



Two alarms keep firefighters busy

by BOB MURRAY
A general alarm turned in shortly before 9 a.m. yesterday morning, brought Penetanguishene firefighters to the "White House" at 280 Fox St. where firemen were met by smoke escaping from the south-end attic area of the two-storey frame structure.

It was found that insulation in the attic was smouldering.

Thick smoke in the building forced several department members to use Scott Air Packs to prevent being overcome by smoke and fumes.

It took just under one hour for the full complement of volunteers to bring the fire under control after several bats of smouldering insulation were removed from the house.

A recently-donated portable gas generator (donated by the Penetanguishene Legion) was also used to power the department's exhaust fan, which quickly ventilated the

area involved.

A second alarm, which was turned in just after mopping up was completed at the Fox Street scene, sent the department to a house on Robert St. West where a chimney fire

was extinguished.

At press time, the cause of both fires were under investigation by Fire Chief Ted Light and other members of the department. Damage estimates are not available yet.

Library, museum could vie for council attention

Penetanguishene town councillors had their tour of the Penetanguishene Public Library last Tuesday night and, says councillor Lionel Dion, all are sympathetic to Chief Librarian Rosemary Marchand's concerns about improving and extending the building.

"We all agree that more space is required," Dion said Tuesday. The councillor said that council members have been aware of the cramped conditions for "some time." Beyond that, he said, it isn't known when something can be done to expand the facilities. "When it (improvements) will fall into place, I don't know."

"We need a new museum, too. It's sinking into the ground," Dion said.

"Which one is going to get priority, I don't know."

Several months ago, Dion pointed out, a consultant's study recommended that new quarters for the museum be found. A new building is estimated to cost \$382,000.



Facelift for old church

A major restoration project is underway at St. James-on-the-Lines Church in Penetanguishene. The landmark, built around 1846, is designated as a historical site by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Phase one of the project, reinforcement of the foundation and floor of the building, is completed and phase two, restoration of the interior and exterior woodwork, has been underway for about a month. The restoration is overseen by Toronto architect Spencer Higgins, a specialist in restoration of old buildings who was

hired by the church congregation's restoration committee. Higgins oversaw restoration of St. James Cathedral in Toronto. Painting is being done by Richard Secord of Midland. Chief contractor is Jaric Construction. Members of the St. James congregation raised over \$40,000 over a two-year period. Contributions came in from across Canada and the United States. The provincial government is also providing matching funds. Some assistance is also coming from Wintario.

Reports of skunks in town falling off

The number of skunks seen wandering around town has decreased in recent days. The Penetanguishene Police Department shot just one skunk wandering

town streets during the weekend.

The weekend shooting is the first since Oct. 8, when six calls about skunks wandering town streets were received.

"Hopefully, it (the skunk problem) is falling off," Acting Police Chief Don Westcott said Tuesday.

Dr. Richard Green, a veterinarian with the animal health branch of Agriculture Canada's Barrie area office, said Tuesday that fewer reports of rabid animals have been received in recent days at the office. "Rabies is always endemic in Simcoe County," he said, though.

Midland man found dead in police cells

An inquest date has yet to be set into the tragic death of a 23-year-old Midland man who was lodged in Midland police cells early Saturday morning.

According to Midland Police Chief Ernest Bates, David Paul Neuen, 285 Midland Ave., had not been arrested but had sought shelter for the night.

"He requested that he stay in the police cell over night," Chief Bates confirmed this week.

Neuen was lodged in the cells at 4:50 a.m. He was found at 6:12 a.m. slumped near his bunk, his shirt tied around his neck.

Coroner Dr. Robert Besley of Port McNicoll pronounced the man dead at 7 a.m.

Cause of death was due to asphyxia.

It's the second time in as many years that a man has taken his life in the police cells.

Officers attend courses

Penetanguishene Police Department Staff Sergeant Don Westcott is acting chief of the department until mid-November.

Police Chief Robert Cummings returns to his duties Nov. 19 after completing a five-week management and administration course for police officials at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer.

Const. Tim Vaillancourt is attending a one-week course at the police college dealing with the Young Offenders Act.

Public lecture to open conference

A public lecture about pornography will open the annual fall meeting of the Ontario Psychiatric Association (OPA) at the Inn at Baymoorings, Friday night.

Dr. Marnie Rice, acting director of research at the Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene, will speak at 8 p.m. on Pornography: Effects on Violence Towards Women. Admission to the lecture is free. Members of the public interested in attending are encouraged to come early to get good seats. Dr. Rice has worked extensively with sex offenders at MHC's Oak Ridge maximum security division for the past nine years. She works as a clinician and as a research psychologist.

There is evidence that pornography has a direct bearing on the type and number of sexual assaults against women across North America, according to Dr. Rice. Pornography is both increasingly available to the public and increasingly violent in tone.

"The type of pornography we see today in both print and films leads to increased aggression

towards women," Dr. Rice said recently. "It leads to a more callous attitude towards rape and women in general."

"In fact," she said, "research shows that male subjects questioned report an increased likelihood to rape" after being shown examples of currently available pornographic material.

The OPA conference is expected to attract about 200 health care professionals from across Ontario. The Penetanguishene meeting marks the first time the OPA has met in this area.

Saturday, OPA members will tackle legislative and forensic issues in contemporary psychiatry, ranging from treatment rights to recent changes in legislation affecting health professionals.

The formal meeting Saturday is not open to the public.

Sunday, conference participants will tour the Mental Health Centre's regional and Oak Ridge divisions and, weather permitting, will spend the afternoon on a boat cruise through the 30,000 islands.