

Poet's insight and observation mask handicap

By Greg Huneault
the News

When your eyes become the major method by which you communicate, they can express a wide range of emotion.

For Jack Paterson, a 57 year-old Terrace Bay resident and one who has Cerebral Palsy, his eyes have become a major tool to intently observe what is going on. They also reflect his seemingly endless joy and happy disposition.

Jack is a full-time resident of McCausland Hospital, where he arrived from New Liskeard about three years ago.

He has Cerebral Palsy, which is a disease that afflicts the nervous system and affects its victims in a variety of ways.

He is confined to a wheelchair, but with the help of hospital staff and helpful citizens, he has begun writing poetry that is so rich in description one realizes Jack may see and experience more than many

others.

Jack began writing about 20 years ago, and expressed himself through short stories. He still has the unfinished manuscript of "The Wild Boy of the West", a children's novel he began in 1974. "The Handicapped Cop," a descriptive mystery, is another of his past projects.

Through a series of eye movements which the hospital physiotherapist taught Jack, he explains himself to Pastor Keith Milne, who has learned to interpret the eye movements.

Undoubtedly, it is a labourious process that takes some time, but when Jack talks with his eyes it is the voice of a compassionate and positive person that shines through.

Take for instance the poem "Song of Life". Jack says he composed the poem after being inspired by sounds coming from the hospital's nursery, where new-borns wail and make all sorts of sounds.

Song of Life

I heard a song of life this day,
It said, "Hi Dad, do you wanna play?"

I heard a song of life this sunny day,
It said, "Hi Mom, I felt your love today."

I heard a song of life this day,
It said, "Hi sister, may I tag along your way?"

I heard a song of life this day,
It said, "Hi Grandpa and Grandma!"

You can play with me,
love me,
get mad at me,
But,
Don't be sad about me.

I heard a song of life this day.
It was the most happy sound that I've heard today.
The sound of birth today.

He composed that poem on a computer which was designed and built by Owen McCullough and Dave Speer last fall.

The two Rosport residents donated their time and technical knowledge to develop a system which allowed Jack to tap his chin against three spring bars that controlled different commands on the computer.

Jack recently acquired a computer printer, which has made his labour of love easier. Prior to buying the addition, nurses at McCausland Hospital would copy Jack's poems from the screen by long hand. It still takes Jack a comparatively long time to write his poems. He said he worked on the "Song of Life" for two to three

hours each day for a week.

"It's actually quite a tiring process," says Pastor Milne.

When he began writing two decades ago, he would grasp a pen in his right hand and swing over his wheelchair so that his arm slung over the paper.

Although his muscular mobility
See "Poetry" on page 9



Jack Paterson concentrates as he uses his special typing machine.



Terrace Bay Police Briefs

Two plead guilty

Two persons from Alberta were charged on Friday, July 29, with two counts of theft and two counts of possession after police found the suspect vehicle and the occupants on a side road.

The two plead guilty to theft of licence plates and \$23 worth of gas, which was taken from a Terrace Bay gas station.

They were fined \$150 and ordered to pay restitution for the gas.

Occurrences

Three charges of Impaired Driving have been laid within the last two weeks.

In the entire month of July, there

were four investigations, which resulted in six charges being laid.

RIDE Program in October

The Police Department will implement the RIDE (reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) Program by the beginning of October.

Dogs still a problem

The chronic dog-at-large problem is still a serious concern to local police. Dog owners are again reminded that dogs must be on a leash if they are off their owner's property.

"People should be aware that charges will be laid for dogs at large," noted Chief Kidder.

Community Events

If you, your group or non-profit organization would like to inform others of your public meetings, now is your chance!

Simply phone or drop by the News office in the Simcoe Plaza and leave your message with us.

With fall soon upon us and everyone home from daycamp,

summer school and places south, things promise to get busy.

It's a great opportunity for you to get your message to the thousand of residents in the area, and it's a great chance for people to become involved. Help others get through the winter; help your organization by using this free public service.

The Schreiber OPP Notepad



Schreiber O.P.P. were kept busy in July. There were 77 occurrences reported.

On the Highway

There were only seven motor vehicle accidents within the Schreiber O.P.P. area (our area covers Gravel River to Steel River). None involved injury. Last year in the month of July, there were 13 accidents in which three persons were injured.

Three persons were charged with Impaired Driving, and six 12-hour suspensions were issued.

There were 21 liquor violations found for which charges were laid in all cases.

The holiday weekend was a safe one with no injuries being reported in only two minor fender benders. An increased level of enforcement over the weekend seemed to be effective. Thirty-seven Highway Traffic Act charges were laid during the weekend, the majority of which were for driving too fast.

Found Property

Two bicycles, one gold chain and one camera were found and given to the Schreiber O.P.P. If one of these items might be yours, please call 824-2333 during business hours, or call the operator and ask for Zenith 50,000.

Spot Checks

Spot checks will be continuing throughout the summer in the Schreiber area. Please do not drive if you have been drinking.

Information about Free Trade

Of particular interest to people who live in Ontario

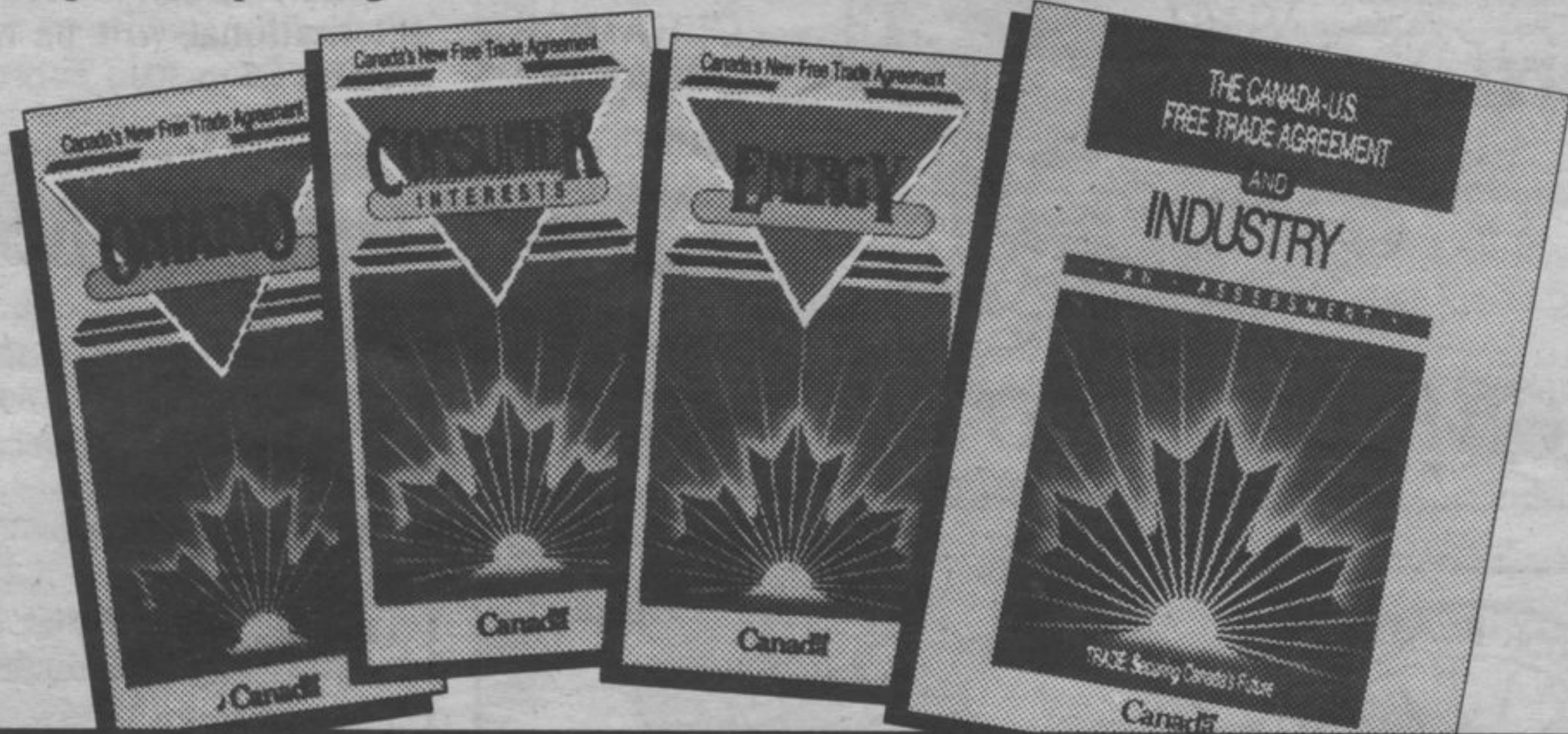
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L'honorable John C. Crosbie, ministre du Commerce extérieur



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