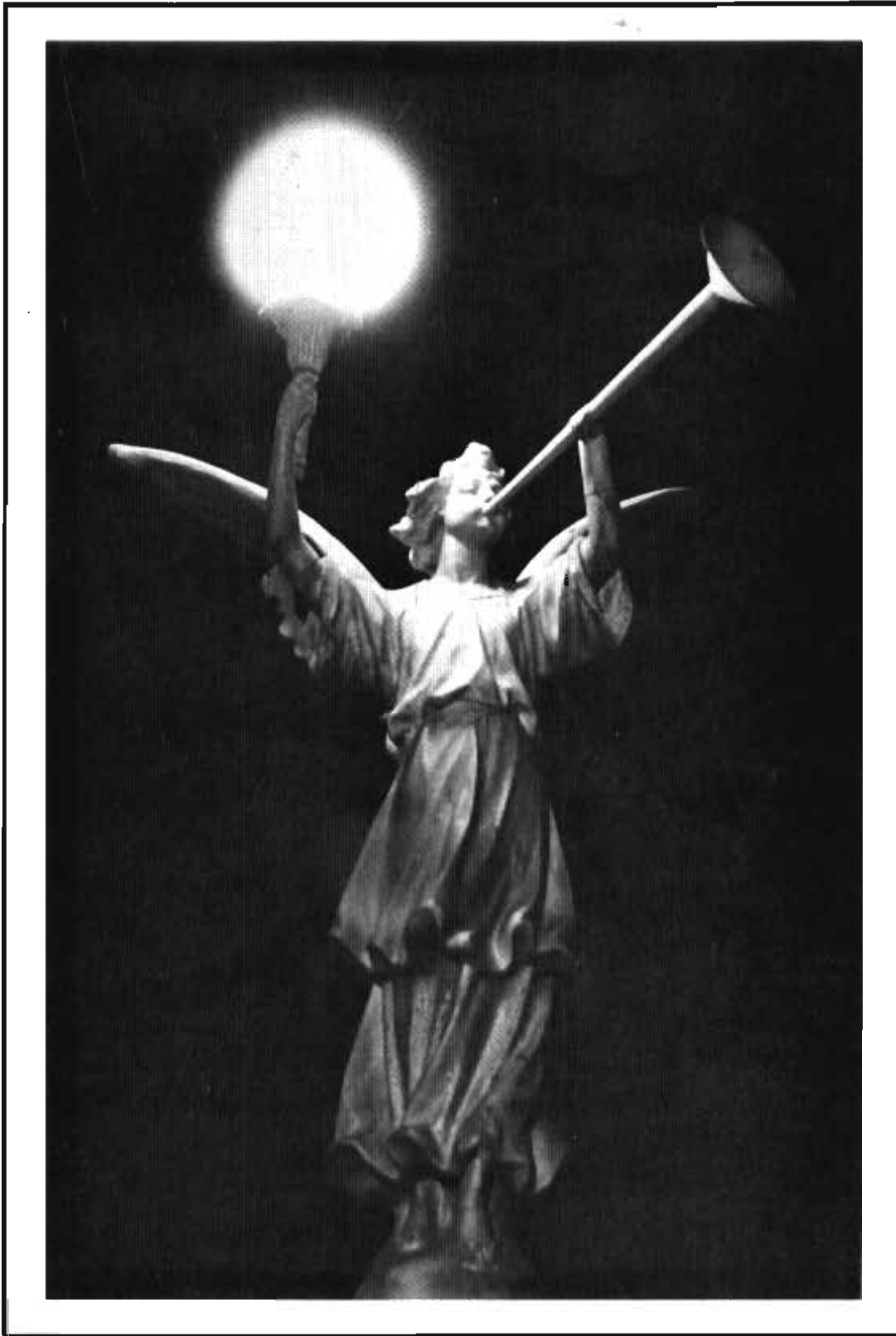


# *Penetanguishene*



VIL  
Pene/2

**1875-1975**



## *Outside the Naval and Military Establishments*

photo by Mark Harrison

*With an eye on on the future*

# *A trip down memory lane*

A trip down memory lane - that's part of what this book is about. But there's more to it than a journey through the past, much more.

One hundred years ago a tiny settlement on the shores of Penetanguishene Bay organized into a municipality - the village of Penetanguishene. In 1881 the village became a town. This book celebrates our municipal centenary, but it doesn't stop there. The major forces which shaped Penetanguishene then and now go back over 350 years when French explorers and priests entered an unknown Indian territory.

Glance through the pages of our history and you'll see part of what we are today - a unique town of nearly 6,000 people nestled in what is truly one of the most beautiful spots on the face of this earth.

An exceptionally fine natural environment featuring green, gentle hills rolling into a magnificent bay, explain part of our uniqueness. The people who inhabit it account for the rest.

We are unique because of the way in which we have been able to grow into an increasingly modern urbanized municipality and yet maintain our traditions in a small town friendly atmosphere.

Our religious roots and the mixture of the dominant French and English cultures form the strongest part of our heritage. The angels standing at the south entrance of town watch over and protect that heritage.

By gracing the cover of this book the angels are meant to invite us to turn within, to reaffirm who we are.

Inside you'll find a mixture of the old and the new.

Articles on the French explorers - Etienne Brule and Samuel de Champlain, are balanced by a look at the continuing French influence exerted by organizations like Le Centre d'Activités Françaises.

Stories on the first missionary, Father LeCaron and the building of the historic St. James-on-the-Lines Church are combined with a look at the churches today.

The Naval and Military Establishments, from which French fur traders and English soldiers would eventually leave to form the nucleus of our town on the shores of Penetanguishene Bay, are explored in detail. Today, while still in the process of being restored, they are one of our major tourist attractions.

Profiles on Penetanguishene's outstanding athletes of the past are combined with a look at our modern day sport heroes - Brian Orser and Don Tannahill.

A bylaw creating the municipality of Penetanguishene is complimented by a look at the members of our present council.

Throughout the pages of this book, the past mixes with the present, hopefully to give us a better idea of what we were, what we are today and what we can become tomorrow.

### *Our staff*

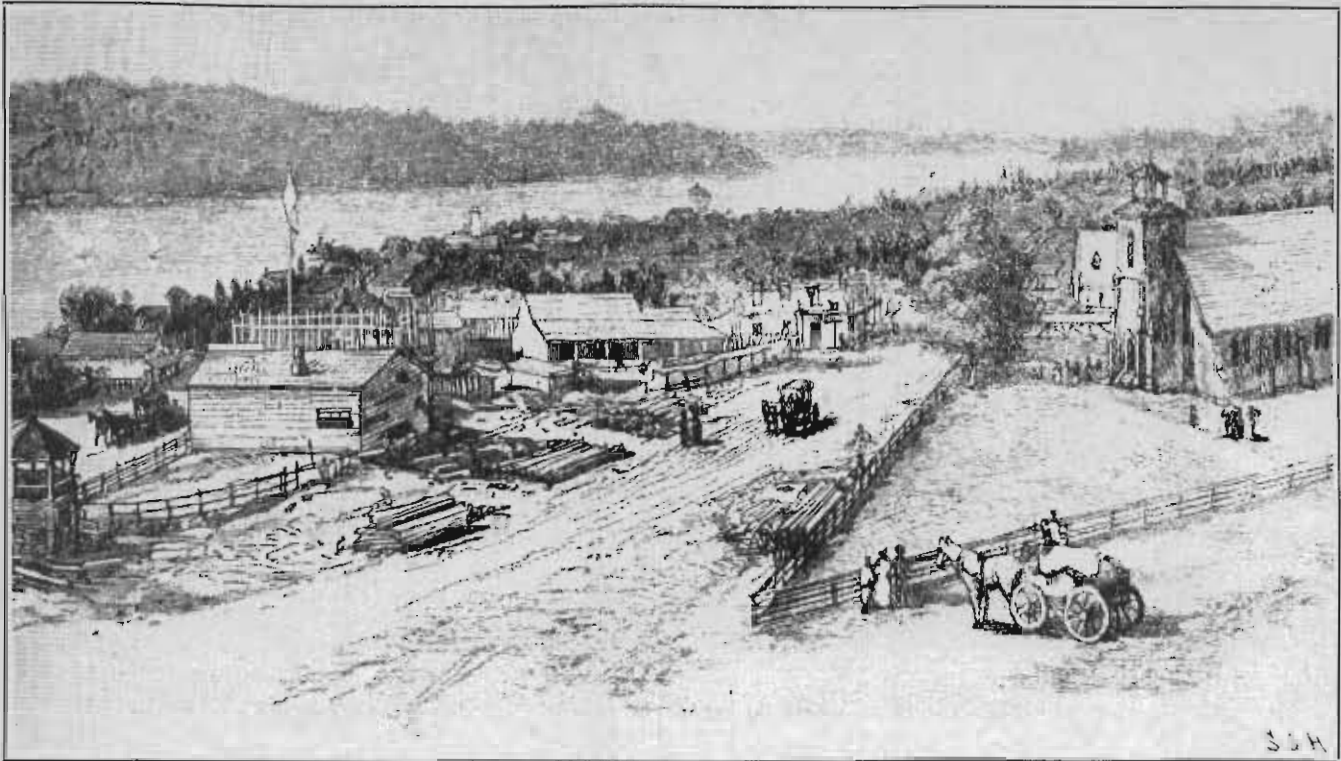
Editor - Tom Grand, assistant editors - Marcel Bellehumeur and Yvon Gagne.

Special thanks go to the following people for their contributions: Marie Beausoleil, Allan Condren, Doug Dubeau, Vern Farrow, Mark Harrison, Harvey Markle, Barb McConnell, Jim Park, Frances St. Amant, the Centennial Committee and the entire town office staff.

Cover photos - Harvey Markle

Paste up by Markle Community Newspapers production staff.

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## *Birth of a municipality*



By-law No. 248

**By-Law Constituting the Village of Penetanguishene, in the Townships of Tiny and Tay, in the County of Simcoe, as Incorporated Village, and Defining the Limits.**

WHEREAS, over one hundred resident Freeholders and Householdors (one half of whom are Freeholders) of the unincorporated Village at present as the Village of Penetanguishene, in the Townships of Tiny and Tay, in the County of Simcoe, have, by Petition to the Council of the County of Simcoe, petitioned that the said Village may be erected into an Incorporated Village, apart from the said Townships of Tiny and Tay;

And, Whereas, under the direction and with the approval of

the County Council, a Census has been taken by Walter J. Keating, Esquire, of the number of inhabitants contained within the limits which are hereinafter described and provided, to be erected into an Incorporated Village, and by such Census duly passed before the said County Council it is shown that the said limits contain eight hundred and forty-one inhabitants;

Be it therefore enacted by the Corporation of the County of Simcoe, and the said Council hereby enacts as follows: -

1. That the following limits, that is to say: The Town plot of the unincorporated village of Penetanguishene, in the Townships of Tiny and Tay, as laid out under the direction and by the Crown Land Department, and as now recorded in the Crown Lands Department of Ontario, and which said town plot contains in all four hundred and seventy-two acres, more or less, be erected and constituted into an Incorporated Village, separate and apart from the Townships of Tiny and Tay, under and subject to the several provisions of the Municipal Acts of the Province of Ontario.

2. That the said Village, incorporated by this By-law is hereby incorporated by the name of Penetanguishene.

3. That the first election for Reeve and Councillors for the Village of Penetanguishene shall be held in the Town Hall, Penetanguishene on the day and in the manner provided for the annual Municipal Elections, under the Municipal Acts of the Province of Ontario.

4. That Walter J. Keating, Esq., is hereby appointed the returning officer to hold the said first election.

5. That this By-law shall take effect from and after the passing thereof.

John C. Steele (L.S.) Warden

COUNCIL HALL, BARRIE

June 29th, 1875

R.T. Banting,

Co. Clerk, Co. Simcoe.



## Meilleurs souhais

*Vincent Moreau*

L'année d'un centenaire est un temps de fêtes, alors je vous invite tous à vous joindre à nous dans nos célébrations de notre centième anniversaire.

Je crois que le comité du centenaire de Pénétanguishene 1975 a formulé un programme qui fournira des divertissements et des activités pour chacun durant les mois prochains se terminant avec la grande semaine de fêtes du 28 juin au 5 juillet. J'invite spécialement tous nos anciens citoyens à revenir chez nous visiter d'anciens amis et à participer à nos activités pendant cette semaine.

J'ai l'honneur d'occuper le poste de maire de la ville pendant cette merveilleuse et prestigieuse année, et comme maire, je tiens à remercier, de la part de notre municipalité, le comité du centenaire 1975 de Pénétanguishene, sous la présidence de Doug Dubeau de l'enthousiasme que ce comité a créé pour notre centième anniversaire.

Merci. Meilleurs souhaits! Joyeuse fête.

M. le maire, Vincent Moreau.

## The Mayor's Message

Centennial Year is a time for everyone to celebrate. I therefore extend an invitation to each and everyone of you to please be our guests and join with us in our 100th Birthday festivities.

I believe the Penetanguishene 1975 centennial committee has produced a program that will provide entertainment and involvement for everyone during the coming months, culminating with "Old Home Week", June 28 to July 5, and I extend a special invitation to all former citizens of Penetanguishene to return home, visit old friends and participate in the activities during this week.

As Mayor of the Town, a position I am honoured to hold during this wonderful and prestigious year, I would like to convey the thanks of the municipality to the Penetanguishene 1975 centennial committee, under the leadership of Doug Dubeau, for their enthusiastic promotion of our 100th birthday. "Thank You".

Best Wishes, happy birthday.

Mayor Vince Moreau



## Happy Centennial

*Doug Dubeau*

Many times we are called upon to make contributions for various causes, and some we meet with much more enthusiasm than others. When asked by our Mayor Vince Moreau to be chairman of our centennial celebrations, I immediately recalled all the good times and the wonderful reunions we had during our 1967 "Old Home Week" and readily consented to accept his invitation to be chairman.

The people of Penetanguishene are very proud of their town and the 1967 centennial committee members were so happy to contribute once again.

Penetanguishene as a municipal body, is celebrating its 100th birthday. We have been fortunate indeed in so many ways to have lived here.

Speaking for our committee, we sincerely wish "Old Home Week" brings together all the things that are good for the people of Penetanguishene and their guests, who we have invited home to be with us at this time.

Thank you again for the opportunity and the privilege to be your chairman.

Centennially Yours,  
Douglas Dubeau, Chairman.

## Joyeuse fete

Souvent nous sommes appelés à aider à exécuter des entreprises mais nous acceptons certains projets avec plus d'enthousiasme que d'autres. Quand M. le maire, Vincent Moreau m'a invité à devenir le président du comité du centenaire je me suis immédiatement souvenu du bon temps et des maintes réunions que nous avons eu durant la semaine commémorative de 1967 et j'ai promptement accepté son invitation. Les membres de l'ancien comité du centenaire sont heureux de pouvoir rendre service encore une fois, puisque comme tous les citoyens de Penetanguishene ils sont fiers de leur ville.

Pénétanguishene fête son centième anniversaire comme municipalité. Nous avons été favorisés d'avoir vécu ici.

Je me fais le porte-parole de notre comité. Nous souhaitons sincèrement que la semaine commémorative apportera de bonnes choses pour les citoyens de notre ville ainsi que pour leurs visiteurs que nous avons invités à venir séjourner avec nous pendant ce temps.

Merci encore une fois pour l'occasion et le privilège d'être votre président.

Doug Dubeau,  
Président du comité du centenaire 1975.



***The Centennial Committee***

They're dressed like something out of the past but the members of Penetanguishene's Centennial Committee are very much a part of the present. In the front row from left to right are: Mike Tinney, Doug Dubeau, Marg Dubeau and Medora DeVillers. In the second row are: Tim Robitaille,

Joyce Sauv , Frances St. Amant and Beatrice Picotte. Standing at the back are: Basil Secord, Bill Stevens, Martha Ladouceur and Helen Dubeau. Missing from the photo are: Mrs. Jack Wedge and Yvon Gagne.

**Photo Box**



***Our 1975 town council***

The members of Penetanguishene's 1975 council are (front row, left to right): councillors, Clarence Lomas and Mary Rogers, Mayor Vince Moreau, Reeve Lionel Dion and councillor Frances St. Amant. In the back row (from left to

right) are: councillor Ron Bellisle, Deputy-reeve Art Stewart, councillors, Ken Tannahill and Hubert Charlebois. Town clerk Yvon Gagne is at the far right.

**Photo Box**

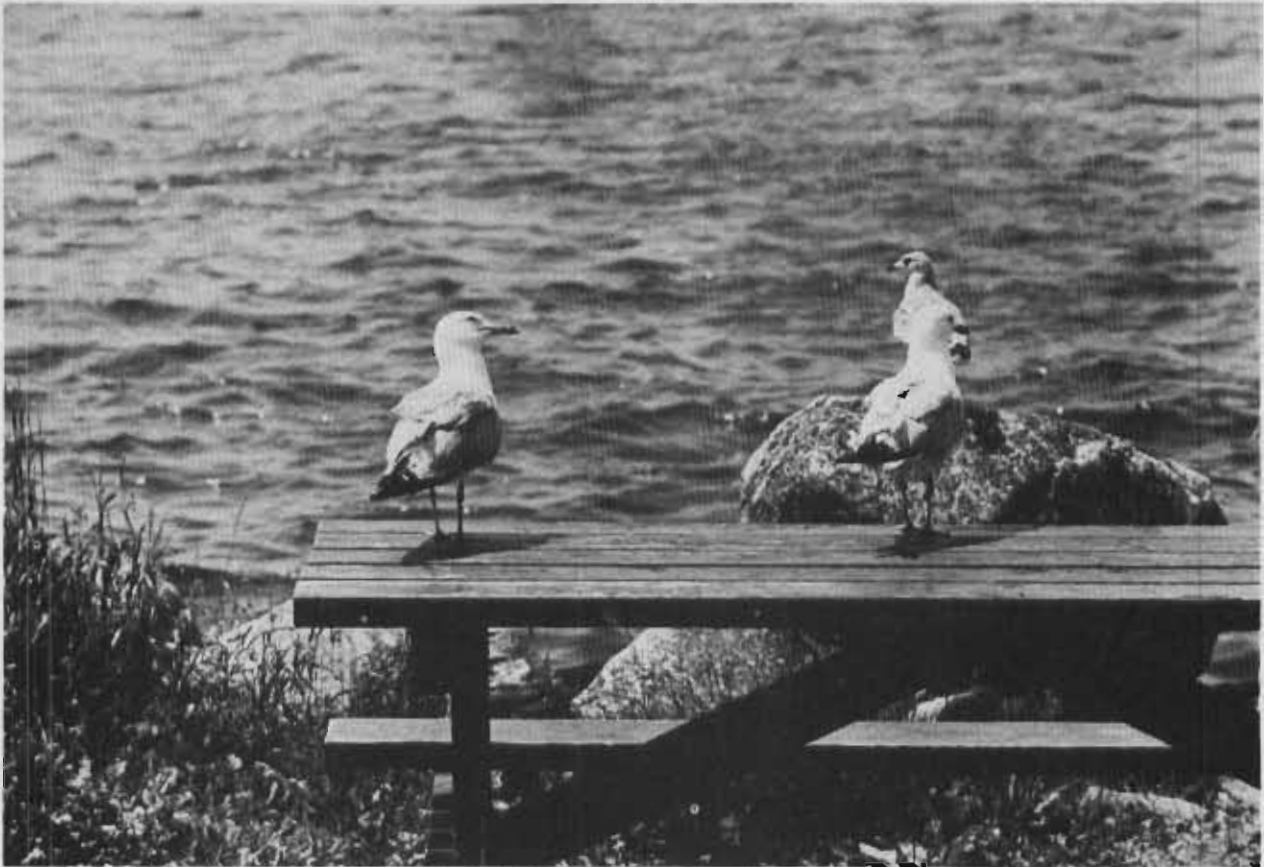


photo by Harvey Markle

## *The Song of Penetanguishene*

The song "Penetanguishene" was discovered during excavations at the Naval and Military Establishments in 1969.

Mrs. Elsie Jury announced the finding at that time, saying the song was written in 1836 by a soldier named George Dartnell. It was sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne".

### *Penetanguishene*

T'ye who tired of wars' alarms  
 In garrison or camp,  
 Are sighing for the many charms  
 Of march, route, or a tramp;  
 Or whom board batteaux or ship  
 Delight to vent your spleen,  
 I hereby recommend a trip  
 To Penetanguishene.

Oh! 'tis the place for youthful sprigs  
 Whose epaulettes grow dim  
 With city wear, whose rose-oiled wigs  
 Want combing into trim,  
 Whose elbows are a little out —  
 Such things have often been —  
 They will be bettered by a bout  
 Of Penetanguishene.

'Tis here you learn true jollity  
 And scorn the march of mind  
 And live in fond equality  
 With beasts of every kind:  
 The Indian with his scalping knife  
 Diversifies the scene —

Oh! 'tis a mighty pleasant life  
 At Penetanguishene.

You shake a wildcat by the fist  
 When in your path he halts.  
 With beavers take a hand at whist,  
 And gallopade and waltz  
 With shaggy bears who, when you roam  
 Afar in forest green,  
 Remind you that your nearest home  
 Is Penetanguishene.

Upon the article of grub  
 You must lay little stress,  
 For here with grief the starving sub  
 Bemoans headquarters' mess.  
 His pound of junk and tommy bare  
 But makes a dinner lean,  
 For surfeits they are very rare  
 At Penetanguishene.

And then for swipes, poor devil, he  
 Must look and feel quite glum  
 Since now a sober Treasury  
 Has docked the ration rum.  
 Unless it is with maple juice,  
 Admit that's this I mean,  
 We cannot shake a top-screw loose  
 At Penetanguishene.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen



### *Beginning of an era*

This picture shows the 1921 re-enactment of the landing of Samuel de Champlain at Penetanguishene during the town's Tercentenary Celebration. Champlain landed at Penetanguishene in 1615 but because of World War I the Tercentenary Celebration was delayed until 1921. At the far left is Father Athol Murray, the parish priest at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church in Penetanguishene and the driving

force behind the Tercentenary Celebration. Immediately to Father Murray's right is Prosper Beausoleil, the undertaker at Beausoleil's Funeral Home. Champlain is played by Jules Picotte the Indian agent on Christian Island. Leo Dault is the young boy at Champlain's right hand side. In his adult years he was a dentist in Penetanguishene.

# Penetanguishene Tercentenary



**Charles E. Wright**

## Old Home Week

Penetanguishene, Ont.

May 24th, 1921

Dear Former Resident:—

As you are aware, Champlain, in A. D. 1615 landed on the shore of the bay on which this town stands. It had been intended that the tercentenary of this visit should have had National recognition in 1915, but the Great War intervened and hindered any such demonstration. It is felt now that the time has come when some effort should be made to mark this event.

There has never been a re-union of the former residents of Penetanguishene, and it is also felt that it is about time that one was held; and so, the week AUGUST 1-6 in the present year has been selected to be known as "Old Home Week"; during which the tercentenary shall be celebrated.

Many have been born here who have gone far afield, in the urge which moves so many to leave their birthplace. Naturally these would like to visit the old scenes, and to note the advances which have been made since they left. Others who have resided here, and have become attached to the old town have a deep affection for it. They too, we feel sure, would like to visit the familiar places and renew acquaintances.

We who are at present here feel that the time has come to inaugurate a re-union, so that we may have the pleasure of meeting those who revere and love the old spot, and who were here before us; and also to give many the opportunity of renewing the acquaintances of those who have remained in the old Town.

We therefore most heartily invite you to come and pay us a visit during the week August 1-6th.

Following is the Programme in outline,—

**Monday, August 1st** (Civic holiday) :—Horse Races in Payette's Driving Park.

**Tuesday, August 2nd** :—Unveiling of the monument at Caraghouba (on Philia's Beaupre's farm, in Tiny) which marks the site of the celebration of the First Mass in Upper Canada.

**Wednesday, August 3rd** :—Historical Pageants. Aquatics. A Banquet under the auspices of the Historical Society, at which the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec are expected to speak.

**Thursday, August 4th** :—Baseball Tournament.

**Friday, August 5th** :—Great War Veterans' Day and Football Tournament. Band concerts and Open Air entertainments in the Soldiers' Memorial Park in the evenings. Details to follow.

The Committee of Management take for granted that if you have friends in the town you will write to them about hospitality. Otherwise, will you kindly apply at an early date to Mr. C. E. Wright.

If you know of any former resident in your vicinity who has not received an invitation, kindly invite the friend on our behalf, and also let us have the name and address, so that we follow up the invitation.

On behalf of the Old Home Week Committee,

N.B. Charles Wright was the Reeve of Penetanguishene and Warden of Simcoe County in 1896. Later in his political career, Wright a Conservative, was elected to serve as the MPP for the Penetanguishene area.

C. E. WRIGHT,  
Chairman





*The angels are dedicated in 1921*

## *The origin of the Angels*

by Marcel Bellehumeur

The angels were erected 50 years ago through the happy coincidence of circumstances and of three men.

The moving spirit was Father Athol Murray, originally from Toronto, came here shortly before 1921 as a young priest just out of the seminary. He is still alive and is well known as the founder and beloved director of the University of Notre Dame in Wilcox, Saskatchewan, where he is known, not as Father Murray, but as Pere Murray. In his youth he had become interested in the French speaking elements of our country, and had gone to College at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

Soon after arriving in Penetanguishene, he noted that it was just a little more than 300 years that Champlain had first come to these parts to begin the white man's history of Huronia. It had been impossible to mark the anniversary in 1915, at the proper year, because of the first great war, but he felt that something should certainly be done as soon after as possible. He therefore organized a tremendous "Old Home Week" in Penetanguishene, which is quite a story in itself. Many bronze plaques that you see here and there in town today, were erected through his influence at that time in 1921.

At the same time, Gerald Lahey, a young man aged about

20, was entering the Jesuit Order. He was the only child of the town's wealthiest merchant at that time, D.A. Lahey, and would have inherited a fortune. But in entering the Jesuits, he made a vow of poverty and could not take it with him. His father offered to buy him anything he wanted.

At the suggestion of Father Murray, and in consideration of the fact that his father was French and his mother, whose maiden name was Fitzgerald was English speaking, along with the long history of cordial co-operation between the French and the English speaking people in Penetanguishene, and the good relations at that time between Ontario and Quebec, Gerald Lahey wanted something to commemorate and symbolize the "Bonne Entente" between Penetanguishene's and Canada's two founding people. The pair of angels, one marked Ontario, the other marked Quebec, was the answer. One of the highlights of "Old Home Week" was the unveiling of these two bronze monuments at the entrance to the Town.

Fifty years later, in 1971, Father Athol Murray returned to Penetanguishene to rededicate the same bronze statues which were incorporated into beautiful entrance monuments at the southern town limits.



ONTARIO-QUEBEC ENTENTE AT THE HURON-IROQUOIS TREATY OF PEACE  
NOTE STRANGE PLUMED HEADGEAR DIFFERENTIATING THE HURON CHIEFS FROM THE IROQUOIS  
SUPERIOR GENERAL BRUNELLES AT RIGHT OF HURON CHIEF

## *The 1921 Ontario-Quebec Entente at the Huron-Iroquois Treaty of Peace*

This gigantic cast of characters posed for a group picture following the Ontario-Quebec Entente at the Huron-Iroquois

Treaty of Peace during Penetanguishene's Tercentenary Celebrations.

# *L'histoire de Penetanguishene*

**Pénéanguishene**  
par Marcel Bellehumeur

Pénéanguishene fut ainsi nommée par les Abenakis, des siècles avant l'ère des Huron-Iroquois, et veut dire "la Place des Sables Blancs Roulant." La falaise de sable à la pointe nord-est de la Baie était un point de repère visible des extrémités du sud des Trente Mille Îles des terrains rocheux des Laurentides. Sa verdure et ses plages à l'abri des vents de toute direction firent de la Baie un rendez-vous préféré d'abord des Indiens, ensuite des missionnaires et coureurs-de-bois français, des militaires et traiteurs de fourrures anglais, des scieurs de bois, et maintenant des amateurs de bateaux de plaisir.

En 1613, Etienne Brûlé, éclaireur âgé de dix-huit ans, sous les ordres de Samuel de Champlain, est arrivé à Pénéanguishene, où il est devenu le premier blanc à résider à l'ouest de la ville de Québec. Deux ans plus tard, Champlain lui-même est venu avec Brûlé voir ce beau pays et ses autochtones sédentaires, les Hurons. Le Père Joseph LeCaron, missionnaire Récollet, l'accompagna. Celui-ci, en 1623, revint avec un assistant, le Père Nicola Viel, pour entamer la tâche ardue d'évangéliser les Hurons. Ils furent remplacés en 1627 par le Père Jean de Brébeuf, le premier des missionnaires Jésuites en Huronie.

Par l'an 1650, les Iroquois avaient détruit la race huronne et s'étaient retirés dans leur pays au sud du Lac Ontario. Pour plus d'un siècle ensuite, la Huronie n'était habitée que d'individus et de petits groupes, trappeurs indiens et traiteurs blancs. Petit à petit, Pénéanguishene devint le point d'étape principal pour les explorateurs du Nord-ouest du Canada, d'abord Français, plus tard Anglais.

A cause de la Guerre de 1812, Pénéanguishene devint la base Britannique Navale et Militaire contrôlant les Grands

Lacs en amont des Chutes Niagara.

En 1828 vinrent les premiers habitants permanents de Pénéanguishene. Ils sont venus, non pas de l'Est, mais de l'Ouest — employés des sociétés de traiteurs de fourrure qui avaient été obligés de retirer leurs postes vers l'est à mesure qu'on établissait les frontières entre le Canada et les Etats-Unis.

Quand la traite des fourrures cédait place à l'industrie du bois, le port protégé de Pénéanguishene reçut les immenses radeaux de billes provenant des vastes forêts laurentiennes jusqu'à Sudbury. Le chemin de fer s'y rendit en 1879. Pénéanguishene fut incorporée comme village il y a exactement un siècle, soit en 1875, ensuite comme ville en 1882.

Fière de son passé illustre, la ville de Pénéanguishene jouit de son présent, mais elle envisage un avenir brillant comme endroit agréable et salubre. Son beau site tient à la porte les délices de la Baie Georgienne. De belles routes mettent à seulement 80 minutes par auto les commodités de la grande ville de Toronto. Le sol sableux rend facile la construction de rues et l'installation de tuyaux souterrains. Quatre parcs municipaux donnent à ses citoyens un accès extraordinaire aux eaux de la Baie, relativement non-polluées. De profonds puits artésiens nous fournissent amplement de la meilleure eau potable en Ontario, sans bactérie, mais pourtant sans chlore. Même l'air mérite une mention honorable; il nous arrive nettoyé par son passage au-dessus du Lac Huron. Plusieurs ports de plaisance et une usine de bateaux fournissent un service complet aux canoteurs nombreux. De nouvelles manufactures se sont établies en ville, et le Parc Industriel, appartenant à la municipalité et déjà muni des services requis, en attend d'autres prochainement.



*Etienne Brûlé with the Hurons*

## *Etienne Brûlé — an early explorer*

Etienne Brûlé, the first white man to see Huronia, came to live in and around Penetanguishene in 1613. He was one of a group of young French explorers sent out by Champlain from Quebec to learn more of the country and its natives.

When Brûlé was only 18, Champlain sent him off with a group of Hurons to explore regions around the Great Lakes. Brûlé was the first white man to see Lake Superior and is credited as being the discoverer of three and possibly all five of the Great Lakes.

The pressures on a young man; alone among the Indians he did not know, and in a land that had never been visited by Europeans, must have been great, but Brûlé was equal to the task Champlain had assigned to him.

His reports on the Huronia area encouraged Champlain to come and visit the area in 1615.

A glimpse of Brûlé's character is captured in the title of a book on his life by Herb Cranston — "Etienne Brûlé: Immortal Scoundrel".

In addition to living a free and easy life among the Indians Brûlé turned traitor on the French by guiding an English fleet to capture Quebec in 1628.

Brûlé died a brutal death in 1633 at the hands of his former friends the Hurons, officially because he betrayed Champlain, but a contributing factor was the anger he had aroused among the Hurons because of the free wheeling life he led with the Indian women. The Indians ate his flesh, possibly because they thought he was brave.

This picture comes from the Visible Past, a pictorial history of Simcoe County. The journalist who compiled the book was Adelaide Leitch, formerly of Midland.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen



## *Samuel de Champlain*

### *— the Father of Huronia*

#### *The Champlain monument in Orillia*

On August 1, 1615, Samuel de Champlain, later to be first Governor of Canada, landed at Toanche (probably the North West Basin) in Penetanguishene Harbour. He found the surrounding country "very fine, mostly cleared, with many hills and several streams which make it an agreeable district". With him were two Frenchmen, one of them the interpreter Etienne Brule.

Father Joseph Le Caron, Recollet priest, accompanied by twelve French, had arrived a few days previously. Champlain joined them at Carhagouha (near the western shores of Penetanguishene Harbour), a village strongly fortified by a triple palisade, 35 feet high.

On August 12, Father Le Caron celebrated Mass at Carhagouha and "a cross was set up near a little cabin apart from the village," which the Indians had built for him.

Champlain's chief interests were exploration and the development of the fur trade with these distant tribes, but specifically he had come to fulfill an earlier promise that he would assist the Hurons in warfare against their enemy the Iroquois.

He accordingly departed from Carhagouha on August 14 for Cahiague (near Orillia) a palisaded village of 200 "fairly large lodges" where the Huron warriors, and a band of Algonquin warriors under their chief Iroquet, were to gather

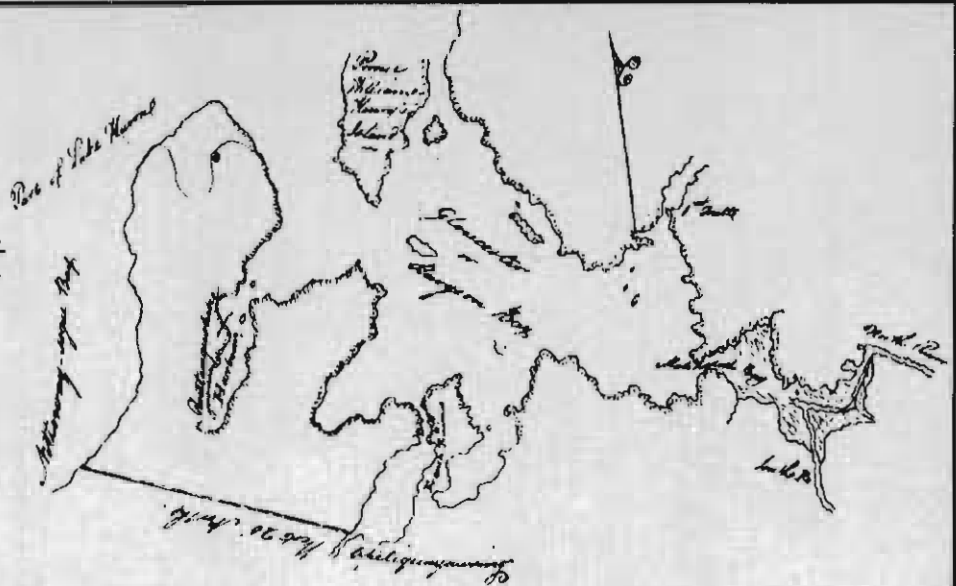
for the attack on an Iroquois tribe in the present state of New York. The army set out from Cahiague on September 1, and returned, unsuccessful, on December 20.

A month later Champlain re-joined Father Le Caron and the other French at Carhagouha. He spent four months in the Huron country, and a short period in the country of the Petuns, to the west. He had planned more distant explorations with the Nipissing tribe of Algonquins but this was prevented by an urgent request to mediate in a dispute that had arisen over the treatment of a prisoner, between the people of Cahiague and Iroquet's Algonquins who were wintering near them.

In May the Hurons assembled for their annual voyage to trade on the St. Lawrence, and Champlain and Father Le Caron accompanied them. They left these shores on May 20, 1616, and arrived at the St. Louis Rapids (La Chine) at the end of June, 1616.

The Penetanguishene Peninsula where Carhagouha, Toanche and their neighbouring villages were situated, where French traders, scouts and missionaries lived until the destruction of the Huron nation in 1649, is therefore the first locality west of Quebec to be inhabited by Europeans in the years when Quebec itself was but a tiny trading post on the St. Lawrence River.

# The Great Land Sale



*Sketch map of the lands purchased from the Indians in 1795*

We the undersigned, Chiefs of the Chippaway Nation, do, in behalf of ourselves and of our Nation, Relinquish and cede to the King of Great Britain, the lands described in the plan subjoined, bounded by, a line to be drawn from the head of Apetiquasing to Nottoway-rague Bay, including the Harbour of Penetanguishene, running West Twenty degrees Northe or thereabouts, and Coloured Red.

Provided that goods to the amount of one hundred pounds Quebec Currency shall be given to us at the time of the officers of the King of Great Britain, or any of his subjects taking ... (illegible) ... thereof, or Bona fide as nearly as may be ... (illegible) ... When we promise for ourselves and our Nation to ratify the aforesaid by a pen and Regular Deed of

Conveyance. Done at York in the province of Upper Canada this Nineteenth day of May, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-five.

Whitness

I. Givins

G.Q.R.

George

---

(Sig)

Witness on the Part of the Province of Upper Canada  
Alex Aitkin  
Wm. Johnson



his mark

his mark

his mark

his mark



*1921 re-enactment of Samuel de Champlain's landing at Penetanguishene*



photo by Tom Grand

Parlez-vous français?

## *Le Centre d'Activités Françaises*

Depuis plusieurs années, les résidents francophones de Penetanguishene et du canton de Tiny se réjouissent d'une renaissance culturelle. Captifs d'une dualité d'héritage, ce groupe reprend sa fierté et agit de façon à redévelopper son identité française dans la région.

Lundi le 7 janvier, 1974, le Centre d'Activités Françaises ouvrit ses portes à la populace. Dévoué à la promotion et la préservation de la culture française, le centre est le fruit d'un espoir déterminé de survivre.

Conçu d'après l'exemple de la Chasse-galerie de Toronto, le Centre d'Activités Françaises se concentre dans les domaines de l'art, la littérature, le théâtre et les activités traditionnelles canadiennes françaises.

Un an et demi s'est écoulé depuis l'ouverture du centre. Déjà leurs objectifs se réalisent: la présentation de plusieurs films en Français ainsi que quelques spectacles des grandes vedettes Québécoises tel que Renée Claude et Georges Dor. Aussi, certains projets se concrétisent: un grand nombre d'adultes assistent aux cours de littérature et de théâtre, tandis que plusieurs anglophones profitent du cours d'immersion offert par le Collège Glendon. Les enfants de même saisissent l'occasion de fréquenter des garderies françaises.

Comme place d'accueil, le Centre a toujours un café à offrir. Il est devenu le lieu de rencontre pour des parties de

cartes, pour les leçons de danses folkloriques, ainsi que pour tous ceux qui aiment simplement venir causer avec d'autres.

L'accueil est synonyme de chaleur et de bonheur. Quelle meilleure façon de définir le "bistro" du Centre lors du Winterama '75. A cette occasion, un agréable sens de camaraderie régnait. L'ambiance créée par l'arôme de tourtières et de soupe aux pois porta inévitablement au chant et à la danse.

Si le Centre d'Activités Françaises existe aujourd'hui c'est bien grâce à la détermination d'un groupe d'individus. Tout en particulier, la tenacité de M. Roland Desroches est à base de toutes réussites. Depuis le début, il se dévoue entièrement à l'épanouissement des ressources ainsi qu'à la réalisation de ce qui semblait aux yeux de plusieurs: "impossible!"

Rappelons-nous: Le "Centre" est un organisme canadien-français à but non-lucratif qui essaie le plus possible de s'auto-financer. Le "Centre" n'est pas une association, il ne prétend pas représenter qui que ce soit. Le "Centre" est un groupe de participation, un service, un centre de ressources. Le "Centre" est canadien-français mais oeuvre dans tous les milieux (en français) et n'a pas d'affiliation politique. Le "Centre" vit par ses équipes et chacun y est bienvenu. Le "Centre", organisme d'animation, est le levain dans la pâte.



photo by Harvey Markle

## *Naval and Military Establishments*

by Barb McConnell,  
Information Officer,  
Huronian Historical Parks.

Whitewashed, log buildings scattered about the hillside overlooking Penetanguishene Bay comprised the Naval and Military Establishments in 1830. Paths winding through the high, weedy grass connected the buildings and eventually led to the dusty track which ran the half-mile length of the outpost.

A few children, browned by the sun, may have fashioned mudpies on the road, scampering away when the guard marched past on its way to replace the sentry at the naval storehouse. It was a bustling community of nearly 100 people.

The Establishments began in 1817, after the War of 1812-14. The base, the British Admiralty had decided, would keep two schooners in ordinary, without masts or rigging, but ready should there be renewed aggressions from the south. The war was not long over and the British were still wary of the Americans.

### *Progress was steady*

Progress, if not speedy, was steady and by the early 1820's, the Royal Navy had completed barracks, offices, a blacksmith shop, homes, a hospital and a number of out-buildings. A working dockyard, slip, sawpit and huge storehouse edged the shoreline.

The three-storied, red storehouse was the most important structure on the base. Piled high to the 20-foot ceilings were

stacks of clothing bales, miles of rope rigging, hundreds of barrels of salt pork, vinegar, rum, lime juice and other food stores, ships' armament, oars and yards upon yards of sails; everything that was needed to keep the base in operation.

During that time, Lieutenant Henry Wolsey Bayfield, who was later to be promoted through the ranks to a full admiral, was stationed at Penetanguishene while he surveyed the Upper Lakes. He named many of the 30,000 islands, inlets and bays.

### *The founding of Penetanguishene*

By 1828, the Treaty of Ghent had awarded Drummond Island, near Sault Ste Marie, to the Americans. The British military detachment stationed there was posted to Penetanguishene. Deciding to remain under British rule, French fur traders and voyageurs also moved to the area and founded the town of Penetanguishene.

As the years of peace passed, Britain, straining under the financial drain of supporting colonial naval bases, began to decrease its naval strength in Canada. By 1834 the navy turned the Penetanguishene base over to the military. The two ships kept there in ordinary had rotted, been cut loose and allowed to sink in the harbour.

Left the entire site, the military took over the naval buildings, tearing down several. From the storehouse, they continued to distribute small gifts to the natives. Plans were filed by the Royal Engineers for a great fortification to be constructed on the hill above their present location (where the Ontario Mental Health Centre now stands); however, it is

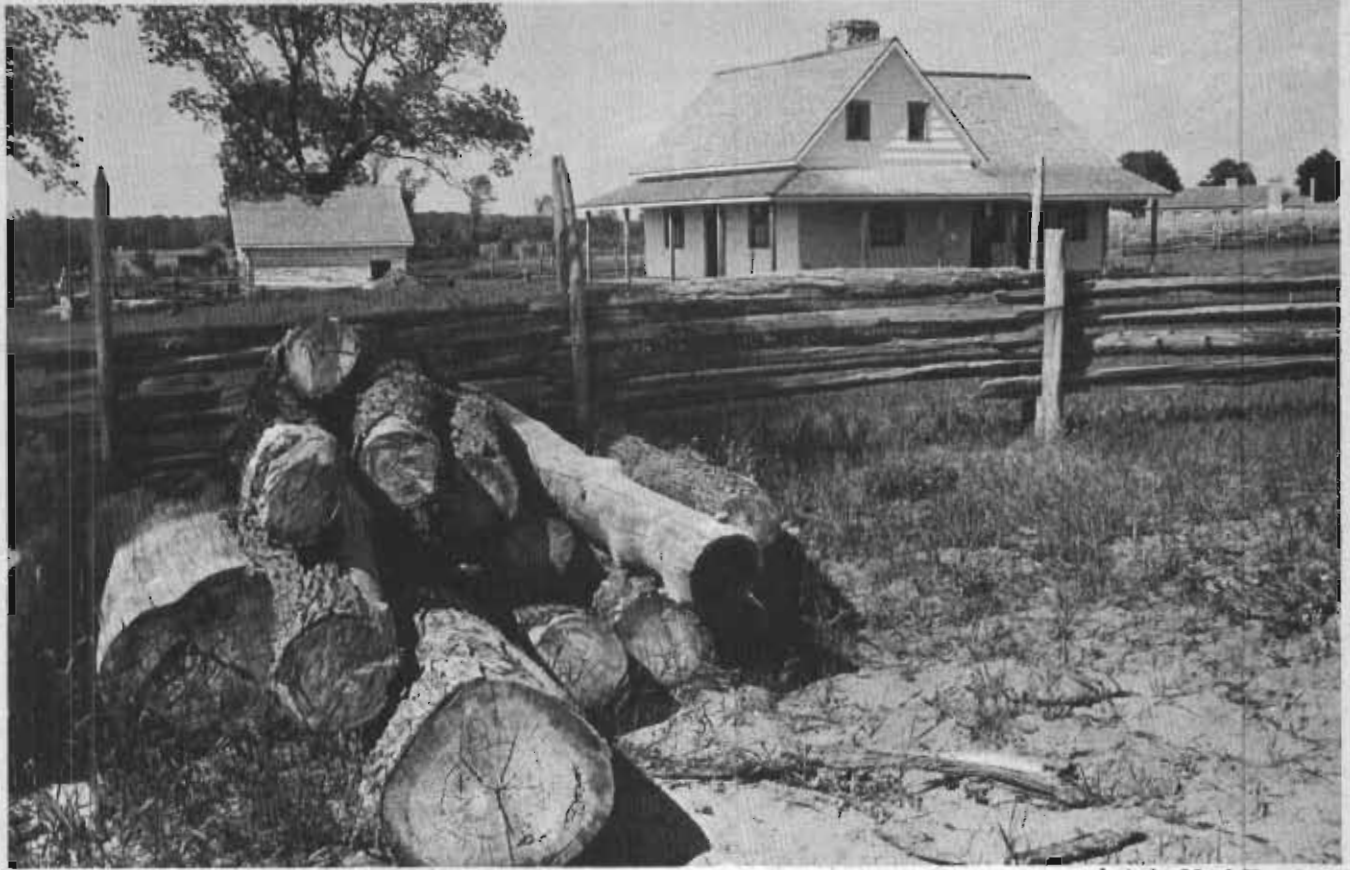


photo by Mark Harrison

## — *birthplace of Penetanguishene*

doubtful the complex was ever seriously considered. The only buildings the military did construct were an Officers' Quarters and a barracks, the stone coming from Quarry Island.

Several homes were constructed in the Military Establishment including the Keating house. James Keating was the fort adjutant and responsible for assisting the commanding officer of the military detachment with such things as correspondence, communicating orders, assigning duties and discipline.

Keating, who lived in the garrison with his wife and five children was one of the men who encouraged the construction of St. James-on-the-Lines Anglican Church which is situated on Church Street.

In the 28 year period of military occupancy, detachments from 13 British regiments were posted to Penetanguishene including the 24th Regiment of Foot which is the unit represented by costumed soldiers at the Establishments today, and the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment which was a British unit specifically raised to man the frontier posts of British North America. Permanently posted in Canada, it was comprised of soldiers with no less than seven years service in the British army. Some soldiers were allowed to bring their wives and families to Canada.

### *End of an era*

By the mid 1840's, the British government began to decrease the number of regiments in its colonies, again

because of the financial drain. British soldiers on pension were sent to the colonies to man the garrisons. While on duty, the men were given regular army pay and when off duty they were private citizens on a pension. They were allotted land and settled near urban areas, enabling them to support themselves at other jobs such as agriculture but could easily be assembled for civil or military emergencies. In 1852 the first group of men were posted to Penetanguishene.

Even this method of maintaining colonial garrisons proved too expensive for England and by 1856 the Establishments were closed and the land turned over to the Government of the united Canadas.

### *The boys' reformatory*

From 1859 until about 1904, the Establishments was used as a boys' reformatory during which time most of the buildings were torn down. The Keating house was used as a private home until it burned down in 1913. The stone Officers' Quarters was renovated and used as a private home until 1953, when it became the Fort Penetanguishene Museum, operated by the town.

In March, 1964 the Ontario government announced plans for the restoration and reconstruction of the "British Naval and Military Establishments". Archaeological excavations of the site took place from 1952 to 1963 and again in 1967 and 1968 under the direction of Dr. Wilfrid Jury, then reconstruction began. In 1971, the site was turned over to the Ontario government which assigned it to the Huronia Historical Parks for administration.



# Religion — a part of our heritage



Religion has always played an important part in the history of Penetanguishene.

When Samuel de Champlain made a visit to the Huronia area in 1615 a Recollet priest, Father Joseph LeCaron came with him. Father LeCaron said the first mass on August 12 of that year under the open skies at Carhagouha (near the western shores of Penetanguishene Harbour).

Shortly afterwards, another Roman Catholic order of priests, the Jesuits, took over the missionary work in the Huronia region and set up their central headquarters at Ste. Marie. From there, the Jesuit missionaries radiated outward, living in the villages of the surrounding Huron tribes, and winning converts to Christianity.

In 1649 their missionary work was abruptly halted with the successful invasion of the Iroquois tribe. The Hurons were defeated and Ste. Marie destroyed. Eight of the Jesuit missionaries who were put to death by the Iroquois eventually became the first North American Saints when they were canonized by Pope Pius XI nearly 300 years later.

For roughly 150 years following the destruction of Ste. Marie, history books are silent on life in the Huronia area. Then in 1798 Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe arrived on the scene to purchase the Penetanguishene Peninsula from the Ojibway Indians for \$100.

Shortly afterwards, the Naval and Military Establishment, which was the nucleus and the reason for Penetanguishene's growth as a settlement, was built.

In 1837 the St. James-on-the-Lines Church was built for the military troops stationed at the Establishment. Five years earlier St. Ann's Church, a modest frame building, was constructed. It was built in honour of the visit Bishop MacDonnell, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Ontario, to Penetanguishene in 1832.

A 1907 historical sketch of Penetanguishene by A.C. Osburne credits Captain Moberly, a naval officer, as the driving force behind the construction of the St. James-on-the-Lines Church. Bishop Strachan consecrated the church in 1840. Reverend George Hallen, Chaplain to the Military, was the first rector.

This series of photographs, which appear to have been taken at the time of the publication of Osburne's historical sketch, shows four of Penetanguishene's Churches. The Memorial Church, now called St. Ann's, is at the top left hand corner. Just below it in the centre is the Church of England. The center picture in the bottom row is that of the Presbyterian Church. The Methodist Church is centered towards the right side of the picture.

The other pictures are of the Protestant Separate School, at

the lower right hand corner, the Catholic Public School immediately to the right of the picture of the Memorial Church and the combined Fire Hall and Municipal building at the lower left hand corner of the page.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen.

## The Presbyterian Church

by John De Schiffart

The Presbyterian Church of Penetanguishene traces its origins back to the Military and Naval Establishment. Many soldiers stationed at the Establishment were Presbyterians.

In the summer of 1832 a catechist was appointed by the Presbytery of York, who visited the Establishment and conducted worship services here. Presbyterian missionaries continued their visit to these parts and by 1863 the number of families had increased to more than twenty. The Military Establishment had been disbanded. In its place the Reformatory for Boys of Upper Canada occupied the buildings and grounds. A change had taken place in the missionary field as well. The headquarters were established in the Village of Hillsdale because it was the central point of the field.

Attendance at Penetanguishene and other settlements continued to grow and the missionary field was handed over to the Presbytery of Simcoe, now known as Barrie Presbytery. It was this Presbytery that established the new charge of Wyebridge and Penetanguishene in 1885 at which time Midland also became a separate charge. The Rev. Currie became the first resident minister in Penetanguishene.

Newcomers helped to swell the number of Presbyterians in the community and work was started to erect a new building. The endeavors of the newly established Ladies Aid Society in this respect should be mentioned. On September 22, 1887, the foundation stone was laid and on January 8, 1888 the present building was opened.

Since then many things have changed. The building itself has undergone many changes. The basement was completely overhauled to accommodate the flourishing Sunday school classes. The congregation continues to be enriched by people of many races, traditions and occupations.



Photo Box

La construction de la première église catholique à Penetanguishene débuta en 1833. Elle fut érigée sous la direction d'un missionnaire laïc nommé Revol qui émigra de Drummond Island.

L'église mesura 21 pieds par 32 pieds et fut bâtie sur le terrain de M. Pierre Giroux qui en fit un don à la paroisse. Une grosse croix se dressa sur le toit de l'édifice. Devant la porte une grosse cloche datée de 1799 orna l'entrée. Celle-ci appartenait autrefois à un des bateaux de guerre "Tigress" ou "Scorpion," des vaisseaux employés pendant la guerre de 1812.

Père Laurence Dempsey fut le premier prêtre en résidence à Penetanguishene. Malheureusement, trois mois après son arrivée en 1833, il tomba malade et mourut. Il fut remplacé en 1835 par le père J. Baptiste Proulx.

Père Amable Charest succéda au Père Proulx en 1837. Sa paroisse comprenait non seulement Penetanguishene, mais aussi Collingwood, Barrie, Orillia, Flos, Medonte, Coldwater et la nouvelle colonie française de Lafontaine. Ce missionnaire a dû voyager continuellement afin de desservir tous ces gens.

En 1861, le Père V.P. Kennedy entreprit la construction d'une nouvelle église qui remplaça le vieil édifice fait de billes. Elle reposa au même endroit que la première chapelle mais fut construite de planches avec des fenêtres verre teinté. Un petit poêle chauffa l'édifice pendant l'hiver et la même cloche appella les paroissiens aux services.

En juin 1873, le Père Kennedy et quelques garçons entreprirent une excursion en bateau. Lorsqu'un des jeunes tomba à l'eau, le Père Kennedy se noya en essayant de le sauver.

En 1875, le gros presbytère en briques où demeurent les prêtres présentement, fut érigé sous la direction du Père Théophilus Laboureau. Quelques années plus tard, lorsque le cimetière devint trop petit, le curé demanda et reçut permission d'établir un nouveau cimetière en juin, 1881. Après la bénédiction de lieu par l'Archevêque J.J. Lynch, les corps ensevelis furent transportés au nouveau terrain.

En 1884, la construction d'une église pour honorer le Père

# L'histoire de la Paroisse de Ste. Anne

Jean de Brebeuf et les saints Martyrs Canadiens fut proposé par le Père Laboureau et ayant reçu la permission de l'archevêque, il commença à prélever des fonds. Il entreprit des recherches sur les missionnaires martyrisés et présenta plusieurs conférences dans les différents coins du pays. En 1885, il se rendit même en France pour solliciter l'aide financière et pour choisir un style d'architecture. Plusieurs dons furent reçus de personnages distingués en France et au Canada, tels que Sir Charles Tupper, John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfred Laurier, et Edward Blake.

Un site idéal fut choisi: l'église en style romanesque faisait la jolie baie, ainsi que la ville.

En Septembre 1886, l'Archevêque Lynch ainsi que le lieutenant-gouverneur J. Beverley Robinson assistèrent aux cérémonies où la première pierre fut posée.

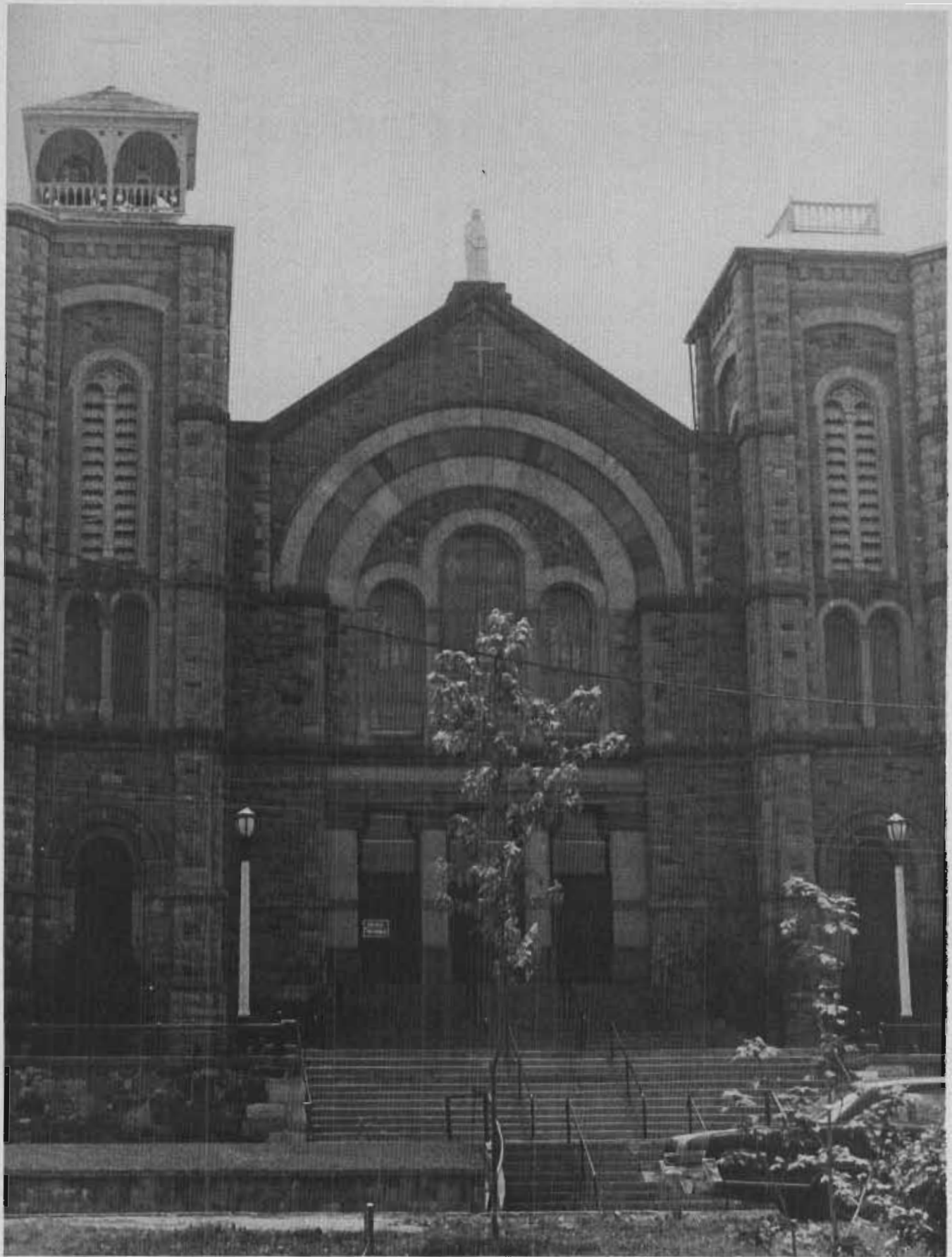
A cause d'un manque de finance, l'église ne fut complétée qu'en 1902. Le Révérend Père B. O'Connor de Toronto bénit l'église à son ouverture officielle.

L'église fut bâtie en pierre avec une capacité de 900 à 1000 personnes. Quoiqu'elle contenait son autel principal et ses vitrines commémoratives lors de son ouverture, elle n'eut ses bancs qu'en 1904 et sa chaire qu'en 1908.

Dès mars 1909, trois cloches nouvelles ornèrent le clocher: une dédiée au Père Laboureau, une autre au Père Brébeuf et une troisième en honneur du Père Lalement. Elles furent accompagnées de la cloche de la première église.

Le Père Athol Murray mérite une mention honorable à cause de sa grande contribution lors des célébrations de la semaine tricentenaire de 1921.

En Septembre, 1938 le Père Jean-Marie Castex devint curé de la paroisse Ste-Anne de Penetanguishene. Renommé "le bâtisseur," il entreprit de grandes réparations au presbytère et à l'église. Il établit le camp Marygrove ainsi que la mission St. David de Highland Point. Ses projets comprirent des campagnes pour prélever des fonds pour bâtir l'hôpital général et la salle des Chevaliers de Colomb. Après 50 ans de prêtrise, il reçut le titre de "Monseigneur." Il célébra son 70ième anniversaire de prêtrise avant de mourir. Son successeur fut le Père L. Dignard, présentement le curé de cette paroisse.



*St. Ann's Church*

# *The story of Penetanguishene's Roman Catholic churches*

by Marie Beausoleil

The construction of Penetanguishene's first Roman Catholic Church began in 1833. The building was under the direction of a man named Revol. (He had come to Penetanguishene from Drummond Island. He was a merchant who acted as a lay missionary).

The land was donated by Pierre Giroux. The dimensions of the church were 21 by 32 feet. On its roof stood a wooden cross. Jutting away from the door, stood an L-shaped rack (formed by two logs) from which hung a bell. This bell came from one of the warships, the Tigress or the Scorpion (the ships had taken part in the war of 1812 and had been docked at the naval establishments. The bell had its date of birth 1799 inscribed on its die).

## *The first resident priest*

Father Lawrence Dempsey was Penetanguishene's first resident priest. He arrived in 1833, but only 3 months after his arrival he was seized with sickness and died.

The next resident priest arrived in 1835, in the person of Father J. Baptiste Proulx.

Father Amable Charest succeeded Father Proulx in 1837. Father Charest was put in charge of an immense district, the Penetanguishene mission, which included Collingwood, Barrie, Orillia, Flos, Medonte, Coldwater, and the new settlement of St. Croix (or Lafontaine. This area had been settled by French immigrants). Father Charest travelled much of the time. Many other priests stayed in Penetanguishene while visiting other missions.

## *The little wooden church*

In 1861, Father V.P. Kennedy was responsible for the building of a new church. It replaced the old log church and was built on the same property. This church had coloured glass windows and a bell (the bell in it was taken from the old log church). The church was built from lumber. It had a large box stove for winter heating.

In June of 1873 Father Kennedy and some boys from the Reformatory went on an excursion by boat. A youth fell overboard and while trying to save him, Father Kennedy drowned.

In 1875, the present brick presbytery was erected under the directions of Father Theophilus Laboureau. In 1879, the Reformatory was detached from the parish. By 1881, the old cemetery had become too small. Father Laboureau applied for permission to establish a new cemetery and it was granted to him on June 28, 1881. The new cemetery was blessed by Archbishop J.J. Lynch.

Not long afterwards, bodies were removed from the old cemetery to be buried in the new one.

## *A memorial to the martyrs*

In 1884, Father Laboureau proposed the erection of a memorial church as a fitting monument to Canadian Martyr Father Jean de Brebeuf and his companions.

After receiving permission from Archbishop Lynch, Father Laboureau began securing funds. He made extensive research on the missionaries and he gave lectures in different parts of the country. In 1885, Father Laboureau went to France to appeal for assistance and to select a style of architecture. He received substantial assistance from several distinguished people not only from France but throughout Canada. Some contributors were Sir Charles Tupper, John A. MacDonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Edward Blake.

The site for the present church was carefully chosen, so that the church would overlook the Bay as well as the town. The style of architecture adopted for the church was late Romanesque.

## *Laying the corner stone*

The corner stone was laid by Archbishop Lynch in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, J. Beverley Robinson, on September 6, 1886. Progress was slow because of a lack of funds. In December of 1890, the church was roofed and it served to hold mass but it remained unfinished until 1902. In 1902, the Memorial Church was officially opened and blessed by the reverend B. O'Conner of Toronto. The new church of St. Ann was dedicated to the memory of the Jesuit Martyrs.

The large church was built of stone. It had a seating capacity of 900 to 1000 people. The church had its main altar and most of its memorial windows at the time of its opening. However, it was without pews until 1904 and without a pulpit till 1908.

In 1909, three new bells were dedicated at St. Ann's: one to the honour of Father Laboureau, a second to Father Brebeuf and the third to honour Father Lalemant. These three along with the old bell, were placed in the summit of the tower in March.

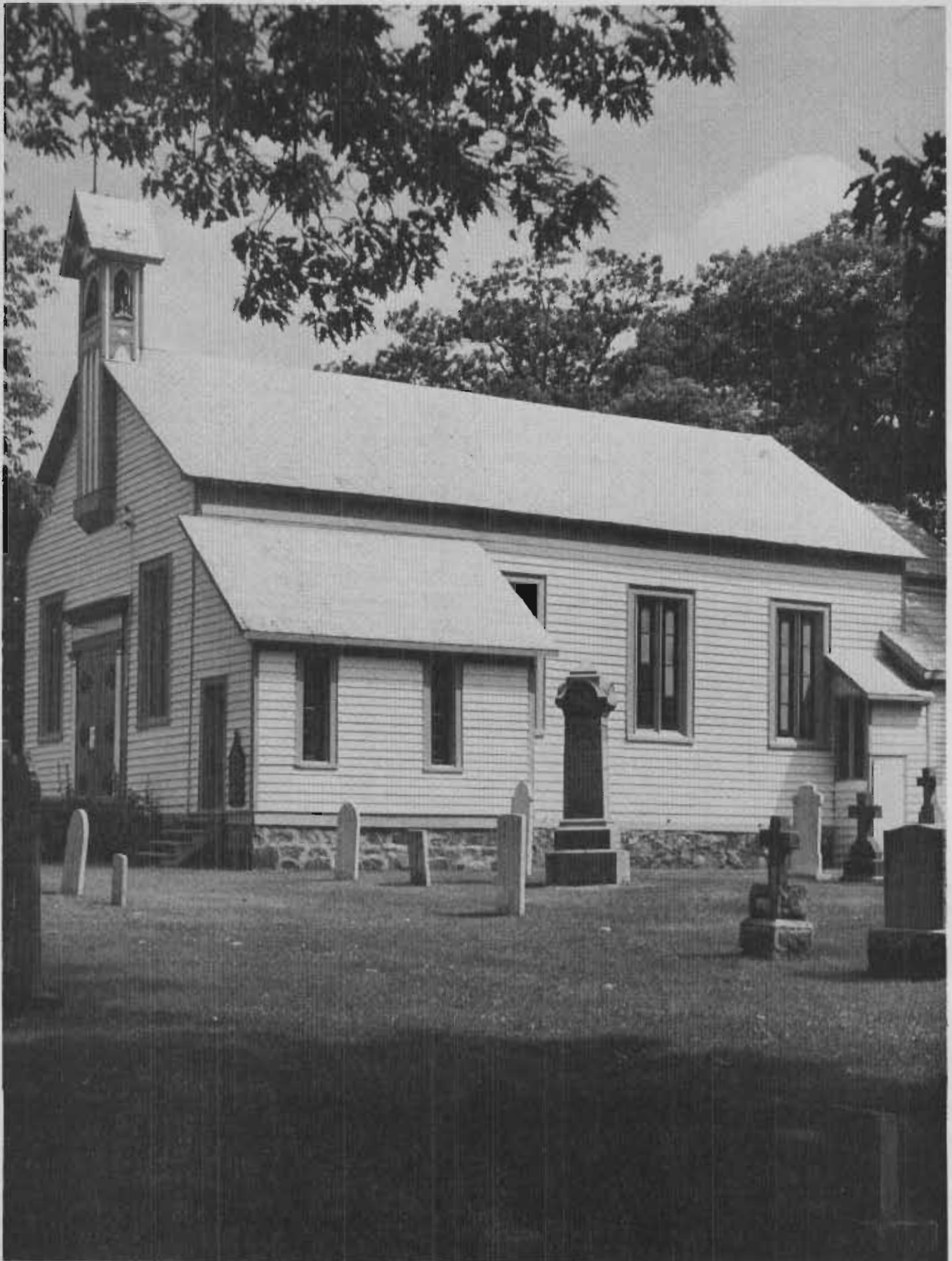
Father Athol Murray deserves special mention because of his importance in the planning and execution of Penetanguishene's Old Home Week in 1921.

## *The builder*

In September 1938 Father Jean Marie Castex came to Penetanguishene as Pastor. Father Castex is often referred to as the builder. Under his directions, the rectory was repaired and enlarged, the church was repaired and remodelled in certain places. Mary Grove Camp was established as well as St. David's Mission Church at Highland Point.

Father Castex helped raise funds for the Penetanguishene General Hospital as well as for the Knights of Columbus Hall. Father Castex was given the honorary title of Monsignor after 50 years in the priesthood. Monsignor Castex lived to celebrate his 70th anniversary in the priesthood. His successor was Father L. Dignard, the present pastor of St. Ann's Memorial Church.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen



*St. James-on-the-Lines Anglican Church*

## An historic church

# St. James-on-the-Lines

by Barb McConnell,  
Information Officer,  
Huron Historical Parks,  
Ministry of Culture and Recreation,  
Midland, Ontario.

Church cemeteries trace the paths of men through history and provide a resource for exploring and imagining the past. At St. James-on-the-Lines Anglican Church in Penetanguishene, the graveyard is one element comprising the total story of this historic church.

### ***Building a church***

St. James was first conceived more than 140 years ago by men who are now buried there; James Keating, fort adjutant at the Military Establishment; John Moberly, a retired naval captain; and the Rev. George Hallen, first priest at St. James. All three men were instrumental in the building of the church and providing it with its unusual characteristics, such as the wide aisle which allowed soldiers to march in four abreast.

According to historians, only a primitive trail joined the Naval and Military Establishments with the embryo town of Penetanguishene (population 500) in 1832. That same year, A.A. Thompson was given the contract to clear the road.

By late 1835, Captain R.H. Bonnycastle, a Royal Engineer, had surveyed four acres of land midway between the village and the Establishment and, on the command of His Excellency, Sir John Colborne, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, designated it for a church and cemetery. Rev. Hallen, who spent 36 years as the St. James pastor, moved with his wife and eight children from England to their new home overlooking the British garrison.

### ***Raising the money***

Money was raised locally and in England to build the church and by October, 1836, a frame and roof had been constructed. Money then ran out and the work trickled to a stop.

Lieutenant F.L. Ingall of the 15th Regiment wrote to a department of the British government requesting financial aid to complete the church, as it was "so highly necessary and advantageous to the officers and soldiers composing this remote garrison". Ingall was successful and St. James was eventually completed by 1842.

When time came to install pews, James Keating, fort adjutant, wrote to his superior in August, 1840, requesting that His Excellency, Sir George Arthur grant a small sum annually toward the rental of one or two pews for the Establishment's officers "... a practise normal at outposts", Keating said.

At the same time, Keating asked that Rev. Hallen be granted the same allowance given to officiating clergy on other posts, "since he serves three fourths of the Establishment" people, Keating pointed out.

Hallen was being paid an annual salary of 50 Pounds Sterling by the congregation and 100 Pounds by the Church of England, which, when related to present exchange rates, is about \$375.

The reply from the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada was favourable concerning both Hallen's salary and the pews.

It is thought that the men at the Establishment designed and carved the St. James pews, each working from his own imagination. If that is true, it probably accounts for the variety of styles.

### ***The origin of "on-the-lines"***

St. James-on-the-Lines was consecrated on Sunday, July 24, 1842 by Bishop John Strachan of Toronto. Although there are several theories as to why the church is named "on-the-Lines", confirming documentation has not been found. One theory is that the church is "on the lines of communication" between the Establishment and York (Toronto).

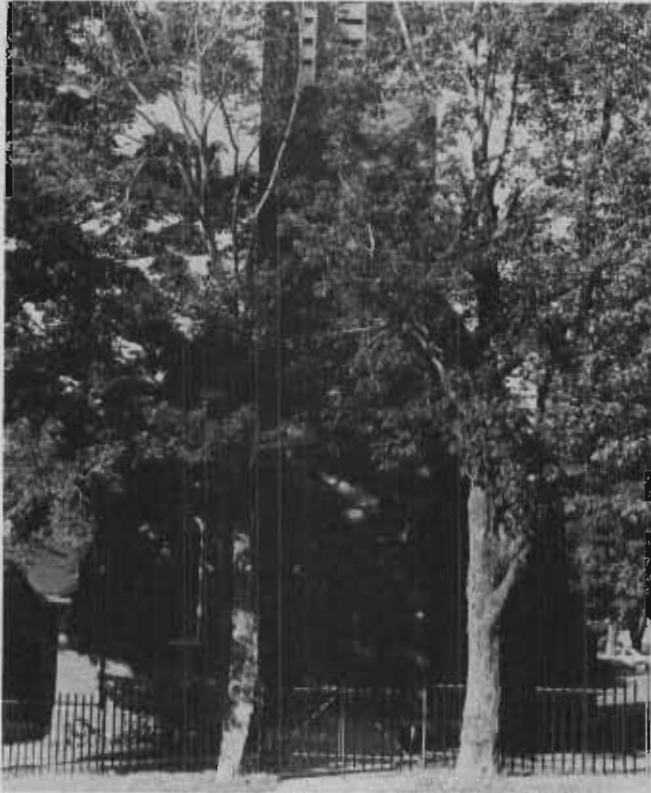
In 1852, when the St. James congregation was at about 70, a Toronto Diocese annual report noted the appreciation of the congregation was extended to Sir Hartford Bridges, Bart., for the contribution of several prayerbooks and the erection of a fence around the cemetery. In the 1855 annual report, the congregation acknowledged the generosity of a woman parishioner who raised money for the purchase of a bell. The congregation provided the funds for the construction of a bell turret.

### ***Glascott's memorial tablet***

A double memorial tablet was placed in the church commemorating Lieutenant William Glascott who froze to death in 1837, after being thrown from a cutter while returning to the Establishment from Penetanguishene. The opposite side of the tablet was left blank in preparation for Glascott's companion's name. He was expected to die from pneumonia but recovered and subsequently was posted away. The tablet remains on display in the church. It is not known if Lieutenant Glascott is buried in the church cemetery.

Visitors curious enough to explore among the cemetery stones will find many interesting epitaphs, such as the poem found on the headstone of a young child who died of some contagious disease (it was thought to be Black Diphtheria). Pallbearers could not be found because of the fear of contagion; however, finally some Roman Catholics volunteered. The epitaph reads: "Dear Brother, o'er your body here I weep; One week after with you I sleep; Four kind papists here me laid; The Rev. G.H. the service read". The Rev. G.H. was George Hallen.

Elsewhere in the cemetery are a number of unmarked graves where boys from the nearby reformatory, which was located in the Establishments' buildings after the British closed down the garrison, were buried after dying of a contagious disease.



**All Saints Church**

A warm Centennial greeting to the Town of Penetanguishene on marking its one hundred years, from the Rector, Wardens and congregation at All Saints Church, The Anglican Church of Canada.

It is unique that the Town of Penetanguishene and All Saints Church shared the untiring and skillful labours of one honoured gentleman, the late W.H. (Bill) Hewson. Bill Hewson, who was the clerk of Penetanguishene for many years, was also a staunch supporter and an extremely active member at All Saints. The refurbished rector's office at the church, donated by his wife, is a fitting memorial to the great efforts and unswerving loyalty that Bill Hewson gave to his church for so many years.

Like the town, All Saints Church will, before long, be celebrating its centenary - in 1977 to be exact.

### ***Anecdotes from the past***

Some anecdotes from the past will be of interest at this time:

The bell in the church steeple which calls worshippers to service every Sunday is inscribed as follows: "Presented to All Saints Church Penetanguishene, James Saurin McMurray in acknowledgement of many blessings received and mercies vouchsafed Dominion Day 1878 Laus Deo Made by Henry McSbane & Co. Baltimore, Md. 1878."

It is recorded "that funds for erection of these buildings original church and rectory) came partly from England, and some other sources, but the larger part of the cost was born by the devoted churchmen of the period."

### ***The early days***

In earlier days the church was papered in a buff shade and the ceiling a light blue sprinkled with silver stars. It was heated by a large box stove at the rear with the pipes running the full length of the church to a chimney at the front. The early seats were of rough pine and until not many years ago could be seen in the Parish Hall. The pulpit, lectern and prayer desk were also of pine. The whole church was re-

# ***The History of All Saints Church***

decorated some 50 years ago with new lighting, seats and other furnishings. Subsequent redecorations have also taken place.

The earliest organ, it is stated was a small reed-organ, manually operated and which served until about 1920. This old organ was surmounted by what looked like a set of pipes but these were only wooden dummies and were completely voiceless. The second organ was also a reed instrument but powered by an electric motor and with double manual and pedal notes. This was finally replaced by the present Hammond electric organ some years ago.

### ***The early rectors***

The first of fourteen rectors who have served All Saints Church and our sister congregation at St. James on the Lines was Rev. George Hallen who also had charge of many missionary churches in the northern part of Simcoe County. He was followed by Rev. G.A. Anderson, Rev. Samuel Mills and Rev. R.S. Radcliffe. All of these rectors were in Penetanguishene for short periods. Then came Rev. G.M. Kingston who was rector for 19 years from 1884 to 1903 and in whose memory the chancel window is dedicated.

Following Mr. Kingston was Rev. H.M. Little who remained until 1910 and the following year Rev. N.A.F. Bourne began a rectorship which lasted eleven years until 1922. Rev. C.E. Whittaker, D.D., came to Penetanguishene in 1923 after many years of missionary work in the Arctic. Dr. Whittaker remained until 1930 when Rev. R.T.C. Dwelly became rector and headed the parish until 1944.

Rev. R.L. McLaren and Rev. D.H.M. Crane held rectorships for nine and two years respectively and they were followed by Rev. B.G. Brightling who was rector from 1955 to 1959.

The second longest term of rectorship - second only to Mr. Kingston's 19 years - was that of Rev. J.M. Barclay who was rector for fourteen years from 1959 to 1973. He was followed by the present rector, Rev. Sidney J. Maddock.



*Workers pose for a picture outside the Firstbrook Box Company*

## *Remembering our Penetanguishene's lumbering heyday*

What old-timers recall as the heyday of Penetanguishene's prosperity, the turn of the century, saw at least four major lumber mills in operation in the town.

A history of these four firms, the Firstbrook Company, Gropp Bros., Beck's and McGibbon's, is told briefly in a Magazine of Industry, published in 1911 by the old Barrie Gazette.

The magazine lists the Firstbrook Box Company as one of the oldest firms in business in the Georgian Bay district. It was established in 1867, with its head office in Toronto, where the company had another mill making boxes. The Penetanguishene plant covered about 68 acres on the siding of the then Grand Trunk Railway.

Custom sawing was done exclusively in the mill which had a capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber per day. For box-making 700,000 feet of lumber was used every month and about 250 workmen were employed.

In 1911 the officers of the company were John Firstbrook, president, W.A. Firstbrook, vice-president and A.E. Craig, sec-treasurer. A.F. Young had charge of the Penetanguishene plant.

Established in 1900 by Charles A. Gropp, the Gropp Brother's Penetanguishene Lumber and Shingle Mills occupied a space of about 10 acres with nearby water and rail facilities. In 1903 Mr. Gropp's two sons, John H. and W.J. Gropp, took over the firm which had a capacity of more than 25,000 feet of lumber per day. They supplied rough and dressed lumber, laths and all types of building materials.

"They buy large tracts of standing timber and cut it for their own mill," says the article, "and also buy logs at the mill."

C. Beck Company was established in 1878 by C. Beck and, in 1889, was incorporated under provincial laws with a

capital of \$250,000. The company had two of the best-equipped sawmills in Canada, with a capacity of 175,000 a day, and a lath mill, from which a record cut of 128,000 pieces in ten hours was turned out in 1910.

Saw and planing mills, woodenware plant, warehouses, sheds and yards covered three-quarters of a mile of shorefront. About 250 men were employed by the company, which is still turning out boxes and building materials.

The company owned large tracts of pine timber and in the woods employed between 300 and 400 men. C. Beck, former mayor of Penetanguishene, was president, W.F. Beck another member of the council, was secretary, and A.E. Beck treasurer.

Exporting about 6,000,000 feet of lumber per year, a good deal of it to the northern parts of the U.S.A., was the McGibbon Lumber Company, established in 1855 by Finlay McGibbon. It was later turned over to his son Charles. Finlay McGibbon also owned a large lumber business in Sarnia, which was in turn made over to Finlay Jr. and John.

The Penetanguishene plant employed 60 men and the company usually obtained its lumber by buying large tracts of standing timber in Northern Ontario.

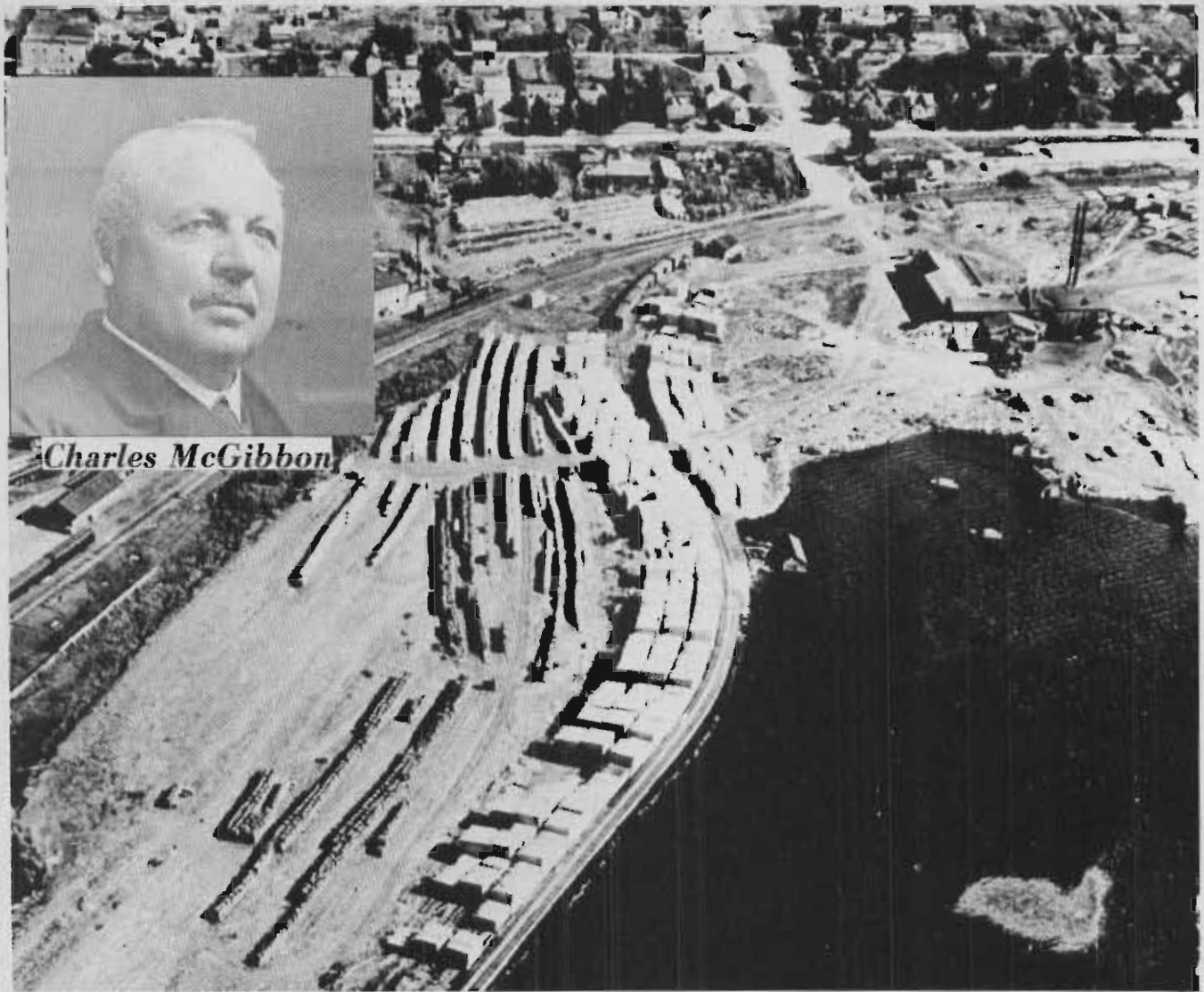
Charles McGibbon was Warden of Simcoe County in 1889 when he was only 22 years of age, and for three years was mayor of the town.

All these firms owned or bought large tracts of timber often in Northern Ontario. Most of it came down to Penetanguishene by water, hundreds of logs being towed behind ships at a speed often as low as one knot an hour from points on Northern Georgian Bay.

Cut and finished lumber usually went out of the town by the Grand Trunk Railway, or by water.

reprinted from the Midland Free Press





*Charles McGibbon*

*McGibbon's Lumbering Mill on Penetanguishene Bay*

## *The booming lumbering days*

Penetanguishene used to be a major lumbering town. One of the mills was built in 1864 by D.J. Mitchell, half-brother of early postmaster J.S. Darling.

The mill was taken over by D.D. Davidson, who, in turn sold it to F. McGibbon and Sons, of Sarnia. An early pamphlet on the story of "Penetanguishene and the Men Behind Its Industries" states, "The transaction marked the advent of another prominent citizen, Charles McGibbon, whose devotion to business and the general interests of the town are woven into the fabric of her life. Charles McGibbon acted as Indian Agent for the band on Christian Island, later became Provincial Inspector, "but his mind was never really diverted from lumbering."

Following the death of Charles McGibbon in 1918, the

operations of McGibbon Lumber Company came under the care of Archie and Norman McGibbon. The old mill was completely destroyed by fire but a new plant was built along Penetanguishene Bay, close to where the town's waterfront park now lies.

The lumbering industry declined in Penetanguishene but in their time, men like Charles McGibbon were the driving forces behind the town's early development.

Pictured above is Charles McGibbon and a photo of the McGibbon's Lumbering Mill.

The mill at the far right is the site of today's Community Centre. The street running along the left side of the photo is Main Street. Water Street is the one seen across the top of the picture.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen



*The P. Payette Company Foundry*



*J.T. Payette*

## *The Payette Empire*

The Payette family, like the Becks who were the lumber barons of Penetanguishene, made up one of the dominant influences in the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Above is the old P. Payette Company Foundry, which was located where Grew Boats Ltd.'s warehouse now stands near the waterfront. Founded by Peter Payette in 1880, the foundry eventually was taken over by his nephew, J.T. Payette, pictured at left, whose slogan "Business and more business," marked the man who quadrupled the business within eight years of taking control, and whose interests spread to land speculation and horse racing.

### *Payette spelled wealth and power*

The Payette name was synonymous with wealth, success and power early in the 20th Century in Penetanguishene.

Starting with a foundry he eventually took over from his uncle Peter's estate, J.T. Payette built an empire of land, racehorses and industry — and constructed the "best half-mile (harness racing) track in Ontario," according to Frederick Gilmour's *The Story of Ontario's Industrial Progress*.

A business that began with the production of saw mill machinery in 1880, J.T. grabbed the business opportunities offered by the First World War, branched into marine repair, took over the Adams Engine Works, and was soon producing custom cast iron pieces of record proportions.

The Dominion Ship Building Company of Toronto ordered a

70,000 pound double-ended, self-acting punch. The order was filled. For the war effort, the firm built a 2,600 pound brass casting for the propeller shaft of the Canadian ship *Logger*. The casting was made, shrunk and fitted at Penetanguishene.

To keep up with orders from saw mill clients, Payette often had men working 24 hours a day for months at a time — a rarity before the 1920's.

According to Marcel Bellehumeur of Penetanguishene, Payette saw early the opportunity for cottage development along the shore, and started the cottage subdivision at Crescentwood Beach.

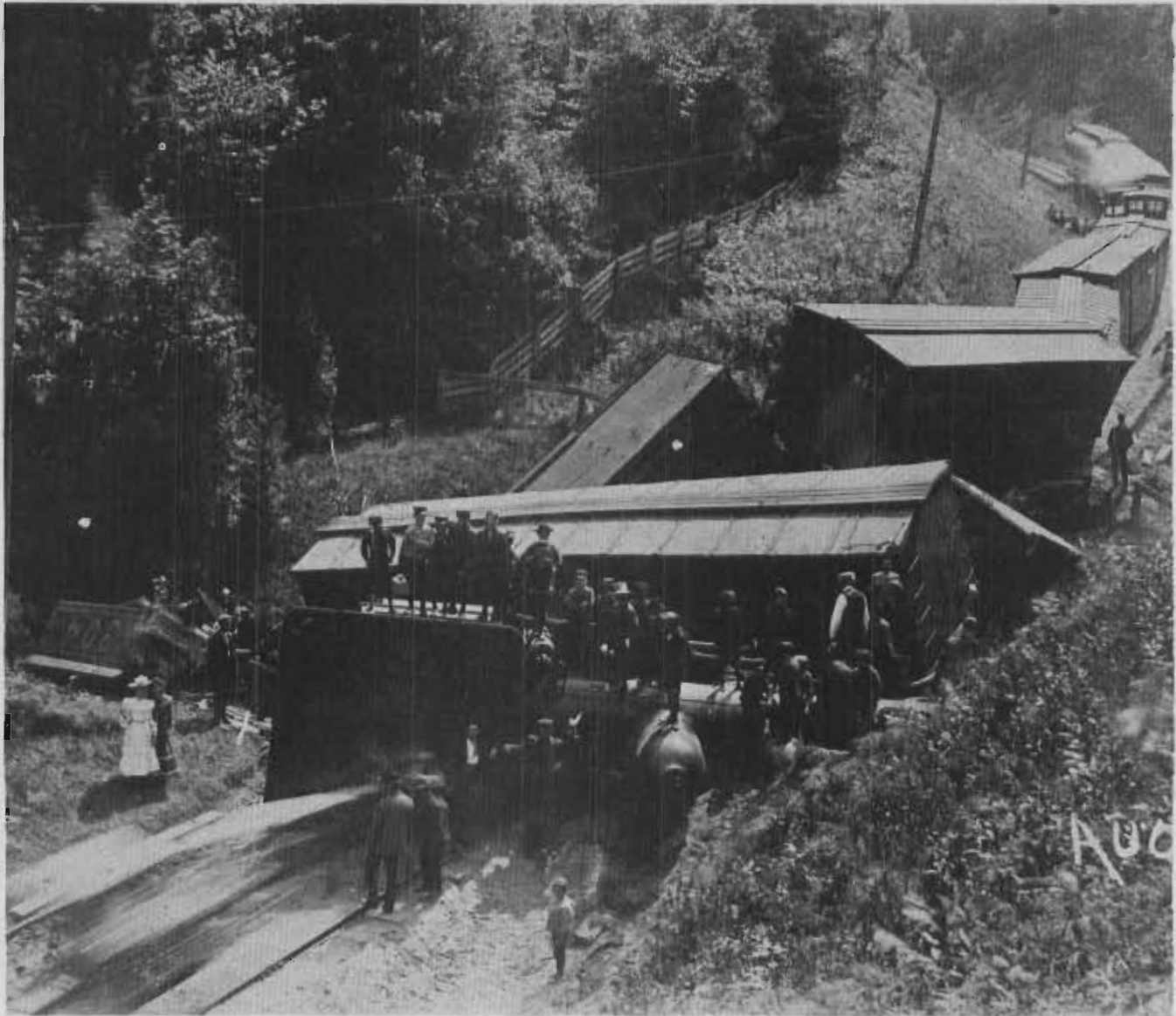
But one of his main passions was horse racing, and he built Penetanguishene's half-mile track, regarded as "the best in Canada" when it was new. Every July 1, for years, he staged his annual racing meet, which was one of the top social events of the year in this part of Ontario.

He owned a high class stable of horses, including the *Lucy L*, which raced on the Grand Circuit and once broke the two-minute mile — still a top standard at harness tracks across the continent.

There are no Payettes left in Penetanguishene, as J.T.'s only son died. The family lived at the old home that stands behind what is now the Huronia Motors car lot on Robert Street West.

In later years, J.T. saw a good part of his fortune eaten away by disastrous fires at property he owned.

reprinted from *The Penetanguishene Citizen*



*The Great Train Wreck on the Grand Trunk Railway in 1903 by the overhead bridge at the west end of town*

## *The railway days*

At the time of the great train wreck in Penetanguishene in August 1903, transportation by rail and sea were the major means of getting about in the Huronia area.

Even when cars first began appearing in Penetanguishene trains still held their own. The roads that did exist were poor, and outlying areas such as Honey Harbour were only accessible by boat.

Jumbo Dubeau, who along with Art Dumais saw the aftermath of the Grand Trunk Railway wreck when the two were eight-year-old kids, claims that no one was killed, but that box cars were scattered all over the place, when, for some unknown reason, the engine left the tracks.

Although the wreckage was extensive Dubeau thinks that it took only a few days to clear the tracks to allow other trains to journey through. The train wreck didn't cause much of a delay but a memorable snow storm in 1904 did. That winter the snowbound tracks were impassable for a 21 day period causing a severe food shortage in town.

In their day trains served as a major means of trans-

portation for industry and people. The railways and lumbering industry were closely tied together. The arrival of cheap rail transportation initiated the lumber boom which lasted into the first quarter of this century in North Simcoe county. Between 1854 and 1879 the bulk of the mills were built in Penetanguishene. The railway finally arrived in Penetanguishene in 1879.

Trains used to make three trips a day between Penetanguishene and Elmvale starting with the 6:30 a.m. run to Elmvale. The next train would return to Penetanguishene at 1 p.m. and then set out to arrive in Elmvale at around 3 p.m. The last run of the day occurred around 9 p.m.

Improved roads, the mass production of automobiles and decline of the local lumbering industry spelled the end of railway travel in the Huronia area. By the late 1950's railway transportation to Penetanguishene, effectively, ceased to exist.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen

# THE FAMOUS INSIDE ROUTE

TO

## PARRY SOUND

AND

## PARRY HARBOR

THE STEAMER



# GEORGIANA

Will leave Penetanguishene, 7 a.m., Midland, at 8.30, every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY for Parry Sound and Parry Harbor, and Parry Sound at 7 a.m., Parry Harbor at 7.30 a.m., every TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY for Penetanguishene and Midland, connecting with the N. & N. W. Railway at Penetanguishene for Toronto, which city can be reached the same evening. On departure of N. & N. W. Railway train from Penetanguishene she will run to Midland, arriving at 6 p.m., and will there await the arrival of the Mid. train, returning then to Penetanguishene. Parties leaving Toronto at 5 p.m. will reach Parry Sound or Parry Harbor the following afternoon.

The Steamer has been specially adapted to run the South, or Inside Channel between the above-mentioned Ports; and when the public are made aware that by this route they may enjoy a three-fold benefit over any other route viz. an all daylight trip, a short and safe passage, thoroughly secure from all danger of tempest, or the even worse lane of sea sickness; and lastly, the enjoyment of a route which will enable them to see the grandest and most fairy-like scenery in the world coupled with a sense of security that must gain the confidence of the most timid—the owners feel assured that they have only to induce the public to try this route once in order to secure their patronage.

Special arrangements have been made whereby Tourists to the numerous Islands that lay on this route can be conveyed to their destination, together with their camping outfits, and left on any island they may desire and can be brought in again on any of the steamer's regular trips.

Parties can procure cheap Return Tickets from Toronto to Penetanguishene or Midland.

Rates for Freight and Passengers lower than any other route. Special rates to families moving into the great Parry Sound Free Grant District, and for Lumbermen's Supplies.

For all particulars, apply to

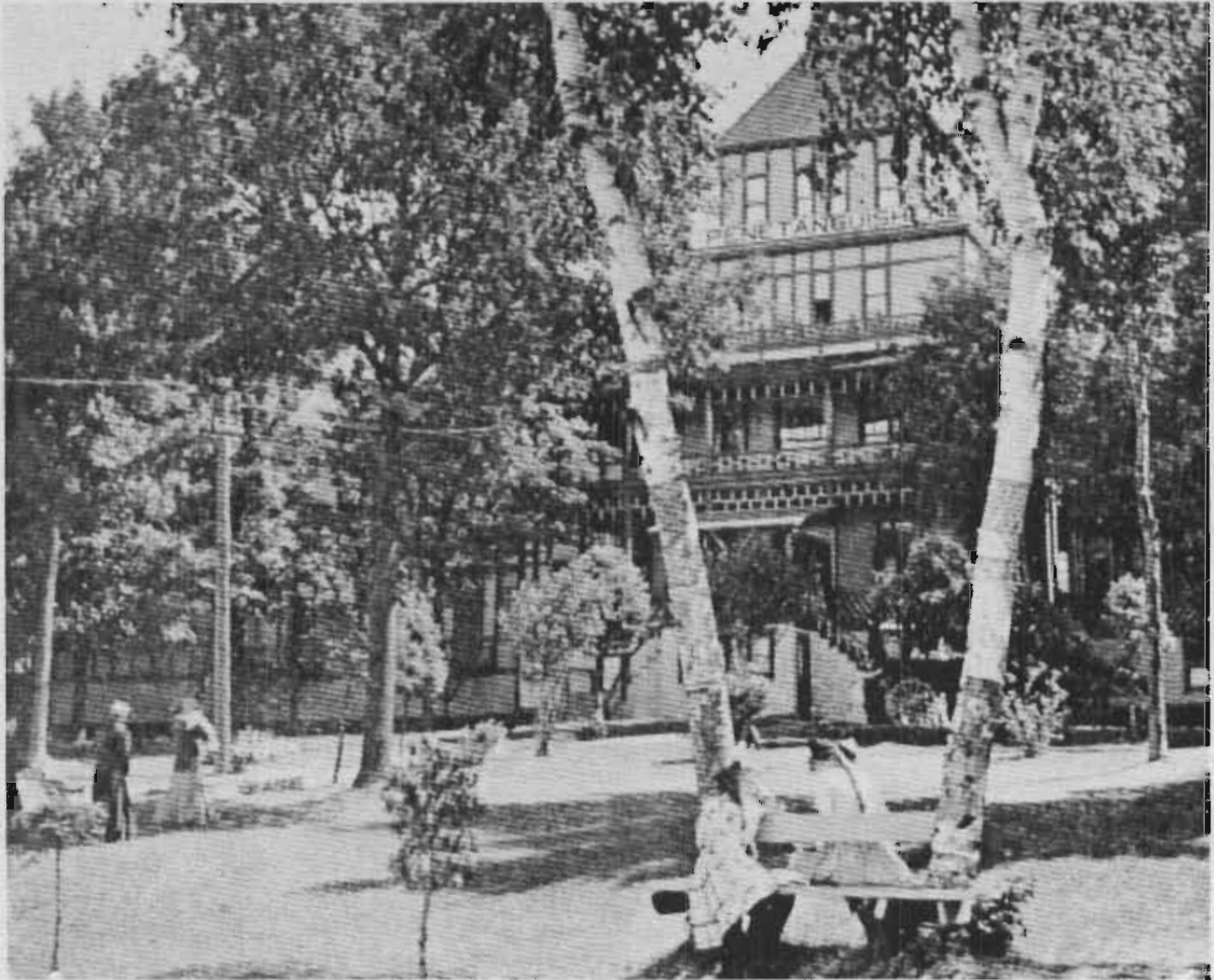
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Parry Sound.

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Midland.

or, C. BECK & CO., Penetanguishene.

GLOBE PRINTING COMPANY, TORONTO.



*The Penetanguishene Hotel*

## *An age of elegance*

In Penetanguishene's early period of industrial growth in the latter stages of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the town and the islands up the shore were a mecca for city dwellers from across North America.

Wealthy businessmen, artists, such as the Group of Seven painters, and in some cases members of European royal families came to fish, play and relax at one of the finest resort communities of the day.

The Grand Trunk Railway System served the town, and for a time it was the end of the line, as ongoing passengers transferred to cruise ships for further trips up through the Great Lakes.

But many stayed here for a holiday — from the Seagram family that built the distillery empire, to the Wright brothers, the U.S. aviation pioneers.

And for many, the drawing card was The Penetanguishene, billed as one of the very best resort hotels available.

Built in 1889, it offered everything for the pampered guest — from manicured bowling and tennis lawns, to an orchestra that played through the lunch hour.

Before burning in a catastrophic fire during World War I, the owners of the hotel, located at the northeast end of town where Penetanguishene Bay widens out, prided itself on the "annual patronage of the best class of people," and stated as their aim "to provide the best first class hotel at the lowest possible prices, consistent with creditable maintenance."

The words come from a pamphlet published early in the century by manager George Robinson, and his service and facilities, by all accounts, lived up to expectations.

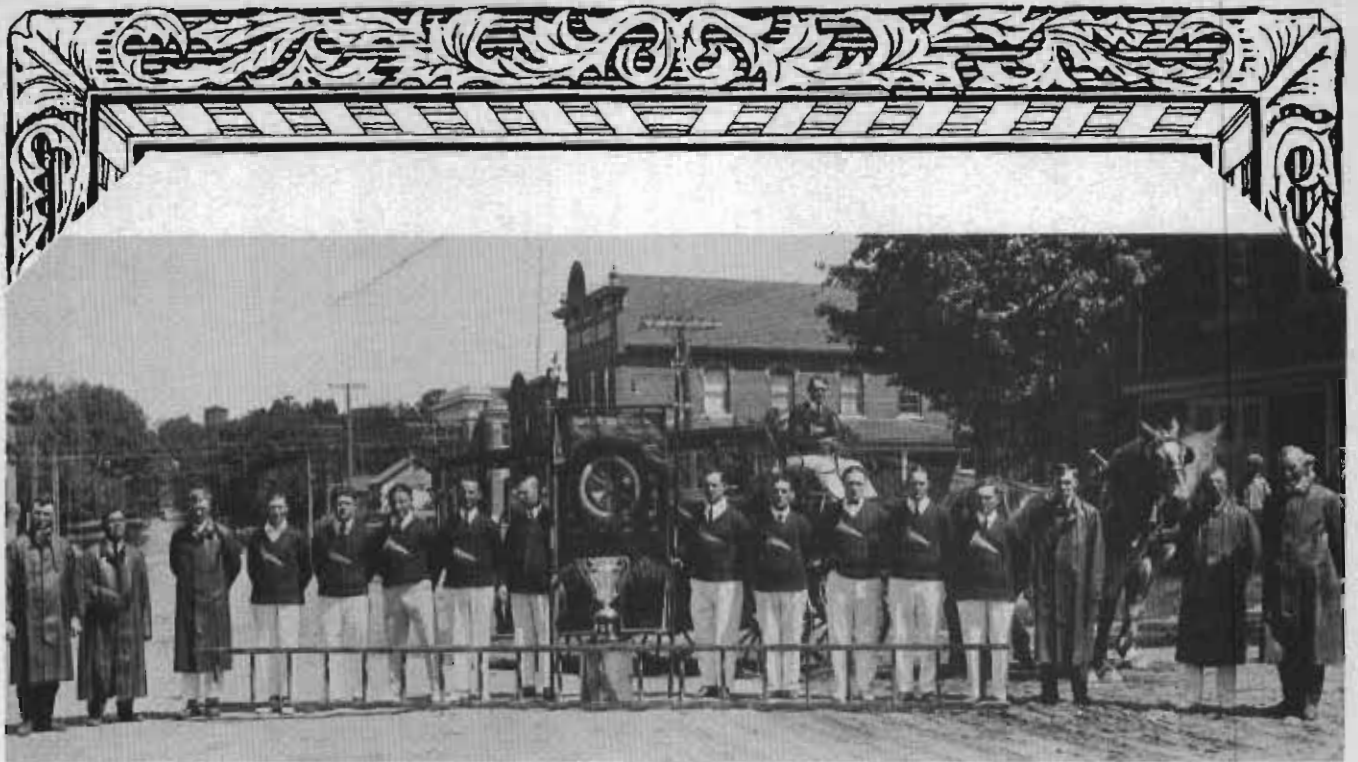
The hotel boasted full electricity, steam radiators and fireplaces. It was a main stop for the steamer Waubic on its daily runs to Parry Sound. And the fishing then was unbeatable, from right in front of the hotel.

The photo above, taken from the promotional brochure, was loaned to the newspaper by Miss Robinson in Midland.

It was a tragedy for the area when The Penetanguishene, like the Georgian Bay House, Palmer House and others later, was destroyed by fire.

Their passing marked the end of the first glory days for tourism on southern Georgian Bay.

reprinted from *The Penetanguishene Citizen*



## *Penetanguishene's early firefighters*

It was a proud group of Penetanguishene volunteer firefighters which lined up for this photo in front of the Penetanguishene firehall after winning in the hose race and ladder competitions in Barrie 50 years ago. The year was 1916 or 17 according to Jumbo (Arthur) Dubeau, the driver of the fire wagon.

This was an exceptionally fast volunteer fire fighters unit. In order to win the trophy and ladder in the front of the picture the Penetanguishene volunteer fire fighters had to beat out nine or ten other teams from towns such as Midland, Collingwood and Barrie.

There were two main events in these volunteer fire fighters competitions; the hose race and the ladder race. In each the stress was on speed and accuracy.

In the hose race firefighters had to string out five lengths of hose and knock down a target. Then the hoses had to be brought back and split to create a Y so that one length of hose with two ends could be unwound to knock down two targets. After that the hose would be run down the road, formed into one section again and then strung out for five lengths to knock down a single target a second time. During practices in town the Penetanguishene fire fighters often went through the above routine in 45 seconds flat according to Jumbo. At regional competitions, with strange hoses and strange grounds they could usually work the hoses in a little better than a minute and six seconds.

Four men were involved in the ladder competition. They would start by running with the ladder for a distance of two hose lengths to a rack which they would place the ladder up against. While the ladder was swinging in mid-air towards the rack a fireman usually T. (George) Dubeau would already be mounting it. Usually he would be half way up the ladder with the hose before the ladder touched the rack. On reaching the top with the hose the fireman would knock down the target. For top notch volunteer firefighters the whole process all took roughly 17 or 18 seconds according to Dubeau.

The members of this early Penetanguishene firefighters' team from left to right were: Bert Dubeau, George Dion, — Spearn, Charlie Kaus, T. (George) Dubeau, Jake Parker, Jack McLaughlin, Kurt Spearn, George Robillard, Oliver Marchildon, — Desroches, Russel....., Joe Marchildon, Jack O'Hearn, Alex Gendron and Antoine Charlebois.

This picture was taken in front of where the town office, which at that time was the firehall, now stands. The liquor store was located on the first floor of the high building to the left. Just beyond that building was the old Bayview Hotel which contained a corner store and a beverage room on the first floor, hotel bedrooms on the second floor, and on the top floor, a concert hall. Today the building is occupied by the Toronto Dominion Bank.



*The Firstbrook home*

## *Penetanguishene's first hospital*

Health care is a vital concern of any municipality. The first hospital to serve the Penetanguishene-Midland area was the Marine Hospital located in Sunnyside. Built in 1905 the hospital had only 12 beds and served patients at the cost of 70 cents per day. In 1912 Penetanguishene acquired its first local hospital when the Harriett Street home of William Firstbrook was converted into the Penetanguishene General

Hospital. When the Firstbrook home was offered for sale to a group of local business men to be used as a club, it was decided that the need for a hospital was greater. With the opening of the present PGH in 1954 the former Firstbrook home was sold to the County for \$1 to be used as a Home for the Aged. It was later torn down to make way for Georgian Manor.

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen

# The Penetanguishene General Hospital story

by Alan Condren

The house that was later to be the Old General Hospital was built in the mid-1800's for H.H. Thompson. The building was later sold to William Firstbrook.

Just after the turn of the century, Penetanguishene as a community, had need of its own hospital. Prior to 1912 both Penetanguishene and Midland were served by the Marine Hospital located at Sunnyside. At that time, there was said to be a considerable amount of feuding between the two towns. This is thought to be one reason the people of Penetanguishene desired their own hospital.

In the early 1900's Penetanguishene was struck by a diphtheria epidemic which underlined the need of adequate hospital services and accommodation.

Another influential factor assisting towards establishment of a hospital in Penetanguishene was the arrival on the scene of Dr. Howard Spohn, a medical school graduate.

When the Firstbrook home was offered for sale to a group of local businessmen to be used as a club, it was decided that the need for a hospital was greater. The home was purchased November 30, 1910, for \$4,000 (some sources say for \$1) and was to be converted into a hospital to service Penetanguishene and the surrounding district.

The hospital was incorporated on April 14, 1911. Charles Beck, Peter Payette and John D. Roderick were the Provisional Directors of the Corporation. Louis Gignac and Dr. P.H. Spohn were also active in the corporation. The corporate name of the hospital was "The Penetanguishene General Hospital".

The hospital included a training school for nurses. The school was closed in 1932 along with all other nursing schools across the province.

The birth of triplets in the hospital on January 6, 1930, was one extraordinary event. Born to Mrs. Lorne Noble were; John, 6 lbs. 10 oz., Clarke, 5 lbs. 4 oz. and Mae, 6 lbs. 8 oz. A great deal of baby clothes were given to Mrs. Noble and the Kiwanis Club supplied hired help for a month and milk for three months.

On August 6, 1942, an agreement was reached with the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke Ontario allowing them to take over the bankrupt Penetanguishene General Hospital. The sisters have been with the P.G.H. ever since.

The hospital the sisters took over was not the most modern one in existence. In addition to many other tasks, the nurse on night duty (7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.) was expected to check on



the furnace at times and not infrequently to throw on the odd shovel full of coal.

The Lab consisted of a microscope and the few fluids required to do a blood count.

One small room was given over to the nursery. When the number of infants exceeded seven or eight, the extra ones were placed on the O.R. table. Premature babies were kept in improvised incubators. Orange crates were placed one on top of the other, draped with a sheet, and a 40-watt light bulb dangled inside for warmth and light.

Despite conditions like this, the Sisters quickly made progress and the hospital's outstanding obligations were paid.

To single out one man who is more responsible than all the others in obtaining a first rate hospital for Penetanguishene in no way takes away from the great assistance rendered by the others. And single out one man we must. Without the vision, planning, perseverance and courage of Monsignor Jean-Marie Castex, none can say what the hospital situation in Penetanguishene would be today.

When, in 1942, the hospital was bankrupt, he boldly, against many opposite opinions, inaugurated a new arrangement... the coming of the Sisters.

He purchased the land where the PGH now stands and donated it for the hospital.

On July 6, 1953, workers started to clear the vacant lot where the present day hospital now stands. Two weeks later, on Thursday, July 16, the first sod was turned by the Hon. Paul Martin and William A. Robinson, federal members of parliament, assisted by Rt. Rev. J.M. Castex.

On Sunday, July 25, 1954, the Hon. Louis O. Breithaupt, then Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, performed the official opening ceremonies.

The first patient was Mrs. Mary O'Connor.

The old hospital was sold to the County (for \$1) to be used as a Home for the Aged, and later torn down to make way for additions to the Georgian Manor. The Penetanguishene General Hospital continues to serve Penetanguishene and the surrounding area today.

At the annual meeting of the hospital's board of directors in March 1975, Sister Joan Whalen, the hospital's administrator stressed, "optimal care is an ideal and thus a challenge! In 1974, we moved closer to it, and may we continue this thrust in 1975."

reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen



# The Mental Health Centre

by Vern Farrow

Public Relations Officer,  
Mental Health Centre.

The Mental Health Centre, Penetanguishene, and the Town of Penetanguishene have at least one common ground, in that the first superintendent of the hospital, and the first reeve of the town were one and the same man.

Dr. Spohn was the first head of the town's governing body when it was incorporated as a village one hundred years ago. And he was named superintendent of the "Asylum for the Insane" when it opened in August of 1904.

A copy of the payroll for the first year showed that staff commenced working at the Asylum on August 1, of 1904, and by the end of September the total number of employees had risen to 34, including the superintendent.

At the time he was Reeve of Penetanguishene, Dr. Spohn was employed by the Province of Ontario as surgeon at the Boys' Reformatory. The buildings in which it was located, are now the nucleus of the Mental Health Centre.

The 200 acre site had originally been chosen by John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada as a naval and military base to protect the upper lakes against the Americans. The land was purchased from the Indians. By 1855 it was decided that a military base was no longer required and it was transferred to the Government of Upper Canada.

## Historical data

Some historical data is contained in a book entitled "The Fifteenth Annual Report upon the Common Goals, Prisons and Reformatories of Ontario" which was published in the year 1882. The report from the inspector who visited Penetanguishene reads in part as follows:

"The old Barracks were transferred in 1855, and, having been fitted up, were opened as a Reformatory for Boys in 1859."

"The Province of Canada erected a centre building and rear wing of cut stone, roofed with tin, also a workshop of wood, enclosed by a board fence, on more elevated ground near the barracks, the expenditure on account of the same being about \$100,000 to 1867, when the confederation of the Provinces took place, and the buildings were transferred to the Province of Ontario. The expenditure on account of additional buildings and other improvements since then to 1882 being \$98,435.34."

"In 1870 the old barracks, which were occupied by the younger boys, was burnt, and the stone, uninjured by the fire, was used in the construction of a second wing affording cell accommodation for 72 boys, which was completed and occupied in 1873."



As mentioned earlier, Dr. Spohn was surgeon of the reformatory, and the superintendent was Thos. McCrosson. But by 1904 changing conditions resulted in the boys' reformatory being phased out, and the buildings became an "Asylum for the Insane." An interesting switch occurred at this time with Dr. Spohn becoming superintendent of the Asylum, and Mr. McCrosson his assistant.

There was really no great change in the buildings from the time it became an asylum until 1933 when the first half of Oak Ridge was built and opened.

The first patients to be housed at Oak Ridge came from Guelph as had the nucleus for the attendant staff. The patients also came by rail as far as the stove foundry and were brought from there by livery rigs. One of the original attendants has stated it was a bitter cold day.

## A unique treatment centre

The size of Oak Ridge was doubled, and the additional space opened in 1958. This provided for a capacity of 298 patients. Oak Ridge, as a maximum security treatment centre, was completely unique for many years in that it was the only one in Canada. Recently another has opened in Montreal.

At the Regional Hospital a program of replacement and rehabilitation started in the 1960's. By 1967 the first of the new construction was completed, and the two "retraining apartment buildings," now named Bayfield and Brebeuf, were opened. This was followed by the imposing seven-storey treatment building which has since been named Toanche. It opened in 1972.

More recently the original stone building was completely renovated and is now known as the Administration Building. It houses administration offices, workshops for patients, occupational therapy, recreational facilities, library and Community Services Team outpatient treatment facilities.

## Changes

In recent years both the Regional and Oak Ridge Divisions have seen a sharp rise in admission rates. However, the development of new and interesting treatment programs has brought about a shortening of the patient's stay, and as a result the actual patient population at any given moment is somewhat lower than it had been previously.

Some of the changes in treatment philosophy and emphasis can be seen in the name changes which have taken place, from Asylum, to Ontario Hospital, to Psychiatric Hospital, to Mental Health Centre.



**Brian Orser**  
— an olympic hopeful

photo by Jim Dalziel



**Don Tannahill**  
— an established pro



**Bert Corbeau**



**Con Corbeau**



**Harold  
McNamara**



**Howard  
McNamara**



**Andrew  
Bellehumeur**



**George  
McNamara**

## ***Sports heroes - past and present***

Penetanguishene has been blessed with outstanding athletes throughout its past. That tradition is continued today in the persons of Don Tannahill and Brian Orser.

Tannahill, who is currently a professional hockey player with the Minnesota Fighting Saints of the World Hockey Association, broke into the National Hockey League with the Vancouver Canucks before moving to the WHA.

In February 1975 at the tender age of 13, Brian Orser won the gold medal in the Men's B Division in free skating at the Canada Winter Games in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Don Tannahill, an accomplished pro-hockey player and Brian Orser, an olympic hopeful, are the finest modern day examples of the great athletic tradition which the hockey players shown on the right hand side of this page represent.

The three McNamara brothers; George, Harold and Howard, all played on Stanley Cup teams prior to 1920. The brothers played with a variety of teams during their big league hockey careers which spanned the period 1908 to 1917. All three were members of the Toronto Ontarios team which won the Stanley Cup in 1914.

Andrew Bellehumeur played for the NHL Montreal Maroons during the 1932-33 season.

The Corbeau brothers, like the McNamaras, were members of Stanley Cup teams.

Bert was a member of the Montreal Canadiens from 1915 to 1922. During his seven year stay with the Canadiens Bert was a member of three Stanley Cup teams in 1916, 1917, and 1919.

During the 1907-08 season Con Corbeau played with a Toronto team which challenged the Montreal Wanderers for the Stanley Cup. The Wanderers won the sudden death game in Montreal 6-4. A fellow teammate on the Toronto club was Newsy Lalonde.

The Stanley Cup at this time was a challenge trophy for which amateur and professional teams could compete.

During the 1913-14 season Con played with the Ontarios in the National Hockey Association. The Ontarios, which at that time had all three of Penetanguishene's McNamara brothers, won the Stanley Cup in 1914.

head shot photos courtesy of the Toronto Star

Jean Thompson

## *The queen of the track*



Toronto Star photo

### *The joy of victory*

Jean Thompson, Canadian Champion in the 880 yards event, is shown winning a heat in the 800 metres event for Canada in the 1928 Olympic Games at Amsterdam, Holland. Jean Thompson placed 4th in the finals in the 1928 Olympic Games, which were the first to accept women athletes in open competition.

AN ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION TO MISS JEAN THOMPSON ON HER SUCCESS IN MAKING THE OLYMPIC TEAM: JUNE 27th, 1928.

We, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Penetanguishene, representing as we do, the people of this municipality, do hereby extend to you, our very sincere congratulations on your success in winning the 800 metres race, in the world's record time of 2 minutes and 26 seconds, at the Olympic trials held last Saturday, at the Varsity Stadium, Toronto, thereby gaining the right to represent Canada at the Olympic games, to be held at Amsterdam in the near future, and we also take this opportunity to wish you every success in your endeavour to maintain Canada's prestige and the world of sport, by winning the laurel wreath, emblematic of all that is best in amateur sport.

It is no light task that you are called upon to assume, for you will be in competition with the finest athletes that the world can produce, in a strange land, and before a cosmopolitan audience, but you will be fortified by the knowledge that we, in Canada in general, and in Penetanguishene in particular, will be thinking of you and earnestly praying for your success.

If the knowledge that you have the very best wishes for your welfare and success (of all who know you, either by personal acquaintance or by repute), will assist you in your endeavour, you have it in the fullest measure, for your unassuming manner has endeared you to all.

Your splendid example to the youth of Canada will be of untold benefit to our future generations, for you are teaching them the cardinal virtues of self control and discipline, and that physical and spiritual welfare go hand in hand.

You are helping to carry on a great tradition, for you are a logical successor of those ancient Greeks who, over 700 years before the birth of Christ, were perhaps, the first of mankind to realize the advantage of physical training, and that true beauty can only exist in combination with a perfectly trained body.

You have before you a very strenuous time. Your trip to Halifax, to take part in the Dominion Trials, in which we feel certain that you will duplicate your triumphs of the meet in Toronto, will demand much of the short time left at your disposal, ere you make your final departure for Europe. This being the case, we have been compelled to make somewhat hurried arrangements toward making a public presentation of these expressions of the love and esteem of the people of Penetanguishene, and we trust that they will call to your mind, when far away, the home of your heart, the little town of Penetanguishene.

W.S. Ego, Mayor,  
E. Hayes

A. Quesnelle,  
E.H. Price

L.M. Thompson,

W.H. Hewson, Clerk and p.m.

Louis Gignac, Treasurer,  
W.A. Dawson, Dep. Clerk.

# *Phil "the Babe" Marchildon*

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## *Peerless pitcher from Penetanguishene*

Phil Marchildon's fame was at its peak in 1948 when McLean's Magazine featured him on a three page spread in their April issue. They called him the "Peerless pitcher from Penetanguishene" in recognition of the fact that in the 1940's he was the best Canadian born pitcher playing in big league professional baseball in the United States.

In 1947 Phil piled up an amazing 19 wins to go against nine losses and was considered the best pitcher for the American League Philadelphia Athletics who had finished in fifth place that season.

And in Penetanguishene there was no doubt that Marchildon, who could command a salary of \$15,000 for throwing a baseball, was the best athlete the town had ever produced.

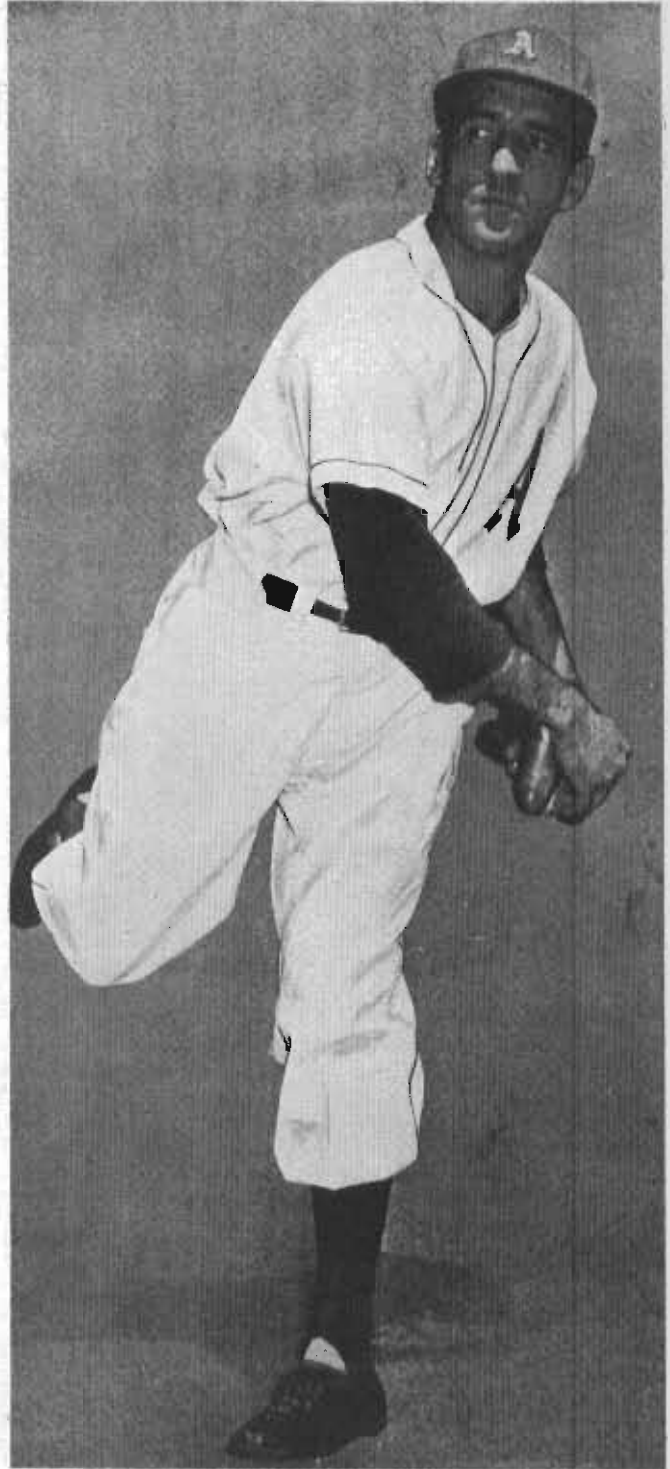
Phil "Babe" Marchildon first became a Canadian sports sensation in 1942, after his strong right arm had rocketed him from the bush leagues in Northern Ontario to Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics, where he won 17 games as a 29-year-old rookie.

However, the early 1940's was not the time to be playing baseball. Marchildon joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was shot down over Germany on his 27 mission as a gunner.

Five years after the war, Marchildon was back in Philadelphia to be greeted by 35,000 fans — 10 times the number who usually turned out for the hapless team. In the next two years Marchildon won 13 and 19 games but his 19 game winning season was to be his last winning year in the big leagues.

What doctors referred to as a delayed reaction from his war experiences finally caught up with the "Babe" in 1948. His major league career ended in a case of chronic bad nerves, loss of pitching control and consignment to a series of ever-lower minor league clubs.

Today, "Babe" Marchildon is a 60-year-old father of two who owns a house in Etobicoke and still works in the Toronto hospital bed factory where he's been happily employed for the past 15 years.



*King of the mound*



'What's new about streaking? We've been doing it after our bean suppers for years!'

from the Midland Times

## Bylaw No. 6 — the legal streak

It's bylaw number 6 of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Village of Penetanguishene, soberly passed by the village council of the Year of Our Lord 1876. The date it was initialed was February 22, by then-clerk W.J. Keating.

It's still in force, and what the bylaw sets out to do is "preserve the Public Morals, and to restrain and punish the persons herein mentioned (sic)."

Its scope ranges from the forbidden sale of liquor to a "child apprentice or servant," to a ban by censorship of any "lewd words, book pictures, plate drawing or other thing..." and, among other things, to outlawing illicit relationships between a stud horse and mare "in any open or exposed place in the village of Penetanguishene."

Along the way, the bylaw rules out gambling, houses of ill-repute, drunkenness, fighting, vagrancy — and disturbing or annoying "any meeting held for divine worship or for the improvement or social and intellectual entertainment of the inhabitants."

It also legalizes nude swimming. The original streak.

And if this seems out of character in Victorian Canada, that may explain the confusion surrounding just what that section of the bylaw means.

Various experts in jargon from both the town office and the area planning board came up with differing opinions. Lawyers were not consulted, however, so we'll simply print the excerpt and see what readers make of it.

Article six reads as follows:

"That no person shall openly bathe or indecently expose his

or her person in the Village of Penetanguishene by washing in any waters the shore or shores of which lie within the said village save as hereinafter mentioned — between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and eight o'clock in the evening, unless provided with and clothed in a proper bathing dress sufficient to prevent any indecent exposure of the person, reserving nevertheless that portion lying West of John Street and East of Yeo."

Aside from the fact that some Victorians covered up piano legs because they were thought offensive, this is a confusing section of the bylaw.

Does "that portion lying West of John Street..." indicate that portion of the person's body? That's one question a local planner asked.

And does the bylaw permit or ban nude swimming during daylight?

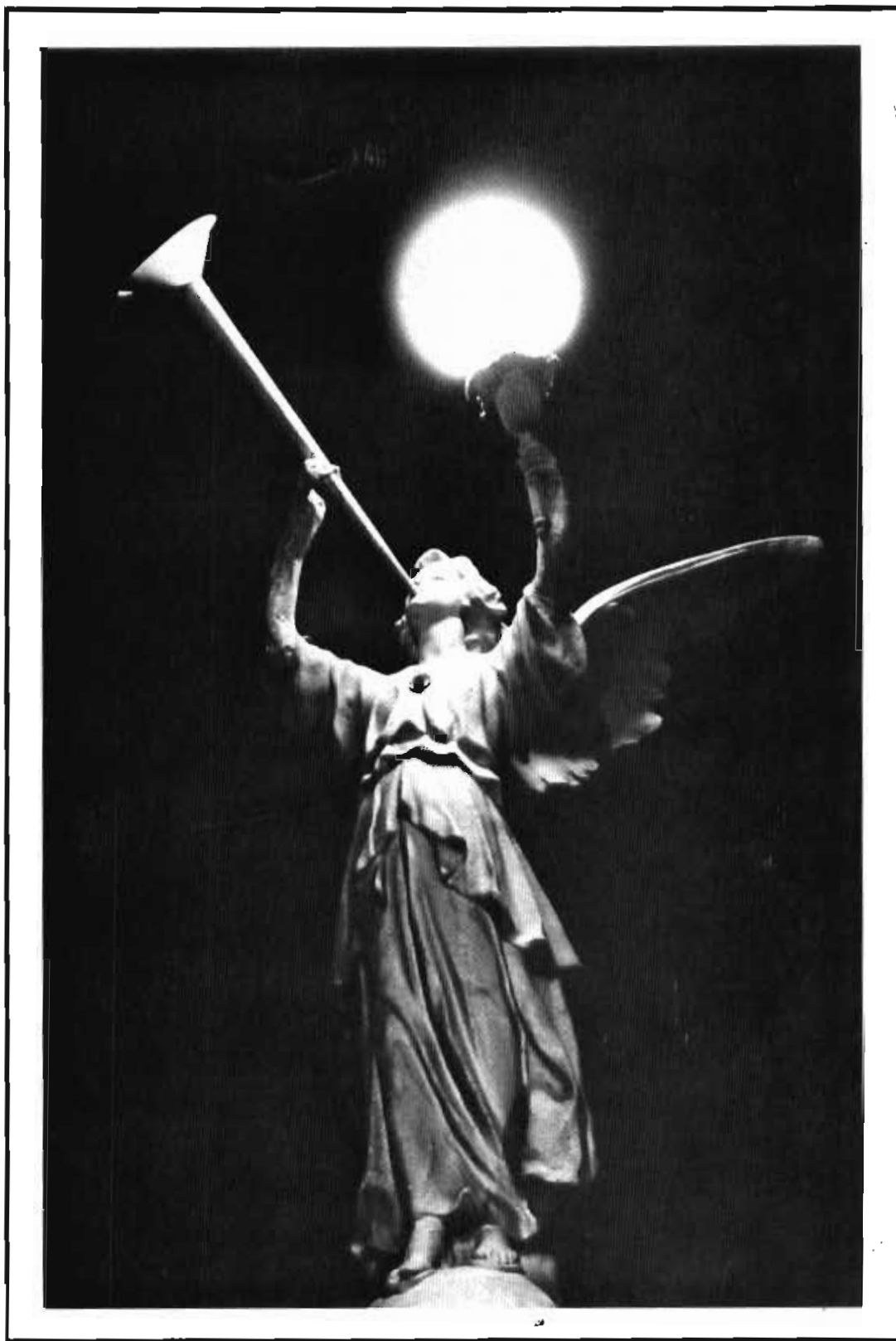
The issue could come to a head this summer if the streaking fad continues, and the local constabulary runs in some slow-footed and underclad sunbather.

But the village fathers obviously felt nudity was a minor problem compared to the demon rum. That section leads off with the following thundering definition:

"That if any vagrant mendicant drunk and disorderly or other person shall be found offending against the provisions of this Bylaw..." the penalty is the town lock-up.

Shiver.

by Jim Park Reprinted from the Penetanguishene Citizen



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