

'Big Mo' getting ready for winter

by PAUL SANDERSON

It takes a full foot of ice to stop the big red Coast Guard ship Montmorency.

But that doesn't make her an icebreaker. To her crew, "Big Mo" is officially an ice-strengthened buoy tender.

Thicker than normal steel plating and heavier frames allow the Montmorency to safely continue her job of navigation buoy maintenance in mild ice

conditions. But when the real Coast Guard icebreaker, Griffin, arrives in Midland around Christmas the Montmorency will be resting quietly beside her dock in Parry Sound.

Until that time, her crew will be busy removing the big lighted navigation buoys before the winter.

Only the large buoys are gripped by the ice and damaged or dragged out of position.

In total, the Montmorency will pull out 65 shipping channel buoys and replace them with the smaller "ice can" floating markers.

Midland is the last stop on the Coast Guard's buoy program because it is usually late in the season before the normal complement of five grain freighters arrive to spend the winter beside the elevators.

Captain Mark Taylor says, the Montmorency

is one of the largest Coast Guard ships on the Great Lakes. She is 165 feet long, and across her widest point she measures 77 feet.

The Montmorency's hull extends 12 feet down into the water where a pair of four foot diameter bronze alloy props to do their work. Those props are powered by two 600 h.p. Crossley diesels.

Captain Taylor says that with a bit of a run, and both engines at full

ahead, "Big Mo" will do 10½ knots (12 mph). He claims that she always seems to go faster when

coming back into Midland than when heading for Parry Sound.

Perhaps that's because about half of the Montmorency's crew are 'local boys'



All hands on deck

Captain Mark Taylor, pictured here at the engine room telegraph on the bridge of the Coast Guard buoy tender Montmorency, prepares to bring his

ship alongside the Midland docks. At 29-years-old, Captain Taylor is one of the youngest Canadian Coast Guard captains.

Viewing of quilt's trip's object

by KATY AUSTIN

Several area women will be travelling to Toronto tomorrow for a day's outing with the Simcoe County Arts and Crafts Association. Included in the group are Hilda Sibthorpe of Waverley, and Pat Larkin, Cathy Gordon, Pat Tumber, Joan Fitzgerald, and Mary Wilson, all of Vasey.

In the morning, they will be viewing quilts at

Edwards Gardens, where the York Heritage Quilters' Guild is holding its quilt show and competition.

After lunch, they will travel to the Royal Ontario Museum to see a special display of early Ontario quilts. Across the road from the ROM, is the Gardiner Ceramic Museum, where the group also hopes to spend some time.

Financing briefs call in Ontario

The Commission on the Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education in Ontario today issued a call for briefs.

Commission Chairman, H. Ian MacDonald said that school boards, organizations, associations, agencies and the general public have been asked to submit briefs to the commission before Jan. 31, 1985.

Macdonald said that

the Commission will hold a series of public hearings across the province during the spring of next year.

The Commission, appointed in July 1984, is enquiring into all aspects of financing of elementary and secondary education. Specifically, commissioners intend to study:

1. the apportionment and allocation of provincial funds to

school boards;

2. alternative methods of financing elementary and secondary education;

3. the degree of local participation in meeting education costs through property taxation, including the consequences of that participation for local decision-making and accountability;

4. other financial issues in respect of

elementary and/or secondary education.

It is expected that the Commission will report to the Minister of Education by Oct. 31, 1985.

Outdoor ceremony opens Flos Township office

by KATY AUSTIN

Nearly 100 people turned up in fine, but cool weather last Saturday to attend the official opening of the new Flos Township offices on Queen Street.

Among the dignitaries present were Ontario Solicitor-General George Taylor; Simcoe County Warden Ross Whiteside; Reverend Ian Clark, Elmvalle Presbyterian Church; Flos Reeve Gerard Moran and his councillors; Elmvalle Reeve Ken Knox and Councillor Ken Barnett; Wendy MacKenzie, chairman of the Simcoe County Board of Education; Joe Klein Gebbinck, trustee with the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board; and several county council members.

Reeve Moran began by introducing the Flos council and staff. He welcomed everyone to the opening and made special mention of the presence in the audience of several past Reeves and councillors from all levels.

Congratulatory speeches were made by Taylor, Whiteside, and Knox. They had particular praise for the effectiveness of council's self-contracting of the building and the speed with which it was erected.

Reverend Clark read Psalm 8 and asked for God's blessing on the building and on the work to be done in it.

Reeve Moran cut the ribbon to officially open the building and invited everyone to tour the inside and enjoy some refreshments.



Seminar leader

Elmvalle teachers Henry Kneft, left, and Alan Margison, right, speak with Professor Israel Shenitzer of York University, centre, prior to his talk on Examples of Meaningful Present-

tations of Math Materials, one of many seminars for area teachers held in Barrie last Friday, as part of a professional development for teachers' day.

Photo by Katy Austin.

Twelve thefts

A total of 12 thefts, four break-ins, four cases of wilful damage and one assault were probed by Midland OPP during the week ending Nov. 5.

DISTINCTIVE KITCHENS

By Gabrielle Ltd.

Making Christmas merrier with a new MICROWAVE - FREE
with each kitchen ordered!

*** Ordered By Dec. 15/84**

DISTINCTIVE KITCHENS By Gabrielle Ltd.
18 Alliance Blvd. #10
722-5444

HOURS:
MON. - FRI. 9:30-12 1:40-4:00
SAT. 9:30-1:00
Any Other Time By Appt.

Grand Opening

of Rose & MacVittie's

BODYWORKS

(Formerly Rose's Fitness)

NOW OFFERING

- One year or 6 months Aerobic memberships
- One year or 6 months Spa facility
- One year or 6 months complete Memberships

Memberships limited - join now and avoid disappointment

FEATURING

- World Gym equipment
- Sauna
- Swimming Pool
- Whirlpool
- Hydra Fitness
- 4,000 lbs
- Therapeutic Massage available

AEROBICS CLASSES DAILY

Enquire about our complete program for men and women, and your own personalized weight training program.

NOW in our new location at
HIGHLAND INN
Hwy 12 & King St., Midland 526-9307