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Chamber of Horrors

The Aguasabon Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated one year of existence (there was an article last week on this topic).

As President Michael Moore stated in his article, he is pleased with what has been realized by the chamber. But he also realizes many things cannot be achieved overnight; it will take time to achieve and realize many of the chamber's objectives.

But how is the chamber going to survive and realize these objectives when its own members are not attending the meetings?

At the last chamber general meeting on Nov. 25, two members attended (excluding the executive of three). What a turnout!

The chamber meetings have, for the most part, had poor attendence. Only the odd time has attendence been good. The best attendence record so far was when guest speaker Barb McEwan, executive director of North of Superior Tourism, attended and spoke on that subject.

Although the turnout at the Nov. 25 meeting was terrible, a fine example of what can be achieved came to the forefront.

The members present had a very good brainstorming session; unfortunately, much of the discussion focussed on how to get the members of the chamber to attend their own meetings. The executive really does not know why the members are not attending.

Need to know

It was discussed at the meeting that it must be known why members are not attending, and what must be done to get them out.

Most likely, a committee will be set up. Its job will be to find out exactly that. The executive of the chamber wants to know if there are things that members do not like about the meetings, and perhaps, what members would like to see at meetings.

If you are a member of the chamber, or if you are thinking about becoming one soon, do not hesitate to inform the executive about these important questions.

There is no use being a member of the chamber if you do not take an active part.

If you do not take an active part, the chamber will cease to exist.

This we definitely do not want to see happen. Act now.



Letters to the editor Pit Bull owner speaks out

Dear editor,

It was not my intention to forget about the Pit Bull attack on the McBride dog, nor is it my intention to make waves, but I feel I must come forward and tell MY side of the story.

On the morning of the attack, I watched as the owner of the other dog was coming down his drive-

way with his granddaughter, and wondered why our two dogs, who were both tied to leashes outside, were making such a commotion.

I went to the back door to bring them in, and in doing so could see Mr. McBride trying to chase his dog home.

After three unsuccessful attempts, he then took a few kicks

at his dog, and then continued down the street with his granddaughter.

I thought that the last attempt to keep his dog from following had been successful so I went about my business.

I could hear both of my dogs barking frantically and so looked

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Arthur Black

The U.S. can't have everything

By Arthur Black

Well, 1987 is far from over, but as far as I'm concerned, they might as well roll the credits, because I've already picked by Greatest Canadian News Story of The Year. No, it wasn't the Deposing of Richard Hatfield or the Buffoonery of Simon Reisman or the Triumph of Team Canada in the Hockey Wars. My nomination for Canadian News Story of the Year is: Peter Mansbridge: The Brain That Didn't Drain.

What's that, madame? You claim that you passed the second week of November trapped by a rock slide at the bottom of a zinc mine near Timmins -- that you missed the gripping "Peter Mansbridge to Stay" drama? No problem. Let us, as they say in the News Biz, recap.

It happened during a week that saw deadly skirmishes in the Persian Gulf, hideous yaws and swoops on the world's stock exchanges, sundry epidemics of starvation, drought and disease hither and yon, half a dozen exciting football games one or two

African coups and a transit strike in Montreal -- but the story that was on every Canuck's lips was the story of Peter Mansbridge, CBC News Reader, and his heroic refusal to change studios.

You had to be there, madame. At centre stage, doughty little Peter, news script clutched tightly to his breast, and there looming over him, the evil Media Mogul known as CBS Television, lewdly dripping dollars and dangling a contract. Petic could be a rich man, an American folk hero -maybe even get to have lunch with Bawbwa Walters. All he had to do was sign, and he could leave his grotty CBC studio behind for the glitzy grandeur of the CBS palace in New York.

beckoned CBS and leered...Peter swayed and grimaced in indecision... A nation of unwashed frostbacks held its collective breath...then suddenly...

TAH DAHHHHHHHH! Galloping over the horizon, looking uncannily like Jeff Chandler or Randolph Scott at the head of the U.S. Ninth Cavalry, here comes Canada's most famous news reader, Knowlton Nash, just in time to scoop Peter from under the very maw of the American monster. Don't worry, Peter, says Knowlton. I will give up my plum of an assignment, reading The National every week night. I shall assume your menial claim to fame, as host of Saturday Report.

Greater love hath no talking head than this, that he lay down his anchorship for his country.

All kidding aside, you have to wonder what it is about Americans and their fascination with the way Canadians look on the Boob Tube. Consider these names: Lorne Greene, Morley Safer, Peter Jennings, Peter Kent, Keith Morrison. Those are all Canadian newsreaders who did not resist the greenback blandishments of American television, and moved south to ply their trade. Canadians are in disproportionate demand even as game

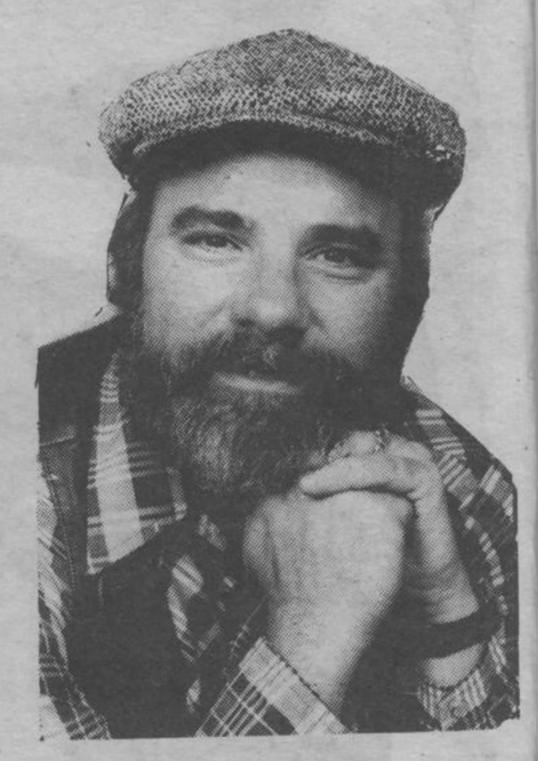
show hosts. Art Linkletter, Alex-Trebek and Monte Hall are all transplanted ex-Canucks.

Why is it American TV types think Canadians work so well -particularly as electrified town criers? Don Fitzpatrick has a theory.

Fitzpatrick is president of a California firm of media head hunters that regularly scours the airwaves in search of major talent. They find potential stars languishing at obscure rural television stations in Dubuque or Brandon, sign them up and try to sell them to the big networks. It was Fitzpatrick who stumbled across a videotape of Mansbridge reading the news and brought it to the attention of CBS.

About Canadians on TV, Fitzpatrick says: "Canadian anchors have very, very strong voices, much more so than American anchors. And their delivery is much more authoritative, as opposed to the laughing and scratching style on American

newscasts. Yeah, well, I don't know if you can hang nation's identity on that.



but it's something, I suppose.

As for CBS, well I guess they'll quest a little longer until they stumble across some as yet unknown charismatic who's probably reading the Hog Report on some station in Kansas right now. CBS will find him or her and bestow the million dollar contract that Peter Mansbridge didn't accept.

It's interesting though, isn't it? All those apocalyptic prophecies about the decline and fall of the American Empire were obviously premature.

You think any society on the brink of collapse could afford to pay some pretty face a million dollars to read it bedtime stories?