



Lumber records destroyed

Waubaushene landmark levelled, arson suspected

A Waubaushene landmark was levelled by fire in the early hours of Saturday morning, and one of the casualties was a collection of irreplaceable lumber company records dating back more than 75 years.

The building, owned since 1952 by Waubaushene Navigation Limited, housed the first lumber firm in the hamlet, and the concrete vault beside had housed the records of several firms for years.

According to Tay Township fire chief Tom O'Hara, a small fire partially gutted the site a few years ago and vandals had later broken a hole in the concrete vault, leaving the files exposed to Saturday's flames.

Firemen were on the scene from 3:30 a.m. to 7 a.m., according to the chief, and he said the blaze started so quickly that he believes it was

deliberately set, likely by vandals.

"That building had a lot of historical value" despite recent deterioration, the chief said, "especially in the doors, window frames and so on...it was quite an antique structure."

Later that afternoon, another fire started behind another building on the property, but firemen brought it under control before it spread to a structure that houses "invaluable machinery."

The chief said he believes the second fire was also the work of an arsonist.

Port Severn home torched

Arson is also suspected in a blaze that destroyed a Port Severn building at 11 a.m. Saturday morning, according to O'Hara.

Another old structure, owned by the chief's brother Charles, was

being torn down by Alfie Gerioux, with the wood and other objects being salvaged.

O'Hara and Gerioux received a phone call from an anonymous man who asked "What do you think of your building now?" The man looked out to see the structure engulfed in flames.

O'Hara had no damage estimates on these two fires but said members of the Midland detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are investigating the incidents.

Boat blows up at marina

An early morning boat ride Sunday almost ended in disaster when the entire back end blew out in an explosion as the craft was pulling away from the dock at the Sandy Bay Marina about 6:30 a.m.

O'Hara said the people on board were "lucky to

get out" and make it to shore as the wooden-hulled Grew burned in the water. The boat was owned by Dell Dahms.

And two more added to list

In addition to the incidents above, at least two other blazes helped keep the Waubaushene fire brigade on duty from Thursday right through the weekend. One truck erupted in flames and at least one grass fire had to be extinguished in a four day stretch that left the men exhausted and definitely not looking forward to a series of repeat performances.

Mayor Harold Boyd expressed his skepticism that a government could run a transit system as cheaply as a private operator. "I don't know anything about running buses", he added. Clerk-

Public transit:

Only the colours have been decided as Midland debates who will run its buses

Midland council has not yet decided who will run the new Midland transit buses, but it has decided what colours to paint the new RekVee vehicles.

At a special meeting held Thursday night, council decided on the logo — a stylized 'M' — and dark green and white as the colours for the new transit coaches.

But the question of who will operate the spanking new fleet of three buses is still up in the air. And delivery date for the buses is set for August.

Art Read, of Read-Voorhees Associates, transportation consultants to the town of Midland, told council that the cost of operating the buses, as indicated in the tender prices submitted by two local bus companies, are "very high". In fact, the costs are so high, "it is our feeling that the town could operate the three new coaches more cheaply itself than to tender for their operation."

According to Read, the private operators "are very nervous" when considering proposals such as this, considering the economic uncertainties of the times.

"They just feel they have to protect themselves", he added. Although he said he originally thought that private operators should be able to operate more economically, "It appears that this is not the case". Read estimated that the town could save approximately \$10,000 a year by assuming the operation itself.

Mayor Harold Boyd expressed his skepticism that a government could run a transit system as cheaply as a private operator. "I don't know anything about running buses", he added. Clerk-

treasurer Bill Hack said he was a bit leery of the amount of paper and bookwork involved should the town operate the system.

But Read said he

couldn't see "awarding a contract where the costs are greater than what they should be".

Reeve Moreland Lynn echoed Boyd's sentiments, saying he failed

"to see how a public government could operate cheaper than private enterprise."

Because he said he was not convinced the information was full, Lynn recommended that the decision be deferred until more detailed analysis of costs to the town can be

obtained. Earlier in the evening, councillor Miles Blackhurst noted that the town of Richmond Hill was watching the

Midland transit situation with interest and would possibly follow Midland's lead. "That's like the blind leading the blind", commented Mayor Boyd.



Moreau - Ball

The wedding of Debra Moreau of Waubaushene and Ball of Toronto took place on May 17 at St. John's Church. Flower girl for the ceremony was Christine O'Hara of Waubaushene while Christopher Beard of Jarrat was ring-bearer.

Players need storage space

Midland's Huronia Players are in need of a new location to store their scenery and costumes. They have not yet had any success in locating a new storage area and are soliciting suggestions from the general public. Anyone with suggestions of a suitable facility is asked to contact Raymond Knight at 526-8905.

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At Jay-Haro Nursing Home

Past Noble Grands meet

by Charlotte Gerdes

On Thursday evening the Past Noble Grands Club of Margaret Rebekah Lodge met in the craft room of Jay-Haro Nursing Home for their June meeting as guests of Mrs. Fern Rosborough, one of their elderly members who is a resident in that home. Seventeen members were present. President Gladys Todd opened the meeting with a poem called "Friends," followed with the Lord's prayer in unison. Mrs. Rosborough was presented with a basket of fruit from the Club and several individual gifts, from her friends. This particular meeting had been in the planning for some time, and in spite of the sudden death on Thursday morning June 26, of her sister Mrs. Lloyd Heels of Waubaushene, Mrs. Rosborough went on with the meeting rather than disappointing her friends. Mrs. Norma Sallows

reported she had purchased four more mattress covers for our hospital beds with Dominion Store tapes that we all save and turn into the club. Mrs. Pat Athron reported three more mattresses had arrived at the station, also purchased with the tapes. Any type of sick room equipment may be borrowed free of charge by anyone in need of such things.

It was decided to change our meeting nights back to the first Wednesday in the month as it was more suitable to the majority concerned.

The next meeting will be on September 3, at the home of Mrs. Bernice Wilson.

The meeting was brought to a close with the Mizba Benediction and a lovely lunch was served

by several of the members.

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