

# OPSEU pushes for new building for the Ridge

Paul Howe says the interest of the leader of his union helps get the attention of the provincial government.

Howe is the president of Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 307. The 215 members of Local 307 work in Oak Ridge.

After a tour of Oak Ridge and talking with union

members and members of the administration, last week, OPSEU President Jim Clancy called on the provincial government to build a new maximum security psychiatric hospital for Ontario. The decades-old Oak Ridge building does not fit in the 1980s, Clancy said. "Going to work there is not healthy." Patients are vic-

tims too, he said.

Howe said that the Oak Ridge attendants are uncertain about their future if Oak Ridge is rebuilt. The attendants wonder if Ontario's only maximum security psychiatric hospital might be moved to a new building in Toronto. Attendants in Oak Ridge earn on average \$31,000 a year.

Thirty-one thousand dollars a year income in Penetanguishene and in Toronto are too different

salaries, because of different costs of living, Howe said.

The union is fully behind

a new building, however. A union-commissioned study, and other studies, the union says, of the effect of stress on the health of Oak Ridge attendants, indicates that Oak Ridge attendants die at an earlier age.

The union study of 93 attendants through a 10 year period resulted in a breakdown of five retiring at age 65 in good health; 15 dying of a heart attack between age 50 and 54; four attempted (two successful) suicides; 25 taking sick leave of one to three years before retiring; and 44 quitting within a year.

A shortage of staff, and the environment, are the main complaints Clancy heard during his tour of the regional hospital and Oak Ridge, Clancy said. The regional hospital and Oak Ridge are the two parts of the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre.

Oak Ridge, one of On-

tario's 10 psychiatric hospitals, should be given top priority in terms of spending, Clancy said. "The government is being negligent when they refuse to act."

The administration agrees with the union that Oak Ridge should get a new building, here, Clancy said. Application to the government for improvements has been made, and the administration has made commitments to the union. Clancy said he will return in 10 to 12 weeks to check on progress.

Clancy said he hopes that the local MPPs will line up with the union and the administration in lobbying for government action.

Because of the stress experienced by psychiatric hospital workers, those government employees should be able to retire after 25 years, OPSEU's president says.

## Conflict manager advises locals

Managers of local corporations were advised by an expert on how to use conflict to reach their goal.

The day-long seminar at the Highland Inn last Thursday was organized by the North Simcoe Development Corporation (NSDC) and Georgian College.

Dr. Joe Kelly, described as the foremost authority on conflict management in North America, told representatives from management at Mitsubishi and TRW and other local corporations, how to make conflict work for them.

Daysco vice-president of manufacturing Rob Holsgrove described Dr. Kelly's idea as involving all

of the members of a group to a limited degree, on the way to reaching the decision wanted by the manager.

Sylvia McNeely, the newly hired fundraiser for the North Simcoe Arts Council, said her newly acquired knowledge of conflict management will be useful when she is working with a group of volunteers to reach a desired end.

Holsgrove's observation was that making the first line supervisors think that they are taking part in decisionmaking, is important to achieving successful conflict management.

Kelly became interested in conflict management in the 1960s, at McGill

University. His article Making Conflict Work For You, published in the Harvard Business Review, established his credentials as an expert.

Kelly has taught at McGill University, Strathclyde University (where he earned his Ph.D.), Oxford, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Two of his four books are titled How Managers Manage, and The New Management Scene. Kelly is the most senior in ranking professor at Concordia University.

The conflict management seminar was an attempt to measure local interest in similar events, North Simcoe Development Corporation Commissioner Kamran Khozan said.

This type of seminar proved to be attractive to the upper echelon of medium and large corporations, he said. Entrepreneurs have been the target of previous seminars. The NSDC has sponsored four previous seminars by itself.

The conflict management seminar was an attempt to involve a different type of business person.



Jim Clancy

## Midland council to examine city status

Town of Midland officials will set up an ad hoc committee to examine the possibility of the town becoming a city.

Planning and Development Chairman Gail Barrie said, in an interview last week, that the town is seriously considering the change that has been suggested by councillors a number of times in the past year.

Barrie said the move would help the town financially since it would not be responsible for making a number of contributions to

the County of Simcoe.

Although Barrie admits there are some areas the town may have pay more money out, she said the revenues may outweigh the expenditures in the long run.

"We are not going to rush into anything unless it is going to be economically feasible for the town" said Barrie. "I would certainly think that we (council) are going to look very seriously at this before making any decisions."

As a city, Midland would be solely responsible for a number of areas such as roads and welfare. Also, instead of two representatives from the town attending Simcoe County Council, two members of the council would be selected to sit on a city council.

### Weekly Circulation Update

**431 FAMILIES SAID "YES!"** in Midland

**126 FAMILIES SAID "YES!"** in Penetanguishene

WE SAY "THANKS!" ...Thank You for your positive response and your support.

## Employment

The County of Simcoe Recreation and Special Services Department deadline date for receiving summer employment forms is Friday, February 27, 1987.

For an application form or for more information on the available positions, please call Brad Robinson (526-2261, ext. 235).



## Town of Midland 1987 Realty and Business Taxes INTERIM BILLING

In accordance with the provisions of The Municipal Act and pursuant to By-Law 83-69, adopted by Council on November 14th, 1983, the first instalment of Realty and Business Taxes for 1987 will become due on February 27th, 1987.

All interim tax bills were mailed by February 10th, 1987. Ratepayers who did not receive tax bills should enquire at the Municipal Office or telephone 526-4275. Failure to receive tax notice does not relieve the taxpayer from payment of taxes nor liability from late payment penalty.

G.M. MORISSON, A.M.C.T. TREASURER



## Conflict expert

Dr. Joe Kelly, described as North America's foremost authority on conflict management, told an audience in Midland last week how to create and control conflict, to reach the result wanted by the manager.



## MUSKOKA - GEORGIAN BAY PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSN. MEMBERSHIP

Requirements for eligibility to vote at the forthcoming nomination meeting state that if you were not a member in 1985 or 1986, you must have a 1987 membership by March 31st.

Contact any of the membership chairmen listed below or your Area President.

MUSKOKA SOUTH	MURRAY ROBERTS	687-6856
MUSKOKA CENTRAL	SHANE HICKS	645-5485 - Bus.
MUSKOKA WEST	JANE YOUNG	765-3375
MUSKOKA NORTH	PAUL CHISHOLM	789-5216
MIDLAND	GEORGE GORTHY	526-8345

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**Contact:**  
**Huron Credit Union**  
 549-3191  
**Lafontaine Credit Union**  
 533-2161