

Frozen water plagues firemen

by
PAUL SANDERSON

The fire hall on Christian Island may be the only one in the country where the fire truck backs out, on its way to a fire.

During the winter, the fire department's single pumper truck must drive in frontwards after each duty, to keep the rear mounted water pump valve near the building's wood and oil furnace.

Since its formation five years ago, the 20-member volunteer fire department has been plagued with freezing equipment problems, in a poorly heated, galvanized steel fire hall, claims Fire Chief Ron King.

Before the pumper's 1,500 gallon (6,820 litre) can be refilled, while firefighting in cold winter weather says King, the water pump valve freezes shut.

The problem is compounded by the near-freezing water the department draws from Georgian Bay when firefighting, and their island isolation from the assistance of pumpers from other departments.

If there's a fire, and the pumper freezes up, "We're back to the bucket brigade that existed before the volunteer department was formed," says King. "I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't complain."

35-year-old suffering from stab wounds: PPD

A Penetanguishene resident is to appear in Penetang Provincial Court, Monday, to face a charge of aggravated assault following a stabbing incident in the town early Sunday morning.

According to Penetang Police Chief Robert Cummings, 35-year-old Lewis Lesaux of Penetang remains in Penetang General Hospital recovering from stab wounds to the stomach and rib cage. Cummings reports,

the victim's brother, 45-year-old Leonard Joseph Lesaux, was arrested after police answered a call to a Fox Street residence around 3 a.m. Sunday morning, to investigate a dispute between two men.

Accused was later transported to Barrie jail, where he was released yesterday morning on his own recognizance following a bail hearing.

Leonard Joseph Lesaux is to appear in court on Monday to face the charge.

Winterama plans on target

With just over a month left until the big event, the Winterama 86 Committee is in full swing making all the arrangements for Penetanguishene's 39th Annual Winterama.

Although the Committee is well on its way with the plans for the

weekend long festivities, help is still needed.

If you want to get in on the fun, the committee will be holding their first meeting of 1986 at the Municipal Offices in Penetang, Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m.



Roll over on 400 Extension

It would appear winter got the better part of this four-wheel drive vehicle which was photographed late Sunday morning, on its roof, on the Little 400

Extension. It's not known at this time if there were any injuries.

-Photo by Paul Sanderson

Chamber of Commerce moving

Tomorrow should be the last moving day for the Midland Chamber of Commerce. In recent years the Chamber office has been on First Street, in the lobby of the Budd Watson Gallery, and most recently, ending today, on the second floor of a Hugel Avenue commercial building.

The official opening of the Chamber's new home, on the southwest corner of King Street and Bayshore Drive, will be held a week from tomorrow.

A Chamber fund raising campaign raised \$120,000. The town gave \$25,000.

The remainder was given by individuals and businesses.

The one-storey building encompasses 1,800 square feet, plus a basement, and a public washroom.

Some furnishings have been donated as well. Completing the furnishing of the building, landscaping, and building a porch are included in phase two of the Chamber's plan for

the building. Located as it is on the middle ground between

the town dock and the Midland Town Centre, on the town's main

street, the Chamber building is ideally situated.

OPP close roads

Yet another raging winter blizzard has ripped through huge sections of Central Ontario including here in North Simcoe.

Heavy snows began to fall early Sunday evening and by 4:40 a.m. yesterday Elmvale OPP had closed Highway 27 north and south of Elmvale to through traffic because of drifting snow and poor visibility.

The detachment also closed Highway 92 from Elmvale to Wasaga Beach and County Road 6 from Elmvale to Wyevale and Perkinsfield because of whiteouts.

Meanwhile, Midland OPP, were

called out at 5 a.m. the same morning to halt through traffic from just outside Midland on Highway 93 to the Waverley area.

Yesterday morning winds were gusting at between 10 to 15 knots directly out of the north with peak gusts at Huronia Airport measuring 21 knots.

The wind chill factor was a cool -16C thanks to a temperature reading of -3C.

The barometer stood at 29.73 inches with the weatherman calling for partly sunny weather today and more flurries late in the afternoon.

JARO WOJCICKI D.T., Denture Therapist

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