

Francis Whiteman prominent in his community

The Canadian soldier who received the signal announcing the end of the First World War died at age 91 on Sunday in Huronia District Hospital.

Francis Elmore Whiteman, known as Frank to his friends, served with the 4th Division Signals Corps and was on duty in November, 1919, when the signal announcing

the armistice was received.

The Lonsdale, Ont. native came to Midland to be the Canadian National Railways' Midland station agent. Previously, he was station agent in Emsdale, Marysville and Fenelon Falls.

Whiteman retired in 1960. In that same year he became an Ontario Justice of the Peace.

The St Paul's United Church member served on his church's Official Board for years.

Francis Whiteman was a Past Master of Caledonian Lodge No. 249, Midland, and Algonquin Lodge, Emsdale. He was also a Past First Principal of Kitchikewana Chapter, Royal Arch Mason.

A Midland Y's Men's Club member, he was a

Past District Governor of Y's Men's International.

During the 1960s he was a Canadian National Institute for the Blind campaign chairman for fund raising in Midland.

Francis Whiteman was a member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 80, Midland.

For many years he served on the Midland

School Board.

A service under the auspices of Caledonian Lodge AF And AM was held yesterday evening in Nicholls Funeral Home. A Legion Branch 80 service is to be held this evening in the funeral home at 7:30 p.m. A Midland Y's Men's Club service is to follow at 8 p.m. The funeral will be held tomorrow in St. Paul's

United Church. Maysell, and two grandchildren survive Francis Whiteman's wife Lillian, son Duart, and daughter Delores, Thorne was his first sisters Lottie and wife.

What's wrong with bingo?

Dear Editor:

My wife and I are one of the many people who shop in Midland for things we are in need of which cannot buy in the Waubaushe area. In the last year or so we have seen a change in Midland.

It seems to be going down hill instead of up. Is it because of your town council or is it because of your business men who don't care anymore what happens in the town of Midland?

Well like I say we do our shopping in Midland then sometimes go to the bingo after having our supper in town which beats sitting drinking in the hotel.

I hear the town council is very concerned about people spending so much money on Bingo. Well I think its the peoples business where they spend their money. Does the town council stop and think that a lot of the money being spent on the bingo is going to help the Midland kids? Also the Wye Marsh to keep it going. There are lots of Clubs waiting to take over any openings there are available. Whats the matter with having a Sunday bingo? They do everything else on Sunday. I think its about time town council had very close look at what these bingos are doing for the children and also for the people that don't drink in other words - smarten up town council before its too late it might not be too late for one of town council to sit in on one of the bingos. They might get lucky and see just how some of the clubs operate and what they are doing with their money.

Alan Giles
Waubaushe

Common-law marriages: the most misunderstood concept in law

by ROBERT P. MAIN
The only thing "common" about common law marriages is that it's the most commonly misunderstood concept in family law. There is no such thing in Canada as a

common-law marriage, in the sense that no amount of living together will make it a marriage. It would be more accurate to refer to them as unmarried couples, or cohabitants. Ann Landers' column popularized the word

that I like - possiq, (pronounced "possel-kew," an acronym for Person Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters): Oh my darling, I love you, Come and be my possiq.

When unmarried couples separate, there is of course no divorce issue. The only points of contention are custody of children, division of property and financial support.

The issue of custody is dealt with the same as with married couples.

The issue of property division is completely different. The Family Law Act 1986, and its predecessor The Family Law Reform Act, 1978, do not apply. Instead, one has to go back to examine the principles of equity which have evolved since the Magna Carta in the body of judge-made law called jurisprudence or the common law.

Simply put, the general law is that both parties will be treated separately as to property, so that assets in a person's name or which he bought or which he received as gifts are his. His common-law partner however will be able to assert a claim against the value of such property if she can demonstrate that she contributed value or work to those assets, or helped in acquiring them, managing them or preserving them.

For example, if he owned a small business and ran it out of his home, but she answered the phone, ordered supplied and did the

books, all without compensation, then at the point of separation she could say that although the business assets (tools, inventory, truck) are his, it is unfair not to be compensated for all her contribution.

She may also try to demonstrate that it would be unfair not to receive a division of property, simply due to their financial interdependence during their life together.

If we consider the example of a man and woman that both work, and he uses his income to pay off the mortgage on his house and pays the taxes, insurance and maintenance, and her income is used for groceries, recreation, holiday and her car payment, would it be equitable, at separation, for her not to be compensated for the growth in the equity of his house?

Support is another issue. The Family Law Reform Act, 1978, widened the definition of spouse, for the purpose of support, to include "either of a man and woman not being married to each other who have cohabited, continuously for a

period of not less than five years, or in a relationship of some permanence where there is a child born of whom they are the natural parents."

The new Family Law Act 1986, has reduced the cohabitation period to just three years, and provides a two year limitation period for starting a support claim.

A typical problem encountered by unmarried couples is what happens when one party dies without a will.

Because our system works on the basis of the deceased's estate going to his next-of-kin, a common-law spouse gets nothing.

The only relief available to someone in that situation is to bring a lawsuit against the estate, under The Succession Law Reform Act, and try to establish that she was financially dependant on the deceased. If the Court accepts that contention, it will make some financial provision for the applicant out of the value of the estate.

Robert P. Main, is a partner with Teskey, Heacock, Ferguson & Main and practices in the area of Family Law.

Police forces moving into computer age

by Michele Gouett
By the year 1991, both Midland and Penetanguishene Town Police Forces could see the advent of computers in their police stations.

At a meeting of the Simcoe County Police Chiefs Association in Penetang last Friday, the 32 police chiefs and police commissioners who were on hand discussed the feasibility of computerizing all police forces in the province, during their quarterly meeting sponsored by the Police Governing Authority and Penetang Police Force.

According to Penetang Police Chief Robert Cummings, the project will be implemented in Simcoe County this year with the Barrie force as the pilot project.

Cummings says the move would see all 121 municipal forces in Ontario computerized over the next 10 years.

Both Cummings and Midland Police Chief Ernie Bates, agree the installation of computers into the local

police forces would make the services more professional with quick access to information, the improvement in the storage of records, and the access to other police agencies' information.

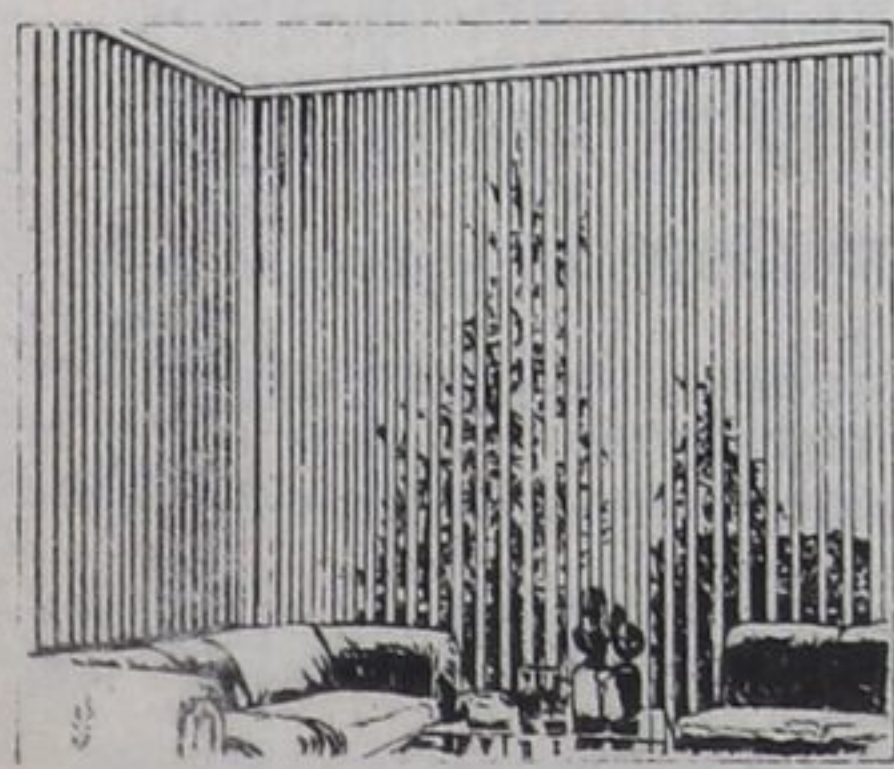
Bates says the implementation of the computer in the Midland force has already been given the seal of approval by the town council and starting this year, a \$10,000 reserve will be put into the Public Safety Committee's budget for the next five years to cover the \$43,500 cost to the Police Force.

The software needed for computerization will be provided to the forces by the Ontario Police Commission who are the organization behind the move.

Although Penetang Police Chief Robert Cummings is in favour of the move to computerize, the town's Public Safety Commission is still looking into the issue before giving the green light to the plan.

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We're glad you asked!



Jim Lynn
Funeral Director

WHAT IS THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS' CODE?
As professionals, we subscribe to the Ontario Funeral Service Association Code of proper funeral practice. This means that we adhere to the highest standards of professionalism for funeral directors. It is your assurance of receiving the most ethical services and that we are worthy of the trust you place in our care. Specifically, our Code pledges us to provide you with full information and to include and display our prices prominently.

We also provide full opportunity to all persons to discuss or arrange funerals in advance and to make funerals available in as wide a range of prices as best serves the needs of all segments of the community.

We respect all faiths, creeds and customs, and we pledge to help provide full effectiveness to the role of the clergy.

There are many other points in our code of proper funeral practice. We will be pleased to discuss them with you. Just stop by for full details.

JL James H. Lynn **OFA**
Funeral Homes
Midland 526-6551 Elmvale 322-2732

Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
will be held on
Tuesday, March 18th, 1986
and
Thursday, March 20th, 1986
at

Ecole Martyrs Canadiens,
Perkinsfield
526-2824

Ecole Ste. Croix
Lafontaine
533-2610

Ecole St. Louis
Rue Dufferin
Penetanguishene
549-3677

Msgr. Castex School
Old Penetang Rd.
Midland
526-2831

Our Lady of Mercy School
Honey Harbour
756-2330

Sacred Heart School
241 Elizabeth St.
Midland
526-2111

St. Ann's School
43 Lorne Ave.
Penetanguishene
549-8900

St. John's School
Waubaushe
538-2232

St. Mary's School
Victoria Harbour
534-3391

-Children born in 1982 of Separate School supporters are eligible for Junior Kindergarten in September, 1986.

-Proof of age by baptismal certificate is required for admission.

-Please phone the school concerned to arrange for an appointment.

Mr. N. Vollebregt Mr. W.P. Bolger
Chairman Director