

# Waterfront park will be second to none when complete: St. Amant

cont'd from p. 3

Another major priority for next year will be the updating of the tennis courts at Memorial Park. There are no plans to construct additional courts, but the existing facilities may be resurfaced and the inconsistent lights replaced.

"We want some green space," said St. Amant in explaining why the addition of more courts isn't in the committee's plans.

The park on Yeo St. in the new town subdivision will be the site of a new baseball diamond, possibly in time for use next summer. A number of plans have been proposed for the park, however the ball diamond is the priority. Any additional facilities will

depend on the sale of lots in the subdivision.

The popular park on John St. may be receiving additional attention next year.

The committee has proposed the addition of bicycle racks and garbage pails as well as a spraying program to rid the ground of poison ivy. Fill is also needed, said St. Amant, to level out the park.

The wasteland in Bayfield Park on Jura Dr. is on the list of areas that are in need of improvement.

The south end of the park may benefit from an extensive tree planting program and 50 picnic tables are already being constructed for distribution throughout

the park next summer. A new roof on the change rooms has also been suggested.

The committee also felt greenery would be a welcome addition to the trailer park on Robert St. West. More picnic tables have also been suggested for the park as well as the addition of four hydro poles to provide eight more power outlets.

Washroom facilities at the town dock are sorely needed, said St. Amant. A proposal to improve the existing building is included in the report.

The Huronia Park on Fox Street, operated by

the Desjardins', wasn't included in the discussions.

"We'll have to wait and see what happens there," said St. Amant. "We'll probably discuss it when it comes up for renewal."

The Desjardins' 20 year lease runs out in October. The arena, parks and recreation board will be deciding whether to renew the lease or operate the park themselves.

The major project the board will be dealing with for the next few years is the plan for the waterfront park. This will stretch from the town

dock to Champlain Rd. and will include extensive beaches, a new arena, a hardball diamond and parking lots.

Slated for construction next summer is a service building which will include change rooms, concessions and a playground area. The present beaches will also be improved with the addition of more sand and landscaping.

"There are a lot of plans but I don't think we're ready to go next year," said St. Amant of the project. "But when we do get our park with everything in it, it will be

second to none." St. Amant reflected on the situation in Midland where the waterfront has

been mostly occupied by industries and moves to limit further development have met with little

success. "They're so silly. If they'd just realize what they've got and protect it

so everyone can enjoy it, because before you know it's just like a cesspool."

## Family allowance hike

Another surprise, almost in time for Christmas, was announced by the federal government last week.

Family allowance cheques are going to increase as of January 1, 1978 in accordance with the cost of living.

This means that the monthly cheque of \$23.89 will rise to \$25.68 for children under 18 years of age.

Special allowances which are paid to foster

parents, welfare agencies, government departments and institutions maintaining children, will also increase to \$25.68.

In 1977 the government paid out more than \$173 million in Family Allowances each month. The money went to 3.6 million families covering 7.2 million children. The national average allowance for each recipient family was about \$49.

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