

Editorial comment

Silver lining

Last week's announcement that the homeless Midland-Penetanguishene St. John's Ambulance Brigade had finally found a place to hang its hat should be a big relief to this community. Finally after months of pondering the fate of the organization, the question of whether the brigade would live on or not, has been answered.

After the brigade was put into the difficult position of having to find a new home, when the Town of Penetanguishene sold the old McGibbon Lumber Company office, it was feared that the brigade would be unable to re-locate.

After numerous public pleas by area Town Councils, many thought there were just no takers, but fortunately this grey cloud had its silver lining.

Although the members of the St. John's Ambulance must be thankful to the administration of Huronia District Hospital for their generous donation of unused space for the group to continue meeting and giving classes, there is someone else that must be applauded. Their silver lining.

That person, is the "concerned individual" who had thought highly enough of the brigade, and the work they do around our community, to have spent time trying to find a viable solution to their problem.

Despite the fact that we don't know who this individual, that went to Gordon Key suggesting the hospital assist this public service volunteer group, is, we want to say a public thank you on behalf of the members and this community that the brigade has served over the years.

Support outstanding

Penetanguishene Town Council's have shown that their heart is behind their community with their unanimous decision to support the efforts of the group PROBE (Preserve the Rights Of Bilingual Education).

Last last night, the nine-member council threw their weight behind the organization that is fighting the French Language Education Council's (FLEC) unilateral move to phase out French language instruction at (what is described by many as) the town's only bilingual high school, Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School.

Penetang Council's stand is indicative of the larger community's feeling about such a draconian move on FLEC's part.

Many times in such situations decision makers will hide from dealing with such controversial issues in an effort not to make any enemies before the next election campaign, fearing intervention would lead to certain defeat at the polls.

Over the last few weeks, hundreds of individuals have come forward to voice their dissatisfaction with the FLEC decisions.

A show of support by town council is proof that democracy works, a government elected for the people, by the people.

Letters

Council should reconsider

Dear Editor:

Re: Tiny council going nowhere in search for new dump site.

On the basis of a letter received by the North Simcoe Waste Management Association from Tiny Township Council, dated December 12, 1986, it appears that Tiny Township is sinking deeper in debt since its council pulled out of the N.S.W.M.A. six months ago and decided to "go-it-alone", in its apparent futile and costly search for a new landfill site.

The pertinent sections of the December 12, 1986, letter reads:

"By resolution of Council dated July 21, 1986, and supported by a letter dated July 22, 1986, the Council of the Township Tiny tendered its resignation from the North Simcoe Waste Management Association, and by these documents, served notice upon you that the resignation was effective immediately.

I am now directed by Council to request the return of the Township's equity in the Association and with hopes that such equity can be paid prior to December 31, 1986.

Yours very truly,
G.L. Maurice, Clerk."

According to N.S.W.M.A. officials, as a result of Tiny Township Council policy, the Township is currently \$183,167.00 in arrears in respect of its pro rata share of financing the activities of the North Simcoe Waste Management Association.

There is no provision within the Agreement between the participating municipalities of the N.S.W.M.A. that provides for a rebate of "equity" in the Association, as requested in the December 12th Township correspondence mentioned herein. There is also a significant absence of any clause in the Agreement providing for the unilateral opting out of a member municipality, but there is a section which provides for the arbitration of disputes which may arise between the parties.

In addition to the \$186,167.00 unpaid arrears billed to the Township by the N.S.W.M.A., it is reported that Tiny Council has, thus far, spent in excess of \$61,000

for legal and engineering services alone, plus other costs, in substantially duplicating the same, but separate search for a landfill site as that carried out by the N.S.W.M.A., and the ultimate cost of this bizarre venture is nowhere in sight.

Despite the alarming dissipation of Tiny Township taxpayers' funds, Tiny's municipal council is as far away from locating a landfill site which would receive the necessary approval from the provincial authorities, as they were when they commenced the exercise months ago.

Obviously, Tiny Township Council is going nowhere on its solo search for a new landfill site. This is evident because they have limited their choice of sites to the 80 acres of land adjacent to the Perkinsfield Pauze contaminated dump, which a number of officials of the Ministry of the Environment consider unacceptable.

Council would be well advised to resume their position on the N.S.W.M.A. and attempt to work out a resolution of the landfill dilemma, thereby saving any further drain on the township's financial resources and the distinct possibility of an imposed settlement of a landfill location of which they have not participated in.

Sincerely yours,
William J. Ogilvie,
P.O. Box 132,
Midland, Ontario.

Thanks for support

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Big Sisters Association of Huronia, I would like to thank you for your coverage of our official Open House.

Your interest and support is much appreciated by Big Sisters.

Yours very truly,
Big Sisters Assoc. of Huronia
Mary Rose McCreath

Viewpoint

There's a Peterson on our doorstep

Don't be surprised if David Peterson comes knocking on your door in the near future. Quite a few people are betting he will be doing just that.

You see, over two years ago our Premier began a quest, for something very dear to him and his political party. He went in search of more Liberals.

Don't be too concerned. He won't snatch away your children in hope of turning them into Liberal Militants. (For that matter, one has to ask whether there is a militant faction in today's Ontario Liberal Party. David Peterson has had almost as much success as Bill Davis did in making partisan politics look warm and fuzzy).

Our premier only needs about 20 or 30 more Liberals to make him a very happy man. There's a catch though. Those 20 or 30 Liberals must be Liberal MPPs.

Ah yes. An election. David Peterson will have to call Ontarians

to the polls within the next three years, but most people feel he will be doing that in the next few months. Peterson feels he needs those new Liberals. You see, for the last 40 years or so, there haven't been all that many Grits roaming around Queen's Park.

Ever since 1945, there have been about as many Liberals at Queen's Park as there have been Californians on Baffin Island in January. They have been scarce.

As a matter of fact, they are still scarce. One must reach deep into the crevices of one's memory to recall that David Peterson did not win the 1985 election. He didn't even win a minority government. Frank Miller won the '85 election. David Peterson and his 48 Liberals joined forces with the New Democrats and forced Miller out of power.

Today, Peterson has 51 Liberals. He added one to his caucus in a bi-election, and two New Democrats left the opposition dungeon to jump on the government bandwagon.

Many people, including many Liberals, are oblivious to the fact there are only 51 Grits governing Liberal Ontario. For David Peterson, it's still lonely at the top. Hence, the urge for an election.

Why call an election now, you ask? Well, say many Liberals, why not?

There are, after all, the public opinion polls to consider. Most put the Peterson Liberals at 48 per cent, and the other parties quite some distance back. But polls are fickle. Remember John Turner stampeding into an election in mid 1984 at 44 per cent in the polls, and ending up with only 40 seats. Bill Davis had a similar experience in 1977.

Still Peterson is fairly popular. His honeymoon with the press is souring, but Peterson's relationship with the media is a delight compared to Brian Mulroney's.

The biggest problem with an early election is that there is no reason for one. What would David Peterson say when he showed up on

your doorstep to ask for more Liberals? "Hi, I'm David Peterson. Do you have any Grits? I want a majority government." If he is that frank about it he's likely to get nothing but a slap in the face.

What Peterson needs is an issue. Some have suggested free trade. These folks argue he should ask Ontarians for a mandate to fight Brian Mulroney's free trade initiative. Others say he should create an issue, but that would likely still reek of electroneering.

The best thing for Peterson to do would be to wait until a real issue arouse on which to fight an election, or until near the end of his term, when he can legitimately run on his record.

Still, don't be shocked if Peterson is on your doorstep one morning begging for fore MPPs. After 44 years of Tory rule, and 42 years of Liberal drought, one can understand why he wants to get on with his quest as soon as possible.

Carey Nieuwhof

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Manager: Judy French

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Managing Editor: Michele P. Gouett

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Member



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Letters

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