

Council gives itself a raise

The ratepayers of Penetang will have to bag their leaves for removal this year, contrary to what they were told earlier.

Council has decided to tell people to bag their leaves as before since the vacuum machine is not expected to arrive before the snow comes this year.

In order for the town to dispose of its leaves, they must be free of road salt, hence the need for bagging.

The machine was due this past September, but the company responsible has experienced some problems.

'I understand they've had some financial difficulties, which has slowed things down,' explained clerk Yvon Gagne.

There was no down payment made on the vacuum, which prompted Councillor Bob Cascagnette to suggest a change in the arrangement.

'I'd like to get an extension on the warranty since we're not using it this year.'

Gagne said if the town does not get satisfactory answers to their questions, they will cancel their order.

In other business council voted to give itself a 5.25 per cent raise in salary at Monday night's meeting.

The increase brought the mayor's remuneration to just over \$10,000 and the

councillor's to \$5,347 each.

The council did not view the increase as excessive and said it was as much as its other town employees were getting.

'We're low in comparison to others, as we have been all along,' said Deputy Reeve Don McNee.

Midland councillors receive an amount in the \$9,000-\$10,000 range annually.

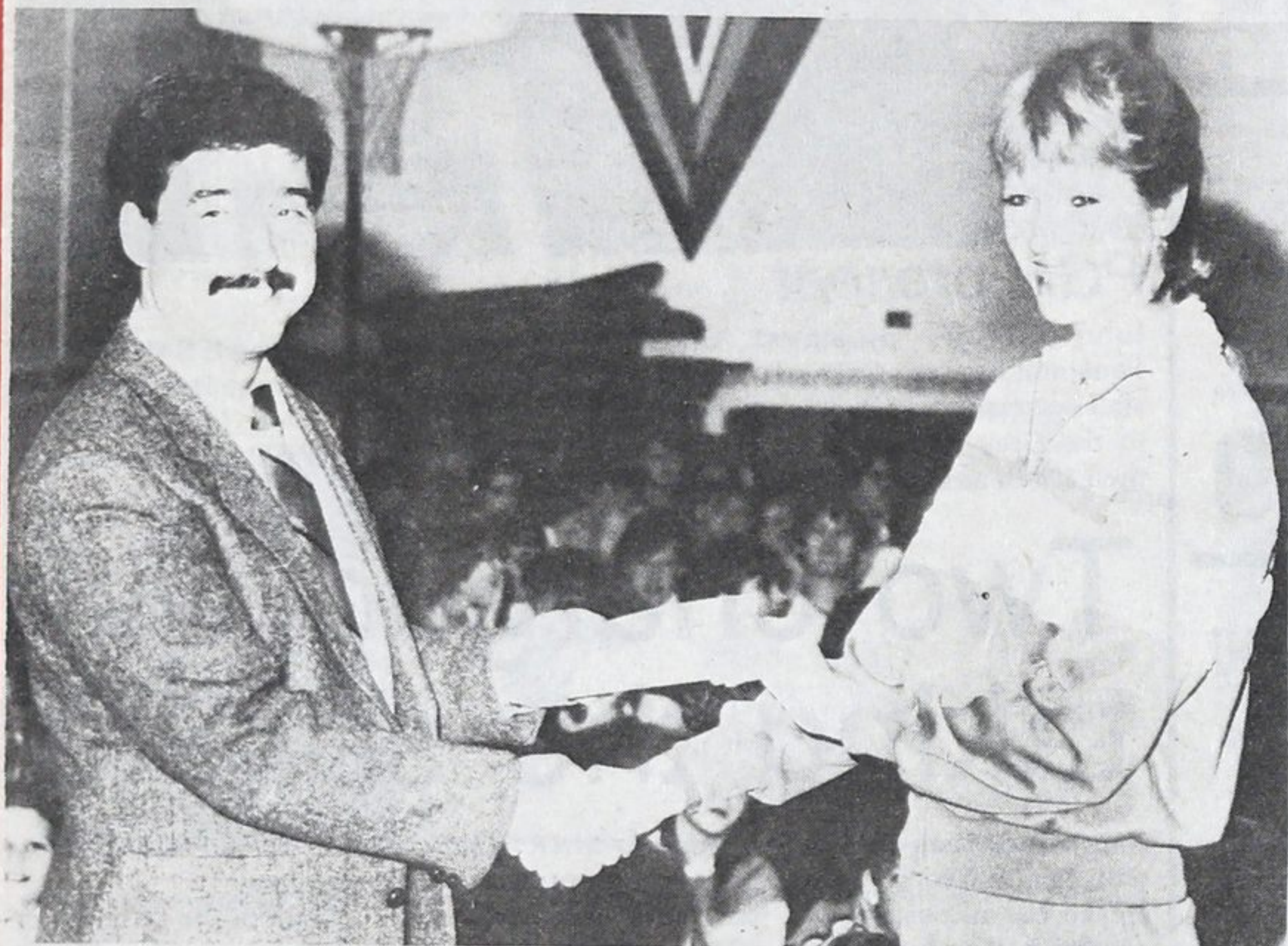


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Musical money

Mike Duquette of the Penetang IGA presents a \$900 cheque on behalf of owner Gerry Light to Julie Hollingworth-McCrone, vice principal at James Keating

Public School. The James Keating students saved cash register tapes since 1987 and were given a percentage of the total. They used the money to buy two electric pianos.

Cascagnette expresses concern for road safety

Former Penetang councillor Bob Cascagnette believes experience makes him a better choice for deputy reeve.

Cascagnette said he'll be able to perform at 100 per cent right away since he has been on the council before.

'The job needs somebody with experience, since it takes a year or so to be able to understand everything properly,' he said.

Cascagnette was first elected as a councillor in 1980 and was defeated in 1983 by

Frances St. Amant when he ran against her for deputy reeve.

Cascagnette's main concern is the safety of Penetang's roads, such as at crosswalks near homes for the elderly.

'Many of the problems have been around for longer than we have. They keeps talking about, 'Well, we need a grant for this and a grant for that.' I say we forget the cost in some cases and just do it.'

Gregoire would ask for a tower

Waxy Gregoire, running for a spot on Penetang's Water and Light Commission, believes he make a strong contribution to the job if elected.

Employed as the mechanical foreman at the Mental Health Centre, Gregoire said a new water tower would be an immediate

goal. 'There's a definite need for a tower. If during peak periods there is a fire, we have to ensure we have a ready supply,' he said.

He isn't sure if the peak periods are responsible for low pressure in some areas, but said the tower may also solve that problem.

Candidate questions capacity

John McBride enjoys working in the community, and said there is no better opportunity to do more for it than to be a town councillor.

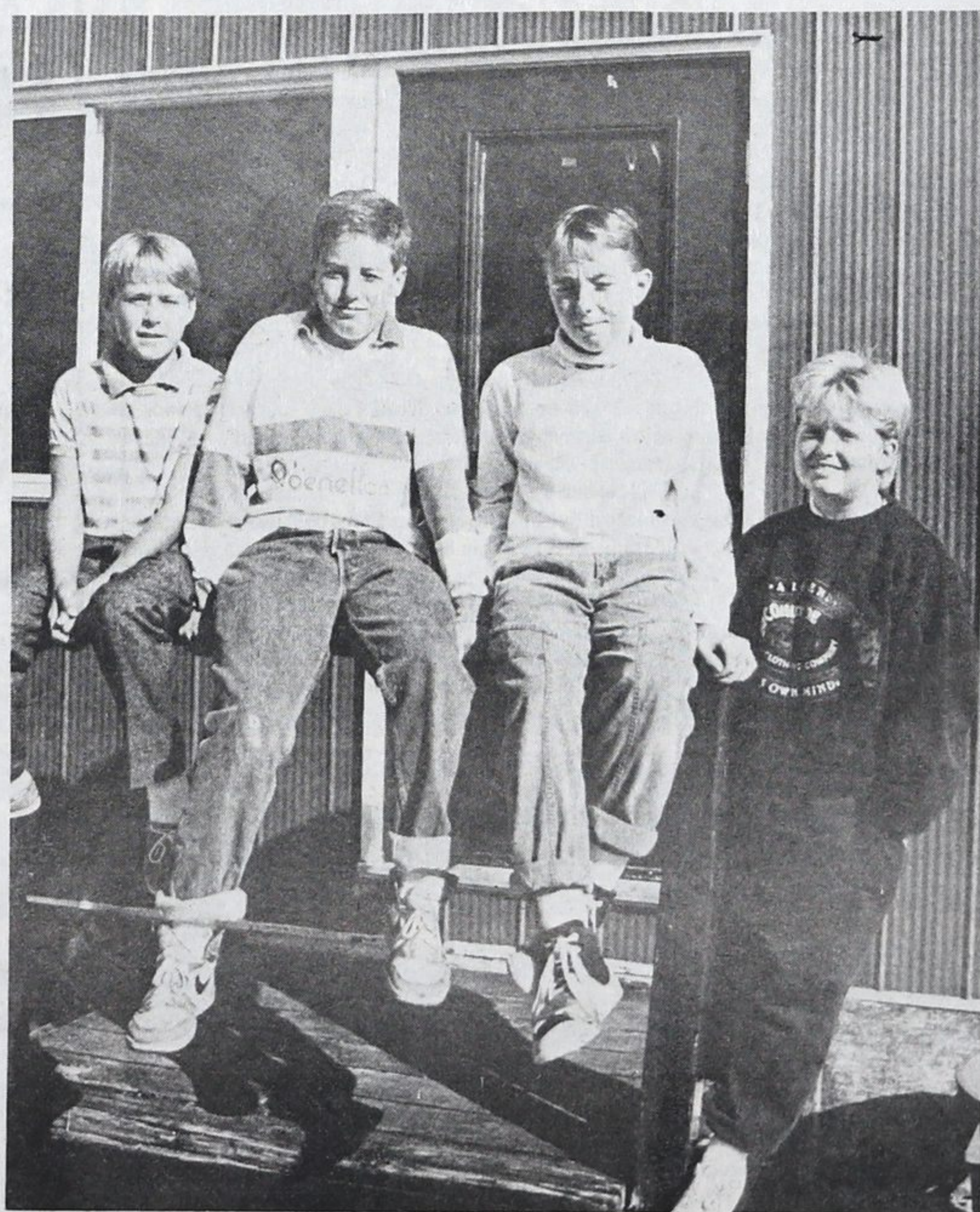
McBride has worked for 10 years with the Simcoe County Separate School board, both as chair of the custodian committee and on the equal opportunity committee.

He said two issues he would like to work on are the parks and water treatment plant. 'The park areas are not being kept up,

especially there by the trailer park,' he said. 'There's a lot of garbage, especially during the summer.'

With the many new buildings going up, McBride questioned the capability of the waste treatment facility.

'It's an outdated water treatment plant that's at capacity right now,' he declared. 'If we add 200 to 300 homes, who knows what will happen?'



Student bosses

The students council at St. Anne's School in Penetang was elected earlier this fall. They are (from left to right): Jeff Quesnelle,

secretary; Nolan Dubeau, vice-president; Jason Duquette, president; and T.J. Desjardins, treasurer.

A very McHappy day ... See pg. 3