

Harbour and Tay to sign fire agreement

The Village of Victoria Harbour and Tay Township will enter into a special year long fire protection agreement that represents a preliminary step to the disbanding of jointly operated and funded fire protection services existing between the two municipalities for 16 years.

Harbour council learned at its Monday night meeting that Tay has accepted a proposal drawn up by Victoria Harbour which will provide free fire protection services until December 31, 1978 to the

area of Tay between the fifth and seventh concessions, in return for a relinquishing on Tay's behalf of its part ownership of fire fighting equipment located in Victoria Harbour.

The new agreement, which in effect rescinds the fire protection agreement reached by the two municipalities in 1961, will go into operation on December 31.

Under the terms of the new agreement, Victoria Harbour will assume the costs of operating and maintaining fire fighting trucks and equipment

formerly borne on a joint basis by the two municipalities. As a result, the Village will become sole owners of the equipment.

Victoria Harbour's obligations under the agreement simply extend to the providing of free fire protection services to the specified area of Tay until the end of next year.

Connelly surprised Councillor Ann Connelly, who sits on the Fire Department Committee on Harbour council commented that "I can't believe they accepted it (the proposal) without a squabble." She later

added that the Village "is taking a bit of a gamble" by entering into the agreement as it is presently worded. She noted that an unusually high frequency of fires in the area of Tay to be protected in the next year by the Harbour fire department "could cost us a lot of money".

Tay township clerk Walter Lumsden explained Tuesday morning that the reason the township is willing to enter into the agreement stems from several factors. He noted that in the last five years, the township had com-

missioned the Fire Marshall's Office to undertake two fire surveys, the recommendation of both being that the township establish its own fire department. Subsequently, a fire station was built on the Old Fort Road, and coupled with the township's Waubausene facilities, the two stations are expected to provide adequate protection to the area of Tay formerly covered under the Harbour agreement, Lumsden said.

Midland pact will go

He also added that Tay's policy of establishing its own fire protection services will likely mean that a fire protection agreement with the Town of Midland will be broken, once a fire station is constructed in Sunnyside.

Under the 1961 agreement between Tay and Victoria Harbour, the cost of purchasing and maintaining fire fighting equipment was shared on a 50/50 basis between the two municipalities.

Victoria Harbour paid the costs of erecting a garage to house the equipment, and paid two-thirds of the volunteer firefighters' grants, with Tay paying the other portion.

After Harbour council had learned of Tay's

willingness to enter into the year long agreement, councillor Connelly told the meeting that the mechanical condition of one of the Harbour's firefighting vehicles had deteriorated to such an extent that it is becoming difficult to find a driver for it.

She explained that the committee had learned of an ambulance for sale that would serve the purposes of the deteriorating vehicle. The vehicle, she said, would be \$1500, adding that the present truck could "probably be sold for about \$250."

Council agreed to look into the matter.



It was cold!

It was ear-holding cold for the Santa Claus parade Saturday and this not-so-well prepared cub scout had

to keep warm as best he could during the 30 minute parade. Staff photo

Signed by 154 residents

Councillors get first glimpse of notorious 'inquiry' petition

Council members got their first glimpse of Deputy Reeve Bill Ogilvie's petition asking for a commission of inquiry into Midland Town Council, at a regular council meeting on Monday night.

The petition is signed

by 154 Midland residents. Ogilvie's lawyer sent a copy of the petition to Midland town solicitor, Douglas Haig at the same time as he sent a copy to the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Ogilvie told council last night that he did not think that Mr. Haig should deal with the petition or the commission if inquiry, since he could well be "one of the subjects under investigation."

Mayor Lynn said "since we are all under in-

vestigation, I would submit the very same objection."

Alderman Orr told council that since the petition did not specifically deal with Mr. Haig that, he could handle the matter as town solicitor.

Alderman Malcolm and Mayor Lynn both suggested that the matter be discussed at a special meeting of council and the rest of council was in agreement.

Still on the subject of Haig, Ogilvie asked that Haig not be allowed to have anything to do with the Court of Revision in January, to deal with the Ingram Crescent residents and the Bay and Ninth residents. Ogilvie told council that Haig was a petitioner on Ingram Crescent and therefore there would be a "conflict of interest."

Council did not discuss the matter and no motions were heard.

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