

# 1986 a Year in Review

## February blahs hit area in every corner

Winterama beat the winter blues this month, with its hour-long parade, its Queen contest and other family fun-filled events.

But there was more happening than just Winterama this month.

Still on a fun note, Ecole Secondaire

Penetanguishene Secondary School musicians got word of being chosen to represent Canada at the International Youth Music Festival in Harrogate, England next spring. To begin raising money for the trip, which will cost each student about \$1500, the bands played for a four-hour stretch one Sunday afternoon.

February was the month Penetanguishene Town Council paved the way for the completion of the sanitary sewers in the north end of town. The cost for the year was estimated at \$1.2 million by Town Clerk Yvon Gagne.

In Tiny Township, things were not so light and progressive; rather they were serious and, in one particular case, depressing.

Topping the news headlines was the blooming dump issue, one that would probe to blossom later in the year and yield a crop of disputes.

Mediation talks between the North Simcoe Waste Management Association (NSWMA) and Tiny Township began early in the month in Toronto. The most significant proposal emerging from the talks was having the two sides

meet to discuss other landfill sites, other than Site 41 (the Wayne Johnson farm) and the Perkinsfield site.

Two families were left homeless in Tiny Township after an early morning blaze. A home, just south of Penetanguishene on Highway 93 was gutted. The blaze was suspected to be caused by a block heater in a 1976 Ford LTD which overheated.

Sports made news this month as Penetanguishene's Brian Orser captured his sixth consecutive Canadian Senior Men's Figure Skating Championship crown.

The Town of Midland faced more than the February blues in the second month of the new calendar year. On Feb. 3, Midland's deputy-reeve resigned as the chairman of the town's public works committee. Nancy Keefe's resignation was a reaction to other members of the council discussing the dismissal of the commissioner of public works without including her. In her letter of resignation Keefe also gave as a reason, the telling to her by the mayor of two "complete untruths."

Neither Percy Ehler nor his representative attended a dismissal hearing required by the Municipal Act. Shortly following, the town had been informed of the possibility of legal action by Ehler.

Councillor Robert Brush became the new public works committee

chairman.

As of the beginning of February, more snow had fallen on Midland as of the beginning of February than fell through the entire previous winter.

Feb. 7 was the official opening day of Rowika Industries in Midland. Rowika Industries of Barrie and BJR Plating of Midland amalgamated.

On Feb. 10, Midland town council voted 6-3 to rescind the bylaw through which Percy Ehler was hired 21 years previously. The bylaw also provided for payment of a maximum of \$10,000 to a Toronto company which would help Ehler find a new job.

One of the month's favourite activities, the Victoria Harbour Mini Bonhomme Carnival was its usual success story. Mark Stubbings and Jennifer Woodrow were the reigning King and Queen over the weekend long event put on by the villages Parks and Recreation Board.

Simcoe East MPP Al McLean said protests to proposed changes to the riding boundaries to the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission would be too late.

Gord Blake, co-owner of Canada's largest marina, located in Tay Township, adjacent to Midland, complained that local politicians concerned with "little political empires" were standing in the way of development. Blake was upset because more than \$1 million was being spent to complete the marina and

a tile field would have to be built if the marina could not connect to the town's underused sewage treatment system.

Percy Ehler's statement of claim in his unlawful dismissal notice against the Town of Midland said Ehler was due 30 months' notice, and that the mayor and reeve had a "personal vendetta" against him. Ehler asked for \$305,000 in his unlawful dismissal suit.

The producer of the movie *Recruits*, a part of which was filmed in Midland the previous summer and fall, wrote to Mayor Al Roach to say that a Thank You to the people of Midland would be included in the film's credits.

Midland Councillor Fred Pilon and Robert Brush said that during a caucus meeting Councillor Buzz Brown stated that he would resign if Percy Ehler was fired. Counc. Brown's response was that he didn't say he would resign.

On Feb. 21, 22 psychiatric doctors employed at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre were prepared to walk out for a study session.

Midland council wanted a written guarantee from the doctors who would be moving into the new medical clinic across the border in Tiny Township that the doctors would pay the cost of connection of their building to the town's sewage treatment system.

On Feb. 27 the psychiatric doctors employed at the

Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre again walked out for a study session, still unhappy about contract negotiation with the provincial government.

The Simcoe County budget of more than \$6.8 million was four per cent higher than the previous county budget.

The Huronia District

Hospital Auxiliary fulfilled a \$50,000 pledge to the hospital made more than two years previously. The final \$5,000 was delivered in February.



### Airport expansion

Airport Manager John O'Hara (left) and Four Seasons Flight Academy President Ron School show off the 1:1,250 scale model of the airport delivered in February. The six foot long model depicts the airport as it will look with 999 feet extension planned for 1987.

## Howard Rink puts area in national limelight

The more things change, the more they stay the same—the old adage is true, with March falling in nicely behind the first two months of 1986. Same issues. Same faces. But some new victories did spring forth.

The provincial government was petitioned by Mental Health Centre workers again this month, but this time it was by Oak

Ridge attendants. The attendants' union said retirement should be granted automatically after 25 years of work in the maximum security psychiatric hospital, complete with pension. Workers wanted the provincial government to recognize the unusual stress level suffered by attendants and the resulting high rate of burnout.

Psychiatric doctors at the

MHC stayed on the job after an 11-hour agreement between the doctors and the management board of the centre. The doctors had planned to strike at four of the 10 psychiatric facilities across the province.

On a happier note, the Provincial Health Minister, Murray Elston announced the Ministry of Health will provide \$100,000 to repair the two Penetanguishene

boarding houses for psychiatric patients. Huronia Lodge used the money to make renovations and upgraded the electrical systems at its two boarding houses.

In sports, the Howard Rink of Russ and Glenn Howard, Kent Carstairs and Tim Belcourt was only one stone away from winning the Labatt Brier and being the Canadian representative at the World Curling Championship, Silver Broom, with a 4-3 loss against the Albert Rink after 10 ends of play. The rink finished in second spot after the 15 rounds of regular play against 11 top teams from across Canada, with a strong record of nine wins and only two losses.

The month of March started off with Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis announcing the federal budget of the previous week was balanced to deal with social and economic problems. It was designed to lead to a balanced budget.

Victoria Harbour registered a tax arrears certificate against the Sportman Motor Inn in the county registry office. If the \$71,571 owed the village was not paid after 12 months, the Inn would become the village's property to sell. The money

represents unpaid tax, penalties, and interest for the years 1983, 1984, and 1985. The Inn closed in March, 1984.

Doctor James Martin said, in response to a letter from the municipality requesting in writing assurance that the doctors would pay for a sewage connection of their building to the town's sewage system, that the previous December the doctors told the council they fully expected to pay the cost.

Councillor Fred Pilon said he would ask Councillor Buzz Brown to resign, at the next council meeting. Counc. Pilon said that he expected Brown to resign because he said, during a caucus meeting, that he would resign if the town's commissioner of works, Percy Ehler, was dismissed. Counc. Brown said his memory of what he said was different.

The psychiatric doctors employed at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre walked off the job on March 5 and 6, along with doctors from the province's nine other psychiatric hospitals. The doctors were seeking binding contract arbitration.

The Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission presented its recommendations to the provincial

government. One of its suggestions was that Midland be removed from Simcoe East and put in a riding with Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, and Huntsville. The new riding would be called Muskoka-Georgian Bay. Another change would put Penetanguishene and Orillia in the same riding.

Ontario Premier David Peterson informed Anthony Lancia, president of the Tiny Township Ratepayers Association, by letter, that the landfill site on the outskirts of Perkinsfield, slated to close in October of 1987, definitely would close.

Francis Whiteman, the Canadian soldier who received the signal announcing the end of the First World War, died at age 91 on March 9. Francis Elmore Whiteman, Frank to his friends, served with the Fourth Division Signal 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 CN Rail's station agent. He retired in 1960.

Midland Rotary Club members were told by Dr. Peter Cameron, head of the local medical association, that the ban on extra-billing was a fraud. The Ontario Health Care Accessibility

Act was a fraud, he said, because access to doctors is not the issue; loss of freedom of doctors and of patients was the issue.

The Town of Midland responded to the statement of claim of Percy Ehler in his unlawful dismissal suit against the municipality. The \$305,000 claimed was excessive, the town responded. The town said it followed the proper procedure to dismiss the employee. Ehler had two opportunities to attend his dismissal hearing: he did not do so.

Former Midland deputy-reeve Sam Ancio died at his home in Burlington, Ont. on March 11. Ancio, 54, a local barber for many years, and a town council member, did not return to Midland after his jailing following trial on a charge of attempted murder.

Former Port McNicoll clerk Alex Hancox was sentenced to a year in jail and three years of probation for allegedly embezzling almost \$20,000 from the village. Hancox, 56, was ordered to repay \$11,000.

A strike of psychiatric doctors at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre and other psychiatric hospitals was averted after a last minute agreement.



### Memories of the Brier

Sidney M. Oland, president of Labatt Brewery Company Limited (right) copped second place at the Brier in Kit-Chener last March. The rink was beaten for all the Brier marbles in a 10th end battle against Alberta rink.