

*Manitoulin Island's  
Newspaper-of-Record,  
The Manitoulin Expositor*  
is published  
by the Manitoulin Publishing Co. Ltd.  
Wednesday mornings from our office at  
One Manitowaning Road,  
Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

Northern Ontario's oldest newspaper:  
printers and publishers since 1879

*A winner of the Michener Award  
for Public Service Journalism*

**Mailing address:**

The Manitoulin Expositor,  
P.O. Box 369,  
Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

R.L. McCutcheon  
**publisher and  
general manager**

Jim Moodie  
**editor**

Lindsay Kelly  
**associate editor**

Tom Sasvari  
**manitoulin west  
news editor**

Allan Ryan, Susan Hart  
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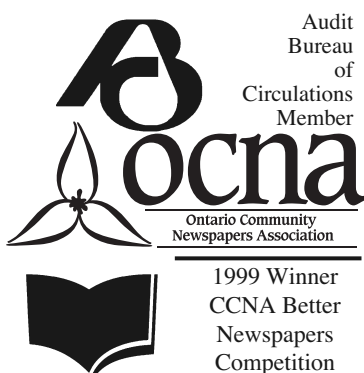
Greg Lloyd  
**customer service rep**

Kerrene Tilson  
**accounts**

Phone: (705) 368-2744  
Fax: (705) 368-3822  
general email:  
expositor@manitoulin.ca  
letters to the editor email:  
letters@manitoulin.ca  
www.manitoulin.ca

Publications Mail  
Registration No. 40012298

ISSN 0834-6682



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Government of Canada, through the Publica-  
tions Assistance Program (PAP), toward our  
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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road

opinion

**editorial**

## Pool would render hotel development more popular

There have been two proposals for new hotel projects recently on Manitoulin Island, each of which would involve the turning over of publicly held, municipal property for private sector development.

One was in Gore Bay where an entrepreneur proposed using exist- ing, town-owned buildings on the waterfront as the basis for a 20- room motel that could also serve the marine community.

After much debate, a divided Gore Bay council decided against this project, opting instead for a proposal from the Gore Bay museum that will see the property developed as an arts centre and gallery space.

Interestingly, just at the same time, the Town of Northeastern Man- itoulin and the Islands was considering proposals for the develop- ment of approximately two acres of waterfront property located west of the welcome centre on Highway 6 in Little Current and behind the Three Cows and a Cone restaurant and dairy bar.

The Northeast Town council, in its case, had issued a request for proposals (for the second time) precisely because it did want to see a hotel/motel developed on its property.

In fact, when the old Town of Little Current and the Manitoulin Tourism Association had co-operated on the construction of the Wel- come Centre in 1987, the property from the swing bridge to Sims Street had been purchased from Marathon Realty (the CPR's real estate division) in order to accommodate the welcome centre. The Farquhar Dairy company then purchased from the town the portion of the property where it built the Three Cows and a Cone dairy bar and the remainder of the property, the lot now under consideration, was landbanked specifically for an eventual hotel/motel project.

The town council, nearly a quarter-century later, is finally consid- ering just such a use for this lot and, in fact, has chosen one of the prop- osals with which to move forward. Taxpayers will soon be invited to a public meeting where the aspiring developers will explain their con- cept.

What is not yet clear, however, is whether or not a swimming pool will be part of the hotel/motel project.

Just as with Gore Bay's consideration of a new hotel/motel project,

the council of the Northeast Town is also divided (although in the Northeast Town case, the majority so far supports the hotel/motel).

This divided vote, and a carefully qualified statement by another of the councillors, is likely directly related to a 500-plus signature peti- tion that opposes the sale of the property for this kind of develop- ment.

It seems fairly obvious that if the community felt it was getting something it could make use of as a new community resource—like a swimming pool—opposition to the project would be very much dimin- ished.

It follows that this should be a vital item for negotiation between the Northeast Town and the project's developer.

Any hotel with a year-round swimming pool has an immediate advantage, especially to travelling families.

The hotel/motel can also benefit financially from community buy- in for a swimming pool as it could sell memberships to individuals, host birthday parties and other paying events and, in every likeli- hood, gain revenue from the local school board that could make use of the facility in order to offer swimming lessons and, in other ways, extend physical education programs.

In one survey after another in the Northeast Town that has asked citizens what they would like to see included in the recreation mix, the same item always tops the list: a swimming pool.

Accessing such a facility through a private sector development is likely the best chance for the community to get what it wants and this is squarely in the hands of the local politicians to help negotiate, just as Gore Bay council determined that the will of its community was to focus on the arts.

From the standpoint of the hotel/motel project's developers, a year- round swimming pool would become a unique community resource not just for the Northeast Town and immediate environs, but for all of Manitoulin Island, and the accommodations complex will stand to gain revenue from swimming memberships and other rental uses from all of Manitoulin's communities.

**letters**

## Wind farm would be a blight on the landscape

*Visitors do not want to be greeted by turbines*

**To the Expositor:**

I have been following the wind turbine farm proposed for Manitoulin with considerable interest and although I am strong proponent of alter- native energy sources I am opposed to this wind farm, specifically the location of it.

It is heartening to hear of all the various viewpoints with respect to health issues related to wind turbines and I hope that smarter people than I will come up with some definitive answer to the health issues. However I am more concerned with a couple of issues, firstly, the noise of the turbines. If all those with a vested interest, decision makers, local residents, and visitors took the time to stand near a wind turbine you may be surprised just how noisy they actually are.

Secondly, and worse in my opinion, are the terrible aesthetics of a wind turbine. I have travelled a lot on business and have seen wind tur- bine installations around the world, throughout the USA and those along the north shore of Lake Erie. Some of these installations have hundreds of wind turbines and they look terrible; now it is proposed to scar the landscape of Manitoulin the same way. I was on the Island this past weekend, and as I was sitting on Lake Mindemoya looking at the two wind turbines already on the Island I was trying to envision how they would look as you come on to the Island. Is this really what we want the new face of the Island to look like as we come onto the Island to be greeted by dozens of wind turbines adorning the horizon?

My father was originally from the Island and I have been visiting the Island frequently for almost 50 years. This is where I come to relax, and enjoy not only my family history but also the pristine landscape. We regularly bring our family and friends to the Island to show off its beau- ty, but now I will have to endure seeing these eyesores. I feel that as part of the due diligence of approving these installations, maybe fully dis- closing these issues may be in order. I have not seen anything in any of the presentations that show a wind farm with hundreds of wind tur- bines, but you may be shocked to see just how bad this looks on the land- scape, and I for one do not want to be greeted by this every time I cross on to the Island.

I am all in favour of alternative or green energy and feel strongly that we have to do something to get away from our reliance on fossil fuels, but don't be misled by the power companies proposing these have any environmental conscience; they, like all other business, are in it to make a profit and no other reason than that. The use of an environ- mental slant is nothing more than a sales tactic to get these approved. If wind turbines are the answer to our energy needs then surely selecting a location that does not cause an eyesore should be part of the approval process. Isn't that already part of the process for selecting sites for other power generating facilities?

**Phil Hembruff  
Worthington**

## Recollections sought for 1970 crash memorial

*Gratitude expressed for support of community*

**To the Expositor:**

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank everyone who assisted in the preparation and those who attended the memorial service and plaque dedication held on July 4 at the Assiginack Museum in Manitowaning. To those who were unable to attend due to previous commitments I know the day did not go by you unnoticed—your hearts and memories were with us.

On that fateful night, March 28, 1970, the lives of Wayne Wright, Boyne Van Zant, Patricia Paul, Celina Paul, Paul Morrison, Hugh Mor- rison, Terry Hembruff, Ann Harasym, and Robert (James) Green were lost. The survivors of the crash whose lives were changed forever were Ronald Thompson, Finnian Walker, Jean Paul, Gerald McGregor, Valerie Koning and Martin Brindle Jr.

Albums are being compiled for each of these victims and will be per- manently kept at the Assiginack Museum. It is my expectation that this project will keep our memories of the deceased alive; show how the lives of the survivors were changed as a result of the accident; show that those involved were no different from today's youth; show how the communities joined together to provide support to the families involved throughout this horrific ordeal and how they helped them move on; and show the youth of today and in years to come how impaired driving impacts the lives of its victims, their families, friends and communities, not only at the time of the horrible incident but many years later.

This task will be completed for the 40th anniversary in March 2010. To finalize the project the following information is needed: high school yearbooks, from Little Current High School, for the years of 1963-1964,

1964-1965, 1965-1966, 1966-1967, and 1967-1968, and from Espanola High School for the years of 1966-1967, 1967-1968, 1968-1969, and 1969-1970; as well as your memories of the victims, of the time following the acci- dent, of the effects on your community, the school, and you personally; stories you would like to tell, which can be recorded; and any memora- bilia you wish to share.

All items loaned to me for the purpose of this project can be returned. You may contact me by phone at (705) 859-3698, by email at ael- liott@amtelecom.net, or by regular mail at P.O. Box 156, Manitowaning, Ont., P0P 1N0.

**Anne Elliott  
Manitowaning**

Send your letters to the editor by

*email:* letters@manitoulin.ca

*or*

*fax:* 368-3822

*or*

*mail:* P.O. Box 369,  
Little Current, Ont., P0P 1K0

# Rural correspondent pens book on the history of Campbell Township

by **Jim Moodie**

SPRING BAY—She's a quilter, a baker, and a cat-loving country correspondent. Now she's a published author to boot.

On Saturday, Spring Bay Rural Route scribe Erma McCallister could be found at the hall of her home community, in itself not a surprise, as she often helps out here for various functions. This time, though, the tireless volunteer was the focus of attention, as dozens filed through the doors to meet the author and get an autographed copy of Campbell Township And Surroundings: Reflections and Stories.

"I didn't even know you were writing a book!" remarked one visitor, as Ms. McCallister inscribed a message on the inside flap.

"Well, if I didn't finish it, and it didn't get published, I figured there was no use in talking about it," explained the author.

Now 92, Ms. McCallister said that she began working on the memoir a couple of years ago, "but I kind of set it aside for a bit." She took it up again in earnest this past year "after my grandchildren and great-grandchildren bugged me a few more times."

The cover depicts an old car crossing the Grimesthorpe Bridge. "That's my dad with his Model T," the writer proudly noted. "The picture was made into postcards that they sold."

It was getting sold again on Saturday, this time as just one part of a compendium of images and anecdotes that together provide a valuable historical record of the Spring Bay area, and in particular, the community of Grimesthorpe, which once counted a school (S.S. #3), a church, and a post office and store. Ms. McCallister's grandparents, Margaret and William Lougheed, acted as storekeeper and postmaster in their day.

Son-in-law Allen Eagleson manned the cash box as customers shelled out a modest \$10 each for a copy of the slender but smartly packaged tome, and the stack dwindled quickly as the book-signing session wore on.

"We've sold 85 today," remarked Mr. Eagleson. Another 27 had been previously snapped up, meaning well over 100 copies have already found their way to a bookshelf, or perhaps been set aside for wrapping as a Christmas present.

Ms. McCallister had to pay for their printing, so the sale of the books is basically to cover that cost. She wrote the reflections out by hand, and her granddaughter Leigh Anne Eagleson and great-granddaughter Kalina Gelinis provided typesetting duties.

The design and printing work were performed by the

Expositor's Al Ryan, whom Ms. McCallister described as "a very nice gentleman and very easy to work with."

While the book has a tidy and professional look, its stories are told in a direct and folksy voice, as befits this type of oral history. The reminiscences are by turns informative, wistful, funny and lurid.



Erma McCallister (right) presents a copy of her new book, Campbell Township and Surroundings, to Fern Patterson during an author meet-and-greet on Saturday in Spring Bay.

photo by **Jim Moodie**

Consider the following passage involving Grandpa Lougheed and a bear: "It got the pig and carried it to the creek nearby. The pig was squealing. It was at night. Tom, the son, held the lantern. Grandpa got his pants on. One

story is that he shot the bear. Another is that he had no gun but drove an axe into the bear's head between the shoulders while he was in the creek up to his waist. The bear bled and let go of the pig which was still alive though badly mauled."

Well, pioneer times weren't always pretty. But there were happy times, too, as when families went to Square Bay to pick strawberries, or during box socials, for which "the ladies would decorate a box and fill it with a lunch and get in free at the dance," while the men would bid on these mystery meals (and the excuse, no doubt, to thank the meal preparer in person).

There were also barn raisings, one of which occurred in 1946 at the farm of the author and her late husband Peter McCallister. A photo of this community work bee is included in the book.

Weddings were another obvious time for the community to come together, although these events weren't always as predictably planned as they tend to be today. At least, not in the case of the author's parents. "My father related that he was up on Cockburn Island prior to the wedding," writes Ms. McCallister. "His partner there didn't wake him up in time and he almost missed the boat to Gore Bay to take him to the wedding."

Fortunately, her dad managed to show up in time to say "I do." Had he not, "there would have been a lot of good food left over," her mom reasoned.

Ms. McCallister's book describes many other aspects of life in Campbell Township over the years, some vanished, others enduring. Horse-drawn Democrats and one-room schoolhouses may be a thing of the past, but the Providence Bay Fair keeps on going. And so does the author, in her kitchen, whenever it comes time to contribute baked goods to this agricultural event.

While her eyesight isn't what it used to be, and she worried that she'd never be able to write her book if she waited much longer, it seems her dexterity with a rolling pin is undimmed. "I showed at the fair again this year," said the nonagenarian. "I took a lot of first prizes, and even beat my daughter."

While there were lots of goodies available at the book signing, including an array of cookies, one book buyer expressed disappointment. "There's gotta be some pie here somewhere," he playfully complained.

The print run for Campbell Township and Surroundings was 300 copies, nearly half of which are already in the hands of readers. Those who want to get their own copy, while they last, are encouraged to contact Ms. McCallister at 377-4593.

## More letters

## Resident seeks answers on harmonized sales tax

### MPP needs to speak out on views

**To the Expositor:**

A few weeks ago I wrote a letter to the editor asking our MPP, Mike Brown, to put pen to paper and inform his constituents how he intended to vote on the harmonized sales tax proposal.

This tax will increase prices of gasoline, heating fuels, electricity, haircuts, newspapers, magazines, the professional services of lawyers, accountants, real estate fees and, sadly, funeral costs. It also will have municipalities paying tax on items from which they were previously exempt. Mike, who do you think the municipalities will look to, to pay the increase?

Mike, I have not seen an answer to my plea in the paper to enlighten all of us on how you will vote in relation to this harmonized tax (dumb question I admit), but it's a reasonable request, from a taxpayer, for you to explain the value of this tax.

Mike, our vote we gave you to use on our behalf has helped to increase health premiums, downsize hospitals, close schools, decrease health coverage in matters of our eyes, and erode coverage for chiropractic services. Mike, I have relatives, friends, and acquaintances here on the Island awaiting their turn in line to obtain needed surgery and cancer treatment in Sudbury. I stand in line at the drug

store next to seniors, now my age, deciding which prescription they can afford. This is very sad, Mike. These people are our neighbours and friends.

In closing, someone discovers that a member of your party commits a billion-dollar squandering of eHealth money and then pays the individual responsible a farewell million. The news media reports that your government has yet to decide to recover the lost money.

Mike, where is that fire and Manitoulin spirit in you? Speak out for us and help your own.

**Larry Killens  
South Baymouth**

## Bill extending old age benefits to newcomers unfair

### Canadians have worked hard to earn gains

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following letter is addressed to Algonia-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes and has been reprinted here at the author's request.

**To the Expositor:**

Carol: As our member of parliament I hope you are willing to do something about this Bill C-428, An Act to Amend the Old Age Security Act. It is extremely unfair!

I am a Canadian who has worked and paid taxes, CPP, EI, and OHIP since their inception—will I ever see the benefit?

Now with this bill those of us who have worked this long count for nothing. Anyone can just come here and get this benefit after three years. How fair is that?

We have already given up so many of our rights—when will this stop? If we stand up and say that our traditions and rights are being threatened we are called racists. Yet anyone from another country has many more rights than us. If we went to their country would we be allowed the same considerations? No. That's why they come here: they

know that the last politician with any principles was Mike Harris. Like him or not he did exactly as he promised. What a shocking concept!

This is the time you should be listening to the Baby Boomers because there are a lot of us!

Are you interested in getting your MP's pension? Don't you have to be in two terms to collect?

**Bob and Brenda Playter  
Tehkummah**

## Turbines causing community concern

### Residents irked over lack of discussion

**To the Expositor:**

Here is an interesting quote by Jane Story from last week's Expositor article about wind power projects: "It can alleviate a lot of problems if the community actually owns it," Ms. Story says. "They directly reap the benefits, so the extra money the community earns can go to building a community centre, or swimming pool, or an addition to the hospital. Revenue accrued goes directly to the community, whereas when you have commercial developers, they take their

profits outside of the community."

This is followed by the statement: "With this model, because the people are accountable to their neighbours, there is more discussion about the project, and residents take more of an active role in determining details of the development, such as where the turbines go and how many should be erected."

Within the same article, we are presented with this thought from Ms. Story: "The former Island resident says she is somewhat

surprised by the criticism from those opposed to the wind farm development taking place on Manitoulin."

Um, I think the criticism is because people are not accountable to their neighbours, there is little discussion about the project, and residents have no role in determining details of the development such as where the turbines go and how many should be erected. Make sense to you now, Jane?

**Al Ryan  
Little Current**

## Ferry preferred over highway route

### Know the schedule and allow extra time

**To the Expositor:**

I read the letter in the Manitoulin Expositor for October 7 titled "Chi-Cheemaun is inconvenient" and wanted to express an opposing view.

I frequently travel between Elliot Lake and a community west of London and during the summer I prefer the ferry to Manitoulin over the Highways 89, 400, 69 and 17 route. Knowing highway transit times to and from the ferry terminals and allowing one hour before ferry departure, my total transit times

are similar. The ferry route probably costs me approximately \$10 more but I get three hours off from driving and a leisurely meal in the ferry cafeteria during this time.

During the off-season, I can easily make a reservation online, but this may not be necessary.

For the middle sailing times during the summer season, I usually do not make a reservation because of the extra \$20 cost, unless it is a busy time and I need to be sure of getting a specific departure time. I find

it is often possible to catch a sailing even arriving well within the one recommended one-hour time.

Last June I made a mistake, arrived at Tobermory 10 minutes before sailing and still got on the boat.

On the boat I also have a chance to buy The Manitoulin Expositor and read the Manitoulin Island news.

**Bob Landsborough  
Elliot Lake and  
Wardville, Ont.**