

Planner recommends county establish planning department

by Wilma Pavlik
 Though it may take a number of years to set-up, Simcoe County must establish its own Planning Department or face provincially imposed restructuring, according to County Planning Committee Chairman James Belcher.

"If we do not become strong masters in our own house, we can foresee

directives coming from Queen's Park", Belcher told County Councillors, Wednesday. He said the committee's long-range outlook calls for an established Planning Department within 5 years, with a great deal of careful consideration going into its inception.

Some regional planning boards such as those of Tiny, Tay and



Sunday drivers?
 Not everyone at Penetanguishene's Winterama participated in the racing events, but these two children got their taste of the action as they "raced" around the merry-go-round at the town dock. Staff photo

Simcoe won't go for secret ballot

by Wilma Pavlik
 Time-honoured tradition won't over change in Midhurst Wednesday as County Councillors resoundingly rejected a Grey County resolution calling for a secret ballot in County elections.

The requirement for an open recorded vote for Wardens of Counties or chairmen of regions is spelled out in Section 197 of The Municipal Act. It is this requirement that Grey County wants changed but Simcoe County says "nothing doing".

A Finance and Administration Committee report recommending that the Grey County resolution be "not endorsed" sparked prompt rebuttal from Wm. Ogilvie, Deputy Reeve of Midland. "An open vote is not in the best interests of either Grey County or Simcoe County" he said. "The practise is devious not only within this Council but also between our municipalities. As a result geographical allegiance is often evident in the voting and scars are sometimes perpetrated which linger indelibly" Ogilvie said.

Rama Reeve Russell Cooper told the Council that no other form of government requires an open vote and described it as "unfair and undemocratic".

Gordon Priestman, Reeve of Matchedash Township, called the secret ballot "the bulwark of democracy". He said the tendency in an open ballot is for the popular man to be elected rather than the man with the most ability.

Robin Talbot, Reeve of Port McNicoll, also speaking in favour of a change, said that this "undemocratic process" was brought to his attention by a newspaper editorial.

Mara Reeve Peter Forbes shrugged off the criticisms saying "I don't believe anyone was ever intimidated by the open ballot".

Though Forbes was the only Councillor to speak in favour of the open ballot system, the recorded vote found 37 Councillors supporting its retention against 9 who would like future elections to be conducted by secret ballot.

Grey County will have to go elsewhere to gain support for its proposed amendment to the Municipal Act, for there is none forthcoming from Simcoe County.

Police report

Man bites officer

Charges of causing a disturbance, resisting arrest, and assaulting a police officer were laid against a 32-year-old Penetanguishene man Saturday afternoon, as a result of an incident outside the Hotel Brule.

Edward Lapensee, and another man, Michael Moreau, 20, of 3 Fox Street, were involved in the incident, and both were charged by Constable Michael Brady, with causing a disturbance by using obscene language, at about 5:00. Lapensee began to resist arrest, and Constables Thomas Marchand and Thomas Tiffin were called to the scene to assist Brady. During the fracas, Constable Marchand was bitten on the leg.

Constable Tiffin laid the charges of resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer.

Collision
 A Penetanguishene man was charged with failing to yield from a parked position, after he allegedly caused an accident on Main Street last Friday.

Patrick Bechard, of 63 Burke Street, was charged in connection with an accident which occurred in front of 87 Main Street at 10:00 a.m. Friday. He struck a vehicle being driven by Geraldine Forget, of Midland, causing \$600 damage to her car. There was no damage to Bechard's car, and no one was injured.

Accident
 No charges were laid in connection with an accident which occurred at 6:05 p.m. Saturday, at the corner of Brock Street and Brock Street Lane.

The accident involved two cars, one driven by James Ball, of 9th Avenue, Port McNicoll, and the other driven by Steve McDonald, of 117 Yeo Street. No one was injured, and there was \$300 damage done to McDonald's car, and \$100 damage to Ball's car.

Snowmobile accident
 A 46-year-old Cambridge woman was taken to Penetanguishene General Hospital for treatment Saturday, following a snowmobile accident.

The accident, which occurred on private property, at 58 Burke Street, happened at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday, but was not reported until 9:20 a.m. Sunday. Angela Lindhorst was a passenger on the back of a snowmobile driven by Charles Corbeau, of 58 Burke Street, when it went out of control, and struck a chicken coup. Lindhorst was thrown from the machine, and went through a window on the structure. She suffered lacerations to the face.

No charges were laid as a result of the incident.

Accident
 Constable Thomas Marchand laid a charge of failing to yield at a yield sign Friday night as a result of an accident at the corner of Church and Brock Streets.

The accident occurred at about 8:30 p.m., and Ivan Hall, of Ingersoll, was charged. His car struck another driven by Gerard Marchand, of 23 Richelieu Street. Hall's car sustained \$1,500 damage, while the damage to Marchand's car amounted to \$2,000. No one was injured.

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Town of Midland ONTARIO PROCLAMATIONS and NOTICES

Attention
DOG OWNERS

Dog owners are reminded that 1977 tags must be purchased on or before February 15th, 1977, and should be obtained at Municipal Offices at \$4.00 each.

You are also reminded the running at large of dogs is prohibited at any time. Owners of dogs found running at large are subject to fines of up to a maximum of \$50.00, exclusive of costs, as prescribed by our Dog Control By-law.

Buy your tag now!

Ernest T. Bates,
 Chief of Police,
 Midland.

TAX PREPAYMENT INTEREST Town of Midland

Pursuant to Section 527 (5), The Municipal Act, the following interest will be allowed on payments of 1977 taxes, irrespective of the amount:

February, 1977	Interest 3 1/2 per cent
March, 1977	Interest 3 per cent
April, 1977	Interest 2 1/2 per cent
May, 1977	Interest 2 per cent
June, 1977	Interest 1 1/2 per cent

Note: This is equal to 8 per cent per annum calculated from Jan. 1st to June 30th, the estimated date of demand of payment of 1977 taxes.

Hilda M. Martin
 Treasurer
 Midland, Ontario