

Wells, sewers examined

Tel-Eye provides officials with a ring side seat of 'down under' world

Midland's underground was on television last week.

And the show, viewers said, flowed fairly well. The subject for the six hour limited audience program was the condition of three wells and a main water line, part of the Midland water supply system.

Viewers were Arthur Evans, general manager of the Midland Public Utilities Commission and Claude Buck, commission chairman. The program was produced and directed by Tel Eye, a Toronto based firm which specializes in televising the murky depths of municipalities' undergrounds.

Tel-Eye had been called in to assist in an evaluation of wells two, three and four located on the reservoir property on

Vinden Rd. The PUC is interested in rehabilitating these fifty year old wells rather than have to dig new ones to meet the increasing demand for water, especially during the summer months.

Together wells two and three now produce approximately 75 gallons of fresh water, compared to the 340 total gallons which once gushed out. But if the wells can be rehabilitated the fresh water flow could total up to 200 gallons.

"It costs us \$8,000 to clean out and examine each old well," Evans notes, "but it would cost \$65,000 to dig a new well - so you can see why we would rather try this route first." Well four has been inactive for at least eight years.

Using a highly modified

low-light RCA television camera, Tel-Eye operators examine the murky underground for signs of weaknesses in the walls (or joints, in cases of sewers), examine the condition of well screens and determine the content of water in low volume or inactive wells.

The television camera is lowered into the well, pipe or sewer attached to a chain and a television cable, the latter of which is hooked to a footage meter which allows the Tel-Eye crew to pinpoint the exact location of a crack or determine the depth of a well, as was the case in Midland.

No records Because no records had been kept at the time the wells two, three and four were installed 50 years ago, their depth and

make-up was an unknown. Of particular interest however were the kind of screens which had been installed at the base of the wells. "If they're wire-wound screens, they will be rusted out by now - and then we'll have to abandon the wells (two and three)," a pensive

Evans explained while watching the television monitor mounted on a small control panel at the back of the Tel-Eye van. "A few were built with brass or bronze screens," he added hopefully.

The Tel-Eye investigation has since determined that the

screens at the bottom of wells two and three are probably made of brass and work is now underway on flushing them out.

Abandoned well four's future still remains uncertain. "There was too much floating around - we couldn't get a good pic-

ture," Evans explained on Monday. Well four will be 'agitated' as well to remove some of the rust and accompanying debris, then Tel-Eye will return to have another 'look' at all three wells. Investigating wells was an unusual change for Brian Logan and his crew

who spend 99 per cent of their time peeping through sewers. As well as monitoring the television camera's progress, Logan can also take colour pictures of his 'subjects' through a still picture camera mounted on top of the television camera. And as an ad-

ditional safeguard, he's got a black-and-white camera mounted in front of the television monitor, all of which makes for pretty thorough reporting on Midland's underground world.

The view down below is fairly grey and standard: badly jointed pipes,

cracks, calcium deposits. But once Logan and his crew were surprised by a racoon whose territory they'd invaded. His quizzical look was captured for posterity, and a framed racoon picture is one of the few decorative pieces in the mobile Tel-Eye unit.



Underground televised

Tel-eye employee Brian Logan checks out a camera lens while he waits for his crew to lower the television camera to the bottom of well no. 4. The picture on the television screen shows the many

impurities present in the abandoned well. The camera mounted in front of the television screen takes black and white stills directly off the television image.

Staff photo

School board gets \$13,000 grant to upgrade schools

Two summer work projects in the North Simcoe constituency have received the go ahead from the federal government. Both proposals were submitted by the Simcoe County Board of Education as Young Canada Work projects which are designed to provide summer employment for students.

Eight university students will be hired and a federal grant of \$13,776 will finance the two projects. This is considerably less than what the board originally suggested.

One proposal advocated that 13 university students be hired for painting projects in schools throughout the county. The grant requested to do the job was \$25,200.

The board also proposed a second project where four university students would be hired to do caulking and weatherstripping to conserve energy in selected schools throughout the county. The board members asked for a grant of \$8,064 for this project.

At the Simcoe County Board of Education meeting in Barrie on Wednesday night it was stated that a representative of Canada Manpower for students will discuss how the \$13,776 should be divided between the two projects.

One of the conditions of the Young Canada Works Program is that the students must be hired through the Canada Manpower Centre for Students in the area.

"This is some source of difficulty for us," said Dr. Jack Ramsey, director of education. "We have students who have worked for us before and did an excellent job." The government release strictly stated, "the project sponsors are not permitted to select or name individuals for employment on the

Board buys four new lawn mowers

Four riding lawn mowers will be bought by the Simcoe County Board of Education at the cost of \$15,517. All board members with the exception of Bill Straughan voted in favor of the proposal at last Wednesday night's meeting.

Spramotor Ltd. of London received the tender for the four Jacobsen lawn mowers through the process of elimination. Cal Madill offered four Bolen machines for the sum of \$10,953.80 but the blades did not reach the tender specifications of being 60 inches in width (Bolens are 54 inches wide). Duke Lawn Equipment made one tender for \$15,408 for four Howard,

projects."

Midland trustee John McCullough said he hoped that the Canada Manpower Centre for Students would also accept applications from secondary school students. These students need money in order to get to university he said.

Even though the government grant is less than anticipated the board members agreed that it would carry out some of the much needed maintenance work which this year's budget will not allow.

three wheel mowers as well as a second tender for four Kut-Kwick machines at a cost of \$20,544. The three wheel mowers offered by Duke Lawn Equipment were not considered suitable for the terrain to be cut.

Straughan said he didn't think the board should deal with an out-of-town firm if they could avoid it. He added that the board shouldn't base its opinion on one bad experience and he was not in favor of spending an additional \$5,000.

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