

Radio-Huronie confident

by PETER SPOHN

The groundwork has been laid for the establishment of a french language community-based radio station in Penetanguishene which would serve the Simcoe County francophone community.

Radio-Huronie, a committee working to establish the first such broadcasting service in this area, has broadly-based support in the community, and is exploring two options to establish the service. The options are: sharing air time with Radio-Canada's station CJBC-FM, which has an antenna just west of Penetanguishene, and, if this cannot be arranged, to set up an antenna on the roof of Centre d'activités francaises in Penetanguishene for a wholly independent operation.

Committee chairman Denis Chartrand, who co-founded a community radio station at the University of Ottawa in the mid-1970s, said yesterday that Radio-Huronie has received over 200 letters of support from local and outside groups in response to a mailing several weeks ago soliciting support. As well, a preliminary study has shown that there is enough enthusiasm in and around Penetang to operate a largely volunteer radio station.

Radio-Huronie's Pierre Mullie, a summer employee of the Centre who is entering his second year of communications studies at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute next month, said Friday that negotiations are underway with Radio-Canada for several hours of air time daily for local programming. He noted his would mean breaking in on CJBC's air time and that Radio-Canada does not, to date, have a comprehensive policy regarding french language-community

programming. Explorations with Radio-Canada are likely to go on for the next several months, Chartrand predicted. He and Mullie both said negotiations with Radio-Canada have been going well.

Mullie noted that french programming on CJBC-FM originates from Montreal and Toronto and that the fare has little relevance for this area's francophone community. He also said local station CKMP has indicated it would support an application for a new french language radio station.

With the groundwork laid, Radio-Huronie's next steps are to carry out feasibility and technical studies for its proposal. These are being arranged in co-operation with the francophone group Federation des Jeunes Canadiens-francaises, which is working with five separate francophone groups across Canada applying for licences for french language community broadcasting. Radio-Huronie is also nearing the point where a formal application for a licence will be submitted to the CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.) Support in the form of written submissions can still be sent. Radio-Huronie is asking these be sent to the Centre for forwarding to the CRTC.

Radio-Huronie is working with L'association canadienne-francaise de l'Ontario on grant applications for the service. If an arrangement cannot be worked out with Radio-Canada the service will cost more money and will probably delay implementation but either way the group is confident a new station will be on the air by September, 1986.

Penetang receives thanks

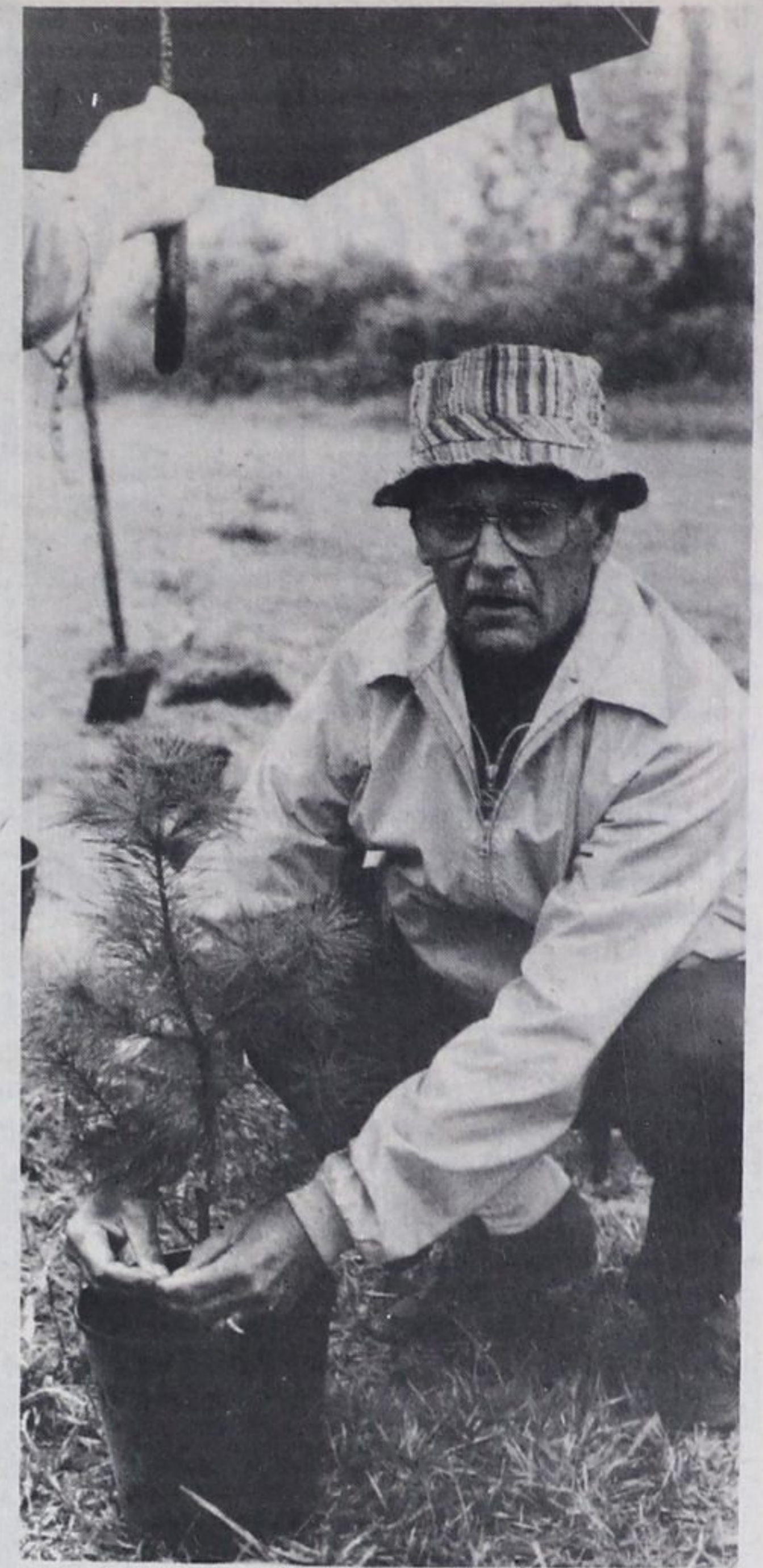
The Penetanguishene municipal office has received a thank-you note from the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee praising the town for its \$7,018.68 donation to the Committee.

The Committee is distributing donations collected across Ontario to victims of the May 31 tornadoes. In the City of Barrie alone, the disaster is estimated to have caused over \$100 million in property damage. Four lives were lost in the tornado.

Penetanguishene volunteers collected donations during two nights of door to door canvassing, in June. The government of former premier Frank Miller matched every dollar collected in donations with \$3.00 of its own. The Penetang effort yielded \$28,074.72 for the Committee.

"The Town of Penetanguishene has shown great compassion through your magnanimous gift," Committee fund raising chairman Geoff Lind writes in the Letter dated Aug. 16.

The town office has also received a letter requesting donations for the Sudbury Region Disaster Relief Fund Committee. On April 22, several rivers flooded their banks in the communities of Onaping Falls, Rayside-Balfour and Walden, causing \$300,000 damage.



Descendants' Day '85

Dr. Jim Spohn of Waterloo, a summer resident of the Penetanguishene area, plants a white pine tree Saturday at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments during Descendants' Day. Descendants of families stationed at Penetanguishene during the early part of the 19th Century planted the white pines in front of the Officers' Quarters to commemorate their families' early days in Penetanguishene. Jim Spohn is descended from original Establishments settler David Burke. Umbrella is held by HNME research director Gwen Patterson.

photo by Peter Spohn

Bob Sullivan is running

Penetanguishene post office worker Bob Sullivan announced Friday that he is seeking election to Penetanguishene town council in the November municipal elections.

This is Sullivan's first run for town council, but he is no stranger to municipal politics. He has sat on the municipality's Planning Advisory Committee for the last five years. Before that, he sat on the Huronia Airport Commission for six years and was chairman of the Commission for one year. He generally had praise for how the town is being run but mentioned a few problems he would like to see worked on.

Sullivan said he is interested in improving services in the community for senior citizens. Noting that some 38 percent of town residents are over age 50, he said they form a good proportion of the town's tax base but that services for seniors need improvements.

He said he would like to see the town take a more active role in promoting available services through distribution of a directory for seniors and that more emphasis should be placed on providing new services. He mentioned, as an example, rebuilding sidewalks in poor condition in the vicinity

of the Georgian Manor. Sullivan also said a sidewalk should be installed along Lorne Avenue in the vicinity of Corpus Christi School. The intersection of Lorne Avenue and Robert Street East should be widened to make it easier for school buses to turn, he added. So that development on Robert Street East can proceed, priority should be given to installing sanitary sewers along the street, between Lorne Avenue and Dufferin Street, he said.

Sullivan noted that Penetanguishene has kept its finances in good shape but noted that the debt service rose six percent in the last year.

Sullivan said he has observed the municipal landscape, sat on boards and commissions for several years but feels now is the time to implement some of his ideas as an elected municipal official.

Sullivan, 39, was born in Penetanguishene, raised in Toronto, and returned to Penetanguishene 11 years ago. He is a graduate of Trent University in Peterborough. He and his wife Lin have a son, eight, and a daughter, five. They live on Water Street.

New technology brings phone service to Cognashene area

by PETER SPOHN

Bell Canada has introduced telephone service to the Bone Island and Portage Island area of the Cognashene district north of Honey Harbour, and has made telecommunications history in doing it.

The technology used in the latest phase of a \$9.4 million Bell project to eventually bring service to most of cottage country between Sans Souci and Honey Harbour marks the first time a newly-developed switching system has been used in conjunction with underwater fibre optic cable.

In the second phase of

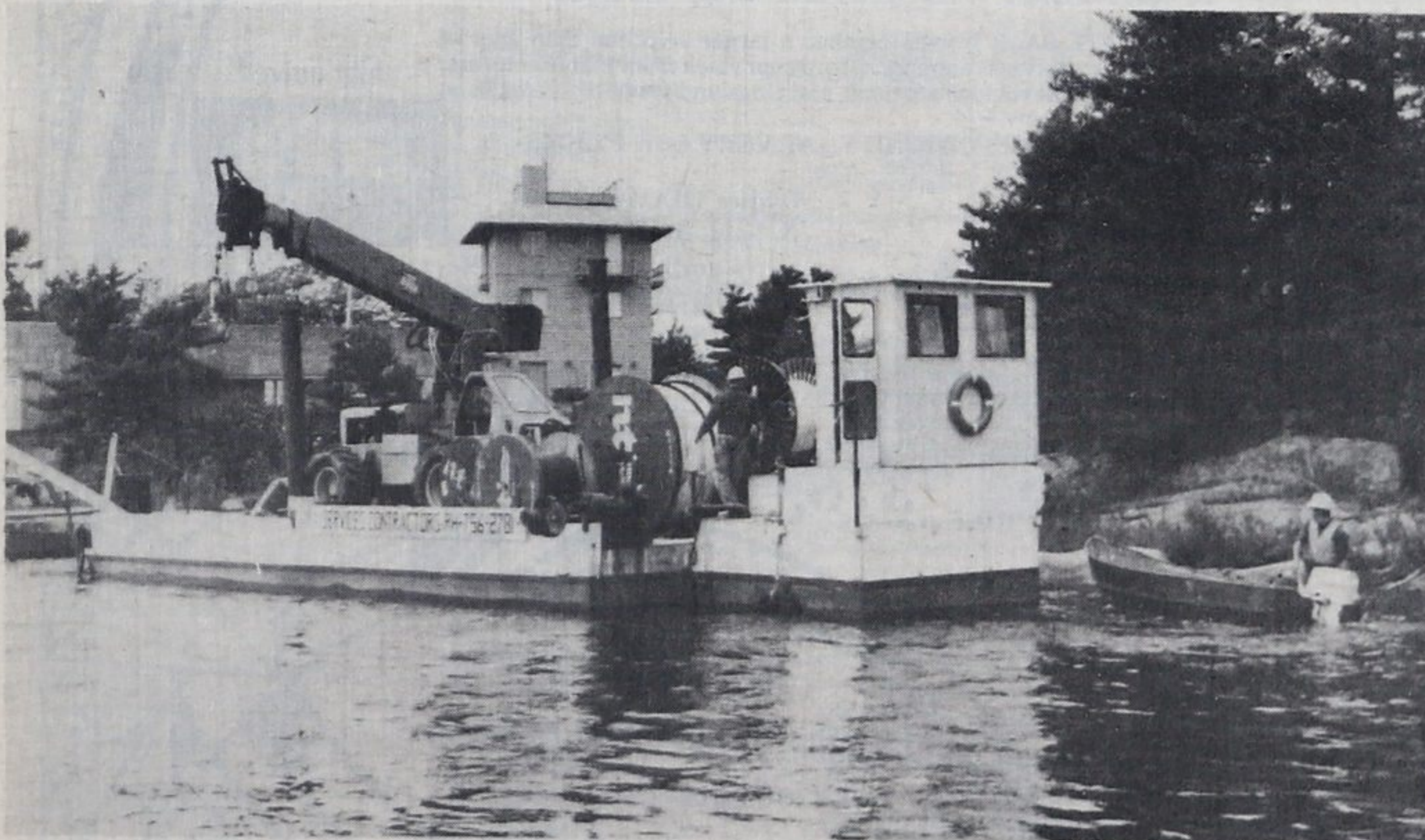
a three phase project, Bell has installed a \$100,000 switching station on a piece of land the corporation bought for approximately \$50,000 on Bone Island. Local Bell manager Norma McCall said last Thursday she expects about 250 residents in the area will take service. Last Thursday she and several Bell engineers were on hand as a Bell crew installed the first telephone in a mainland cottage near the Bone Island switching station.

During a tour of the Bone Island station, Bell area engineering supervisor Bev King explained that all phone calls originating in the newly-serviced area are

relayed to the station where a small digital box automatically sets up the call with a computer back-up system housed 10 kilometres away at the Honey Harbour Bell station, and sends it via cable to its destination instantly.

The technology combines copper cable, which has been used for years by Bell, and fibre optics technology. The latest technology was developed by Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa and manufactured by Northern Telecom of Mississauga.

The project's latest phase costs \$3.9 million. The first phase started in 1982.



Laying cable north of Honey Harbour

Rain dampens Descendants' Day but enthusiasm high

The success of Descendants' Day '85 is being measured not in terms of attendance figures Saturday at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments in Penetanguishene but, rather, in terms of the enthusiasm level of this year's visitors.

A heavy downpour all day Saturday kept attendance down from previous years' Descendants' Days but HNME's Gwen Patterson said the lower attendance figure resulted in a far more intimate experience for both visitors and staff.

Just under 500 visitors registered at the visitors' centre for Descendants' Day '85. Several years ago, over 4,000 visitors flocked to one memorable Descendants' Day. "It was

a zoo," Patterson recalled. This year, staff had time to chat with visitors on an individual basis, which meant that inquiries by descendants of the original soldiers and families stationed at the Establishments between 1817 and 1856 were dealt with in greater detail, Patterson said.

Patterson, who is Research Co-ordinator at Huronia Historical Parks, worked most of the day outside the children's centre near the Officers' Quarters supervising the planting of several dozen white pine trees in a grass field in front of the Officers' building. Potted white pines and shovels were placed in the field for descendants who wished to plant a tree in their family's name. The trees were tagged

with a small plastic nameplate with the family's name written on it.

Staff at HNME gave each descendant registered an identification card with red ribbon to wear. New road signs were also erected at the end of Robert Street East at Fuller Avenue and at the corner of Fox Street and Robert Street to guide out-of-town visitors to the site.

At the site, the theme of this year's Descendants' Day was the Militia. (Penetanguishene was manned by the First Battalion of Incorporated Militia from 1841 to 1843; by the 7th Company of the First Regiment of the Simcoe Militia in 1838; by the Penetang Volunteers in 1837; and the 4th

Regiment Simcoe Militia in 1838 and 1839.) Members of the Toronto-based Historical Re-actment Society were on hand in full costume presenting battle drills and formations in the military style of 1812.

The sound of bagpipes drifted over the site from the Officers' Quarters where several bagpipers, including Midland's Don Parker and members of the Penetang Legion Community Pipes & Drums Corps, played throughout the day for visitors.

First time visitor to HNME, Paul McGovern of Cambridge, toured the site with son Paul and said, "I'm really impressed." "I'm trying to learn more about our history," he added.