

Peace would help locally too

by Laurie Watt

As I watch the news—international, national, provincial and local—I see a common thread, despite the tremendous variance in issues.

As a reporter, I'm pretty close to it all, having had a well-rounded education and interest in defining and analyzing what goes on around us. It's

fascinating, really, but it all boils down to one simple thing—a lack of peace.

"Peace" is pretty much an overworked word, bordering on the cliché. No one really seems to grasp what it means, yet we go on singing "Peace on earth" and sending cards with the same message to friends and acquaintances. Consider what the world

would be like if there were peace: no more Middle East conflict, no more Cold War, no more dominion-provincial bickering. It sounds so elusive, so unreal.

To obtain a peace—the kind which was meant to be—we first must be at peace with ourselves—as individuals.

The greatest enemy of

peace is fear—a basic yet consuming insecurity. It is this insecurity that drives nations to build up armaments and to fight. It is this same element which causes mistrust and broken deals in the free trade talks with the Americans. Similarly with the provinces, which continually push and shove for national attention and funds.

On a local level, we are not immune. Consider the battle between the Simcoe County Board of Education (SCBE), their French Language Education Council (FLEC) and the province of Ontario. Presently, the three are battling it out in the courts, under the name of the Marchand Case.

In this case, it is a struggle for basic rights and freedoms—justice, which is supposed to be guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and our legal system.

Two weeks ago, FLEC ordered the SCBE to withdraw its appeal of the Marchand ruling, which instructed the school board to provide sufficient space and resources for French industrial arts and family studies courses. However, the board could not accede to this need, and instead, appealed the decision.

The latest development came about last week. FLEC decided to hire its own lawyers, to ensure Bill 75, which created FLEC, is interpreted justly. However, the SCBE won't allot the funds, thus tying FLEC's hands and denying them the right to discover their jurisdiction and powers.

The issue, I discovered, is terribly charged with emotion. And that's sad, really. The problem lies not in funding, but in power and fear of losing any of that.

Misunderstanding abounds, on both sides. As we sit back this holiday season, let us consider our basic rights, our freedoms—which we treasure. Then let us give of them to others not quite so fortunate.



A Choir of angels

At First Presbyterian Church in children sang a couple of favorite Penetanguishene Sunday morning, the carols. Watching the angels and Sunday school re-enacted the shepherds is Rev. Al Farthing. Christmas story. After the story, the

Downer new recycling manager

Effective last Friday, the North Simcoe Waste Management Association (NSWMA) Recycling Program has a new manager.

Last week, NSWMA officials hired Midland's Liz Downer, to replace Manager Anne Desroches, who resigned last month in

order to go back to school.

Downer, the former BIA manager for the last five and a half years, began her tenure as manager of the program Friday afternoon.

Downer will be responsible for all facets from promotion to budgeting for the 15-month-old project in the six municipalities in North Simcoe.



Seniors aid shelter

Residents of Georgian Manor in Penetanguishene presented gifts to the Rosewood Home, a shelter for battered women and their children in hopes of giving them a happier Christmas.

Residents' Council President Mark Parent presented Ila Kellerman, the coordinator at Rosewood, with a \$300 cheque. Other gifts included hand-made quilts and blankets.

Port meetings reslated

In an effort to make their council sessions more accessible to the taxpayers and cutback on the length, the Village of Port McNicoll council has decided to change their meeting schedule.

According to the village's clerk treasurer, Ted Walker, starting in the new year, instead of holding only one meeting a month, on

the third Tuesday, the five member council will meet twice.

Council meetings will be slated for the first and third Wednesday of the month.

Walker explained, in the past if a taxpayer came to his office a couple of days after council, with a matter that needed examination by the municipality's of-

ficials, it was another month before it was dealt with.

Presently, the 7:30 p.m. sessions are running late into the evening because of the lengthy agendas.

The first meeting of the new schedule will be Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Offices.



Liz Downer



Merry Christmas

Happy holiday wishes to all our wonderful customers. ❄️

I'm glad to be back in time to wish you all Season's Greetings

Irene & Staff
526 HAIR FASHION
756 YONGE STREET
MIDLAND



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

May peace be with you this joyous holiday season.

HERB Carpenter LIMITED

181 Charles St., Midland

LIVINGSTON'S
MEN'S WEAR

Fashion You Can Live With

From



Arrow

Dress Shirts \$19⁹⁹
2 for \$39⁰⁰

Sports Shirts \$24⁹⁹
2 for \$49⁰⁰

We Carry Gift Items for The Big and Tall Man Also

- Jantzen Sweaters
- Isotoner Gloves
- Stetson Hats
- Riviera Slacks

For great Gift Ideas for Him...this Christmas...
Come to Livingston's Men's Wear
in the

MIDLAND TOWN CENTRE

LIVINGSTON'S
MEN'S WEAR

225 KING ST., MIDLAND
526-6581