

# Merchants want return of parking

by David Krayden  
Citizen Editor

Penetanguishene town council was deluged with the anger, frustration and pleas of local merchants on Monday night.

They were there to protest the recent designation of the right side of Main Street as a no parking zone. Business people said it has significantly reduced their sales during the summer months.

Doug Wallace, a part owner of a local taxi company, read from a prepared text but often departed from his written material to elaborate on his feelings.

He says people have started parking in his private driveway because of the changes on Main Street.

"I'm fed up with people using my private parking; it's not what I bought it for."

Wallace predicted that the winter months would intensify the problems along the street because "people will be splashed with snow and salt. Are these people expected to run away from it all?"

He said Penetanguishene merchants and consumers don't deserve "to be put through this kind of abuse."

Councillor Lionel Dion told the taxi owner that "there is much truth in what you are saying."

Wallace informed Dion: "I know there is."

Then becoming flushed and his voice cracking with emotion, Wallace picked up his pile of notes and said, "I'm just fed up. And I at least expect the police department to show up when I register a (parking) complaint, not three days later. It's pure garbage."

When he was told "experts" had suggested the changes on Main Street, Wallace yelled: "Experts don't live in this town, experts don't get slush in their face."

He continued by saying people "are afraid to cross the street to go to my taxi stand" because of the increased flow of traffic along the street.

"Anyway, why do you want to hurry

tourists through the town? You want them to shop here, don't you?" he asked.

Reeve Art Stewart told Wallace that the taxi company owner had "plenty of warning" and should have expected the changes.

Dion was more reassuring, saying, "You might get your way yet."

Ken Gauthier, another downtown merchant, came to the meeting with figures in hand. He said his sales volume was down over 12 per cent this July from last July and his customer count down 31 per cent. Gauthier said this was especially shocking when considering that, in general, Penetanguishene merchants were enjoying better sales this summer than last summer.



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# Second City began great careers

The Second City touring company will be coming to the area next month. The date is Sept. 13, the time is 7:30 p.m. and the place is Midland Secondary School.

Patty Mueller, the manager of the North Simcoe Arts Council, is urging people to buy their tickets early at one of the many outlets in Penetanguishene and Midland.

"We at the arts council hope this will be the start of many more touring events coming to our area," Mueller said.

Second City is the same group that launched the careers of comics like John Belushi, Dan Akroyd, John Candy and Eugene Levy as well as the television show which is still watched in syndication.

The company sent a detailed list of its stage requirements when it was invited to the area. Mueller says the group's needs "are very lit-

tle when compared to some other companies."

Linda Bennett, who is on the NSAC's board of governors, is the chairperson of the Second City Committee, which was designed to promote the event.

Also sponsoring the event are the Mountainview Mall, Jory's IDA, Huronia Office

Services, the Boatworks, Maclean-Hunter Cable and Mick B's restaurant.

In Midland, tickets are available at the NSAC's Midland Avenue office, HOS, the Boatworks, the Mountainview Mall's lottery booth; in Penetanguishene, at La Maison and Gignac's Children's Wear.

The cost is \$12 per ticket.

## Brunelle's handles the empties

Ever since Lafontaine's liquor and beer store opened up last month, people have been wondering why they can't bring their empty beer bottles back to the same location but instead have to go across the street to Brunelle's Variety.

At the last meeting of Tiny Township council, Councillor Montcalm Maurice wondered why he had to "walk all the way across the street" when he made a trip to the beer store the previous weekend.

The reason lies in government jurisdiction. Technically, a liquor store is only supposed to sell wine and spirits. Beer is managed by the Brewers' Retail.

"The liquor store has to buy the beer separately. If it were a beer store it would be obliged to take back the bottles," said Vic Brunelle, owner of the variety store.

He says an agreement was forged between his store and the Brewers' Retail whereby he would handle empties for the corporation.

The liquor and beer store is a small trailer that is stocked wall-to-wall with beer, wine and liquor. There is little space reserved for empties anyway.

Francine Desroches, the head cashier at Brunelle's, says the agreement was made "more than a year ago."

According to Desroches, there have been "a lot of complaints but we are doing the best we can."



### While there's still time

Tiny's beaches were still busy last weekend despite the cooler weather. Though the water temperatures were below

the August norm, residents and tourists alike were swimming and wind-surfing.

Beach activity has been described as the busiest in years.

**French education in spotlight again... see pg. 9**