

# 1986 a Year in Review

## Doctor's strike mars June

During the month of June, the main news makers were local doctors with the province-wide strike by Ontario physicians to show their dissatisfaction with the provincial government's ban on extra-billing of patients.

On June 12, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) called off an open-ended indefinite strike to protest the Liberal government's ban on extra-billing, after Bill 94, the Health Care Accessibility Act was given a second reading in the legislature.

Locally, the strike resulted in the all the chiefs of staff at the Huronia District Hospital and three at the Penetanguishene General Hospital resigning.

During the year's sixth month, Midland was put on the national map by a group of youngsters who dressed up in bright costumes and showed the world a bit of magic and mystery.

As part of Canada's Expo '86 in Vancouver, a group of youngsters from Bayview School in Midland, Upstage One, performed Phoenix Rising in the Canadian Pavilion on June 24, 25 and 26.

June saw the first signs of Tiny Township officials wanting out of the North Simcoe Waste Management Association (NSWMA). At a closed session on June 17, between members of the association and representatives from Tiny, the Township's officials made a proposal calling for the association to consider letting them work on finding a suitable waste disposal system that could have been used by all the municipalities at a fee.

The association accepted Tiny's proposal to allow them to search on their own, but it was decided, the final decision would only come after Tiny had selected a site.

It was in June that the owners of the Penetang Midland Coach Lines hyped up their lobbying of the Management Board of Cabinet to have a decision by the Ontario Highway Transport Board reversed.

After 12 years of operating a route between parts of Simcoe County and Metropolitan Toronto, the Board tried to reinstate a number of restrictions on the local bus company, the owners had fought to have removed over a decade earlier.

The restrictions would have seen the end of daily transporting of passengers between Midland and Toronto.

One headline maker in North Simcoe in June was none other than Ontario Lieutenant-Governor Lincoln Alexander who added his name to the long list of prestigious visitors to the Fesserton Public School.

Alexander joined the ranks with former Ontario Premier William Davis and former Canadian Governor-General Ed Schreyer when he visited the students of the one

room school on June 5.

In other area news, the Port McNicoll Tavern was the scene of a major blaze that gutted the building in the early hours on June 23. The fire was the second at the hotel in two months. Like the first blaze, April 27, the Ontario Fire Marshal's office concluded June's fire was a result of arson.

The Midland Rotary Club with the help of Tiny Township Council made a very special presentation at their June 17 luncheon meeting. Midland's own Angela Schmidt-Foster was honoured for her accomplishments in world class skiing.

Thanks to the assistance of Tiny council, the club was able to rename the Drive-In Road, a route used by Schmidt-Foster daily for workouts, the Angela Schmidt-Foster Road.

By the end of June, after countless meetings between the BIA and the Parking Authorities, the two sides were able to lessen the communications gap between them and sat down at the bargaining table. The end result was agreement to allow free parking on Saturday in the downtown core.

The month went out like a lion with a roaring reception at the Budd Watson Gallery where Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis announced the news that the Local Employment Assistance and Development (LEAD) program was a go for the area.

Although the Federal Ministry of Employment and Immigration had allotted for only \$350,000 for the local program, through revolutionizing the program, North Simcoe Development Corporation President Kamran Khozafi was able to raise \$41.5 million for investing in the area over the next five years.

With the onset of Summer in view, Penetanguishene news began to change.

High school grads pictures filled the paper, and Values Influence and Peers (VIP) program grads excitedly finished school as well.

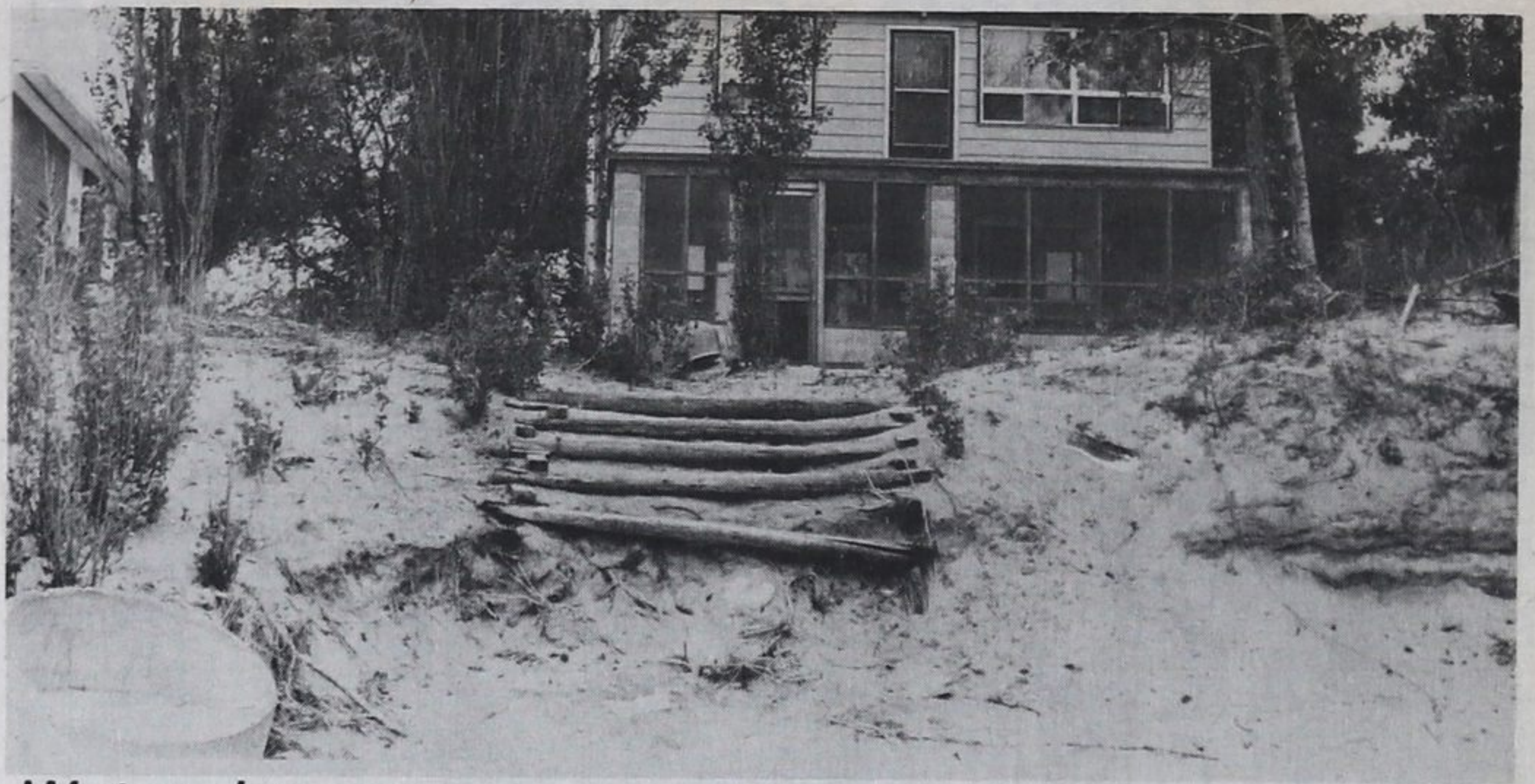
Penetanguishene's Centennial Museum literally crumbled this month. Just moments after two construction workers made their way from underneath the museum, suspended on blociks, the western section of the building collapsed. The Museum Board had hoped to open the old Beck General Store and Lumber Company doors to tourists this month, but the museum staff was forced to move back to its temporary location in the High Poyntz mall.

Doctors at the two local general hospitals almost left en masse for an unanticipated summer vacation. The Ontario doctors strike struck local hospitals, although the entire staffs did not walk off the job. Almost as serious, however, were the resignations of all chiefs of staff at

Huronia District Hospital and three resignations at Penetanguishene General Hospital.

The town of Penetanguishene began its examination of the traffic situation. With tourists coming in, streets were busier and the town and its consultants would like to discover how the traffic could flow better.

Penetanguishene's newest sewage treatment plant finally had its ribbon-cutting ceremony, after having processed two-months worth of sewage. But along with the ribbon-cutting came the bill-paying. The town still owed \$200,000 when the plant opened.



## Water damage

Because of abnormally high water levels on Georgian Bay this summer, some Bluewater Beach residents suffered thousands of dollars in damage from erosion. Some residents have had filter-cloth installed to keep

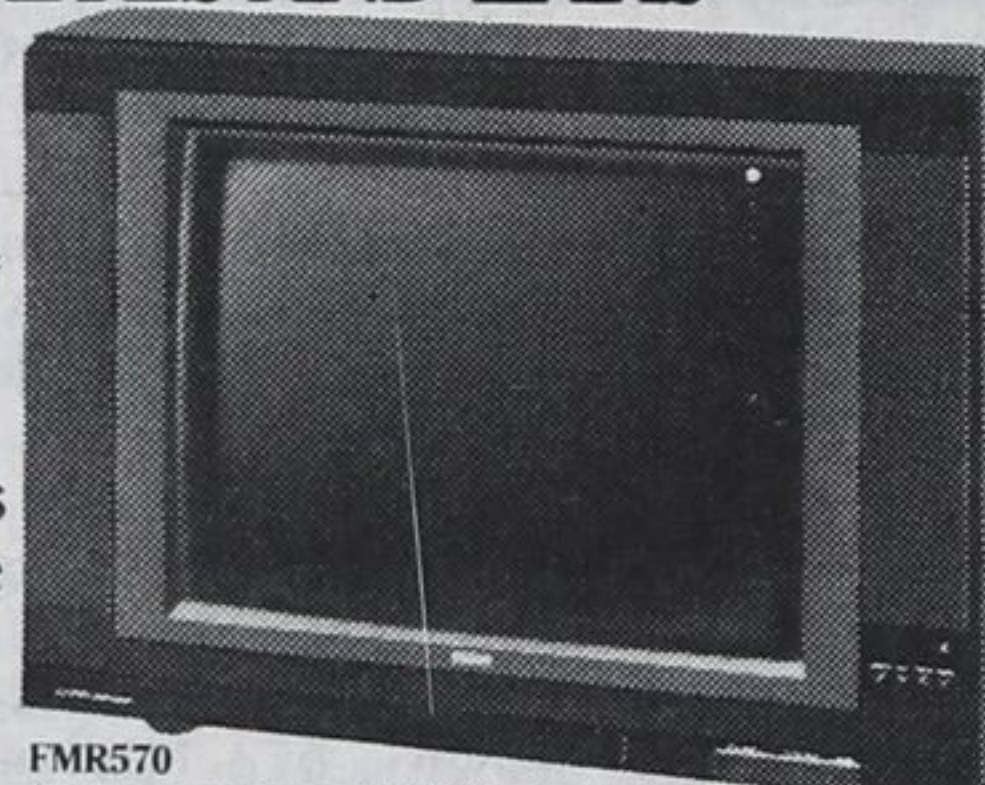
the beach from falling into Georgian Bay. The cloth is designed to let water through, but hold sand underneath in place.

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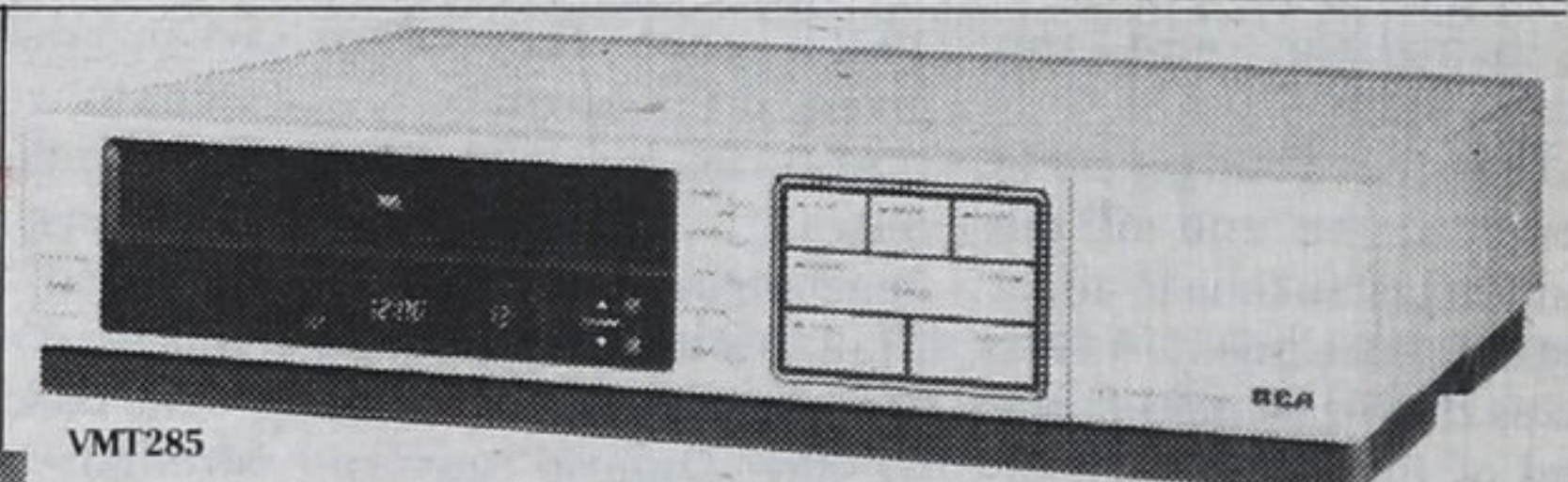
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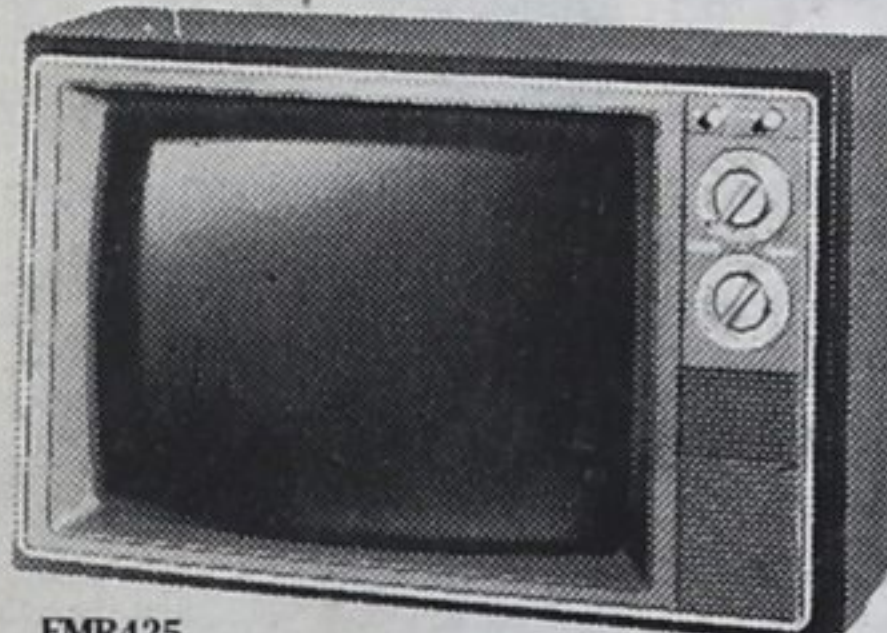
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VMT 390	\$629 <sup>00</sup>
VMT 395	\$779 <sup>00</sup>
VMT 400	\$999 <sup>00</sup>
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