



Sign tells all

This driver may soon have to find a new route from downtown Midland to the subdivision at the end of Victoria Street. The Public Works Committee has

voted unanimously to recommend to council that permanent barricades be constructed across an 800-foot portion of the otherwise paved street. Staff photo

Hazardous Victoria route may be barricaded

It appears certain motorists using Victoria Street between Edmond Street and Woodland Drive will soon have to find another route.

An 800-foot section of Victoria has been left unpaved and signs warning it's not a through street are posted, but motorists have been using the road allowance regularly despite its poor condition.

Public Works report concluding that permanent barricades should be erected to block traffic from using the 800 foot stretch of Victoria Street will be presented to Midland Town Council Monday night for action. The Public Works Committee agreed unanimously that the town should not undertake to construct that portion of Victoria Street but instead should block it off.

Out of the seven voting members of Midland council, four sit on the public works committee. Unless one or more change their minds on blocking off the allowance, the suggested

actions will probably be taken.

Council dealt with the issue in July, at which time they decided to delete from the public works recommendation the words 'close the road', replacing them with 'minimize the hazard'.

As a result signs warning drivers that the town does not accept responsibility for damages incurred on the road were erected. An

October public works report suggested that this resulted in problems — the road wasn't to be closed but it also wasn't to be maintained.

Town solicitor Doug Haig told the committee that to avoid possible legal disputes, the road allowance should either be closed or properly maintained. It was observed that motorists continued to use the stretch even after the

signs were posted.

The west end of Victoria Street was paved by Stollar Construction when they built a subdivision in the area. However their land ended 800 feet from the other end of Victoria Street. The adjoining land is privately owned.

"The owners of the land on either side of the street haven't decided to build," said Percy Ehler, Commissioner of Public Works. "The respon-

sibility (of paving the road) will be the subdividers of the property if and when they decide to build."

Services to the vacant lots would have to be installed under the road before it could be paved. Total cost, Ehler estimated, would approach \$100,000. To pave it temporarily, and then have it torn up to provide sewage and waterhook-ups when the property

owners decide to build, would cost \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The reason the "no man's land" looks something like a road, Ehler explained, is because when sewers were installed along the length of Victoria St. in 1967, the surface was graded.

Ehler said barricades could be installed before winter if approved by council.

Young students will get inside look at the various levels of government

The grade eight class at Sacred Heart is going to the next meeting of town council, and will also attend the November meeting of Simcoe County council.

For an legislature they will visit the council in Toronto later this year. Then, for the grand finale they will go to Ottawa to see "the big boys" in action.

Bill McInerney, principal of Sacred Heart School, says "kids know so little about government."

McInerney has taken on

the project of teaching the grade eight course of government himself. There is nothing in the grade eight curriculum that says students must learn about government affairs.

McInerney says the grade eight course of study covers Canadian history. He says as a part of this course the kids go to Ottawa every year to see the federal government in action.

McInerney is of the opinion that the trip to Ottawa would be better enhanced with a

background in municipal and provincial government.

So far, the grade eight class has had a visit from Mayor Lynn and Deputy Mayor Bill Ogilvie. During both of these visits, the kids had a chance to ask questions. Mayor Lynn told town council that he was delighted and surprised at the knowledge the kids had about town government.

Met department heads McInerney says the grade eights have also had a trip to the town

offices and a chance to meet the department heads and ask them questions as well.

It was Deputy Reeve Bill Ogilvie that suggested the trip to county council to round out the kids perspective even more.

He took the initiative and made all the arrangements, according to McInerney. The grade eights are going on November 22 and will see the opening ceremonies and an hour or two of the routine business.

The trip to the legislature is scheduled for the Spring. McInerney says this trip is to clue the kids in on the structure of the Ontario government. In June they make the three-day trip to Ottawa to see the federal government in action. By that time, they should have a sound background in governmental procedure.

McInerney says he is extremely keen about the whole idea and adds "the kids have enjoyed it so far."

Midland postal union members are welcomed back into ranks

Remember the postal strike back in 1975 when it seemed like this time, we were never going to have mail service again?

Midland's postal workers — especially remember that strike because, in the words of one of them, "we were fed up and we didn't believe that we could get anything more from the government."

As a result, all 11 of them went back to work before the strike was over. The union threatened to suspend them if they did — but according to postal worker Al Hennin, they hadn't done it in other strikes, so it seemed like an idle threat.

It was not long before Midland's postal workers found out that the union

kept its promise. They were suspended.

That was almost two years ago. It was just this week that these 11 people received notice that they have been allowed back into the union.

Hennin says it was not just Midland workers who were suspended. In our area, he says, the workers in Penetanguishene, Coll-

ingwood, Orillia and Camp Borden were also suspended for going back to work before the strike ended. Hennin suspects that they have been allowed back into the union or will be shortly.

Since the strike and the subsequent suspension of the workers, the Midland local of postal workers has become a part of the Barrie local. Hennin says,

"we are not a local on our own anymore." He says, it was a Canada wide movement enabling the union to have more control over the smaller locals.

Five weeks out Back in 1975 Midland's workers stayed out for five weeks of the six week strike. Hennin says that many of them came back because after five weeks they needed the money.

Over the two year suspension the men had to keep up their union dues. Hennin says the dues are automatically removed from their pay cheques whether they are suspended or not.

Hennin says the general consensus of the postal workers is that they are glad to be back in the union. He says he hopes the announcement will make for better employee relations. The problem with the suspension he says, was that some of the postal workers turned against the union and some were still for it. He says at times this caused a little dissension in the Midland post office.

Now he says, things will be smoother.

Planning bill still unpaid but no word from Wyndland

"It's quiet on all fronts," said Julian Tofts, Coldwater clerk-treasurer, a month past the deadline set by Wyndland Consultants Limited for payment by the village of outstanding bills received from the planning firm.

Coldwater council received a letter in September from Wyndland stating that unless a bill for \$18,632.62 was paid prior to October 4, legal action would be taken.

Council replied by indicating a counter-claim would be launched if Wyndland sued and asked for the return of maps and aerial photos used by the planners for work on the village's official plan and zoning bylaw.

Wyndland was hired in June to prepare the village's presentation at Ontario Municipal Board annexation hearings. Council claims Wyndland president Michael Brodigan verbally agreed, in front of witnesses, to complete the work for \$4,500. Brodigan denies he agreed on the figure, and resigned September 17 without finishing the project. He said in a September 28 letter that Coldwater owes him \$18,632.62.

Coldwater Reeve Earl Brandon received word from Brodigan recently that the sought after maps and photographs were available in Wyndland's Toronto offices.

Brandon and Tofts picked them up last Wednesday.

No hostility "Everyone acted in a civil and courteous manner," said Tofts of their brief meeting with Brodigan. "No hostility was shown by either side."

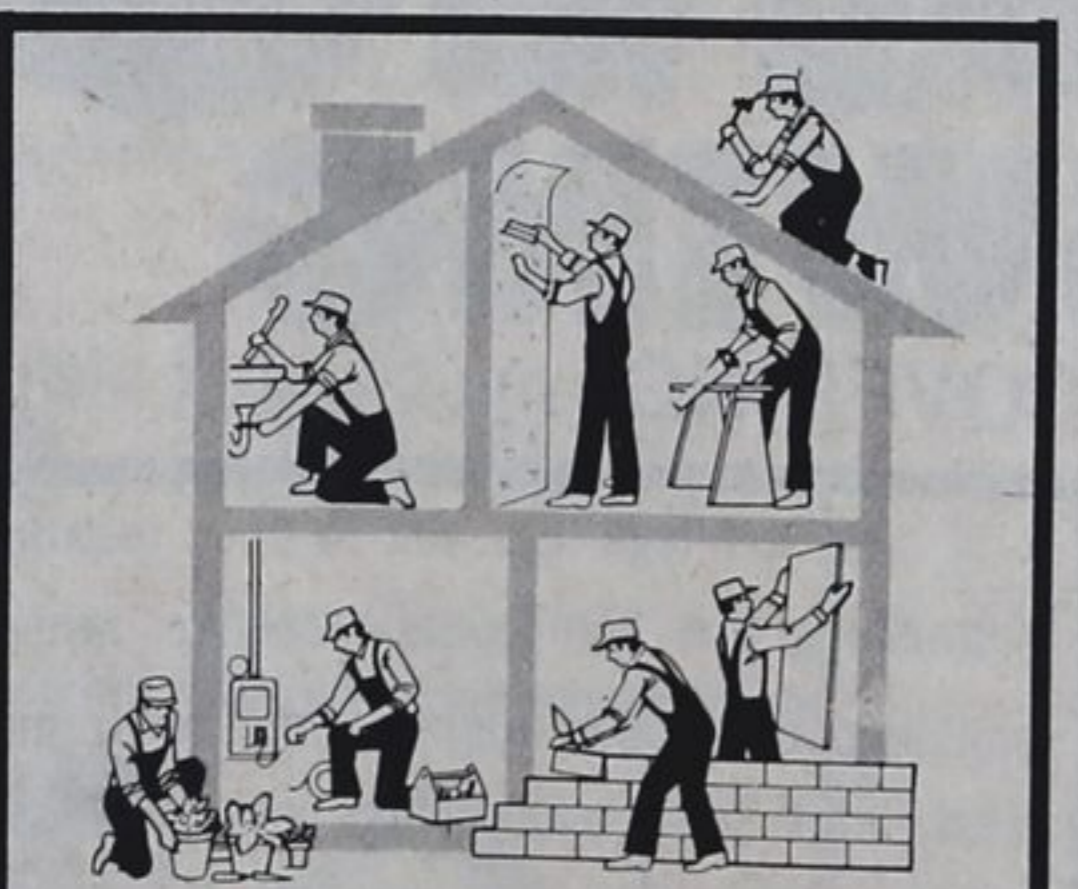
Tofts indicated council had adopted a 'let sleeping dogs lie' approach to the situation.

"I would not anticipate that council will initiate any proceedings," he said, "unless Brodigan does."

The \$1,260 already paid Wyndland for work on annexation will be written off as experience, said Tofts. Council has apparently learned it's lesson and will request written contracts in all future transactions.

Coldwater council is conducting interviews and hopes to have a new planner shortly. A portion of the work completed by Wyndland could be used by the new planners, but Tofts doesn't see it as being of much value.

"I can't see a planner taking another planner's work without doing his own checking. It's value will be minimal."



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