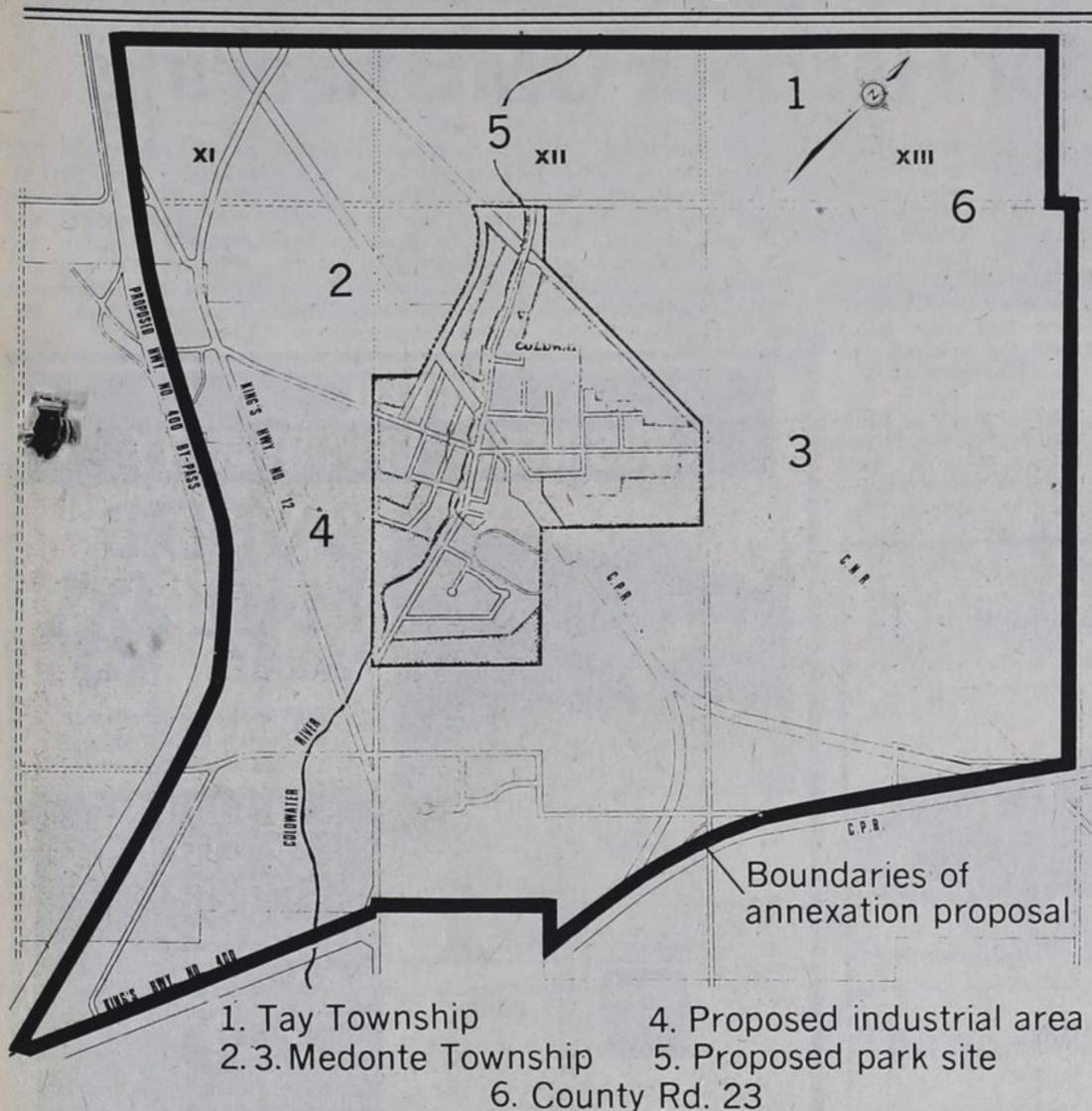
Three municipalities' stands on annexation proposal



Medonte objects to losing commercial, industrial revenues

received by Medonte Township, it is the understanding of the township councillors that the Ontario Municipal Board hearing set for September 12 dealing then I said I would with Coldwater's proposed annexation of approximately 1,700 acres of Medonte land has been postponed indefinitely at the request be taking away some of of the township.

Ingram Amos, the township ratepayers are objecting to being annexed by the village of Coldwater. "In my election campaign, I stated that I would follow

wanted annexation, then I would work to give it to them," he said, "but if the people of Medonte were against the proposed annexation by Coldwater, respect their wishes," added Amos.

The Medonte council,

according to the Reeve, also feel Coldwater would the townships tax dollars, According to the reeve since the property Coldwater wants includes commercial establishments already flourishing in the township. Those commercial outlets include, Athrone Marine,

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business.

even more for Medonte, about when the township bidders at their next solicitor, Wilfrid Trivett, council meeting. suggested the township release their present the O.M.B. hearing on consultants, Winland annexation will give Associates Engineering Medonte time to hire a Limited, in Orillia.

Medonte council followed

Although no written ratepayers", Amos Restaurant, and Glen Medonte, since Trivett documents have been commented. "If they Dunlop's plumbing believed the consulting Medonte without planners representing the village To complicate matters of Coldwater.

Medonte council is they are presently presently looking for a without a consulting firm. new consulting firm, and This predicament came will meet with several

The postponement of

new consulting firm and Reeve Amos stated that will alow the new firm more time to assess the the advise of council and problems of annexation. did in fact release the The delay will also give consulting firm. He ex- Medonte ratepayers and plained that the town- council more time to ships solicitor felt further discuss the Taman Industries, a Golf Winland may not be proposed Coldwater

Coldwater: we need more land to survive

by Dagmar Kanzler For Coldwater, an-

nexation is simply a matter of survival. It's becoming im-

possible economically for a tiny village such as is Coldwater to survive without increasing its assessment base. There's hardly any vacant land within present Coldwater boundaries, none of it suitable for much needed

"Planning is necessary because the government says so - but it's becoming more and more costly. We more hydro customers to help meet increased costs of maintenance - and so on,' explains Coldwater Reeve Earl Brandon.

But more important to the adamant reeve is the matter of the Medonte Secondary plan first drawn up in 1976 but not yet accepted by the Ministry of Housing. Extensive residential, commercial and industrial development is planned for the north eastern border of Medonte Township, fronting directly onto Coldwater's southern boundaries.

"With that," says the reeve gesturing emphatically at the plan,' we'd be swallowed up in no time at all!"

It's because the reeve and his council want future growth in the area to be within the boundaries of Coldwater and not at the expense of the municipality that they're proposing annexation of 500 acres of Tay and 1,400 acres of Medonte Township, thus effectively enlarging its territory from the present 347 acres to 2,200 acres. That land, says Brandon, will be necessary to accommodate the 3,000 population he forsees for the area in the next quarter century.

Although Coldwater itself was not designated a growth area in the much talked about Simcoe Georgian Task Force report, substantial growth is anticipated in the surrounding area Brandon is determined to see that Coldwater be at

that it is the one directing growth. "If we annex this land, we will be able to properly serve that population and maintain our autonomy," he has

the substantial tax revenue likely to flow Coldwater's way if industries such as Athron Marine, Taman Industries and the Rolling Hills Restaurant, to name but a few and homes along County Rd. 23 are

The industries lie on a provincial highway and access route - their upkeep is the responsibility of the province.

And the county road is maintained by Simcoe Also to be considered is County's roads department. All of which means Coldwater will pay out little for upwards of \$15,000 in extra tax

Industries will come The Industries instrumental for growth are

come says the reeve. His are now located in the facilities such as expansion plans have Medonte support Cold- doctors, post office, already received the tacit water's annexation bid service stations, approval of officials from simply because they recreation facilities - all the Ministry of Industry figure they'll save money and Tourism; Taman in the process. Hard proximately 225 people Industries, a manufac- services are now their fixtures and Coldwater's Tay nor Medonte supply major employer is water or sewage serpresently just outside vices), and cost them Coldwater boundaries in Medonte but has ex- the Coldwater systems,

plenty. Once hooked into pressed an interest to the savings might be residents. For example, expand on neighbouring substantial.

Then there's the

who live on the fringes of Coldwater.

Coldwater is their town, says Brandon, they use the arena, fair grounds. but the village doesn't get a cent of tax from these Coldwater residents rent 15 per cent of available arena time. The rest goes to outside groups, but Medonte pays only \$200 annually to the village, says Brandon, and Tay contributes nothing.

A few of the fringe residents are now without fire protection since Medonte cancelled its fire protection agreement with Coldwater two weeks ago. Although they're a throw from Coldwater and often a half hour drive from Medonte firehall, the village cannot provide fire services because its insurance simply won't cover firemen on duty outside town limits. The village, says the reeve, is caught in the middle. All Brandon says he can hope for is that there is no disaster just outside town limits.

According to Brandon, a poll of border residents indicates 50 per cent favour Coldwater's annexation proposal Medonte, using the same logic, claims 50 per cent of its residents in the proposed annexed area

are against annexation. Brandon, among others has suggested that Medonte's opposition to absorption by Coldwater dates back to a half century old bitterness between the two municipalities. Medonte residents never quite forgave those who pulled out of the township 1908 to form an independent village of Coldwater. That move radically changed the future assessment base of Medonte township

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Land zoned 'environmental' of no use to Coldwater, says Tay

A proposed annexation of approximately 500 acres of Tay Township by the village of Coldwater will be strongly opposed by the township, Tay Council has decided

At a special July 21 meeting, the council authorized its solicitor to prepare a brief outlining the township's reasons for opposing annexation.

Tay councillors are opposed to the annexation primarily because they see no use to Coldwater annexing an area which, according to the proposed Tay zoning by-laws, would be largely zoned 'environmental protection.' The 500 acre area includes a part of the environmentally sensitive Matchedash Bay watershed and one lot in each of concession 12 and 13, as well as half a lot in concession 11.

The only uses for the majority of this land would be as a conservation / wildlife area, some outdoor recreation areas; all development, be it commercial, industrial or residential would be prohibited in most of the 500 acres proposed for annexation by Cold-

"There is some assessment in there," Dave Walker, Tay Township councillor admits referring to the 20 homes located along County Road 17. But the assessment is insufficient to warrant further development

"We feel there's no particular reason for the amount of area they're annexing," Reeve Charles Rawson of Tay emphasizes, adding that a large part of the area, including the Coldwater River floods each spring when the waters of Georgian Bay rise.

"The Wye Marsh and Matchedash Bay are two unique areas in Ontario and Canada," Walker says. "To protect the bay area, we feel it is best to keep it under the control of one municipality."

than it can chew

Walker and Rawson also argue that Coldwater may be out to bite off more than it can chew in terms of land needs for growth and costs of servicing the annexed area. Walker points out that Tay agreed to the annexation of 1,000 acres of its land by Midland because council recognized the need for industrial expansion in Midland and felt the town could financially support the heavy costs of servicing the Heritage Drive area. But Coldwater, they argue, will not need the 1,500 acres it wants.

"How fast does one grow? How big a chunk do you bite off all at once?" asks Walker. "Maybe they can justify some growth, but they have to come a long way through Medonte before they can even consider annexation in Tay." Medonte Township surrounds the present Coldwater village boundaries.

Reeve Rawson also objects to the fact that Coldwater Reeve Earl Brandon "Never sat down and negotiated," but rather publicly announced his village's intentions to annex 1,500 acres.

"The only negotiations we had were about a joint planning area - and on that the Ministry of Housing said Tay wouldn't be contributing much so we wouldn't have a voting member," Rawson said in an interview on Monday. But, he added, he's heard nothing further since and presumes this committee has fallen through

"We're in a great position - we have Port McNicoll Victoria Harbour, Midland and Penetanguishene all in our township boundaries," Rawson points out. "If each took a notion to take a piece of Tay, we'd have very little left."

Rawson left no doubt whatsoever that Tay won't be nearly as "generous" in the Coldwater annexation bid as it had been with Midland.



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