

Probation

Justice Week Theme Community

The issuing of a probation order provides an individual with an opportunity to remain at liberty in the community under rigid conditions. This Court disposition allows the offender to remain at home and reside with his or her family while attending school or maintaining employment.

More than half of the reported crime in our society is committed by young persons between the ages of 16 and 25. First offenders are frequently the recipient of a community disposition by sentencing Courts.

For many the shock of a court appearance and the regulations imposed by a probation order are enough to keep them from committing another crime. A probationer is expected to report on a regular basis to a probation officer or volunteer at least once per month. Any proposed change of address must be reported.

The probation officer must give permission for absences from home, including vacation, or a change of job. Failure to comply with the conditions of a probation order may result in a probationer being charged with an offence under the Criminal Code and the maximum prison sentence of six months.

After serving one third of a sentence under two years, an inmate in an Ontario Correctional facility is eligible for consideration by the Ontario Board of Parole. These inmates appear before the Ontario Parole Board where consideration is given to community assessments completed by the probation officer, the inmate's behavior in custody and response to earlier periods of

community supervision.

If granted parole, the inmate is required to report to a parole officer and meet other reasonable conditions ordered by the Parole Board to assist the reintegration of the offender into the community as well as protect the community from a repetition of criminal activity. In the event parole is violated, the parolee can be returned immediately to the nearest correctional facility for future consideration by the Parole Board.

Across the County of Simcoe, there are five Probation and Parole field offices: Barrie, Orillia, Midland, Collingwood and Alliston. These offices are staffed by a total of 16 probation and parole officers.

At the present time, these probation officers employed by the Ministry of Correctional Services supervise 1,100 clients 18 years of age and over as adult probationers, as well as 50 clients under the authority of the Ontario Board of Parole.

With the impact of the young Offenders Act on the Ministry of Correctional Services on April 1, 1985, probation and parole staff have been responsible for the supervision of 16 and 17 year olds under this new legislation.

The Young Offenders Act represents the legal response to changing contemporary knowledge, cultural values and attitudes with respect to young persons who come into conflict with the law. It reflects the belief the young persons are capable of individual thought and should therefore bear responsibility for their illegal actions.

The Act further recognizes that young

persons are different from adults in that they are less mature and more dependent on others. For these reasons, young persons are not considered the same as adults and are given the supervision, discipline, control, guidance and assistance commensurate with their identified needs. The Act emphasizes the involvement of young persons in decisions affecting them as well as the importance of the family for the development of the young person.

Volunteers willingly contribute their time to assist clients of this Ministry. They provide the additional time that staff probation and parole officers are not always able to provide. Ministry clients usually appreciate the volunteer participation because they see volunteers as persons who take time from their own lives to illustrate concern for others.



She's the new queen

Elmvale crowned its 20th Maple Syrup Queen last Friday night during E.D.H.S.'s annual Variety Night. Queen Tracey McAllister is flanked by her princesses Anita Bono (left) and Cindy Hiltz.

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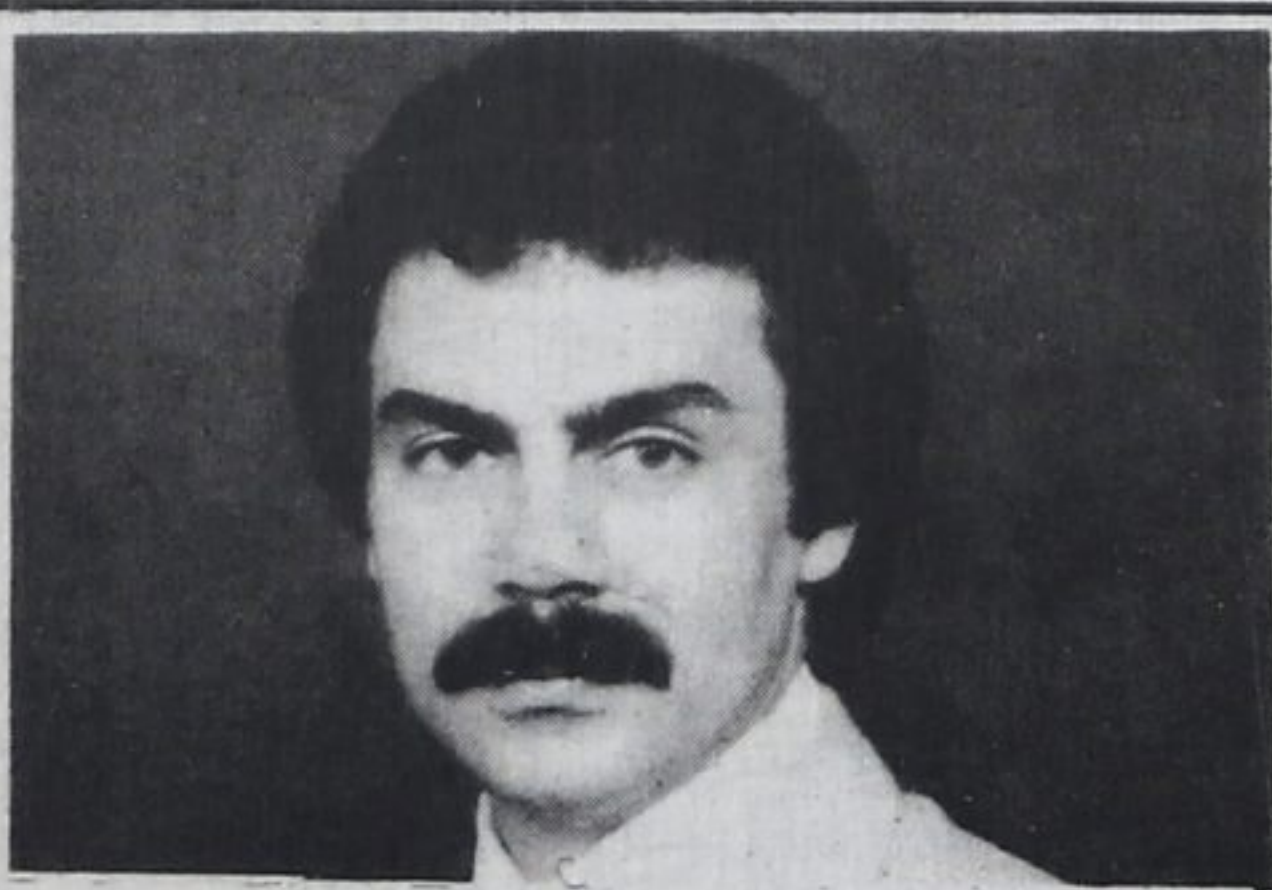
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M. Fitzgerald Real Estate (1978) Ltd. is pleased to welcome Bill Birch as its newest member of the Midland office. Bill has been living in the Georgian Bay area most of his life and has recently graduated from the Real Estate Salesmen's Course conducted through the Ontario Real Estate Association.

Bill is a former Assistant Bank Manager. Bill is looking forward to assisting the people of this area with any of their Real Estate needs. Call Bill at the office 526-2227 or at his residence 835-5562.

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