



PIED PIPER?

Maurice Solway may not be the Pied Piper of Hamelin, but it didn't matter to these students and many others at Howard Wrigglesworth School last Wednesday. Mr. Solway showed a film entitled "The Violin", for which he composed the music. He also

took the students on a musical trip around the world, and the students thoroughly enjoyed each stop. (Herald photo)

BIA members hear of successes saving downtowns

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer
Construction on the first three boulevard islands on Main St. planned for the beautification of downtown Georgetown won't begin until after the Pioneer Days celebrations the end of June, members of the Business Improvement Area (BIA) were told last week.
Toronto architect Paul Martel, hired to design the planned improvements to Main Street South, told the group's April meeting five companies have been invited to tender for the construction of the three islands planned for construction this year. After tenders close in two weeks the names of the winning bidder will be released.

LEASE DISRUPTION
Mr. Martel said that his specifications stated that construction would be carried out in such a manner as to cause the least disruption of traffic both vehicular and pedestrian during the construction and he expected it to take about four weeks to complete each island.

Since rain could prolong the work he felt it would be unwise to begin construction in late May just in case something prevented it from being complete by Pioneer Days.

"I expect they'll work on each island in stages," he said.
The islands will be located approximately in front of Young's drug store, Langercraft craft store and the Barrager's building. Each island will contain a raised planter box for trees, lower beds for shrubs and precast concrete waste baskets. The planter boxes will be made of heavy, treated timbers and the island will be paved with lockstone blocks.
Mr. Martel said the materials were chosen specifically to be as maintenance free as

possible as well as relatively vandal-proof. He has asked for a two year guarantee on the trees since the first winter frequently proves fatal to trees that have been transplanted. He has also stipulated that he will pick the trees himself rather than allow the nursery to make the choice. The trees to be planted are to be large enough to make an impact immediately rather than requiring several years of growth to be noticeable.

GUEST SPEAKER
Glen Wood, guest speaker for the evening told the group how he renovated and updated properties he owns in London, Stratford and Cambridge.

Mr. Wood warned business people that while it may seem tempting to alter plans for renovating a property into a number of small stores because a specific client wants something bigger, in the long run the overall concept of numerous small shops and boutiques may provide a better shopping atmosphere. Utilize every square inch of a building, he said.

Downtown areas need special merchandizing and something unique to offer shoppers in order to survive, Mr. Wood said. While there may be little difference in the cost of renovating an old building and building a new one from scratch, the atmosphere created by restoring an old structure gives a more saleable package in the long run.

GOOD DEAL
He suggested that BIAs and LACAC groups can do a good deal about the redevelopment of downtown areas if they look at old buildings in their town and devise ways of making them useable rather than just saying they want these buildings preserved.

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