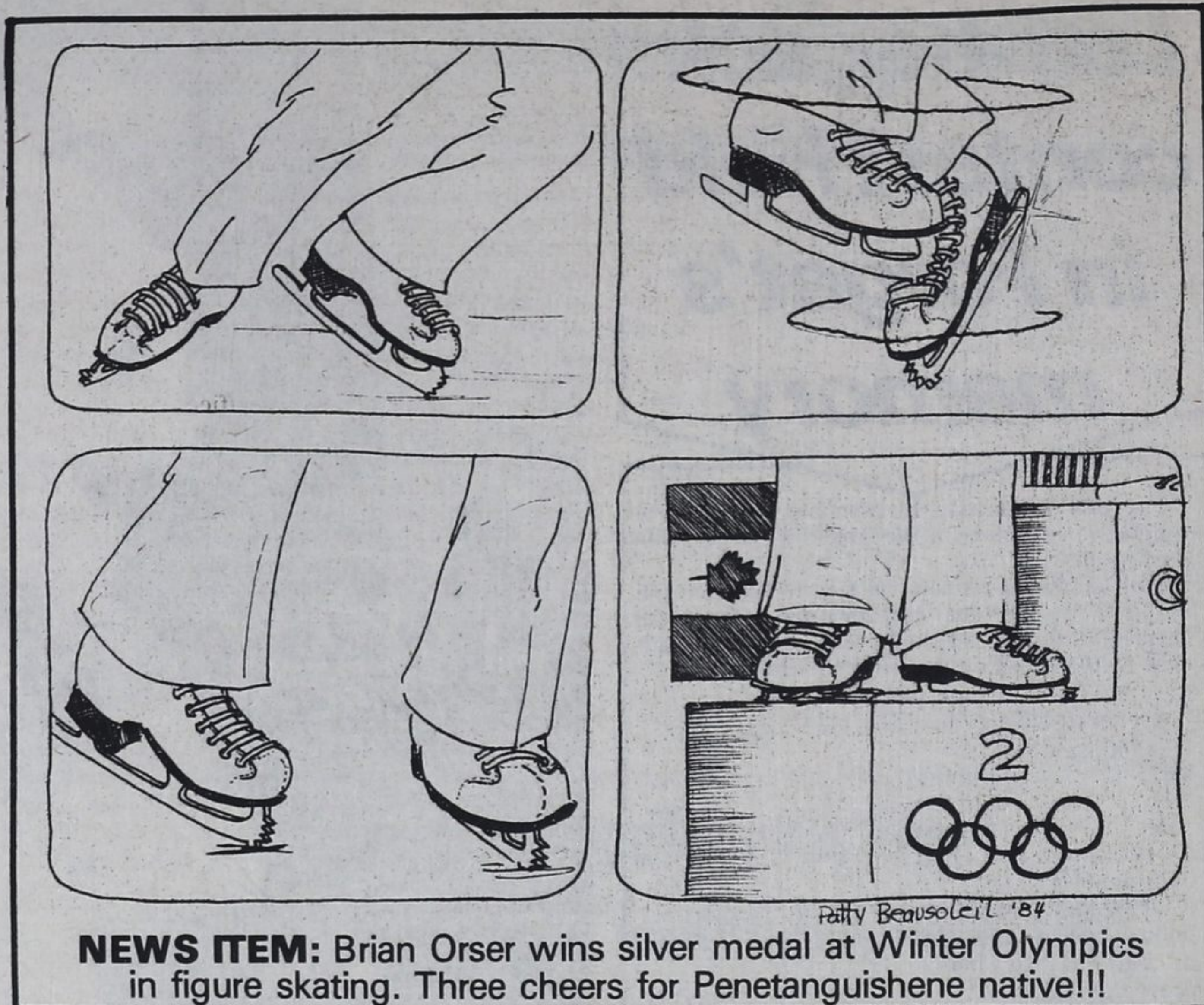
In memory

THE 1984 WINTERAMA LUMBERJACK competition was held in memory of the late Philbert Forget, who died on Feb. 13 in Barbados.

The news of his untimely death cast a pall over the event, as the Forget family were usually enthusiastic participants.

In spite of their bereavement, Mr. Forget's friends carried on with the competition, but his memory was in everyone's heart.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Phil Forget. He is mourned by all who knew him.



Money matters are issue

Dear Editor:

In recent months, much controversy has arisen in the Province of Ontario over the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. This concept, it should be pointed out, is quite different from that of equal pay for equal work, which has long been the law in Ontario and which requires (quite rightly) that men and women be paid equally for performing the same work or substantially the same work. The R.E.A.L. WOMEN OF CANADA actively promote this concept of equal pay for equal work.

However, the concept of equal pay for work of equal value is a totally different concept in that it does not compare the wages of men and women doing the same work, but rather compares the wages of men and women performing different work.

The problem of comparing different work is that this requires a job evaluation plan that assigns points for different factors such as job risk, uncertain tenure, working conditions, training, etc. The assigning of this point system to determine the job's value, unfortunately, cannot be done by any objective standard, but rather is accomplished by way of a subjective assignment of points and depends much upon the bias of the person carrying out the evaluation.

In addition, according to the U.S. Census Bureau Classified Index of Industries and Occupations, there are 23,000 occupational titles in the U.S. (This number would also, no doubt, apply in Canada.) To monitor and establish "equal value" for all these occupations would be an exhaustive,

long-term, bureaucratic endeavour, the cost of which would have to be covered by an already hard-pressed taxpayer.

The end result of this expenditure of time, effort and money would be government wage control, since the government bureaucracy would be determining wages.

Finally, in areas where this concept has been implemented, careful analysis indicates that no more than 2½ to 3 percent of women actually benefit from it. Also significantly, according to Statistics Canada, the wage gap in the Province of Quebec, where the equal value concept has been accepted, has not narrowed as quickly as that of the Province of Ontario, which has not accepted this concept.

In short, few women will benefit from this in that it has not to date indicated any appreciable narrowing of the wage gap.

In view of these problems, inherent in the equal value concept, R.E.A.L. WOMEN OF CANADA have taken the position that it is not a satisfactory method of upgrading women's salaries. It would appear to us that the better approach to obtain this objective would be to spend more funds in upgrading women's job skills and education, so that women will then have access to the higher paying occupations traditionally held by men.

This, in the long run, will have the most permanent and far-reaching effect on narrowing the wage gap between men and women

Grace Petrasek, President
R.E.A.L.

Teachers' reps, MPP hold meet

Recently representatives of the teachers of Simcoe County and CFB Borden met with MPP Al McLean, Simcoe East, to discuss current issues in education. Anna Morrison-Scott (F.W.T.A.O.), Bruce Fraser (O.P.S.T.F.) and John Lusted (O.S.S.T.F.) spoke to McLean on behalf of the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

Educational funding was identified as a major concern of both McLean and the teacher representatives. It was pointed out to McLean that the imposition of sales tax on educational supplies, along with rapidly escalating supply costs, has resulted in severe strain on school budgets. Furthermore, directives from the Ministry of Education necessitate the purchase of specific educational materials to support curricula. The cost increases of these materials over recent months have far exceeded current rates of inflation, again putting pressure on budgets.

The teacher group also noted that Bill 82 (the legislation ensuring equal educational opportunity for all children) and the changes required to meet the demands of the Ministry of Education (as laid out in Ontario Schools: Intermediate-Senior - or OSIS, as it is commonly named) will require additional funding during a time in which the provincial government seems to be treating education as a lower priority.

McLean said that he shared many of the concerns of the teachers. He agreed that Simcoe County students deserve education which is of the highest quality.

Excellent coverage cited

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the cast and crew of the MSS Drama Club's recent production, "Annie", I would like to extend our thanks to your newspaper for the excellent coverage you have given us regarding this event.

"Annie" played to record audiences with a great deal of success. We would like also to thank the public who were so supportive of our production, which was one of the most successful in MSS history.

Thank you once again. We appreciate your help.

—Jim Kulczycki,
Publicity Manager

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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