

County employee firing debated

by Terri Howell
There's some disagreement between the members of County Council over the firing last month, of the maintenance supervisor, Russell Canning, and his son Vernon.

At Tuesday's meeting of County Council, Midland's Deputy Reeve Bill Ogilvie served council with a notice of motion asking that the Ombudsman's office be asked to investigate and report on all the aspects of the dismissal of Russell Canning.

Following Ogilvie's notice of motion a vote of confidence for the property committee, chaired by Councillor Al McLean, Deputy Reeve of Oro Township was called by Warden Allan Glassford.

Glassford claims that Ogilvie was the only one who voted against the vote of confidence however, Gordon Priestman, Reeve of Matchedash Township and Bruce Tinney, Deputy Reeve of Tay Township, both confirmed that they opposed the vote of confidence as well.

The whole thing began about a month ago, when the property committee sent a report to Council informing them of their intention to fire Russell Canning and his son. The report said the maintenance department needed reorganization, "including some changes in personnel." It finished up by saying the committee had determined that it would be more beneficial to increase the evening maintenance men than to continue the day time position of Assistant Maintenance Superintendents.

Different, he says Russell Canning claims the reasons he was given concerning his firing differed from those given to County Council. He says he was called into the Treasurer's office one afternoon, and without any forewarning was told to hand in his keys. He was told that it was to his benefit to resign rather than to be fired, since he would then be able to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits. The property committee told Canning they were firing him because he couldn't get along with his staff and the washrooms weren't as clean as they should be. Canning says, he refused to resign, and was fired.

Canning had been working for the county for five years. His job was overseeing the cleaning of the Simcoe County offices, snow shovelling and gardening. He says he had no prior indication that anyone was not satisfied with his work. He also stated that he got along with all of his staff. He says the only people that he didn't get along with were on the Property committee, which fired him.

Canning would not disclose their names. Canning says he worked for the railroad for 26 years. He quit and came to the County because he needed light work. He has always been in the maintenance line, he says.

Canning says the firing was "a pretty big blow," and he can't explain how he felt. He and his son Vernon are still out of work.

Priestman agrees Reeve Gordon Priestman of Matchedash township agrees with Deputy Reeve Bill Ogilvie. He feels that some sort of investigation

into the firing should be done. He suggested that Canning should have had a chance to defend himself in front of County Council, and said "I would support a motion that gave him a hearing." He explained that the details surrounding Canning's firing are sketchy and that there are rumours circulating which should be brought into the open and cleared up.

Deputy Reeve Bill Ogilvie received an anonymous letter from one of the other men on the maintenance department confirming

some of the rumours. The letter stated that although Canning's son was fired because there wasn't enough work for him, another man was hired almost immediately. The anonymous letter also said the man who stepped up to replace Canning was a friend of two members of the Property Committee and the man who stepped in to replace Canning's son was a personal friend of the Warden, Allan Glassford's family.

Warden Allan Glassford had no comment to make on the whole issue.

He said there has been no public statement on why Canning was fired.



Now...every dollar counts

This week, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation announced that Midland could receive \$478,756 towards the construction of the new arena facilities, if a substantial public contribution can be made. If the public money, on which the Wintario grant depends,

cannot be raised, the town stands to face a considerable debenturing cost. Meanwhile, the arena construction continues, with no specific completion date yet announced.

Staff photo

Arena to get Wintario funds

Town officials have labelled "misleading" a press release issued early this week by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, stating that Midland will receive a grant of \$478,756 towards the construction of the new arena and community hall facilities.

The release reads: "A grant up to \$478,756 is to go to the Corporation of the Town of Midland to assist in the costs of constructing an arena and community hall to replace a facility condemned by the Ministry of Labour."

However, town clerk Bill Hack explained Tuesday that the figure cited in the release is the maximum possible amount the town could receive from Wintario for the building of the new arena.

At the moment, said Hack, the amount of Wintario granting actually available to the town is \$114,000, based upon a two-to-one Wintario funding scale for funds raised through public subscription. To this point, he said, the town has received \$57,000 in publically raised funds.

Hack explained that the remaining \$354,576 promised in the press release is available from Wintario on a one-to-one matching basis—meaning that Midlanders would have to raise that amount through their own efforts in order to receive the maximum possible matching Wintario figure.

Midland mayor Moreland Lynn, although hopeful that public subscription will raise the amount necessary to receive the maximum Wintario support, said that the figure is "pretty optimistic, adding that a total of a further \$118,000 raised by the public is probably more realistic."

He said he expects that about \$18,000 more will be raised through public subscription and donations to round out the already existing fund to \$75,000. He noted that that figure is the maximum amount allowed by Wintario for two-to-one funding.

The further \$100,000 is expected to be raised by the arena fund Monster Draw, scheduled to take place when the new arena opens.

Although Lynn said Monster Draw organizers are hoping to raise \$200,000 from the draw, he is estimating a con-

servative figure for the time being.

Lynn went on to explain that it is important that maximum public support in the arena drive be enlisted, in order to defray the long-term costs to Midland taxpayers of debenturing the remaining portion of the arena construction bill.

He said that when the costs of issuing a debenture are calculated, it becomes apparent that each dollar raised by the public towards the arena is actually worth four dollars.

He went on to give a breakdown of the way the funding stands at the moment, for the arena, including what is expected to be the necessary debenturing costs.

The cost of constructing the arena, said Lynn, will be \$1.4 million.

A large portion of that figure will be absorbed by the insurance from the old building, which totalled \$540,000.

The expected \$75,000 raised by arena fund projects will be matched on a two-to-one basis by Wintario, meaning that a total of \$225,000 will be

forthcoming.

If \$100,000 is raised by the Monster Draw, the figure will be matched on a one-to-one basis, adding a total of \$200,000 to the fund. When all the publicly raised and Wintario matched funds are added together, a figure of about \$900,000 is reached.

As a result, the town will probably have to issue a debenture of \$500,000 to cover the remaining costs of construction.

The debenturing of half a million dollars, said Lynn, will cost taxpayers a significant amount of money. If a 20-year debenture is issued at 10 per cent interest, the yearly cost of repaying the principle and the interest will be \$58,730.

Over a period of 20 years, this means that repayment costs borne by the town will total \$1,174,600.

The fact that the half a million dollar debenture will cost the town well over a million dollars, said Lynn, is why any public money raised beyond that which is

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VILLAGE OF PORT MCNICOLL

ONTARIO CANADA

Due to the higher cost of providing service Port McNicoll P.U.C. finds it necessary to increase retail rates effective January 1 / 78 in accordance with the schedules in this notice.

As a result of the better than expected operations of Ontario Hydro in 1977, this utility will be receiving an anti-inflation discount on bulk power purchased from Ontario Hydro during 1978. The exact amount of this discount will not be known until early 1978, but it is currently estimated that it will reduce our total revenue requirement by approximately 4.78 per cent.

Your bills during 1978 based on metered consumption will reflect this special anti-inflation discount. The net effect will be an overall average increase in rates of approximately 4.07 per cent rather than 10.85 per cent which would normally have been required.

Village of Port McNicoll P.U.C.
A.J. Hancox
Clerk Treasurer



Town of Midland
ONTARIO

MIDLAND TRANSIT REVISIONS

1. The Midland Transit buses will not be operating on the Mondays following Christmas and New Years Day.
2. The diversion into the Huronia District Hospital is now included as part of the West Route, effective immediately.
3. The buses will turn around on Manly Street at Midland Mews off William Street instead of Bayview Drive, effective January 1st, 1978.
4. The regular Midland Transit fares will be:

Adults 40c or 5 tickets for \$2.00
Children 25c or 4 tickets for \$1.00
Senior Citizens 25c or 4 tickets for \$1.00
Midland School Buses:
Students 25c or 4 tickets for \$1.00
effective January 1st, 1978.



Town of Midland
ONTARIO

PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Town of Midland is in the Year of Our Lord 1978 celebrating its 100th Anniversary of its first incorporation, and

Whereas the Council of the Town of Midland wishes to continue encouraging the full participation of all its citizens in these celebrations, and

Whereas the 1978 Midland Centennial Committee has struck a quantity of nickel metal content coins, to be known as the Midland Centennial Dollar as a souvenir commemorating this special occasion;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIDLAND PROCLAIM THE ISSUE

OF THE 1978 MIDLAND CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE ANNIVERSARY COIN TO BE KNOWN AS THE CENTENNIAL DOLLAR FOR USE IN THE TOWN OF MIDLAND DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1978.

Let it be known that the 1978 Midland Centennial Committee has guaranteed to redeem any of these legal tender coins at face value of One Dollar on or before December 31, 1978 at any Chartered Bank or Trust Company in the Town of Midland.

Moreland A. Lynn
Mayor
Town of Midland.