

'We get treated as second class citizens' — Spearn

Cont'd from p.1

Spear's final argument centred around the minimum standards set out in the zoning bylaw. He said there were a large number of exceptions to these standards in the Brule Heights plan.

"We get treated as second class citizens," he said, making it clear that he meant second class in the sense that the subdivision would be substandard in a number of ways compared with the rest of the town.

He told the planning

board that this would establish a very bad precedent, and proposed that the board not approve it as presented to them, but consider instead a counter-proposal presented nearly two weeks ago by another rate payer, Ken St. Amant.

That plan would have substituted single family dwellings for semi-detached along the north side of Brule Street west of Le Carron and on four lots to the east of Le Carron.

Planning board member John Bayfield

said he felt the bylaw as originally proposed would result in an over-concentration of semi-detached housing in one area. He pointed out that the housing policy states that housing types should be mixed.

Willard Duquette said he agreed with Spearn that if the bylaw was approved as presented, the town's semi-detached needs would be met for years to come.

The newest member of the board, Don Limoges, said as long as the board was confining itself to planning, he did not like the idea of the six-plexes which are also included in the bylaw, but which have been agreed to already by the ratepayers. He conceded though that in the end the final decision would not be based on planning concepts, but on legal and economic problems.

The board then voted to amend the bylaw to include the ratepayers request, with Gil Robillard voting against, and Mayor Vince Moreau abstaining.

Robillard said he thought the board was talking about planning, but not giving council a chance for implementation.

At Monday night's council meeting, the bylaw, as revised by the planning board, was given two readings before it was sent back to the

Housing and Development Committee for further consideration. The bylaw should get a going over by the committee and be returned for the third reading at the May meeting of council.

Following the meeting, Ken St. Amant, one of the residents in phase one of the Brule Heights subdivision, and one of the more vocal objectors to the plans for phase two, said the general feeling among the ratepayers was that council would reject the revised bylaw as proposed by the planning board.

"We're tired and disappointed," he said.

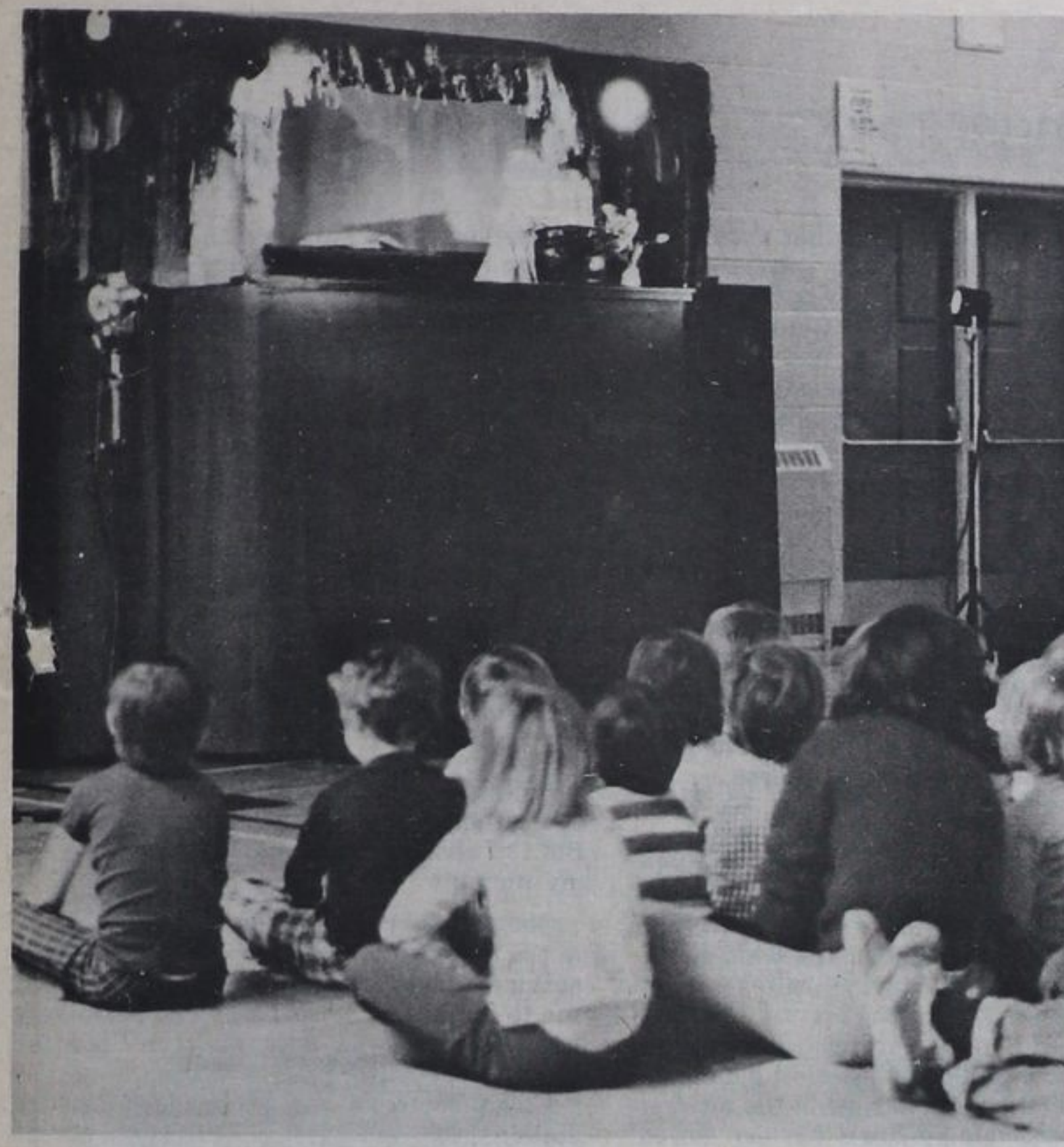
"It looks like it'll go to the OMB again."

He said he hoped the town would figure out accurately just how much it would cost to approve

the bylaw, and how much it would cost to reject it. "It's going to cost them money which ever way they go." If it goes to the OMB, he said, "they'll

have to pay another \$5,000 to hire a lawyer to fight us."

He added, "I hope Romeo is prepared to wait another two years."



Show time at Corpus Christi

The students at Corpus Christi School were completely engrossed by this puppet show which was presented in the gymnasium of the school last week as part of Education Week activities.

Staff photo

Tiny council approves 'pioneer village' project

North Simcoe's first and only pioneer village has received the 'go-ahead' from Tiny Township Council.

Council recently approved a planning board recommendation to amend Tiny's official plan to permit development of a pioneer village by Marcelville Antiques.

An antique store, reproductions shop and furniture stripping outlet are now located on the Marcelville property on Hwy. 27 between Midland and Penetanguishene but the amendment would permit expansion and diversification of Marcelville's operations.

Plans proposed by Denis Robitaille and his family, owners of Marcelville, call for the construction of a carriage shop, cabinet maker's shop, blacksmith's, a general store, harness maker's building, Victorian house, settler's cabin and an auberge, all of which will be built with the area's pioneer tradition in mind.

"I think our plans go back eight or nine years," Denis Robitaille recalled on Monday. "It was somewhat of a dream maybe...the main reason really was to pass on some heritage to our own kids...so it was really only a question of time."

The decline in the

availability of antiques ("we used to bring them in by the truckload every day - now it's only every month"), coupled with Tiny Council's request for a long range forecast for the antique and furniture stripping business prompted realization of the pioneer village plans.

"We'll go heavy on the French-Canadian theme," Denis predicted. "There's not too much evidence of the French influence here and we feel they deserve a bit of credit and recognition." The French-Canadian ambience will, Denis hopes, be especially effective in the auberge - a good, old-fashioned French-Canadian "eaterie", which Denis thinks will be a first for the area.

Cabinet-makers' shop first The first planned building, a cabinet-maker's shop, will be erected as soon as Marcelville receives a building permit for the barn-like structure. All manufacturing of reproductions and furniture finishing will be moved into this shop, which will be open for viewing for those interested in Marcelville reproductions.

All other buildings will be specifically built to display aspects of pioneer life thus the general store

could feature home-made quilts, jams, jellies, - "anything hand-made in about a 50 mile radius of here," Denis enthused. The settler's cabin will be furnished with original antiques to set the tone for the pioneer period and (hopefully) stimulate interest in the antique operations themselves.

Although the Victorian House may seem out of place, Denis insists it will be relevant because of the British influence in the area, such as has been recreated at Historic Military and Naval Establishments in Penetanguishene.

Construction of these buildings will depend on the success of the rest of the Marcelville operations. Council waived any time-related development guarantees but will ask for a performance bond to ensure retention of the pioneer concept at all phases of the development. Marcelville's plans have gone to the ministry of housing for its perusal, then once detailed plans and landscaping guidelines are submitted by the Robitailles, council will clear the way for start of the first building. With some luck the first phase of a pioneer village could be attracting tourists within the decade.

Police report

Quiet weekend

Penetanguishene police had a very quiet weekend, as no charges were laid, and no accidents were investigated.

The only action they saw all weekend occurred when they accompanied the fire department to Arbour's Confectionery at 3:15 Sunday afternoon. There was no actual fire, but the department was called to check out an overheated stove.

Bike licences

The police department reports that sales of bicycle licences are going well.

The licences are compulsory, and cost \$1.00. A spokesman for the department said the police usually just issue a warning the first time someone is caught riding without one, but they could make the owners of unlicensed bicycles come in and buy a licence, or even give them a fine.

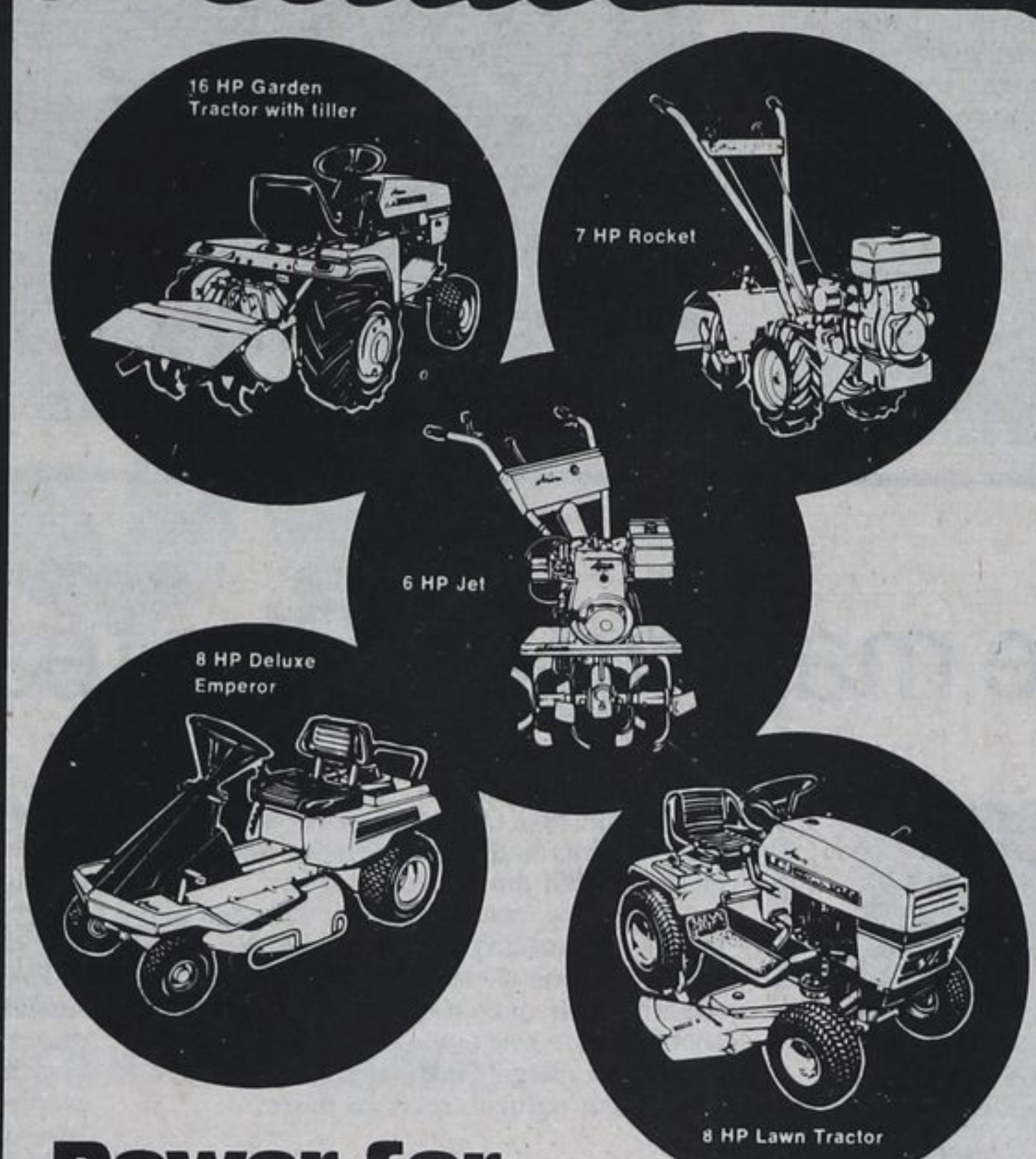
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