

# Penetang's citizen of the year

by Connie Marion

Vic Valentine says he was surprised to have been named Penetanguishene's Citizen of the Year last week.

Valentine says the award was a complete surprise to him, and he is very happy about it, although he could think of at least 12 other people who deserve it as much as he.

"Bill Stevens," he said, "has done a lot, especially for the church."

The self-employed sign painter says he doesn't

want to sound like he's bragging about winning the award, although he is very pleased. He says he has tried to give "good service to his customers over the years".

Valentine, who has his shop on Water Street, has painted signs for both Winterama and Summerama, the hospital, and churches, most of which he did for free or at cost.

Valentine has been in the sign painting business since he was 14. His first sign was for Therrien's

Garage, which is no longer in business. The sign measured 10 feet by five feet, and he received only two or three dollars for it. "That was good money then," he said, laughing.

Soon after, "I worked with a sign painter named Harold Beaudoin, who is semi-retired now," Valentine recounted. "He helped me out a lot. He was good to me and I learned a lot from him."

Valentine says now business is so busy he has had to turn work over to other sign painters. "It hurts to turn down good people," he said. "Ninety-nine per cent of the people are nice. I really like this area."

Valentine's almost 64 and he says he has no plans of retiring now. "If I had my life to live again, I'd do the same thing. I enjoy my work very much," he said.



**Citizen of the year**

Vic Valentine was honored last Tuesday night by the Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce. President Bill Waters told Valentine he had made a valuable con-

tribution to business and the community. The chamber's annual meeting was held last Tuesday night at the Legion.

## Exams start Monday

by Laura Grabinsky

There is not much happening this week at Penetanguishene Secondary School (PSS) because exams start next Monday. Time is needed for teachers to prepare the treacherous tortures and for students to cram information into their memory banks.

Some classes have even scheduled exams for this week because testing is too difficult and inconvenient for exam week.

The apple drive was over last week. It was running for approximately two weeks so that the Student's Council could raise money for the school.

Last Friday was the 50's day and the "Flashback"

dance which was Dj'd by Dr. Music. There was a 50 cent discount if you were dressed according to the theme.

This Friday is Hallowe'en! Hopefully everyone will dress up and disguise themselves in costumes.

Also on Friday morning, College Day is being held at Midland Secondary School helping the students decide which college to choose. PSS students will attend.

I certainly hope students at MSS dress up for the annual festivities because I think the witches and other out-of-the-ordinary people will feel preety uncomfortable.

Good luck in exams.

## Kids' safety tips

by Connie Marion

It's that time of year again, when there's frost on the pumpkin and children, both young and old, delight in fabricating "the ultimate" of disguises. Yes, Hallowe'en, is a day when you can become anyone you wish to be. This year we'll be seeing a lot of Ninjas, Madonnas and purple haired punk rockers, mixed in with the traditional Witches, Ghosts and Skeletons. It's hard to say which would be the scariest.

Fortunetelling, bobbing for apples, the burning of crops and sacrifices (both animal and human), were all a part of Hallowe'ens long ago.

Today, it is thought of as a time to change pumpkins into Jack-o-Lanterns and people intowhatever. Children enjoy trick or treating and coming home with, what looks like, a year's supply of candy. Many children carry UNICEF boxes on this evening, to collect money for the needy youngsters throughout the world.

Although Hallowe'en is a time for fun, there are always incidents and accidents that happen to cause many families dismay. Make sure your child knows the safety rules, before you send

him/her out incognito.

I have asked a few youngsters from the Penetanguishene/Midland area, to give me some important safety tips they would pass on to others.

Rob Carey, a grade three student at St. Ann's School in Penetang, gave me this hint, "never eat candy, until your mom checks it." His sister Jennifer, in grade four, wants to remind trick-or-treaters to "stay in a group." This way, you're not likely to have something happen to you.

Monica Marion, of St. Ann's grade seven class, reminds us that "masks make it difficult to see" and that "make-up is better." Her brother Danny, a grade five student warns "don't zig zag across streets." If you do, an accident is likely to occur.

Terry Lynn Quesnelle, a grade seven student at Monsignor Castex in Midland warns "wear something that can be seen easily." Because if you're on the road, it will make you easier to be spotted by the motorists. Her brother Michael of grade five, was quick to inform me to "look both ways, before you cross the street."

For the bigger "kids", however, I'd suggest, "drive carefully and don't drink and drive."



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