



Singing like angels

Members of the St. James-on-the-line junior choir sang to their hearts content last Thursday evening for the senior citizens of Penetanguishene at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 68. The group performed a variety of numbers for the guests of the Ladies Auxiliary of the branch.

Port awaits word

The Village of Port McNicoll is still waiting for an answer from Ministry of the Environment (MOE) about whether they can get a new water supply from Victoria Harbour.

According to Administrator Ted Walker, the village is in need of a new water system since the existing pumphouse does not have a proper filtration system.

Although there is nothing wrong with the system or the quality of the water, Walker said, the MOE stipulates all pumphouses must have a proper filtration system.

The administrator said a number of meetings were held between the two sides on the matter, but it has been a year since the ministry has discussed the situation with his office. The system is down on a list of projects the MOE is looking at undertaking.

Walker said the ministry has examined the possibility of the village hooking up to Victoria Harbour rather than Port McNicoll going through all the expense of building a new pumphouse and tower.

Ministry representatives have told Port officials Victoria Harbour's system is operating way under their capacity and could easily handle the Port McNicoll hook-ups.

When the Victoria Harbour system was built it was designed to handle a population of 4,000 or approximately 1,500 units. According to Victoria Harbour Administrator Doug Jackson, there are only 590 hook-ups on the system.

Jackson said he could see no problem with the Harbour's water services ex-

tended to the neighbouring village since their system has the capacity to handle the additional homes and businesses.

Although there are a number of other options the village could look at, Walker said, joining the Harbour system would be the most economical for Port McNicoll.

Chairman acclaimed

Penetanguishene Councillor Lionel Dion has been acclaimed as the chairman of the North Simcoe Waste Management Association (NSWMA) for the third consecutive term.

At last Tuesday night's session, members of the NSWMA acclaimed Dion as the chairman along with Vice-chairman Pat Armstrong.

The two will head the association until December of 1987.

Hospital auxiliary

The Penetanguishene General Hospital Auxiliary is sponsoring a Craft and Home Baking Sale in the Lower Hall and Board Room of the Hospital, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 11th. The sale will include touch and take boxes, Christmas decorations, knitted articles, toys, novelties and other gift items. All donations will be most gratefully received. For details phone 526-8014, 549-7152 or 526-2330. Come and bring a friend! Proceeds are for the Hospital Gift Shop Fund.

FLEC looks to extend french school

The Simcoe County Board of Education's (SCBE) newly-elected French Language Education Council (FLEC) has put establishing a junior kindergarten at Ecole St. Joseph in Penetanguishene on the top of their list of priorities, FLEC member Basil Dorion said.

"We will be discussing that and will probably be making our decision on December 17," he said. If established, the pre-kindergarten class would be the first class of its kind run by the board.

At the first FLEC meeting Thursday night, a group of parents from Ecole St. Joseph presented

a case stating the need for a grade for three and four year-olds.

Marie Robitaille, president of St. Joseph's parents' committee, said "the children's learning ability is strongest from ages three to six. They learn a lot faster (than when they're older)."

Ecole St. Joseph Vice-principal, Joseph Gratton, explained a pre-kindergarten class is particularly beneficial for rural children.

"The main objective we would see in a junior kindergarten is, first of all, the social aspect, which we find to be very important. Rural children don't get

much chance to socialize," he stated, since they live farther apart than their city friends.

"The children would begin to form healthy interpersonal relationships as they played and shared and learned the philosophy of sharing," he said.

"We feel it would give them a chance to be in an atmosphere to discover more about themselves, and develop self-esteem," he added.

Gratton says the school is not unaware of problems that could be created with the youngsters. He said ensuring the three and four year-olds got on the right school bus could be

challenging. He also said some children may not be ready to leave their family all day long to head off to school.

The program, which would be taught by a teacher experienced with younger children, would include music appreciation games and songs, simple science experiments, as well as the more academic activities such as language development, literature

and math.

Gratton, said the parents group is encouraged by FLEC's reception of their request. The group has been turned down on the same proposal, twice by the SCBE.

"We're more optimistic this time. The decision is being made by the FLEC, meaning we have to only convince two or three people rather than 20 in the regular school board."

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