

Revolutionary daycare a local project

With the desperate need for good daycare facilities in North Simcoe, as well as across the country, the North Simcoe Development Corporation (NSDC) and 15 local manufacturers have developed a concept that could revolutionize daycare in Canada.

According to NSDC President Kamran Khozan, his office, with the assistance of local industrialists, have come up with a proposal for a new franchised daycare centre.

In an interview last week, Khozan said the first centre would be constructed in North Simcoe area as a pilot project. During a trial period of the facilities, which would function under qualified

certified daycare supervisors, Khozan said any problems in the centre would be ironed out before going into the franchizing market.

The idea behind the concept is that all franchised centres would be designed and furnished exactly the same from the east coast to the west coast of Canada.

"Each centre could facilitate up to 30 children and would be standardized," said the president. "Everything from the furniture to the food would be the same from centre to centre."

The philosophy behind the standardized centres, according to Khozan, is when families move from one city to another,

youngsters in the daycare system could be transferred from one centre to another. This would make it very easy for the uprooted youngsters to become accustomed to their new community being in a familiar surroundings. Although the centres would be located in different cities, the children would be acquainted with the toys and layout in the centres having already attended one of the franchises.

Local industrialists became involved with the planning and funding of the centre out of a lack of daycare facilities for many of their employees. Many of the smaller manufac-

turers can not afford to provide facilities for their employees children, but collectively they could.

Khozan said the centres would operate not as a co-operative nursery, but the parents would be involved in the daily care of the children. Manufacturers in the area have agreed to subsidize employees and allow them to take a certain amount of time off from work to spend time at the centres.

Although both the federal and provincial governments will be involved in the financing of the centre they will not be involved in the financing of the centre said Khozan.

Design concepts of the centres will adhere to all architectural specifications of the provincial government agencies responsible for daycare in Ontario.

The funds for the pilot

project in North Simcoe, which is estimated at close to \$250,000, will come from a mixture of public and private sector financing and not solely from the public purse, according to

Khozan. Once in operation, the president expects the pilot will operate self-sufficiently.

Funding for all branch centres will come strictly from the private sector.

Atkinson wins by-election

In yesterday's first-ever by-election in the Village of Victoria Harbour, a majority of those residents who went to the polls, threw their support behind newcomer Bob Atkinson.

The 41-year-old Atkinson defeated opponent 52-year-old George Czindl in the by-election to fill the vacancy left on village council when ex-Councillor Mary Lou Mount resigned her seat on the five-member council in October.

According to Village Administrator Doug Jackson, (unofficially) Atkinson, a Tay Township Road's Department employee, took the election by a margin of 71 ballots.

Following last night's victory, Atkinson said he was very happy with his election to council and was looking forward to being sworn in at next Monday evening's council session.

The new councillor added he wanted to thank everyone who voted for him and all of those who helped him on his three week campaign leading up to the election.

Out of a possible 1294 electors, only 573 (less than 50 percent) went to the

polls yesterday and at the advanced poll on Jan. 3. At last week's advanced poll, 101 voters made a showing.

Final results saw 322

votes cast for Atkinson and 251 was opponent George Czindl.

Atkinson, a 17-year resident of the village, is to be officially sworn in as coun-

cillor at next Monday evening's council session.

The first session of the village council will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Offices.

Permit value record set

More than \$10 million worth of building permits were issued in Midland in 1986. The previous record was close to \$9 million, set 13 years ago.

Reeve Bev Day is of the opinion that this year will see as much or more con-

struction in the town. A great deal of land has been sold.

In 1973, large construction projects made up a significant portion of that year's construction: three apartment buildings, two on King Street each worth

\$1.7 million, the third on Midland Avenue and worth an estimated \$1.35 million. A Pillsbury plant worth more than \$1 million was built. RCA, KIL and Motorola expanded.

Previous to 1973, the peak year was 1966: \$5.5 million.

Gignac spends night in jail

Lillian Gignac spent last night in police custody in Barrie after appearing yesterday before both a justice of the peace and a provincial court judge.

Gignac, 35, of Fifth Street, Midland, was charged on Dec. 31 with setting fire to St. Margaret's Church, and to a residence on Fifth Street.

Yesterday morning she was taken by Midland police from the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre to Barrie, to appear before a justice of the

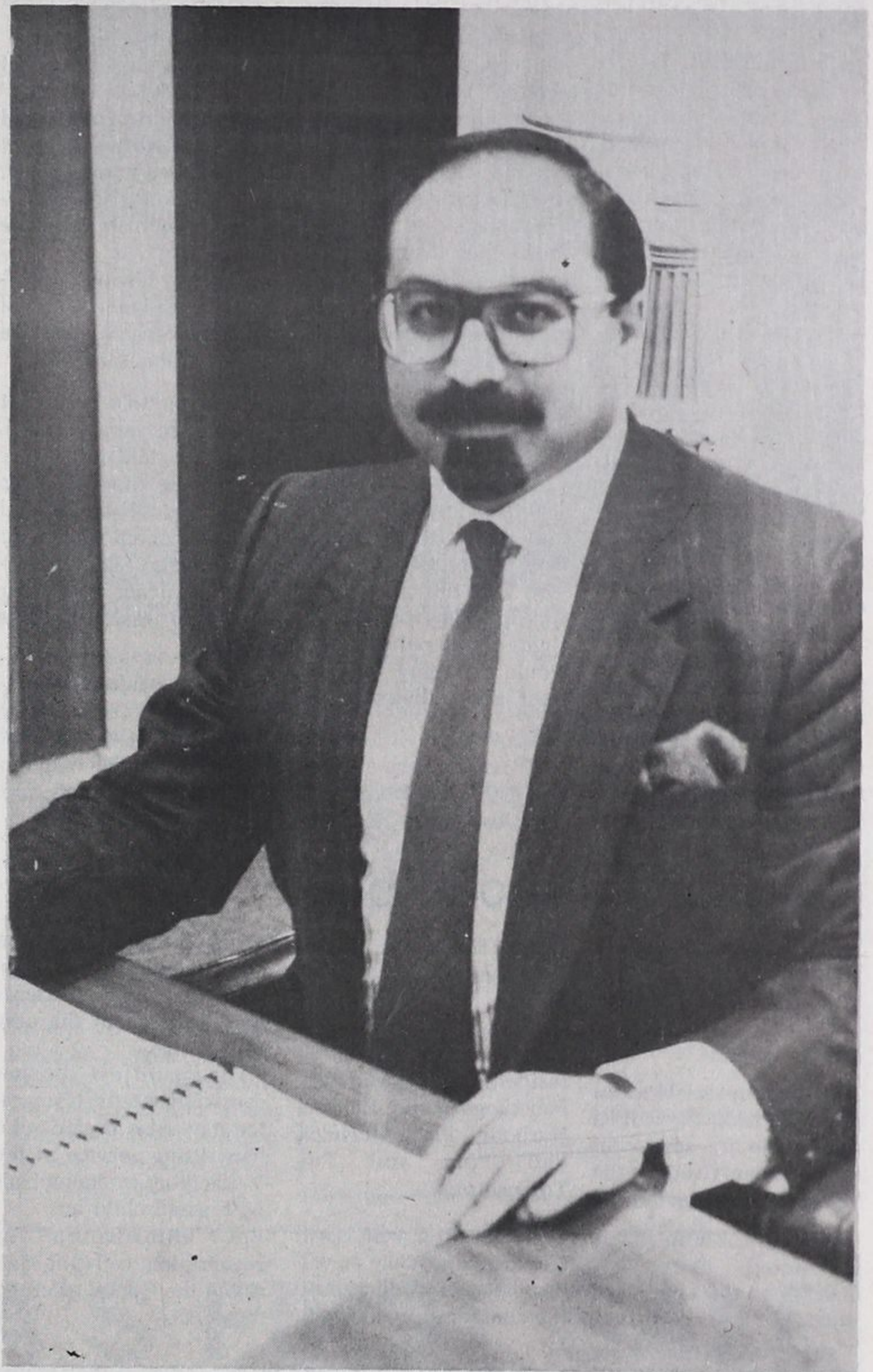
peace for a bail hearing. The justice of the peace chose not to hear the application after Gignac asked to represent herself. The justice of the peace remanded her to be taken to Midland Provincial Court, where she was expected by the assistant Crown attorney and the police, but without hearing the bail application, Midland Police Chief Ernie Bates said.

The judge in Midland didn't hear the application

for bail, either. She was returned to Barrie, since she could not be returned to the Mental Health Centre. Psychiatrists from the Mental Health Centre were present under subpoena in Midland Provincial Court yesterday to give their opinion of the woman.

Chief Bates said he couldn't guess what will happen today.

None of the local justices of the peace are empowered to hear applications for bail.



Kamran Khozan

St. Ann's parents petition board

In an attempt to get the school board to seriously consider their troubles, parents of children attending St. Ann's in Penetanguishene will be attending the regular meeting of the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board (SCRSSB) tomorrow evening.

A delegation of concerned parents will be going to

inform the board about the rough conditions at the Penetanguishene school, says Parent's Committee member Michelle Quealey. She said her group will "educate" the new trustees by using a slide show.

The group is concerned about their school which is comprised entirely of portables and its failing report card, issued by the Simcoe County District Health

Unit in November.

The health inspector said problems include sanitary fixtures not "complying with existing building and plumbing codes" and "are of styles which are inadequate for younger children." He warned of safety hazards such as separating floor covering and dangerous hydro lines crossing through the playground.

St. John's Ambulance homeless

Midland's Finance Committee doesn't have a home to offer the local St. John Ambulance group.

The Midland-Penetanguishene St. John Ambulance Brigade last month wrote the Town Council, asking for help in locating a building with a garage.

The Finance Committee has passed the request to the Town's Board of Park Management and Recreation.

Brigade leader Beverley Steele in the letter to the Town Council explained, "The Brigade financial situation is such that the cost of rent per night is too high. The finances available would cover utilities and a minimal yearly fee. Funds raised by the Brigade cover insurance costs for the

Mobile First Aid Post, first aid supplies, uniforms as needed and costs to maintain a building. Many people feel the Brigade receives money from attending duties, from local industry or governments. This is not true. Periodically money will be donated after Brigade members

volunteer hours of first aid coverage but usually members use their own money to keep the Brigade financially stable."

The Brigade needs a building in which to park its vehicle, and in which to meet and give first aid instruction.

St. Margaret's responds

St. Margaret's Church Parish Council meets tomorrow evening for the first time since the church burned last Dec. 24.

Rev. Wayne Manne says the meeting will be the first opportunity for an official discussion of how to respond to the disaster.

Still to be announced by the church's insurance company is the value of the lost property, and the

amount of insurance to be paid.

Opinions from engineers and stone masons about the advisability of making the surviving stone walls of the church part of a new structure are not unanimous.

The 15 to 20 member Parish Council meets tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the church rectory.



Take a cab, not a cruiser

Don Robitaille of Penetanguishene is \$1,000 richer after being one of hundreds who took the advice of the Midland and Penetanguishene Police, the owner of Beaver Lumber franchises in Midland and Penetanguishene and CKMP and took a taxi instead of drinking and driving over the Christmas holidays. Last

Wednesday afternoon, (from left to right) Midland Police Chief Ernie Bates, CKMP representative Ian MacPherson, Beaver Lumber owner Gerry Lees and Penetanguishene Police Chief Robert Cummings were on hand to pick out the winning taxi stub.