

Liberals promise tough environmental policing

Through an executive assistant who addressed around 100 Tiny Township landowners gathered for an information session Saturday morning in Balm Beach, Ontario's new Environment Minister, Jim Bradley, said his ministry will try to pinpoint the source of trichloroethylene contamination on a township sideroad near the Pauze landfill site, which is suspected to have been caused several years ago when a hauler illegally dumped the cancer-causing chemical waste by-product.

A report commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment before Bradley became minister identifies three chemical plumes in the ground in the vicinity of the Pauze landfill site on Tiny concession road 9, but states that the contaminants polluting area drinking water wells is coming not from the landfill site, but probably from a sideroad site.

If the exact source can be pinpointed and is found to contain trichloroethylene, it will be removed, the minister says. During the session at Balm Beach's The Place inn, executive assistant Gary Gallon vowed the

new Liberal government would come down hard on haulers and dumpers of illegal wastes in the province. A hauler for a Barrie waste disposal company claimed several years ago that he illegally dumped chemical contaminants by the Pauze site in the late 1970s.

Gallon said that the Environment Ministry's special enforcement unit is headed by "a pretty tough nut" and will take full advantage of tough new policing regulations announced by the ministry to stop illegal dumping. Gallon also told people at the information session to jot down licence plate numbers and call police if they think they see "midnight haulers" appear as though they may be about to dump illegally.

Noting that the plume around the landfill site is not advancing as quickly as had been thought two years ago, Bradley notes that it appears the threat of contamination of Georgian Bay has diminished. He says the ministry will ensure that the landfill site doesn't pollute nearby Nottawasaga Bay. The Gartner-Lee firm has determined that the plume is moving at 50, not 70 metres per

year, and that it will dissipate before it reaches the shores of the bay. But Gallon said that the Pauze site itself "is still not off the hook." The minister announced that ongoing monitoring of water under the soil will be continued at the same pace as before.

It was obvious to Gallon that the Liberals are finding the assumption of responsibility for environmental management a sobering experience. Gallon told those gathered that his party "can no longer make extended statements" about environmental problems. "We came in with the idea ministry officials were bad guys," Gallon said. But he added that working with ministry officials makes the government aware that while they may have started to get "rusty" under decades of overseeing by the same political masters, they are good at what they do. He said at one point it would be all right for the people to kick out the Liberals after they are in power 12 years.

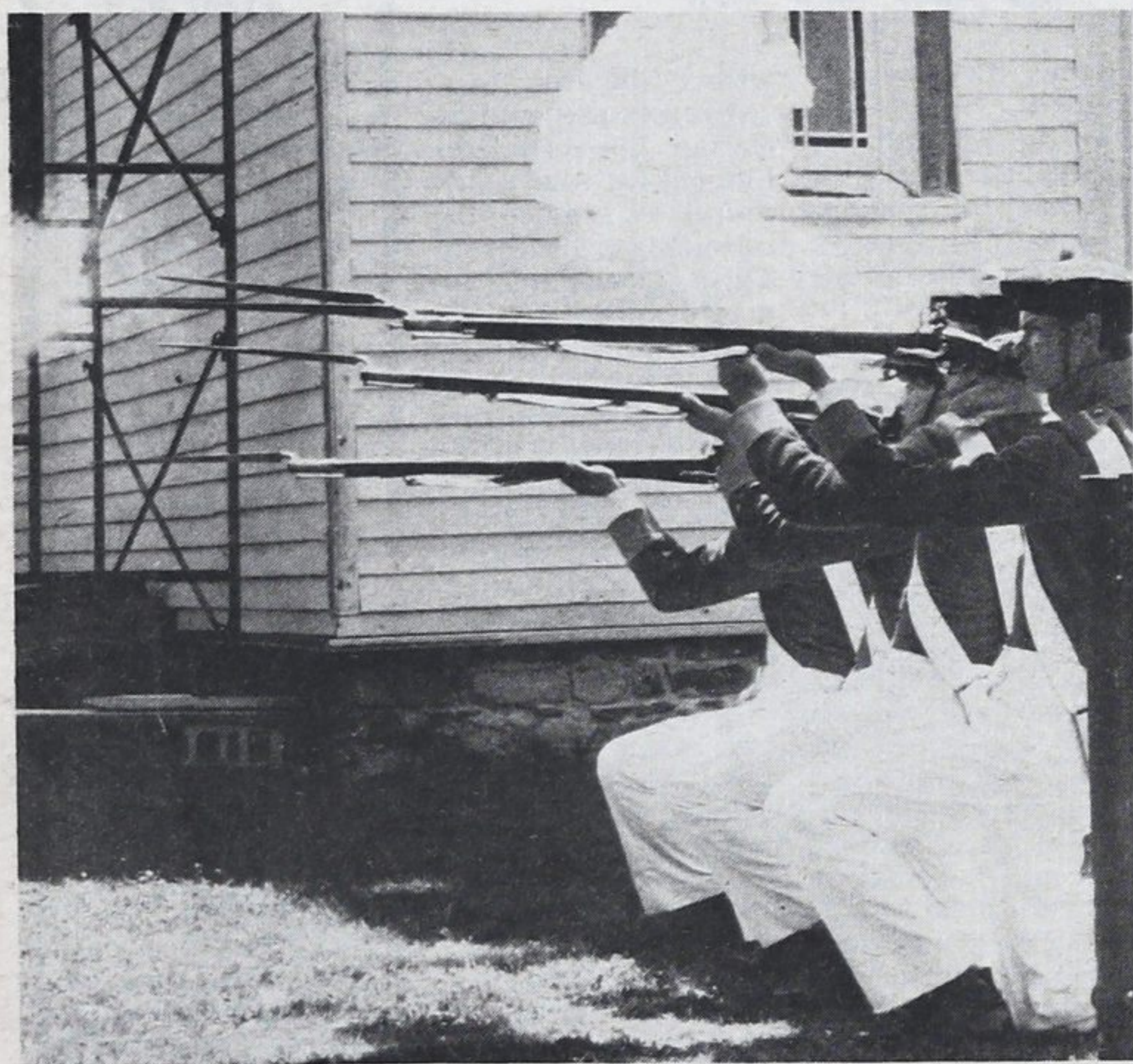
Acknowledging that there are no perfectly "safe" landfill sites, Gallon said the government isn't about to do away with landfill sites

altogether. They will, though, be carefully managed, more aesthetically pleasing, not built on sand and more acceptable to the community. Gallon also sounded reassuring when he told the gathering experience indicates that years down the road property values of homes in contaminated areas rebound and drinking the local water diminishes steadily as a problem.

Gallon vowed the ministry will be closer to the people under the Liberals. Rather than hold back on information, "We'll tell you as we're doing it."

He said the ministry "may well have to purge pump" to contain contaminants on the Pauze landfill site but did not specifically say on behalf of the minister that this would happen.

He also said the new government would "open up" the mediation process involved in finding a new site to replace the Pauze site. The government would like to close the Pauze site before the scheduled October, 1987 closing date but, the minister says, a new site hasn't been found. An effort will be made to speed up the mediation process, he says.



Musket drill at historic Church On-the-Lines

Four British soldiers from Penetanguishene's Historic Naval and Military Establishments fire muskets Sunday morning in front of St. James On-the-Lines Church after parishioners from St. James and from All Saints Anglican Church held a

joint commemorative service marking St. James' 149th anniversary. The musket drill has become a tradition on anniversary Sunday at the historic church. Extensive restoration of the church is nearly complete.

Penetang Bay 'perfect' for rowing

by PETER SPOHN
There's a growing interest in rowing for fitness and fun, and no better place to do it than

Penetang Bay, says rowing enthusiast Earl Stephens of Midland Bay Woods, near Port McNicoll. Stephens, 68, started

rowing over 50 years ago as a young man in Toronto and doesn't row much anymore, but he maintains a keen interest in the sport and

has helped to promote it in this area. "Penetanguishene harbour has it all," Stephens says of the bay's suitability for

rowing. "It's beautiful." A long narrow body of water two to three miles long, like Penetang Bay, is ideal for a good workout, he says.

Stephens arranged for Jim Pogue, at 73, one of the oldest active oarsmen in Ontario, to talk about rowing to members of the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene recently and since then, Pogue, who is also president of Toronto's Don Rowing Club, has arranged to have the Toronto club lend three rowing shells to the newly-formed Little Lake Rowing Club of Midland.

Stephens predicts rowing will become

increasingly popular in this area. Of Penetang Bay, he says the dimensions are right for rowing. The bay can become very choppy but the prevailing winds are perfect, he says.

Numerous pleasure craft do not present a problem for rowers, Stephens says. Power boaters generally have

a great deal of respect for rowers and he's never heard of an incident in which there's been a mishap between a power boat and a rowing outfit. In fact, he says, rowing is

•Cont'd.

on Page 3

Money to be spent on new park, upgrading of Bayfield Park

About 300 to 400 feet of shoreline around the future north end sewage treatment plant in Penetanguishene will be turned into parkland after construction of the million dollar-plus plant is completed.

Landscaping around the plant is included in the plant construction contract but money that Penetanguishene received under the Ontario Neighbourhood Assistance Program (O.N.A.P.) which the municipality didn't spend will also be used to develop the park area, municipal clerk Yvon Gagne said Friday. Penetanguishene received a \$400,000 O.N.A.P.

grant from the provincial government for improvements to the Fox Street area near the new subdivision but spent only \$360,000 of the total, he said. The municipality will spend another \$40,000 in municipal funds for the park project as well as for improvements to Bayfield Park.

Mayor Ron Bellisle said work on Bayfield Park will probably include making a walkway from the foot of Fox Street along the shore of Penetang Bay to the park. The park may also be expanded slightly, he said.

Work on Bayfield Park is not likely to begin until sometime in 1986, the mayor said.

A Penetang woman looks into your eyes, studies your feet — and says she can tell what ails you. See story on page 3.