

Let's get action on closures Simcoe East Al McLean urges

by
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Simcoe East

Recently I participated in an "emergency debate" in the provincial legislature on the closing of the Black and Decker plant in Barrie. There has been a lot of discussion about this plant closure, as there should be since the loss in jobs and wages for Barrie and area will be significant, yet there has been no realistic proposal on what should be done with the situation as it currently lies.

To my mind something can be done about the Black and Decker closure, and other closures like the Copes-Vulcan, the Shakespeare and the Seemetal plants in Orillia.

Three years ago, RCA announced it was closing its picture tube plant in Midland. Action by the local government and the province of Ontario ensured that the plant stayed open and that jobs were kept in Midland.

In the Midland situation, I got together with the Mayor, the

chairman and president of RCA, officials of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, officials of the Ministry of Labour, the president of the Midland Chamber of Commerce, Midland's Development Commissioner and representatives of the federal government.

Together we worked out a game plan that helped us target who would be the best purchaser for the picture tube plant, especially as far as keeping jobs in the community was concerned.

The result of our meetings was the

Mitsubishi of Japan was willing to open up shop in the old RCA plant and update it to meet their needs as a worldwide supplier of quality electronics goods.

I believe the same kind of approach could re-open plants in Orillia.

I have proposed, as a private member's resolution, that the Ontario Government provide a special fund, or incentive, to encourage manufacturing growth and investment in municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 to provide strength to local economies.

The problem with a situation like the closing of Copes-Vulcan, Shakespeare or Seemetal is that all too

often someone will go around saying inflammatory things about the situation that does nothing to help lessen the tragedy of lost jobs and lost wages.

I believe action can, and should, be taken to find a new owner for these plants. There is a practical solution to the problem of plant closings. All that is required is a lot of common sense and hard work.

This Week in Canada
On Dec. 15, in 1891, Premier Mercier of Quebec was dismissed because public contracts were used for campaign funds, and in 1902, the first official wireless message was sent across the Atlantic.

33-27 vote victory

You can call John Moreau 'Warden' from now on folks

It took just two ballots yesterday afternoon at the Administration Centre at Midhurst to elect a new warden for the coming year.

Reeve John Moreau of Port McNicoll edged out three other candidates for the job.

His winning margin was 33-27 in the second round of voting.

Warden Moreau is a well known Port McNicoll businessman.

Other men in the race were Deputy-reeve John Lackie of Tiny Township, Creemore Reeve Ralph MacDonald and Reeve Ed McDermott of Adjala Township.

Lackie was low man during the first round while McDermott dropped out before the second round of balloting took place.

It's the third time in recent years that a North Simcoe politician has been elected warden.

Two years ago Reeve Art Stewart of Penetanguishene served as warden for one year while Reeve Morris Darby of Tiny held the post just prior to that.



Co-operative education at work

While pharmacist Alex Kowalski watches the computer display terminal, MSS Grade 12 co-operative education student Khalida Ali learns the keyboard on a dispensing computer in Jory's IDA Pharmacy, Midland.

Thirty workers laid off

An indefinite lay off of an estimated 30 Bay Mills Ltd., employees was confirmed yesterday.

The cutbacks have come due to a large inventory. It's expected the lay off will end early in the new year.

Earlier this year, the plant employed 169 full-time and 10 casual workers.

Wednesday, Dec. 12
The Penetanguishene General Hospital Auxiliary is sponsoring a Craft and Home Baking Sale in the board room of the hospital beginning at 2 p.m.

Dec. 13
Graydon Bowman of Thornloe, Ont., will address the annual meeting of the North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association in Our Lady of Lourdes Church hall, Elmvale. The meeting begins at 10:15 a.m. Bowman's topic will be grain and seed production in northern Ontario.

We're glad you asked!

Jim Lynn
Funeral Director



SHOULD I EVER DIP INTO MY CAPITAL?
In her book, "Life is for Living," Theresa Morse maintains that a widow's capital is not always an untouchable commodity, nor need it be sacred. It is intended to be used sensibly for the sake of security but also to help make a better, happier life for yourself.

Ms. Morse points out that, if for all the years before you were widowed, you and your husband managed your finances without your children's advice, there's little reason to begin now. Feel free to do what is important to YOU, without endangering the bulk of your capital. A trip or a special gift to yourself or others may seem extravagant to your children, but extremely meaningful to YOU.

Project the use of your capital wisely, reserving funds for emergencies, but, as Ms. Morse indicates, your welfare and happiness comes first and "your life is for living."

Advice regarding major finances can be sought from a banker or accountant, both professionals on whose skills you can rely.

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