

Nickel in sludge may mean money

The level of heavy metals, such as nickel found in the sludge produced by Midland's water pollution control plant, does not constitute toxic waste, a Ministry of the Environment official says.

However, the metal content exceeds the ministry's organic waste guidelines.

The town, says Ian Gray, the ministry's district officer, should try to eliminate the heavy metal so the sludge could be spread on fields.

Penetanguishene disposes of its sludge in this manner, he says.

Whether the heavy metals are present by accident or because of deliberate dumping re-

mains to be proven, Gray says.

The heavy metals found in Midland's sludge can't be traced to a specific industry. The source could be one or more of Midland's six plating industries, or another source entirely, he says.

Finding the source of the metals entering the sewage system is easier if the metals are finding their way by accident. Intentional dumping is hard to detect and harder to stop, he says.

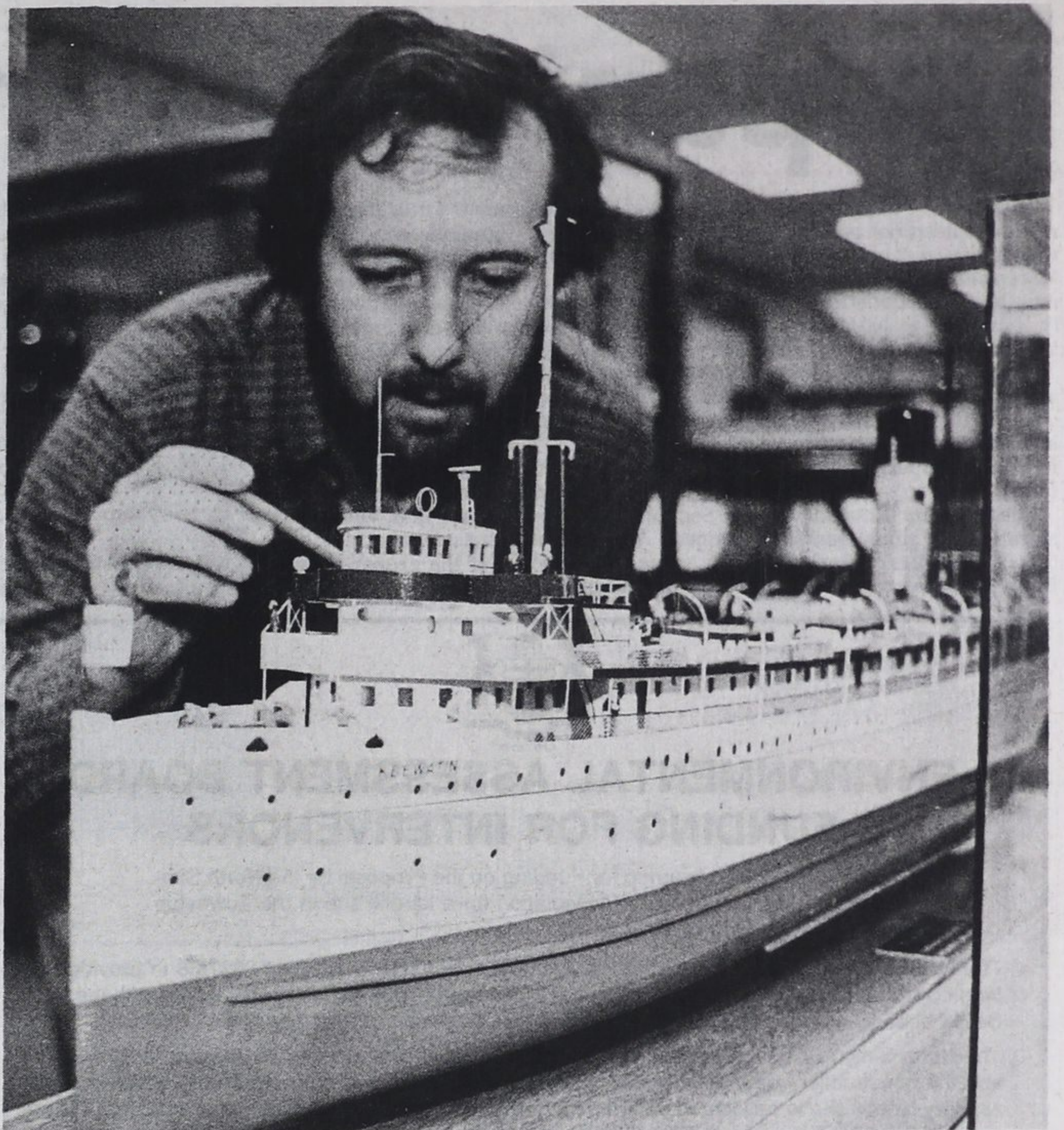
Officially, each plant introducing nickel into the sewage system is below both the provincial and the municipal limit. The problem wouldn't exist if the population of the

town was greater.

Gray doesn't rule out the possibility that batch dumping occurs. Batch dumping occurs when metal-rich water is flushed into the sewer system in a short period of time at an hour when the dumping is not apt to be discovered.

The town soon will have additional reason to reduce the heavy metal content of its sludge. The provincial government has announced it will give municipalities the power to fine offending industries.

The catch is that if the metal content of sludge remains too high, the municipality can be fined by the Ministry of the Environment.



Rowers needing about \$45,000 for Park home

The Georgian Bay Rowing Society is working toward the goal of building a \$45,000 boathouse in Little Lake Park.

The society hopes to raise \$30,000 in 1989. With \$30,000 in hand, application for a \$15,000 Wintario grant will be made. The construction target date is spring of 1990.

Two possible sources of money for the building

Bike path an idea of Rotary

A jogging and bicycle path in Little Lake Park is a Midland Rotary Club project.

The club will use the profit from its Trip of the Month draw to pay for the path.

The major prize for January, a \$1,200 letter of credit, was won by Stoneleigh Motors.

The letter can be used to pay for a holiday package to anywhere at anytime prior to April, 1990. The alternative is \$1,000 in cash toward future travel.

Jim Patchell of Midland was the January minor prize winner.

Minor prize winners receive a \$250 weekend hotel package at a hotel of their choice. The alternative is choosing \$250 of Samsonite or Jaguar luggage or travel clothing from The Parlor.

Marlin Travel, Terri's Travel, Bayshore Travel, Atkinson Travel, PMCL Travel Service, Carole's Travel Service of Elmvale and The Parlor, are co-operating with the Rotary Club to make fundraising through a Trip of the Month possible.

are running bingo games and a 50-50 draw, club spokesperson Bill Byrick says. Donations from individuals and groups will be needed, too.

The club has about 90 members. A third are high school students. A club priority for 1989 is increasing participation in competitive, and high school, rowing, and in the overall programs, Byrick says.

The club needs a big building. The blueprint calls for an 80-foot by 40-foot, one-storey barn made of green aluminum. The club's longest craft is 66 feet.

The club will either lease land from the parks board, or build the boathouse, give it to the

parks board, and lease it from the parks board, Byrick expects.

The boathouse proposed site is on the shore in trees at the west end of the park, adjacent to the east side of the cemetery.

The boathouse will have a garage door for the boats, and a visitor's entrance. Lights will illuminate the outside of the building. A gravel floor is likely.

Floating docks to permit the boats to be put in and taken out of the lake will be built.

Between 100 and 200 rowers are expected to attend a bigger and better, second annual, Georgian Bay Invitational Rowing Regatta on Little Lake Aug. 27.

Buoy what a ship

Jamie Hunter, curator of the Huronia Museum, points out areas of interest on the Keewatin CPR passenger and freight ship that travelled between Port McNicoll and Thunder Bay. The Keewatin was in service from 1908 to 1965. The model was built by Peter Rudy of St. Catharines and donated to the museum last fall. The Keewatin is part of a new ship display being created in the museum. (Photo by Jennifer Crow).

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