

NSAC shrugs at quittings

Although the North Simcoe Arts Council has been hampered by at least four resignations since it was formed in 1986, including two in the past 11 days and two successive resignations of administrators, the council is now "moving along nicely" according to the new Executive Director.

Helen Graham, who assumed the position more than a month after former-Administrator Sylvia McNeely resigned, said the "staff problems" of the past are over.

"Everybody is now very happy," said Graham. "We have new people, we're rolling along, the atmosphere is very positive."

But former-administrator McNeely and the previous administrator (or project manager, as the position was then called), Carol Dimock, both of whom resigned, had left criticizing the arts council and its top-level management.

The arts council is funded under the Community Futures program, under the wing of the federal Ministry of Employment and Immigration. It has a board of directors, consisting of local businesspeople and artists, and a commissioner, Kamran Khozan.

The primary objective of the arts council program is to "increase the number of permanent jobs in localities with chronically high unemployment," according to a 1985 statement, while at the same time promoting arts in the community.

Most of the people hired to work at the arts council were previously unemployed for a lengthy period of time.

Eleven days ago the arts council's publicist, Bill Smith, and its administrative assistant both resigned, citing conflicts with management.

Commissioner Kamran Khozan said the resignations are "insignificant," and in fact one of them has already been replaced, he added.

Publicist Smith's former trainer, local reporter Mark Bourrie, has taken over the PR function, said Khozan.

Smith and ex-administrators McNeely and Dimock all said, among other things, that the training programs were not working.

"There is no defined course of direction" said Dimock shortly after

Reeve is after bands

Port McNicoll Reeve John Moreau wants to bring back the big bands.

Moreau said, at a council meeting last week, that he wants bands to play open-air concerts at the Paradise Point pavilion, near the village's waterfront.

The shows would be Sunday nights from 7 to 8:30. "People could dance, or come and sing along," said Moreau.

The reeve said he would try to organize at least one event, for the end of August.

McNeely's resignation. Executive director Graham says the problems are in the past and she is working to "rejuvenate the arts council."

"Whatever went on before - went on before," she told the Times. "I am starting fresh."

Graham noted a number of new projects have been initiated or carried on since she took over in July. These include a film club, a planned "harvest tour" of crafts-people, information sessions, a newsletter for members of the arts council and children's programs.

Khozan added that he promised the new administrator, Helen Graham, that he would not interfere with the running of the arts council. Previous administrators complained Khozan was too involved in the day to day activities of the council.

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Police forces represented

Marching with the Danish Police Band along King Street last Friday were representatives of the Midland and area police forces. From left, RCMP Sergeant Barrie Melanson, Orillia detachment;

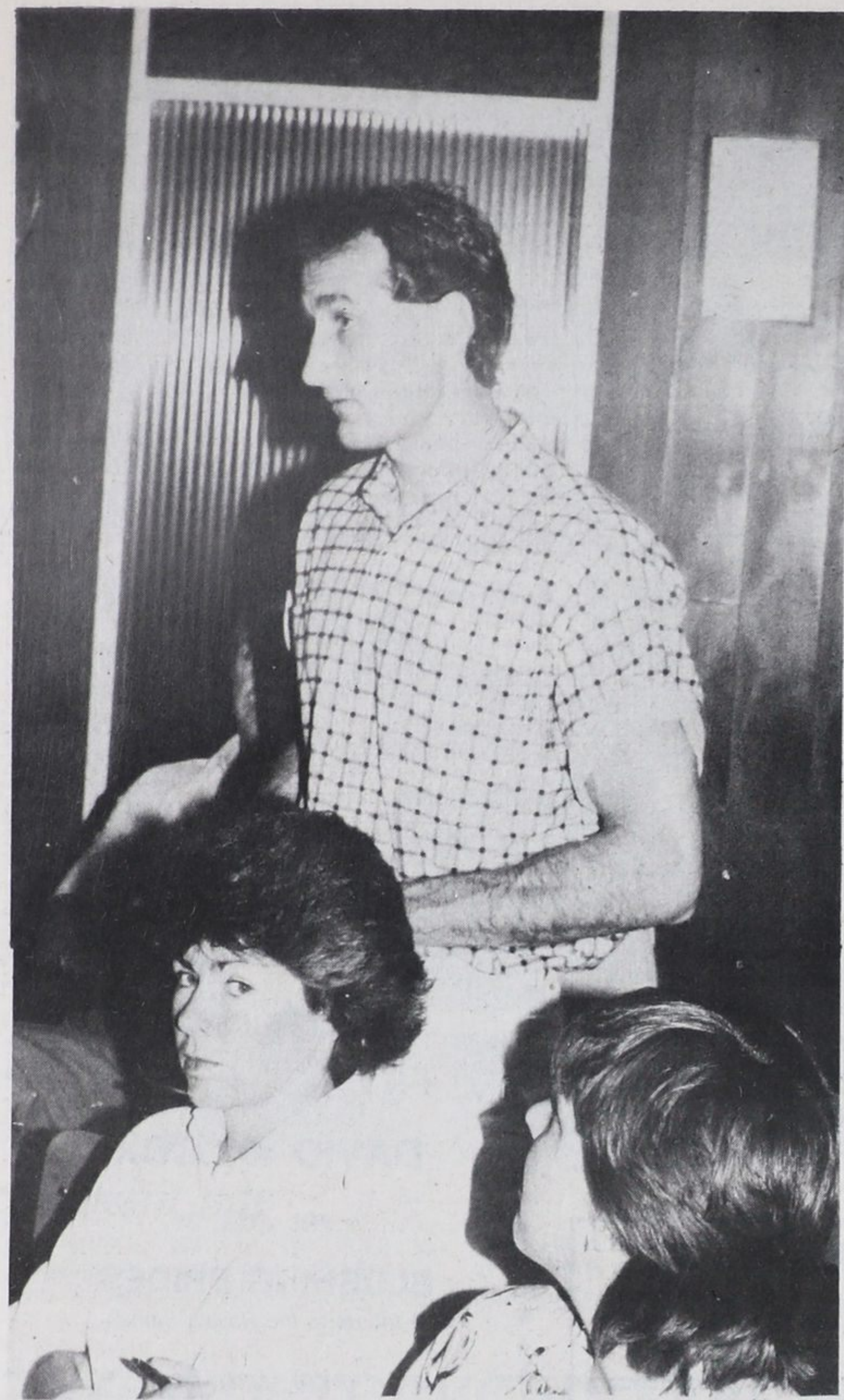
Penetanguishene Police Chief Robert Cummings; Midland detachment Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant Dave Brophy; and Midland Police Chief Ernie Bates.

New coats from Port

The volunteer firefighters of Port McNicoll will be getting new jackets with help from the village council.

The jackets the firefighters are using now are in bad shape, says the department. And the new ones, which will be usable in summer and winter, are more expensive than those purchased in the past.

So the village approved a request at last Wednesday's regular meeting to help by paying half the cost of the jackets for the 14 firefighters.



Peter Stubbins

Peter Stubbins is taking an active role in the preservation of the environment in Tiny Township. Stubbins, a physiotherapist, is seen here at a recent North

Simcoe Waste Management Association making a pitch for a waste-reduction group he helped form.

30-year-old therapist fights for environment

Tiny Township resident and political activist Peter Stubbins is somewhat of a local environmental crusader.

The 30-year-old physical therapist has lived in Tiny for two years now, and in that time has run for municipal council and pioneered two political-activist groups: the South Shore Waste Reduction Group and the Tiny Natural Heritage Foundation.

Both groups have among their goals the protection of the natural environment. One, the Tiny Natural Heritage Foundation, exists only to serve Tiny Township; the other, the South Shore Waste Reduction Group, encourages recycling and other alternative methods of waste disposal among communities on the south shore of Georgian Bay. This group is supported financially by the North Simcoe Waste Management Association, the political council in charge of waste disposal.

For Stubbins his full-time job, his involvement with the Green Party and his work in several community groups are all indications of his concern for protection of the 100,000 acres of land, two major river systems, 65 miles of

shoreline, inland lakes, swamps, creeks and unique plant life in Tiny Township.

"There is an overwhelming need for protection of all these things in Tiny Township," said Stubbins, who lost his bid for a council seat in the last municipal election by "a wide margin." His platform was based on environmental issues.

Lately, he was approached to run as a provincial-election candidate by the Green Party, a party which has its roots in the Greenpeace environmental activist movement (although the party is strongest in Western Europe and especially the heavily industrialized country of West Germany.) Stubbins says he declined the offer because he would like to focus on municipal politics.

"There is so much to do here in Tiny Township" without getting involved in the rest of the province's problems, he said. He felt he would be "spreading myself too thin" by tackling another project.

Although the two lobby groups he is involved with both advocate environmental protection, they steer clear of any political affiliation. However, Stubbins and another member of the

South Shore group have appeared before the NSWMA and received \$400 in funding to get that group off the ground.

The groups also steer clear of advocating a certain site for the next North Simcoe waste dump. That issue is burning fiercely now in political circles in this part of the county. But the Tiny Natural Heritage Foundation will "be asking questions and listening" only, says Stubbins.

For instance, when Tiny Township delivers its first draft of a document proposing the next North Simcoe waste dump be next to the current Pauze Landfill Site in Perkinsfield, Stubbins says the group will avoid judgement.

The South Shore group and the Tiny Heritage group are both small, says Stubbins. The former meets in the Midland Public Library and has about three members and the latter has about seven, although it is more loosely structured and meets usually in Stubbins Thunder Beach home.

Stubbins is hoping another two or three environmentally-conscious people will want to join the South Shore group, which, with Stubbins, has a therapist, a lawyer and a taxi driver.

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