

Deputy-reeve quits job

After midnight the Village of Victoria Harbour will be without a Deputy-reeve.

Last Thursday evening in council chambers filled with many of her friends, Deputy-reeve Catharine MacKenzie tendered her resignation, effective this evening.

MacKenzie, who has held the position of deputy-reeve since her appointment to post in 1982, said in her letter of resignation, "because I find myself completely out of sympathy with the direction that council is pursuing, I believe that I will no longer be effective as a council member."

Keeping her composure while reading the letter herself, the deputy-reeve cited two decisions made by council in the last two months as the major concerns that lead her to resign.

"I regret the decision taken by council on Feb. 12 to eliminate the staff position of administrator and to reject the administrative system of staff organization," read MacKenzie. "I believe this decision to be a giant step backward which is not in the best interests to the Village."

Another factor in MacKenzie's decision was the motion passed at the March 9 meeting of council to oust the Planning Advisory Committee of council and the subcommittee, the Waterfront Coordinating Committee. The deputy-reeve, who was the Chairman of PAC, said the council's move was "the last straw".

MacKenzie, who voted against council's decision to cut short the waterfront masterplan and to stop negotiations with the Ministry of the Environment over operating costs of the water and sewer system, said "when I look back on the nature of council debates during the past 15 months I see no hope of influencing the decisions of council from a council position."

This is the second resignation from the village council, in the last seven months. In September of last year, after only nine months, Councillor Mary Lou Mount stepped down from council.

Although Mount's position was filled by way of a by-election, it appears MacKenzie's seat will be filled by appointment.

Reeve Bill Varney and Councillor Paul Charlebois both agreed that they would not like to see the situation come to another byelection.

"We already spent \$4,000 on a byelection," said Varney. "The village can't afford that again."

Letters

Non-profit organization

Dear editor:

We are pleased to announce that we the physically challenged group have established a non-profit organization to sponsor, Self Help Community Support Services for the Disabled.

Our Aim and objective; to help improve the quality of life in our community, by implementing accessible services.

We are promoting public awareness in the North Simcoe Area, in regards to accessibility to public places, and to create awareness of disabled persons concerns and establish a more positive image of the disabled citizen in the public mind.

Action group is being considered for

development funding by the Provincial and Federal Secretariat for the disabled, however, we need your support to qualify for grants.

To date we are unable to assist with Support Services, as we lack facilities.

Action group needs facilities in a central location, and should anyone be able to help our group your generosity would be appreciated.

Can we count on you for your support.

Yours in Rehabilitation,
R. A. Lalonde

Editors note: Interested people can contact the action group at Box 1777, Penetanguishene or by calling Mr. Lalonde (549-4284).

Thanks for coverage

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the dietitians listed below, I

Appreciated

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

How they did it

Dear Editor:

Today we went to the Wye Marsh. There is a new program for kids and parents. The program is about Maple Syrup. They show you how they did it in the olden days.

They show what they use and you make Bonnock as well as syrup. You can do crafts too.

We were the first people to try it out and it was terrific. I loved it.

Yours truly
Amanda Archer
and Grades 2 and 3 at Fesserton School

would like you to thank the staff of the Times and the Weekender, for the excellent coverage of our Nutrition Month information during March.

The newspapers play such an important part in an event such as this, which depends on reaching the greatest number of people in an area in the shortest length of time, and we really appreciate having our articles appear, as well as other coverage. In particular, I would like to thank you for the two pages, in separate issues, which were supported by the following advertisers - Midland Legion, Ogilve Mills Ltd., IGA, High Point Mall, Heritage Farms Dairy Ltd., Beatrice Foods, Armco Foods Ltd., Grass Roots and Holder's Bakery.

We hope our message of - "Good Nutrition - It's Your Choice" may have planted at least a few seeds which may lead to better health for some of the area's population. Prevention is much better than cure - especially when sometimes the 'cure' is not there.

Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely
The Dietitians:
Diane Kennedy, Penetang General Hospital
Pat Miller, Mental Health Centre
Judy Thompson, Huronia District Hospital
Alleyn Attwood, Home Care

Viewpoint

Perhaps it would be more understandable if it were taking place in California, for reality seldom penetrates the borders of that state. But it is not happening there.

Perhaps it would be understandable if it were somehow all linked to Iran-gate, or if it were all Oliver North's fault. But it is not.

The subject here is the American Holy War, or Church-gate, or whatever frivolous name some scandal hungry Carl Berstein-in-waiting chooses to make up.

Ever since Jim Bakker resigned from his PTL club (Praise the Lord or People that Love) a week ago, the world that TV evangelists have chosen to create for themselves has been in a state of civil war. Two more weeks of this and one suspects that there won't be much of a TV evangelist world left.

It is simply incredible. Who would ever have thought that TV evangelists hated each other so much and cared so little for the common ground they all share?

The recent developments on the matter are amazing. There is enough sex in the affair to

turn it into a soap opera. There is enough politics in it to move the whole ordeal into the White House basement. There is enough money in the matter to move it to Ivan Boesky's former Wall Street fortress. In the past week, we have learned what many have always suspected - that TV evangelists don't live in a vacuum. What they are doing is playing the same game everyone else is. Their ministry is as much a business as it is a place of worship. Their positions as big time preachers are as susceptible to politics as is the office of any politician.

Unless somebody comes up with some good explanations quite soon, much of the TV evangelist world will stand discredited.

The media loves to watch people air their dirty laundry in public, and that is precisely what is happening with the controversy surrounding the Jim Bakker sex scandal. The whole matter could have been stopped with a sincere apology, a pledge by Bakker to repent, and support from his fellow preachers. But no.

No, other evangelists had to step in plot-

ting hostile takeovers. Rumours that a diabolical plot was responsible for all of this surfaced. Then, on the weekend, other members of the religious community started name calling and accusing Bakker and his followers of everything under the sun.

The issues and accusations are really immaterial (unlike the houses, cars and other possessions Jim and Tammy Bakker were amassing whilst their ministry, they claimed, went broke). What is incredible is how these people, who all claim to be on the same side, can be so vengeful. One wonders if there are other motives at work.

Of course there are. Those motives are greed, power, pride and ratings. It now appears that the Oral Roberts, Jim Bakkers, the Jimmy Swagarts, and maybe even the Jerry Falwell's are just as concerned about bucks and dynasties as the Carringtons are. Unless they clean up their act soon, one wonders how much longer many people can or will go on trusting them.

Perhaps the healing prescription here is something called humility. Perhaps it is the

willingness to put aside power politics and spiteful envy. Perhaps it is the willingness to act Christian.

Apparently, some evangelist is perched in his prayer tower this morning hoping that this whole affair will work out properly. What if 'properly' entails that evangelist losing his millions, or billions, or whatever. What if 'properly' means some sacrifice to help his 'brothers', who he considers enemies?

Ah, such are the intrigues of human folly. What is unfortunate is that this all really isn't as funny as it should be. If this were Ottawa or Washington we were talking about, then there'd be something to laugh about. One suspects the only laughs people are having over this are smug 'I told you so's'.

Will the TV preachers come out of this unscathed? Will they be able to regain the credibility they have lost so far? That all depends on their true motives. If their real motives are power, politics and greed, as one suspects they are, then that answer is pretty predictable.

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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