



Steve Fournier:
"People are the foundations of the city"

NIP - people are the key

Federal and provincial government programs designed to improve the quality of deteriorating neighbourhoods and houses are pumping roughly \$800,000 into Penetanguishene this year but the money alone isn't enough to do the job.

The people are the key. That's how Penetanguishene's temporary NIP (Neighbourhood Improvement Program) coordinator Steve Fournier views the situation when it comes to improving a neighbourhood by building a community park, putting in new sidewalks, curbs, sewers, roads or whatever is needed in a particular area of town. (Fournier is a student summer worker at the town office).

"The people are the foundations of the city. Without people you don't have a city or a town." When Fournier talks like that it's not rhetoric. What he says is based on the sincere belief that if "people are given the opportunity to tackle something they can solve their problems."

But while the money is there, the people must decide how to spend it and to do that they need to understand what the programs are about.

Explaining the programs to the people is one of Fournier's jobs. "The acronyms (NIP, RRAP and OHRP) themselves are confusing...if you throw them around. You have to go slow with things when you first talk to people," explains Fournier from his chair in the Chamber of Commerce building which is being used as the town's NIP, RRAP and OHRP information centre.

People are urged to come down to the information centre to find out what NIP, RRAP and OHRP are about. As Fournier puts it, "you've been paying taxes for the past 20 years. Why not take advantage of the programs by seeing if you qualify?"

Once the people have an understanding of the programs the onus is on them to decide how to put available government funds to work.

In the case of RRAP and OHRP that means that home owners have to apply for the grants to improve their residences. However, for NIP the self help approach means that

residents in the west end of town must come up with a plan on how to most effectively spend \$300,000 to improve the quality of their neighbourhood. "Of NIP," Fournier says, "the residents themselves can accomplish as much as they want depending on how much energy they want to put into it."

The beauty of NIP according to Fournier is that the "program isn't so rigid that novel ideas for solving problems can't be implemented."

The key feature of the NIP program, Fournier believes, is the way it involves people. Physically the problems of neighbourhood blight can be solved by repairing homes and tearing down eyesores. But deteriorated neighbourhoods are more than the physical buildings. They are a symptom of a social illness according to Fournier. Blighted neighbourhoods and rundown buildings, he says, indicate "the person within" has "let go...doesn't give a damn."

Technically, Fournier maintains that urban experts can analyze and suggest cures to rehabilitate neighbourhoods but they don't have the special "every day knowledge" of the people who live within it. "One of the aims of the (NIP) program is to bring these two types of knowledge together."



Come NIP and RRAP

For answers to questions on the NIP, RRAP or OHRP phone the NIP/RRAP Information Centre at 549-2115. Better yet drop by at the centre for a visit. It's located at the Chamber of Commerce building at the corner of Water and Owen Streets. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

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Tiny still plans on selling part of NWB parkland

The continuing controversy between Tiny Township council and members of the North West Basin Parks and Recreation Board over the size of a proposed multi-recreation centre in the North West Basin area remains unresolved following an appearance by a delegation of roughly 12 people at a Tiny Township council meeting last Thursday.

Last winter Tiny Township council authorized the purchase of the land for \$40,000 on the condition that part of it could be sold if the recovery of some costs was considered necessary. Now the council is trying to sell 12 acres of the 31.7 acre parcel of land, which is located south of a road splitting the 16th and 17th concessions and west of Camp Marygrove.

In an interview last Friday, Mailloux said a petition which calls on Tiny council not to sell 12 acres until it is proven that the land will not be needed for any of the planned facilities, was signed by 350 people. Deputy-reeve Hilda

Sibthorpe said that the decision to sell part of the 31.7 acre parcel of land was made some time ago and still stands. She claimed that the NWB didn't need more than 20 acres for its proposed community recreation centre and added that the 20 acre site would be about twice as much as the amount of recreation land in any of the other centres in Tiny Township (Perkinsfield, Lafontaine, Waverley, ect.)

Sibthorpe claimed that the plans were "ambitious" and indicated that while a large 31.7 acre multi-recreational complex as planned by the NWB would be nice, the proposal may not be practical when aspects like maintenance costs are considered. Tiny has a long range goal of "establishing a multi-purpose township recreation centre she said. "But we know we can't accomplish that for years." If a township recreation centre is not practical something may have to be worked out on an area basis involving other municipalities Sibthorpe said.

NWB Parks and Recreation president, Larry Patenaude, in a telephone interview Monday said, "We think we're being treated unfairly on the deal." When Tiny did purchase the land township spokesmen claimed they would sell only six and a half acres of the bush land if they couldn't afford to keep the whole 31.7 acres Patenaude claimed. Now an additional five acres of bush land have been added for the proposed sale. That reduces the

amount of land to 20 acres. When it is taken into account that three to five acres of remaining land are in a gully the final size of the site for the proposed multi-purpose recreation centre may only be 16 to 17 acres Patenaude estimated. Until the question of how much land will be sold is settled, nothing will be done to develop the area Patenaude said. So far now plans for two baseball diamonds, an arena, tennis courts, a soccer and football field, a swimming pool and a senior citizens home remain at a standstill.

No more bananas for Tiny Township monkey

Tiny Township's chief vagrant, finding the corn to be not so sweet, has apparently changed its diet to cucumbers, tomatoes, and beans.

Officials of the Midland detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police discovered evidence on Friday in the garden of Mrs. Charlebois of Cedar

Point that the infamous escapee of the Wasaga Beach Zoo has diversified his tastes. Mrs. Charlebois' neighbour, Mrs. Seguin reported the monkey sighting to the OPP office at noon on Friday, and told police that he had ambled off in a westerly direction.

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Wessenger names NDP committee members

Simcoe Centre NDP Candidate Paul Wessenger today named the members of his campaign committee. Campaign chairman is Rich Partridge and chief financial officer Phil Lade. Other members of the committee include finance chairman Michael Wolfe, organizer Myra Partridge, office manager Forrest Sandberg, sign chairman Jim Rosso, publicity chairman Katie Austin, Barrie area chairman Fred Ruemper and Bradford area chairman Dwight Jones.

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Phelpston — 7:30 p.m. Sat — 9:00 a.m. Sunday
Elmvale — 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. Sunday

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Phones: The Church 322-1411, The Manse, 322-2453
Elmvale Church: Christian Education, 10 a.m. Christian Worship, 11 a.m.

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Phones: Church 322-1472, Manse 322-1522
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