

# Young offender thefts up 25 per cent

Theft complaints and thefts by young offenders rose 23 and 25 per cent, respectively in 1988 over the previous year in Penetang.

The figures are from Police Chief Robert Cummings' annual report, prepared for the town's public safety committee to study. There were 167 theft complaints in 1987,

compared with 206 in 1988 and 35 charges of thefts by young offenders, compared with 28 in 1987.

More young offenders also found their way to the courts, an increase of 33 per cent from 1987. A total of 36 young offenders appeared on a total of 97 criminal code charges in youth court, compared

with 27 on 105 charges in 1987.

Criminal charges overall were down 14 per cent in 1988, to 377 from 441 in 1987.

Traffic accidents were up 14 per cent (168 up to 191), but the number of injuries from these decreased to 30 from 36.

For impaired driving, the number of charges also dropped to 75 in 1988 from

109 in 1987, a reduction which Cummings said was possible due to a \$20,000 grant.

The money came from the office of the solicitor general to pay the police officers overtime for working the RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) program.

Cummings noted that the force's first possession of cocaine charge was laid, which was part of a small increase in narcotics charges (15 charges in 1988, up from 13 in 1987).

Cummings also specially thanked all the teachers who assisted in the Value, Influences, Peers program at various schools in Penetang.

The VIP program, administered by Const. Donald Penrose, involved visiting schools and informing students about safety and other topics, such as shoplifting, drugs and a Students Against Drunk Driving session.

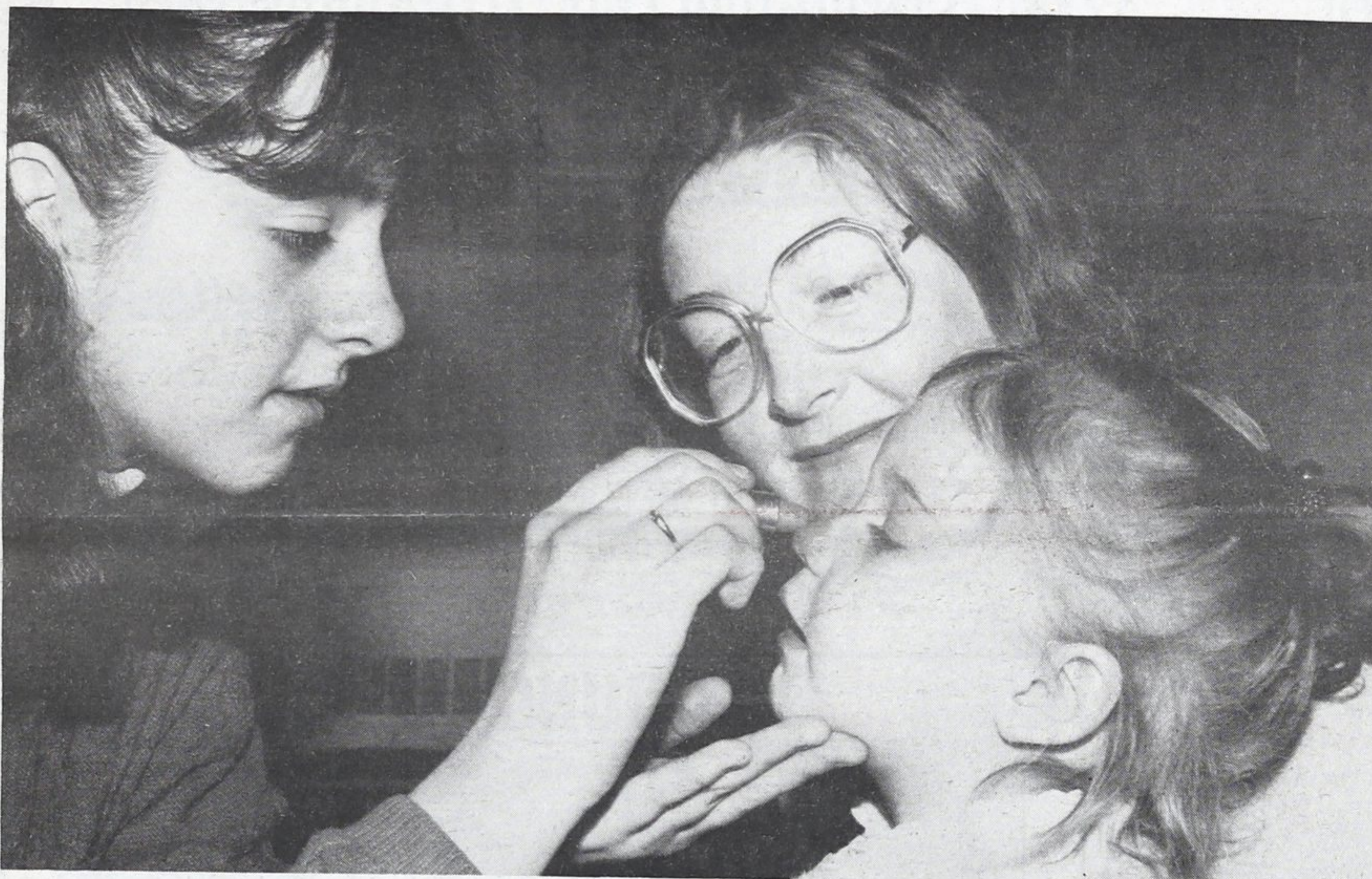
The only recommendation Cummings made to the public safety committee is that the municipality move to ensure the found and seized property is kept in a safe and secure environment.

## Penetanguishene Citizen

40 cents

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### Hold still

Christina Westcott draws a design on the face of Sarah Berthin as Sarah's mother, Helen, watches. Face painting was a part of the Penetanguishene Co-operative

Nursery School trike-a-thon held last Saturday. (Photo by Murray Moore)

## Changes force court move

Renovations for the town office will require the Thursday provincial court sessions in Penetang to be relocated in April.

In order to arrange the move, Wilf Guthrie, assistant to the clerk, said a meeting is being set up between the different parties involved.

"We're meeting (last) Friday with the Ministry of Government Services and the Attorney General's office to work out the arrangements."

The town recently accepted a \$100,000 tender for the restorations, which includes removing paint, repairing damaged bricks and restablizing the roof.

"The court has to move because the work, especially on the roof, will be quite noisy. We'll be starting in mid to late April and will take five to six weeks to complete," said Guthrie.

## Developers are eager

A development company negotiating with the Town of Midland is offering to spend a six-figure sum on McCullough Park.

The company is willing to pay much or all of the cost of turning the municipally-owned woods and slag piles on the shore of Midland Bay into an attractive municipal park.

The developer plans to build a family resort hotel on the adjacent land, known as the Georgian Lodge property. Townhouse condominiums and single-family homes are also planned.

The developer is anxious that the Midland-owned parkland, lying between its Georgian Lodge land and the bay, complements its resort and planned housing.

The Provincial Planning Act requires a subdivision developer to give a municipality either five per cent of its land for parkland, or the value of that land in cash. The municipality chooses.

The company sees development of McCullough Park as part of its investment in its own property.

Apart from a few trails, the bed of an abandoned railway track and slag piles, a reminder of the foundry that once stood nearby, McCullough Park is a mature wood of beech and maple trees.

The proposed development includes parking, washrooms, trails, a lookout, and floating piers for the use of boaters during the day.

## Howard early favorite

If the betting line is correct, Russ Howard and his former world champion rink, is the early favorite to win the 1989 Saskatoon Brier.

Ontario was out of the starting gate first with three straight wins, although their quality of play was below their usual consistent standard.

After five games, Howard was alone in second place at 4-1, behind Rick Folk of B.C., who defeated Howard Monday night. But, with six games in the round robin at press time and five former world champions and returning Canadian champ Pat Ryan here, it will be a horse race to the finish line.

Recaps of Howard's play:

In Sunday's opening match Gary Mitchell and his New Brunswick team started slow as the Penetanguishene rink took one in the first, then stole the next two ends. Midway, Howard had a 5-1 lead. The Howard foursome made it 6-1 after six ends. Mitchell made a comeback, scoring four over the final four ends but it ended 6-5 for Howard.

Game two: Orest Meleschuk from Lac du Bonnet, Man., wasn't sharp in his se-

cond game, but neither was the Howard rink. Tricky ice kept both sides on their toes. A miss by Russ in the ninth left Meleschuk with a chance for two. Instead, Russ stole one to go up 6-4.

"We feel bad the way we're playing," said Russ following the match. "But, it looks like nobody's doing any better."



### Instructing his crew

Russ Howard yells instructions at members of his Ontario foursome at the Brier Tournament.

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