



Slipping and sliding down Main Street

Adults fear the icy conditions of Penetanguishene's Main Street, but not these little ones. Slipping and sliding down Main Street on Saturday afternoon are six-year-old Denise Legault (front), six-year-old Jennifer Wright (left) and four-year-old Mark Legault.

Staff photo

Politicians, planners feel task force underrates potential area growth

A number of area politicians and planners are concerned that the Midland area has been hard done by in the second interim report of the Simcoe Georgian Task Force. Council members and appointed board representatives from six area municipalities met with study director Malcolm Martini in Midland council chambers last Wednesday night to discuss the report. The task force is the brain child of the Ontario government and is charged with designing a development strategy for Simcoe County for the next 30-40 years. The task force is heading into its final months of operation, with the final report due to be released later this year. According to Midland reeve Moreland Lynn the report does not indicate the true industrial growth potential for the area. Trying to put Midland in a growth perspective, he noted that the area has no set limits in terms of the capability of the environment, according to the report. It is a "hard fact", Lynn added, that there must be limits to growth in Bradford, Barrie, and Orillia due to environmental factors.

"While you have a greater capability, it is not limitless," Martini stressed. Problems such as those related to the Wye Marsh and Little Lake exist and "tend to accumulate". Midland he contended, "is not so different from Orillia or Barrie."

Lynn felt that the main reasons why projected growth for the area is constrained to 70,000 — the suggested population for Midland and the surrounding area by 2011 — relate to transportation and the location of predominant markets. He conceded that Midland has its share of transportation problems, but questioned the consultants' use of the market proximity factor as a barrier to growth. It should have been noted in the report, Lynn added, that "given better transportation services and considering the true potential capability of the area, we should have a limit of 90,000 — otherwise we run the risk of becoming a dependent bedroom community to Barrie." If the transportation problem is resolved, the constraints to growth would be removed, he said.

The people of the area "don't want horrendous growth", he stated, but they do want "balanced growth".

If Midland were to grow to 70,000 people over the next 32 years, Reeve Lynn pointed out that it would represent only a four per cent increase per annum. Waving an adding machine tape, he also noted that a population of 70,000 could be achieved in 22 years, at a growth rate of six per cent.

"Our studies have



World Day of Prayer

Senior Citizens and guests at the Georgian Manor stand to pray on Friday night during a special "World Day of Prayer" Service. Guest speakers included Sister Joan Whalen and Reverend Sid Maddock.

Staff photo

suggested that the capacity for the area is in the neighbourhood of 125,000 people", he told the meeting.

Deputy-reeve Catherine Dion felt that not enough consideration had been given to the Barrie/Midland growth strategy, one of three possibilities explored by the task force. The consultants' preference for the multi-centred approach to growth is "just a political thing — to keep everybody happy", he said.

Responding to what he termed "an interesting accusation", Martini pointed out that "as planners, we have to respond to what the people in the area want", in terms of the environment, agriculture, lifestyles, goals and ambitions.

Deputy-reeve Dion also echoed Lynn's concern that Midland not become the bedroom for Barrie.

In the early stages of the strategy, Martini stressed that Barrie will be the catalyst to get growth into the area and will generate growth to other parts of the

county. Barrie, "the key in the growth strategy", has the most promise in terms of employment opportunities, available support facilities, transportation, and its proximity to predominant markets, he noted. Barrie however, is seriously constrained by its lack of available industrial land.

Martini declared that he was "by no means opposed to growth in the Midland area." But he pointed out that there is "no way Midland will grow without Barrie. In fact, if things don't happen in Barrie, they won't happen anywhere else."

Area planner John Faulkner felt it was inevitable that "Barrie will grow naturally — so why not emphasize the other area in the report?"

Martini said he was "prepared to look harder at all the points raised at the meeting, including the call for a four lane connector from the 400 extension to Midland and a de-emphasis of the Barrie magnet."



IMPORTANT MESSAGE to the ELDERLY CITIZENS

The Council of the Town of Penetanguishene has hired a person to assist the Senior Citizens of the Town with their Income Tax Returns.

This person will be at the Municipal Office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, until April 15th, 1975.

So that you will not have to wait, please phone 549-7453 and make an appointment.

Y. A. Gagne, A.M.C.T.,
Clerk-Treasurer,
Town of Penetanguishene.

Tiny planning praised

In contrast to the province's critical attitude towards planning in Tiny township, the Ministry of Housing has written to the township of Tiny in praise of its planning programs.

In the letter to township clerk-treasurer Guy Maurice, director of the ministry's official plans branch Mrs. Anne Beaumont said she wished "to commend Tiny Township for the very responsible approach which it is taking toward land use planning".

Beaumont, who personally worked with the township a couple of years ago as a senior planner, stated that she recognized "the effort, dedication and cost which must be expended to carry on such an extensive planning program."

The ministry, she said, had not always endorsed the township's proposals, but had been "very impressed with the quality of your submissions."

Beaumont told the

township that she highly endorsed the degree of public input which is solicited by the township in the process of preparing such documents as the waterfront secondary plans. In addition, she noted that the Tiny planning board is the only board in Simcoe County which provides the minutes of its meetings for her department's information.

The township faces "a number of major planning problems", she said. "The resort areas, the hamlets, and preservation of farmland are all thorny issues." Beaumont said she hoped the township carefully considered the rate at which it continues to grow.

"Perhaps the Simcoe-Georgian Task Force work and the on-going discussions at the Tiny-Tay Area Planning Board level will allow you to put development pressures in their proper

regional context," she concluded.

Deputy-reeve of Tiny Hilda Sibthorpe, always an advocate of sound planning, said "it was very encouraging to receive such recognition. It makes us feel all our work hasn't been for nothing."

ANNUAL MEETING PENETANGUSHENE GENERAL HOSPITAL

The general public is invited to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Penetanguishene General Hospital.

TO BE HELD AT THE HOSPITAL
ON
Thurs., March 13, 1975
AT 8:00 P.M.

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