



Penetanguishene Citizen

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Clerk underpaid, says firm

by David Krayden

At a cost of \$27,093, the consulting firm of Woods-Gordon has produced a list of suggested salary changes for the Town of Penetanguishene.

The company thinks the clerk should be paid much more, \$6,518 more than he currently receives. That would increase his annual salary of \$45,866 to \$52,384.

With the objection of only the reeve, Penetanguishene council has adopted the pay equity and internal salary recommendations.

The town hired the company to analyze the effects of pay equity — or equal pay for work of equal value — upon the salaries of municipal employees. Due to provincial legislation, Penetanguishene had to reorder its wage scales.

Reeve Art Stewart was unwilling to quickly endorse the report, wondering, "If you adopt a report can you change any of these figures?"

Clerk Yvon Gagne stared into space when he answered Stewart: "Without the word 'adopt' the report dies here."

Woods-Gordon was hired by the town for two reasons: the pay equity issue and something which Deputy Reeve Don McNeer labelled "a problem of credibility with regard

to the salary structure now in place. Staff indicated and we agreed that the structure had been somewhat arbitrarily created and there was no formalized method of establishing the rates for each job."

The way that the firm rectified this problem was to meet independently with staff members and give each a chance to describe the special needs of their job.

Given the suggested changes, no employee will have his wages reduced despite the report having suggested that numerous municipal positions are overpaid. Rather, wage scales will remain constant until the person filling the job category either retires or resigns.

According to the report, all officials in the upper echelons of municipal management should be paid more than they are.

The deputy clerk's salary would rise by \$3,809; the public works superintendent's by \$1,601; the planning administrator's by \$1,187.

The largest increase is proposed for the director of recreation: his salary would rise by \$7,102.

However, 12 positions listed in the report are said to require a reduction, although the

employees now there will not suffer the consequences.

Sunday shopping

In other business, council finally made an official statement about Sunday shopping. Although the town has endorsed the resolutions of other municipalities in the past, it has never prepared its own. That changed on Monday night when it declared its opposition to the Liberal government's proposal to let

the municipalities enact their own Sunday shopping legislation.

Only Robert Cascagnette objected to the resolution, saying, "It should be up to the merchants to decide. If you want to open up on Sunday then you should be allowed to."

Councillor Robert Klug, the owner of a Main Street men's clothing store, said the changes to Sunday shopping legislation threaten to affect "the quality of life."

Summerama starts Thurs.

Summerama, Penetanguishene's annual celebration of July and August, starts this Thursday with rides and games at Waterfront Park.

On Friday, a sidewalk sale will be held at the Village Square Mall and Main Street.

The Bavarian beer garden opens on Saturday at the park alongside the horseshoe tournament sponsored by the Lion's Club. Skydiving, which proved so popular at Winterama this year, will again be seen at the town dock area.

Also on Saturday, the North Simcoe

Arts Council will be hosting Imaginationfest at the CNR Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be arts, crafts, music and family events to partake in.

Later that evening, the Rotary Club will be holding its dance and boat draw at the Curling Club.

On Sunday, the Rotarians return with a cycling festival at the town dock. The race begins at 10 a.m. sharp.

Also on that day, Molson's water ski show will run from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Bavarian beer garden will be open again.

Teens want centre

Two Penetanguishene residents want to combat perceived drug and alcohol problems amongst the town's teenagers.

Gloria Guillemette and Rosemary Butteneau would like to establish a "teen centre" because "teenagers of the Penetang and Midland area today have nothing better to do except drink, smoke drugs, get into trouble and party on the streets."

To avoid this situation, Guillemette says some teens are taking a bus from Midland Secondary School to Club 404 in Orillia. The location is a non-alcoholic centre designed for youths. Teens can have soft drinks, dance and eat snacks.

The dances at 404 are supervised by bouncers.

Guillemette and Butteneau are sending a questionnaire around to parents and teenagers.

Along with asking parents how they feel about the idea of a teen centre, they ask, "What do you classify as a teenager?"

Other topics considered are the admission fees, the use of bouncers, the number of days the centre should remain open and during which months.

The organizers say that they have already considered some locations for the centre, such as where The Pass used to be. The Bunch which shop has also been suggested.



Captain's choice

At the Establishments Liberty Day celebrations held last Saturday, historical interpreter David Bayfield (left) played the 19th century

sutler (travelling salesman). His sales pitch was convincing enough to catch the attention

of Captain Roberts, interpreted by Jeff VandeKleut.

Strikes, settlements and layoffs... See pg. 5