

Editorials

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

Keep it legal

IT MAY SOUND a little bit like nagging, but at election times, it doesn't hurt to remind party workers that they are not supposed to place candidates' signs on public property.

In their zeal, volunteers often find an advantageous public location at which to tack up a sign on behalf of the candidate they are working for. Doing so may seem safe in that it is "neutral" territory, but signs are meant for private property where a sign has been requested, or where permission has been granted for its placement.

Signs on public property promoting a political candidate don't do much for the candidate anyway, save to show that the candidate's workers are hard up for some place to put their signs. They annoy people, too.

Popular decision

IT HAS BEEN the better part of three years since this newspaper first started promoting the need to have heliports constructed at Huronia District Hospital and Penetanguishene General Hospital.

Soon, landing pads will be built at both locations thanks to a decision reached last Friday.

A tender, in the amount of \$75,365.68, was approved for construction of both hekiports. Actual construction is to begin this week with completion date scheduled for Sept. 7.

The heliports will be used by Ministry of Health's helicopter ambulance (Bandage One) for missions of mercy.

Construction of both lighted heliports couldn't come soon enough for us inasmuch as they are both overdue.

Up to electorate

THE TWO main parties in Canada are not taking the ridings of Simcoe North and Simcoe South for granted during this federal election.

Both have parachuted in some of their top artillery with more expected to arrive before next month's election.

It's nice to see that neither riding has been forgotten in the rush for votes.

Now it's up to the electorate to turn out in droves on election day to repay those who have been out on the hustings.

A sad commentary

ONE HAD TO be there Sunday morning to see the look of grief, bitterness and mortification on the faces of a Midland couple who had discovered their son's tomb stone was one of 20 that had been toppled over at Lakeview Cemetery in Midland on the weekend.

It is difficult to describe their anguished composure, their torment, their heartbreak...

We have no idea what would prompt a person or persons to knock over grave markers. We'd dearly like to know.

This is the second time this year that grave stones at the cemetery have been toppled. We hope it will be the last.

Good planning

IN JUST 30 days, Pope John Paul II will be visiting Huronia.

To mark the occasion as well as the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, His Eminence G. Emmett Cardinal Carter will be attending a reception late this afternoon at Martyrs' Shrine as well as taking part in an outdoor mass at the Shrine this evening.

Organizers of the Papal Visit to Huronia hope you'll attend tonight's mass which is to be celebrated at 7:30 p.m.

You'll probably notice this evening, scores of men and women wearing "We Are Ready" buttons.

These people are associated with the Papal Visit to Huronia Committee...and their message is quite simple and to the point.

They are ready for Saturday, Sept. 15, when the Pontiff comes to Huronia.

These men and women have spent literally hundreds if not thousands of hours planning the Holy Father's visit to Huronia.

They are now ready to welcome people of all ages, from all walks of life and every corner of the world to Huronia on Sept. 15.

And that's what you call, good planning.



Minister responds to 'dump site' story

Dear Editor:

In the interests of accuracy, I would like to comment on an article that appeared in your newspaper on July 4th, 1984, entitled "Dump Site Saga."

I believe it is important for your readers to recognize that the background material used for this article was exceedingly partisan. Mark Bourrie, who was a freelance writer for the Globe and Mail, and Rudy Platiel have quoted material prepared for the Provincial Liberal Research Department.

The majority of the story emphasizes that which is controversial and omits many of the facts concerning the case. Prior to any media interest or attention by other politicians, the Ministry of the Environment was investigating the site of its own volition. I might add that I, along with local politicians and the Ministry of the Environment, have been fully informed on the subject and have been involved with both the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health throughout the deliberations.

In late 1980, the Ministry of the Environment ordered that the dumping of industrial liquid waste at this site cease and, subsequently, served a Director's Order on the operator on April 28th, 1983 to ensure prevention of any unauthorized dumping. In this regard, an attendant was placed on duty at all times in order to supervise disposal.

A public service feature

Dear Editor:

Among the various duties of the Midland Chamber of Commerce is that of answering Tourist inquiries about the Midland area. Most of these inquiries are from people in Ontario who require information about accommodations and attractions. We also receive inquiries from Canadians outside of Ontario and many from the United States.

Every once in a while we receive inquiries from more unusual places, such as this one from Abdul-Rafso Alhassan, who lives in Ghana, West Africa:

Dear Sir,
How is life down in your country? I hope you are quite normal and going on your duties.

I am a sixteen year old Ghanian and working as a private drug store operator in Banku, a fast growing town in the upper eastern corner of Ghana.

I would be very happy and grateful if you could send some of your gifts, books, maps and any other gifts you have.

Till I hear from you I wish Best of luck and God's guidance.

Thank-you Sir
Yours faithfully,
Rafso

The Midland Chamber of Commerce is pleased to answer all tourist inquiries and is delighted to send information about Midland to countries as distant as West Africa.

-Midland Chamber of
Commerce

The Ministry of the Environment continued to closely monitor the site to ensure that the provisions of the Director's Order were being met.

The Ministry of the Environment has also tested any wells that may possibly be effected in the area and is continuing to do so until the time that the new water system is put into place.

On a personal note, while I did support the one-month extension for Decor Metals, I did not initiate this action.

The issue of the Pauze Landfill site was not a simple one to solve. Many hours of study went into the agreement to have the site remain open for three more years without any liquid waste being dumped into the area. The provincial government is committed to the new water system for the area.

Many different groups were involved in these deliberations and I was involved in these studies as well as those completed by the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health is asking Ministry Scientists to investigate and recommend whether further study is necessary after finding that there has been no unusual or increased cases of cancer or still births in Tiny Township. I have asked my colleague the Honourable Keith Norton to have the area watched closely by Ministry of Health officials.

I hope that you will consider the fact that this Government did not create these problems, but rather is doing everything possible to solve them.

Yours sincerely,

George W. Taylor, Q.C., M.P.P.
Simcoe Centre

NOTE: While the Liberal party used much of the same documentation for its summary of the Perkinsfield problem, neither Rudy Platiel nor Mark Bourrie used the Liberal document for their Oct. 31, 1984 story. The feature was written from documents provided to the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Tiny Ratepayers Against Pollution. In fact, several flaws were found in the Liberal document that were corrected in the stories in the Globe and in the Times. The features were not partisan. In fact, none of Ontario's political parties were informed of the story in advance or asked to comment on it. Only Jean Therrien of TRAP and Environment ministry officials directly involved were interviewed. At the time of publication of the story in the Oct. 31 edition of the Globe and Mail, Mr. Taylor did not challenge the authenticity or integrity of the story.

Files used in the story may be obtained by any member of the public from the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Bay Street, Toronto.

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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