

Council to select replacement

Penetanguishene town council bade farewell to John O'Hara on Monday night.

The council formally accepted the former councillor's resignation during Monday night's council meeting. O'Hara left council to become the new secretary-manager of the Huronia Airport Commission.

O'Hara left the council table, and was allowed to take his nameplate with him, when councillors voted to accept the resignation. Mayor Ron Bellisle expressed his regret over O'Hara's departure while O'Hara told his former colleagues that serving on council was an enjoyable experience.

The mayor said O'Hara was an asset to town council and "we are sorry to see you leave." "We wish you luck in your new post," he added.

The mayor noted that a replacement will be selected at the council's next meeting on December 17. Originally, it was thought the vacancy

could be filled last Monday night but a re-reading of the Ontario Municipal Act revealed that it could not be done at the same meeting the resignation was accepted at.

For his part O'Hara said that it was an honour for him to serve on council with "a great group." He said that when the position on the

airport commission came up, it was difficult deciding to leave but that it was an opportunity he felt he didn't want to pass by.

Should O'Hara return to council in his new capacity as airport commission secretary-manager, O'Hara commented: "I intend to come in by helicopter."

Penetang Council Briefs

Penetanguishene town council held its monthly meeting Monday night in the council chambers. All members of council were present. There were approximately half a dozen spectators in the public seating area.

FUNDING FOR COMPUTER

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is giving the municipality \$10,000 to cover a portion of the costs of installation of a computer system for the town office. A computerized financial information system will assist municipal office staff in accounting procedures and in the preparation of tax and utility bills. The money from the ministry was approved through the Municipal Action '85 program. Total implementation costs amount to approximately \$60,000.

PROTESTANT BOARD ON NEXT BALLOT

There will be a ballot for election of members of the Penetanguishene

Protestant Separate School Board when municipal voters go to the polls in the 1985 municipal election. The inclusion was requested by the separate school board, which previously has held a separate election every two years. The Penetanguishene Protestant Separate School Board is one of only two such boards in existence in Canada.

OAK RIDGE INCLUDED

The Penetanguishene volunteer fire department will be the first response fire department answering fire calls from the Oak Ridge division of the Mental Health Centre. In the past, some confusion existed over whether Tay Township's fire department or Penetanguishene's should be called first for fire emergencies at Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge is in Tay Township and the rest of the MHC is inside the Penetanguishene town limits. MHC will pay \$3,500 to the municipality annually

SALARIES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The municipality has revised the remuneration schedule for members of the Penetanguishene Volunteer Fire Brigade. The fire chief is to be paid annual remuneration of \$4,200. The deputy fire chief is to receive \$630 and fire captains are to receive an annual salary of \$315. Total annual remunerations amount to \$29,440. The increases average five per cent. There are about 20 firefighters on the brigade.

PROMOTION

Constable Donald Penrose of the Penetanguishene Police Department has been promoted to 1st Class Constable by town council on the recommendation of Chief Robert Cummings.

APPLE DAY '85

"Be prepared" is the motto of the Boy Scouts - and they are. They have already sought - and received - council authorization to hold their next apple tag days. Boy Scouts of Canada, South Georgian Bay District, is granted permission to hold Apple Days October 4 and 5, 1985.

STAYING WITH SAME BANK

On the recommendation of Deputy Reeve Frances St. Amant, chairman of the municipality's finance committee, the Town of Penetanguishene will continue to do its banking with the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Penetanguishene for the next five years, with a review of the arrangement after two years. Proposals for municipal banking services were sent to the town's two banks, T-D and Scotiabank, and the

responses were "almost identical." Council was told Monday night. Therefore, other factors were considered. Since the municipality was satisfied with the present service and it was felt changing banks would create internal costs and disruptions, the municipality decided to stay with T-D.

TWO DAYS FOR GARBAGE PICK-UP

Council approved a request from Paul Sauve to change the three-day weekly garbage pick-up to a two-day per week pick-up. The request was granted providing the contractor absorbs the cost of notifying persons in the community. Garbage pick-up in Penetanguishene will take place Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The change will likely come into effect in mid-January.

Long, cold winter looming?

Don't let the mild temperatures we've enjoyed in the last couple of days fool you. There are indications that point to a cold winter ahead.

One has to have faith in a few tell-tale signs provided by nature.

One Penetanguishene resident who dropped by the Citizen office on Monday pointed out that mountain ash trees around town are bearing an unusually large amount of fruit this year. "More than I can ever remember," she said.

The Citizen contacted Leonard Monague, a Christian Island elder who said an old legend has it that when the trees bear an unusually large amount of fruit, it means a long winter. He indicated that it's an extra source of food for birds, and possibly deer, in the face of a long winter.

"I think it has some truth," Monague said. The elder also noted that there are signs indicating there will be a heavy snowfall this winter. "I think there will be lots of snow because the bee hives are way up in the air," he said. Monague said they are built higher than normal this year, including one near his Christian Island home on a hydro pole.

Monague pointed to another sign. Bucks have marked their domain by hitting their antlers against trees higher up than would be expected with a light snowfall winter.

Monague served two terms as Christian Island chief in the 1950s.



Martin and Jean Quigley, residents of Water Street in Penetanguishene, pose under a mountain ash tree in their back yard. The fact that it and other mountain ashes in the area are so heavily laden with fruit at this time of year is an indication to some, including Christian Island elder Leonard Monague, that we are in for a long, cold winter.

Penetang names recipients

Three Penetanguishene residents, well-known for their contributions to community service over the years, will receive Bicentennial medals for their efforts at a ceremony in Barrie on Dec. 9.

Gilbert Robillard, former mayor of Penetanguishene, Bertram (Bill) Stevens, a former town councillor and active in service clubs, and Mrs. Winnifred Wice, a volunteer worker for many years, are Penetanguishene's Bicentennial award nominees. They will receive medals from Solicitor General George Taylor, MPP for Simcoe Centre. The awards are given for volunteerism and community service.

Municipalities and Indian band councils were invited to submit nominations for the award. Each was allowed to make one nomination and, depending on population, up to 13. In March, advertisements in local newspapers solicited submissions from the local population.

The Penetanguishene award recipients were announced for the first time at Monday night's meeting of town council. The awards will be handed out at the Georgian College theatre at 2 p.m.

40 unit apartment building opens today in Penetang

Lincoln Court, Penetanguishene's new 40 unit apartment building, was to be officially opened this morning by municipal and provincial representatives, as well as officials from Seave Investments, the company that constructed the Main Street units.

Solicitor General George Taylor, MPP for Simcoe Centre, and Mayor Ron Bellisle were to do the honours at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the province and municipality. Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Claude Bennett, who was originally expected to be on hand for the opening of the area's biggest Convert to Rent project, was out of town and unable to attend, his secretary at Queen's Park said Monday.

A luncheon is to be served in Lincoln Court's common room, a facility which can be booked by tenants for social gatherings for up to about 40 persons. The common room has kitchen facilities for tenants' use.

The building's laundry room, which opened last weekend, is being managed by the owners of Clean Scene Laundromat in Midland, said Patty Richardson, the Realty World listing agent who is handling rentals in the building. Richardson said that there have been some negotiations in recent days for remaining commercial space in the building. She also said apartment units in the building are still available.

Council supports efforts to keep Wye Marsh open

by PETER SPOHN

Friends of Wye Marsh received support from Penetanguishene town council Monday night in its efforts to prevent Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre from being shut down on April 1, 1985.

The Centre is faced with permanent closure because of deep spending cuts by the federal government. The Centre has been administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service with operating funds provided by Environment Canada.

Town council passed a resolution "absolutely opposing" the closing of the centre. Cited in the resolution, which was drafted by Friends of Wye Marsh Board of Directors and circulated to all area municipalities, is the centre's "significant contribution to the children of the area as an educational facility," the importance of the centre to the area's tourist economy, and "the centre's role as a recognized leader in promoting the preservation of wildlife and the environment." The resolution is to be

forwarded to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Deputy-reeve Frances St. Amant suggested it also be sent to leaders of the two opposition parties in the House of Commons. "We are looking for all the support we can get," said Nadine Goman, a member of the Friends board of directors who brought the matter before town council Monday night. (Midland town council also lent its support to the resolution at its council meeting Monday night).

Goman told the councillors that the board feels if it is given "a stay of execution," budget cutting measures could be implemented in an effort to save the centre. "So far, there is no opportunity for a breathing space," she said.

Councillor Ray Baker asked Goman if the budget could be cut and suggested the centre could start charging admission, something which hasn't been done before. "Bob Whittam (the biologist in charge at the centre) says that given the opportunity, we could cut it," Goman

said. "If the closure is postponed, we would have to come up with a three-year budget."

Goman said it costs roughly \$200,000 annually to operate the centre, three-quarters of which goes for salaries for permanent and seasonal help.

It was noted during the meeting that some 40,000 persons visit the wildlife centre each year, 8,000 of whom are students and teachers. It is estimated some half a million persons have walked through the marsh since it opened 15 years ago. The centre employs five permanent and 15 on a seasonal basis.

Friends of Wye Marsh is encouraging persons who would like to see the centre remain open to contact federal politicians. A meeting is scheduled for December 8 between MP Doug Lewis and wildlife officials to discuss the impending closure.

The Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce has also sent a letter to the Environment Canada Minister expressing its opposition to the closure.