

# 1986 a Year in Review



## Canada no longer infinite

Ontario New Democratic Party Leader Bob Rae stopped in Midland in April. He addressed the students at St. Theresa's High School. Later in the morning he was the special guest on a CKMP open line program.

A theme enunciated by Rae was that resources will run out. He said indiscriminate tree cutting and garbage disposal will come back to haunt us.

## Business destroyed in May fire

May in Penetanguishene was highlighted by the town's budget, the angel's examination, and the health walk.

The town's budget came down at the end of the month, just in time to affect the first installment of 1986 taxes due to be paid at the end of July. The town increased taxes by 7.6 per cent over last year. Administration and Finance Committee Chairman Don McNee told Council the town's gross expenditure increase almost doubled, jumping from \$344,000 in 1985 to a staggering \$628,000 in 1986.

The town also began proceeding with its plans to complete the sanitary sewers on a number of roads in town, including Jury Drive, Broad Street, Cambridge Street, Fuller Avenue, Robert Street East, and Dunlop Street.

The town's new sewage treatment plant was all but opened in May. The plant had been in operation since the end of April, but no official ribbon cutting ceremony had been held.

Still dealing with waste, but of a different sort, the controversy over locating the new dump in the south end of Tiny Township. Tiny Township Reeve Morris Darby received unqualified support for his opposition to the proposed south-end landfill site for the area's MPPs and their party's leader. Provincial Conservative Party Leader Larry Grossman told Darby to keep fighting. Grossman, Earl Rowe and Al McLean visited the farm.

Also during the month of May, another examination—other than ones involving dumpsites—went on. The Penetanguishene Angels were closely examined by Metal Conservator Craig Johnson of Ottawa. Johnson said the statues were rarer than he

originally thought, because cast aluminum statues were quite uncommon in 1921, when they were given to the town.

Also in local heritage news, two of Penetanguishene's Centennial Museum Board Members were honoured by the Ontario government. Helen Dubeau and Bob Klug were awarded Volunteer Service Awards by the province's Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Volunteers spent a lot of time planning for Penetanguishene General Hospital's Health Walk this month. The walk took place in both Wyevalle and Penetanguishene, with residents having to walk six kilometers to raise money to assist in purchasing new heart monitoring equipment for the hospital.

The Director of the Centre D'Activite's Francaises, France Picard, went to France in May in hopes of attracting even more tourists. Picard went to France as a member of a 13-member delegation from the Assemblée des Centres Culturels en Ontario.

The major news event in the month of May that devastated the area was the spectacular blaze that totally destroyed Marcelville Antiques and Reproductions on highway 93 just south of Penetanguishene.

It took firefighters from four of the Tiny Township departments over eight hours to squash the blaze that broke out in the building shortly after 3 p.m. on May 13.

Damages to the 25-year-old business were estimated at over \$100,000. Lost in the inferno were two rooms of antiques, reproduction furniture both finished and in stages of manufacture, plus a high quality of expensive chairs.

The month began on a sour note for workers at the Huron Indian Village when curator Vern Farrow went to work on May 1 to find, for the second time in less than a month, that vandals had broke into the village.

The incidences only gave strength to an earlier request for the Town's Parks Board to permit the village officials to build an eight foot fence with a hang over of three strands of barbed wire the previous fall, but was denied the request.

Despite a request by the Midland Chamber of Commerce for a \$168,000 operating budget for 1986, in May the Midland Town Council announced would receive a \$103,000 subsidy from the town. This was a four per cent increase from the town's grant for 1985 and with membership fees would bring the total budget up to \$130,000.

Chamber Manager Matthew Parry said at the time, the move would hurt the Chamber's goal of a strong advertising campaign. Chamber officials were forced to sit on plans to produce a good industrial brochure and also a new tourism brochure for the town.

For the third time in just over six months Institutional Care Workers at the Regional Hospital of the Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene were on the picket line. On May 9, the workers marched at the entrance to the Centre in an effort to bring attention to the poor wage offer the Province was offering during contract negotiations.

The march by front-line workers in Penetanguishene, to show their dissatisfaction with the government's offer of a four per cent wage hike, was part of a province-wide demonstration by workers at all 10

psychiatric hospital's across Ontario.

For the second time in two years Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and Martyrs Shrine were the sites of a visit to one of the Catholic Church's religious leaders. During a tour of Canada, the Superior General of the Jesuits (the elected leader of the world's 26,000 Jesuits) followed the same itinerary as Pope John Paul II.

Father Peter Hans Kolvenbach, and his entourage were given a full tour of the two historic sites on May 16.

Bad relations with the Town of Midland's Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the Parking Authority plagued the Town council. A refusal by the BIA to play their \$6,500 share of the Parking Authority's operating budget resulted in the town council withholding their annual budget.

In other news for May, the Town's Parks Management Board struck a subcommittee to explore the possibility of the two-month-old North Simcoe Arts Council (NSAC) hosting a four day folk music festival and art exhibit sometime in the summer of 1987.

The proposal for the multicultural event, which would be a major boost to the Midland area, was brought to an end of the month meeting of Parks Board by the NSAC Treasurer Kamran Khozan.

Although the board was looking favourably on the proposal, many facets of the suggestions had to be ironed out before a seal of approval was given by the town.

The year's fourth month ended with the spotlights and cameras on the Town of Midland, literally.

## April announcement no joke

Public school supporters in Midland were informed on April 1 that the average tax increase in 1986 would be \$75 and that it wasn't an April Fool's Day joke.

Nadine Goman was elected president of the Friends of Wye Marsh.

Midland said it would approach Tiny Township to servicing the medical clinic being built just across the common border inside the township.

A relative of Percy Ehler, Midland's former commissioner of works, acted as Ehler's proxy in bidding successfully for the station wagon which Ehler drove while he was a town employee. The town put the station wagon up for sale after Ehler was dismissed, declaring the vehicle to be surplus.

Ontario volunteer service awards were announced as forthcoming to Friends of Sainte-Marie members Anne Faragher and Sandra Flint, both of Midland, Jamie Hunter of Hillsdale, Cathie Malcolm and Dr. Mildred Randall, both of Midland, and Heritage Penetanguishene members Helen Dubeau and Bob Klug.

The North Simcoe Association for the Arts was organized, following a meeting in March in the Budd Watson Gallery. A 10 member interim board of directors was organized. The process of becoming a non-profit organization was begun.

After six months, the North Simcoe Waste Management Association's recycling program was nearly \$30,000 in the red.

Midland's first academy for fitness and self defense, Kasper's Martial Arts Academy, opened on King Street.

Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis was on hand at the first anniversary party held to mark passing of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre into the control of the non-

profit Friends of Wye Marsh.

On April 11 New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae told St. Theresa's High School students that Roman Catholic separate schools should receive money on the same basis as do Ontario's public schools.

On April 18, Midland Mayor Al Roach was found guilty of assaulting Patrick Kearns, by a provincial court judge in Barrie. Roach was fined \$350. Roach struck and knocked Kearns, a Midland councillor on Nov. 12, 1984, from his chair during a closed town council meeting. Roach said he was surprised by the verdict. Kearns said he was vindicated. Ted Symons, who challenged the mayor in the November, 1985 election, said he understood from reports that the mayor was provoked and under stress. These factors did not excuse his action, however, Symons said.

Honey Harbour resident Neil Joseph Lamoureux was sentenced to two life terms in prison on two counts of manslaughter. Lamoureux was remanded to the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre until his sentencing. The guilty verdict came in connection with the deaths of an 11-year-old girl and a nine-year-old girl in a house fire on Oct. 24, 1984.

An announcement that the Canadian premiere of the movie Recruits would be in Midland was made by the movie's production assistant, David Strapko of Midland. Strapko and his brother Michael were instrumental in bringing the movie cast and crew to Huronia for the shooting of many scenes.

John Arpin returned to Huronia for his first full concert in a number of years. Arpin, a Port McNicoll native, and one of Canada's most popular

jazz and ragtime pianists, was helping raise money for the 1987 trip to England by the Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School concert band.

The 1986 shipping season in Midland opened on April 16 with the arrival of the Beechglenn under the guidance of Captain David Young.

Capacity crowds enjoyed the Midland Secondary School student production of The Sound of Music.

A \$6 million damage claim brought against the Village of Victoria Harbour in August, 1984, by Braesyde Estates of London, Ont. was dismissed. A district court judge awarded the village its legal costs. In 1984, Braesyde Estates was the holder in trust of the Sportsman Motor Inn. Braesyde Estates wanted to build a marina. Negotiation with the village, which owned the adjacent under-water lots, did not go well. The village was informed that it was being sued.

Midland Mayor Al Roach declared at the end of a council meeting that discussion of the Percy Ehler unlawful dismissal suit against the town would not be allowed by him during council meetings. Ainley and Associates of Collingwood, an engineering consulting firm, was named as the replacement to do certain work formerly done by the commissioner of works.

The coming of Spring saw some successes and some failures in Penetanguishene and Tiny Township.

The staff at museum in Penetanguishene prepared for a museum facelift this month. Contractor Wilfred Piitz began the restoration by month's end. The year before, the museum operated out of a temporary home in the High Poyntz Mall. The staff hoped to move the museum home to the old building on Burke Street.



## Traffic-stopping fire

When Tiny Township firemen fought the fire that gutted most of the Marcelville Antiques and Reproductions factory and sales building this month, traffic on the four lanes of Highway 93 between

Midland and Penetanguishene was stopped by police, to allow water tankers quick passage. Damage was estimated at \$100,000. Two rooms of antiques and reproduction furniture were lost.