

Knox-Price House plans shelved

Board rejects old folks home

The proposed Knox-Price House, a senior citizen's building planned for Hugel Avenue near Second Street, won't materialize for sometime it seems—not unless

Midland's Planning Board can induce architect R. (Miles) Allison to submit a plan that meets municipal building requirements. In a meeting of the

planning board Tuesday, January 18, the architect's plans were unanimously rejected because they failed to meet building regulations in five different areas.

The building site for the project was originally donated to the town three years ago by a former resident of Midland, Mrs. Eugenia Price. At the time of the

donation the donor expressed her wish that the property be used for senior citizens' housing if possible. The town handed the land over to the Knox Presbyterian

Church who in turn gave it back to Mrs. Price. Neither the town nor the church could get the ball rolling on a senior citizen's building.

Mrs. Price then donated the site to Canada Word of Truth, a non-profit, charitable organization who are now the agents for the building project.

The design of the project was presented to the planning board by architect Allison and solicitor for Canada Word of Truth, Greg Rice. The two got little response for the board after pointedly asking for "input" immediately after their presentation. Once the architect and solicitor left however, the roof caved in.

Board member Tom Leitch, after carefully examining the designs with an engineer's ruler claimed he didn't think the drawings were "even drawn to scale," and added that the drawings seemed "sneaky."

After a detailed discussion of the matter a motion was passed to reject the proposal because of several variances. According to the planning board the building plans were rejected because:

- the frontage of the building site is short of municipal building requirements;
- the building itself covers more than 25 per cent of the total lot area;
- the side yard on the east side of the site requires a publicly owned laneway to meet municipal standards;
- the rear yard is less than the 35 feet in length required by a town by-law;
- the lot is too small for a 28 unit apartment complex.

Architect Allison will have to go back to the drawing board before the town's planning committee will give the go-ahead to begin construction.

The project was initiated two years ago by Canada Word of Truth and it would seem that confirmation of the plans is still nowhere in sight.

Rotary Club exchange

Argentinian visitor thrilled by snow

Fernanda Myorga is a long way from home but

she's delighted to be in Midland, and finds our

snowy landscape exciting. In fact, she's

hoping to learn to ski while she's up here.

Home, for the slender 17 year-old is Alta Gracia, a city of 20,000 in Cordoba Province, Argentina.

Last week she began her year as a Rotary International exchange student. Her host families in Midland will be Victor and Ruth Mlodcki, Frank and Marg Harmsworth, Paul and Cathy Cadieux, Guy and Cathy Johnstone, Jim and Vivian Shaw and Fred and Barbara Hacker.

Fernanda is enrolled in grade thirteen at Midland Secondary School. Her native language is Spanish. She speaks French fluently, and is hoping that her year in Canada will improve her English fluency.

At home, in Alta Gracia, she has two sisters, Mercedes and Cecilia. It's a close family, and she says that quiet conversations with her mother and father are

one of the most important parts of her young life. Like all young people, she likes cycling, tennis, swimming and strolling through the parks in her home town. She also likes listening to music, and reading - history and novels.

The Rotary International exchange program is open to young people between 15 and 18 who have achieved 85 per cent or better in their academic work. Students (or their parents) pay transportation from home to their destination, and from that point on, Rotary takes over. Club members provide accommodation, opportunities for local travel and a small amount of pocket money. A highlight of each exchange year is a trip to Ottawa, provided by Rotary International, in which all exchange students participate.

According to Larry Houston, local Rotary Exchange Student Chairman, the program aims to further international goodwill and understanding by enabling students to study in a country other than their own. The young people are also unofficial ambassadors from their own countries and talk to local Rotary Clubs and other interested organizations about life in their own country.

Last year Midland's Rotary Club joined the International Exchange program, and sent two students, Donna Jones and Pat Trax to Australia and the Philippines.

Students for this year's program will be announced some time before next summer.



Rotarian Frank Harmsworth welcomes Fernanda Myorga to her first Canadian

Rotary Club meeting at Brooklea last Wednesday.

Annual meeting held Monday

Chamber of Commerce to work for downtown revival

The Midland Chamber of Commerce started off the new year by resolving to work for the regeneration of the town's downtown business district. At the Chamber's annual meeting Monday the group also stressed the importance of Midland's annexation plans.

Speaking for the Chamber's retail services committee, Peter Palmer said "we need to check the general apathy and complacency that's gripped our downtown business people." He also stated that longer store hours and better customer service would be needed to restore customer confidence in the district.

The committee's budget has been raised this year from \$9,000 to \$12,000 to finance the campaign promoting downtown Midland.

Several speakers stressed the importance of Midland's bid to annex about 1100 acres of land east of the Old Pentang Road and south to the Wye Marsh. If granted to the town, the land will be serviced as an industrial park.

Mayor Moreland Lynn described the annexation proposal as "one of the most important things the new council will face." Chamber of Commerce president Gord Teskey said "without annexation you might as well write Midland off the map."

Midland's new industrial commissioner, Bill Vidler, pointed out that not only is there a shortage of suitable land for development, but that much of the land is privately owned. He promised to approach the owners of privately owned to find out their plans.

Vidler noted that last year only one industry - Nebs Business Forms - was established in

Midland. "It's not very encouraging," he said. Bob Voorzanger of the Chamber's tourist committee reported that the Huronia Tourist Association found tourism was down 25 to 45 per cent in most of the region, although a few areas had small increases. The number of persons visiting the Chamber's tourist information office rose from 1760 in 1975 to 1913 in 1976 but many of these were regular summer

residents, said Voorzanger.

A survey taken in Toronto last summer found 80 per cent of the people surveyed didn't know of Midland. Voorzanger said more promotion of the area's attractions is needed.

Finance committee chairman Felix Kurtschner reported a rise in membership over 1975 from 159 to 170. Membership fees for the Chamber are to rise 3.7 per cent to pay for this

years activities. The town's contribution to the organization has been raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The Chamber's professional services committee, headed by John Gorman, has already had some success in a campaign to join more professionals to the Chamber.

Ernie Cowden, John Patchell and Gord Teskey were elected to the Chamber's Board of Directors for 1977.

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Toronto resident wins trip

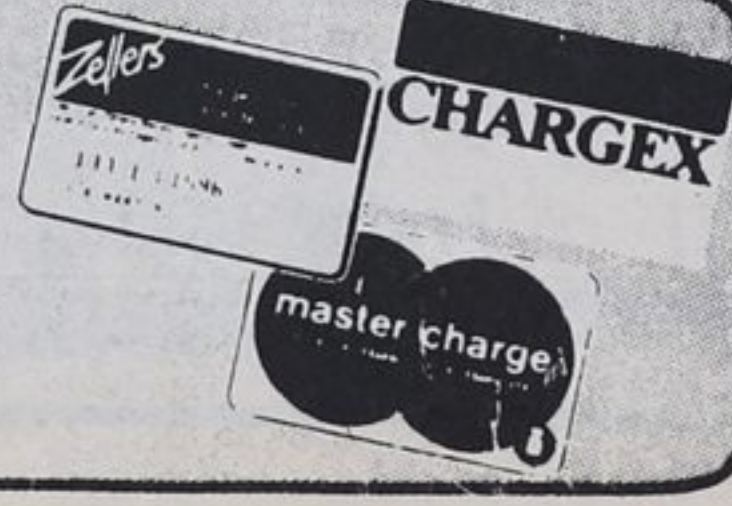
Winner of the Georgian Bay Oldtimers' January 19th draw of a trip for two to Switzerland was Leo Desrochers of Toronto.

The Oldtimers will hold another draw for a trip to Switzerland on February 18. Proceeds go towards sponsoring the team on their upcoming trip to Switzerland in March. Tickets can be purchased from Sam Ritchie.

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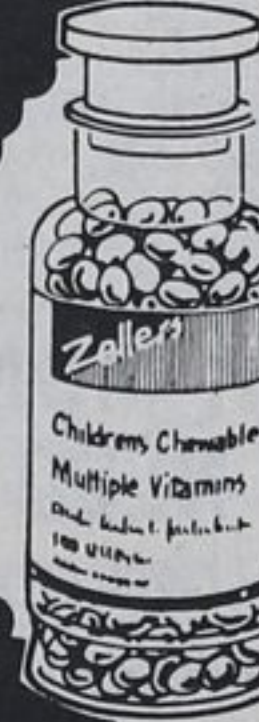
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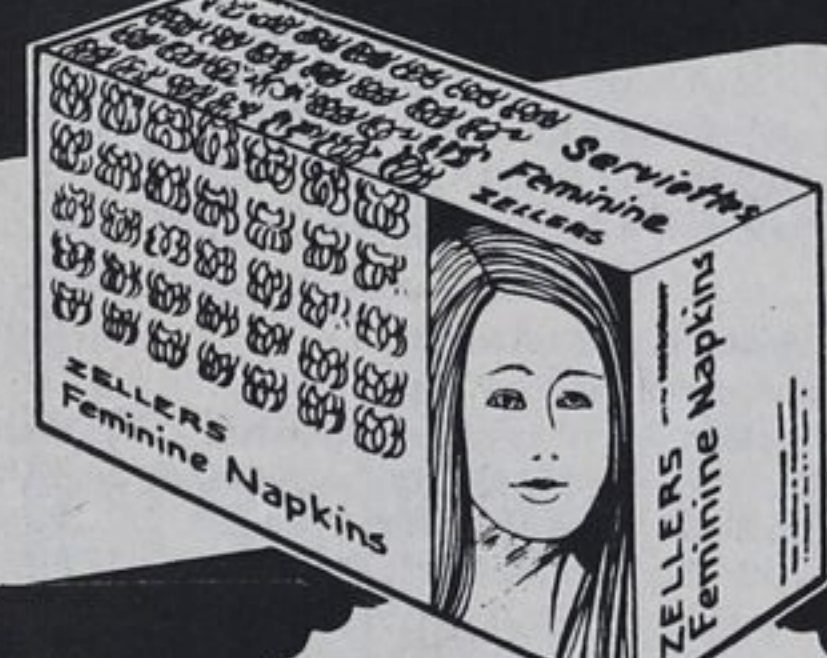
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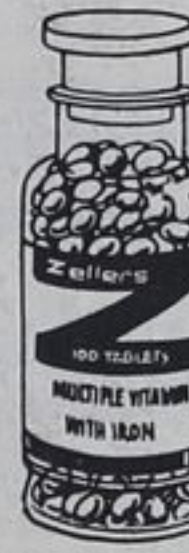
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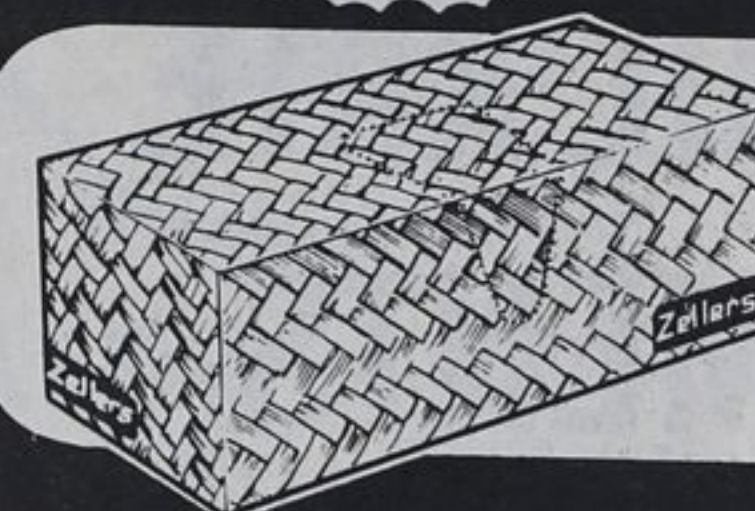
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