

No money for trash trip says MPP

The MPP for Simcoe East was unsuccessful in his attempts to have the Ministry of the Environment subsidise the cost of hauling Huronia's garbage to Keele Valley.

In an interview with the Penetanguishene Citizen, Al McLean says he did his best to convince Environment Minister Jim Bradley that the provincial government has a moral responsibility to ease the tax burden for sending garbage 120 km away.

McLean says The Big Haul is going to cost residents of North Simcoe at least \$100 a year per household.

"Well, I had a talk with Jim Bradley and he just told me that he didn't want to start financing garbage

transportation. He thought it would set a dangerous precedent and that everyone would start demanding government subsidies. That way, people wouldn't want to build dumps for their garbage," McLean says.

The MPP shakes his head and says, "He may have a point there but I just don't know how the people here can afford to pay more taxes."

As one of the Tories who survived September's Liberal onslaught, McLean is carrying a lot of weight for his party.

"I want people to know that I've got plenty of work to do down there in Queen's Park. If you think, I'm not going to be busy then you're wrong."

McLean is the provincial Conservative Tourism and Recreation Critic and Deputy Agriculture Critic; as well, he is the Chairman of Agencies and Boards Committee, a member of the Ombudsman's Committee and also of the General Government Committee.

"I'm meeting with dozens of groups on that Agencies and Boards Committee, I hear from police commissions and the Liquor Control Board - all kinds of people," McLean notes.

He has also proposed his first major piece of legislation. It's called the Tourist Advisory Act.

"Tourism will soon be one of the biggest employers in this province," McLean explains "and we've got to be there with all the help we can give."



Pleased to meet you

Guy and Kathy Johnstone took the time to say hello to George Czerny following his guest of honor speech to the Midland BIA

last week. Czerny had heard of Guy Johnstone, and mentioned him during his speech to the 90 people assembled for the

BIA's annual meeting in the Budd Watson Gallery.

Escaped con found on street

An escaped convict was picked up on a Midland street last Wednesday just after midnight.

Midland police report the man was picked up on Elizabeth Street at 12:09 a.m. He was later discovered to have escaped from the minimum security Bath Institute near Kingston.

William Richard Turner, 20, was arrested "near a motor vehicle" according to a police spokesman. The vehicle was identified as one stolen earlier from Toronto.

Turner was brought to the Barrie jail. The stolen vehicle is still under investigation.

Midland is like Collingwood says that town's BIA chief

The publisher of the Enterprise-Bulletin of Collingwood came to the annual meeting of the Midland BIA to share the benefits of having a Business Improvement Area.

The Midland and Collingwood BIAs have a lot in common, George Czerny said. The two groups have similar size budgets, and they live and work in very similar towns. Czerny was inspired during his address to suggest the two groups

might some day join their forces on a common project or promotion.

Czerny encouraged his listeners to not be modest. The members of the Midland BIA as an entity are a major employer and an economic force to be reckoned with in their community. "If the downtown died, a lot would die" in the community, he said.

Czerny, who during his speech tore up some papers of statistics and

threw them into the air, encouraged the Midland BIA members to dare to be different in promoting their group. As examples he described how skydivers landed on Collingwood's newly refurbished main street during the opening ceremony, and a wide-ranging coupon promotion.

The publisher told the crowd Collingwood is alive and well. Any impression that Collingwood has been depressed since the closing

of the famous shipyards is false, he said. The town's largest industry now employs 800 people, while the shipyard when it closed employed 250. The economy used to hang on the health of the shipyard, but no longer. Eighty million dollars is being spent on development of the former shipyard.

The second place to which Czerny takes visitors from overseas, after Collingwood, is Midland. "I love to bring people from overseas here," for a cruise on the Miss Midland or a visit to Sainte-Marie Among the

Hurons. "We have to tell people that profit is not a dirty word." What is wrong with the owner of Magna International, with a plant in Collingwood, making \$2 million a year while his employees make \$11 an hour? If he was making \$4 million a year, that could mean twice as many jobs, Czerny said.

Czerny left the 90 people in the Budd Watson Gallery with the suggestion that a high level of crazy enthusiasm for a person's community is needed. That enthusiasm should be shared, he said.



Garage destroyed

A garage at 714 Hugel Avenue in Midland, and its contents, including a car and a

workshop, were destroyed by fire early last Friday afternoon. Minor fire damage occur-

red to the nearest corner of the house on the property, also owned by Richard Weatherill.

'Historic week' for francophones

The executive director for French Language Education in Simcoe County says big changes are coming for francophone students in Huronia.

Denis Chartrand says next week may be an historic one.

The public and separate French Language Education Committees are holding public meetings next week to discuss the direction of francophone schools.

"We've realised that the Education Act doesn't go far enough in recognising the perceived rights of francophone education in this province," Chartrand says.

The meetings are what the director calls "the first phase in a lengthy consultation process."

One of the options which Chartrand will have to look at is the creation of a distinct French Language School Board.

"We want to find out what people want. If this is an option which they wish

to consider then we are obliged to consider it as well," he says.

Right now, Chartrand is looking at what conditions exist in other areas of the province.

He is looking most closely at the Ottawa-Carleton area where a French Language School Board exists.

"What we have to do is look and see what the legislation will have to look like. The problem is, there's not legislation for that board in Ottawa-Carleton."

But Chartrand says there may not be one quaint solution for Francophone education everywhere. It is necessary to "recognise local differences."

"Some areas will work with one particular piece of legislation, others will not. For instance there has to be a balance between the Roman Catholic and non-Roman Catholic FLECs, for a fusion of the two groups to work properly," he said.