

Editorials

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

Would be nice catch

ROTARY CLUB of Penetanguishene is again making plans for its annual fish hunt and boat draw.

The service club last year came up with a unique way to raise money and promote Penetanguishene at the same time by tagging a fish worth \$100,000 if caught within a specified period by a registered fisherman.

This year four fish will be tagged, each worth \$25,000, if caught by a registered fisherman between July 1 and July 29.

We'll keep you posted as to when the fish will be released.

Now, where's our fishing rod?

YOUR help needed

AS MANY as 4,300 volunteers will be required by the Papal Visit to Huronia Committee so as to make certain those present on Sept. 15 to see the Pontiff find themselves in a happy and safe environment.

Organizers hope that individuals and services clubs will come forward to offer their services so that this event can be a memorable one all 'round.

Those wishing to volunteer their skills and services are invited to call the Shrine at 526-6121 or 526-3788.

Don't be the only one on your block not to volunteer.

PGH high regard

CANADA HEALTH Day in Penetanguishene was a resounding success.

Scores of people of all ages took part in last Saturday's "Health Walk" sponsored by Club Richelieu.

Proceeds will be turned over to Penetanguishene General Hospital.

Then in the afternoon, PGH held an open house and tea.

One could easily see why PGH is so highly regarded in the community by the numbers of people who toured the hospital and took part in the morning fund-raiser.

Now's the time

HURONIA Hospitality Hotline now has available a list of vacancies in accommodation throughout Simcoe County for two major events that are to take place in the county later this year: Molson Hot Air Balloon Event and the Papal Visit to Huronia.

Elsewhere in today's paper you'll find a story containing the numbers to call to errange for accommodations for those who plan to attend either or both event(s).

It isn't too early to make those arrangements, since before you know it both events will have come and gone.

Have safe weekend

DON'T LOOK now but Victoria Day is just around the corner.

Although "Fire Cracker Day" isn't scheduled until Monday (whatever happened to the 24th of May?) visitors to cottage country will be out in full force over this coming long holiday weekend.

Make it a safe holiday.

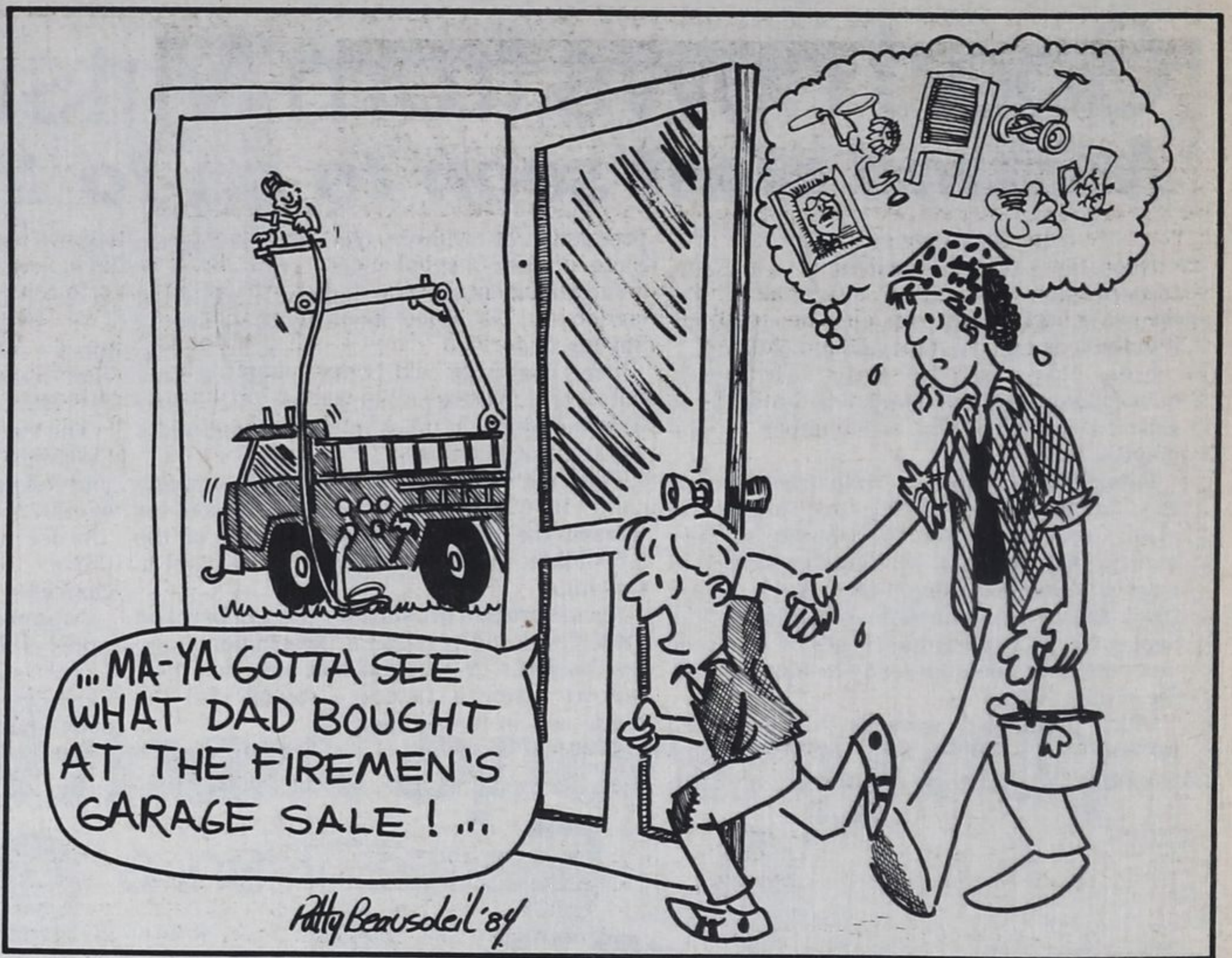
Time for China trip would be considered

..A request from Midland Commissioner of Works Percy Ehler for time off to go to China as part of an American citizen ambassador program will be considered by Midland council, if made.

..A group called People to People International, based in Spokane, Washington, has invited Ehler to be part of a delegation of engineers who are going to go to China for three weeks this fall. Cost of the trip from Vancouver is \$4,500 U.S., or about \$6,000 Canadian.

..Ehler, if interested and in receipt of approval from the town council for time off, will pay his way or find sponsors, the council said. The town's participation, if any is required, would be only to give Ehler time off.

..This week the public works commissioner is in Edmonton, Alta., attending an American Public Works Association public works conference and equipment show, and a North American snow conference, May 13 to May 17.



Corrects impression

Dear Editor:

A recent press release from this office attempted to correct the impression being generated by much of the discussion of the Simcoe County Board of Education 1983 budget that the county's teachers are responsible for much of the tax increase required.

Unfortunately, the release contained an error which was not caught before mailing and which may mislead the public. The release referred to the S.C.B.E. "September, 1983", PTR (Pupil Teacher Ratio) as 17.363:1. These figures should have been described as "September, 1981" comparisons and not 1983.

In fact, it was the 1981 discrepancy between the Simcoe County figure and the provincial average that led to the agreement between the Board and its Secondary School teachers to lower the PTR over a three year period (September '82; September '83, and September '84). It is the last adjustment that is noted in the budget as one of the causes of the increase, a cause that will increase the taxpayer's bill by 1.32 percent.

This gradual decline in the Pupil-Teacher Ratio

in Simcoe County has resulted in the 1984's ratio being very close to the provincial average. This does not mean that all classes in schools will be classes of 16. Many teachers, as noted in our release, are not in the classroom (some are principals, vice-principals, guidance counsellors, librarians and some are resource and withdrawal teachers for students requiring special assistance).

What it does mean is that Simcoe County, for any given number of students, will provide the same number of teaching staff as is provided, on average, in the rest of the province. The teachers of this county feel that this is an achievement that will be of benefit to every student in our system - and it was for this reason that we sought the change over the three-year period.

Our apologies for the error in the original. I hope this will serve to correct any false impressions created.

- Fred Larsen, President,
District 27, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Drinking drivers beware

Dear Editor:

Ontario Provincial Police will be on a full-scale alert this summer for drinking drivers according to a joint statement made by Ontario Solicitor General George Taylor and OPP Commissioner Archie Ferguson.

The summer months of June, July and August are the worst time for accidents on Ontario highways. Deaths arising from traffic accidents also hit their highest counts in the same months.

Accident figures have been tumbling steadily over the past five years, but according to Taylor, it is not the time for complacency.

"The OPP will be using a variety of different tactics to reduce impaired driving during the summer," said Taylor. "The portable breath-testing device and the 12-hour suspension will be used to their fullest."

In a recent message to all 4,200 OPP members, OPP Commissioner Archie Ferguson said that the

Sports editor thanked

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Elmvale Minor Hockey Executive I would like to commend the coverage of our Minor Hockey banquet by Randy Butineau, your sports editor.

Randy was helpful and pleasant as well as willing to arrange for us to look at the variety of pictures he took of the event. Hopefully we can see more of this sports editor at our future minor hockey events.

I would also like to thank you for the space allotted to us for all our minor hockey news throughout this season. The families and children enjoy getting the Lance to see how their association is doing.

I have personally talked to Randy and thanked him but we also wanted you to be aware of our appreciation.

Sincerely,
Shaun Chambers
(Secretary)

population in the OPP jurisdiction increases dramatically with the influx of visitors in the critical months of fine weather.

OPP will be making a two-pronged attack on the drinking and driving problem. Enforcement of the Criminal Code will remain at the same high level as in the past few months, and a publicity blitz will be undertaken so that visitors to vacation areas will not be taken unawares by the positive enforcement being done by the OPP.

Commissioner Ferguson said, "Let me make it plain. We don't want people drinking and driving. We don't have to put our lives in jeopardy by tolerating this sort of irresponsible behavior."

Solicitor General Taylor said, "This government is committed to reducing impaired driving. The police forces of Ontario will be doing their part by taking positive measures to convince the drinker to stay off the road."

OPP now has 383 A.L.E.R.T. breath-testing machines which can be used to test drivers at the side of the road. If a driver fails the test, he is taken to the local OPP detachment for a breathalyzer test. A 'warn' reading on the machine will result in a driver's licence being suspended for 12 hours.

Last year, the OPP used the licence suspension procedure 10,000 times.

- J.F. Savage,
Superintendent,
Director,
OPP Community Services Branch

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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