

Friday comment

Little Lake story may bring more information forward

The issue of whether or not to sell a portion of Little Lake Park property for a parking lot and expected eventual expansion of a Midland nursing home has caused a great deal of controversy over the last few weeks.

Some in the community would say and have said during the debate that this newspaper had a great deal to do with placing the question before the public.

Some have accused us of sensationalism, even creating news where there was none.

We would suggest that the news that the piece of property was to be sold was dropped like such a bombshell by Midland Council, it couldn't help but make headlines.

According to officials at town hall, the sale of the land had been discussed at a Board of Parks meeting.

And while this means council's intention to sell the property was on the public record, the way in which it was introduced to the council meeting where it was decided to continue with the sale was sketchy at best.

In an editorial, for which we were criticized, we asked for the answers to some of the questions that were not dealt with during the meeting.

It seems that at a meeting with the press and public in attendance, council should be willing to take the time to explain the motives for its actions.

Some of the questions were answered in interviews and a subsequent story with the members of Midland's Parks Board.

It was determined that the property is indeed a portion of Little Lake Park and that it was thought to be surplus to the overall scheme of the park.

It was also learned that selling the

property would even up the property line between the commercial strip along Yonge Street and the park and that the new owner would be required to erect a fence at his own expense.

It was also learned that council had indeed, appraised the park and felt it was doing the right thing by selling it at a sum of \$19,000.

All of these were turned up by interviewing and investigation by this newspaper's staff.

None were presented at the meeting where it was decided to sell the property.

However, the major thrust of that initial editorial has never really been dealt with.

Can other businesses request and get portions of a Midland park on the precedents set at Little Lake?

One councillor told a staff member here, that he would vote against selling another portion of the park.

But is that enough guarantee that the park won't be further divided?

We support council's move to have the Parks Board discuss the sale of the land again.

And if they come to the same conclusion the people of Midland can rest assured that all pros and cons were discussed.

We at this newspaper are not against a private enterprise expanding, or council selling a piece of surplus property.

What we are hoping is that the Little Lake Park question will see a more complete airing of council's business in public meetings and in the press.

Because when one reaches the bottom line, it's the business of every citizen of Midland.

Magloughlin's seen lots of changes

by Rob Vanderzwaag
How many people would work for \$1.75 a day?
Well in 1914 Edward Magloughlin of Hugel Ave., Midland, did. And not at the age many people begin working today, but when he was eleven years old.

Mr. Magloughlin, who is now 75-years-old has seen a lot of changes over the years.

"If you seen it then, and you see it now, you would never know that there was a depression or two wars," said Mr. Magloughlin referring to the place where he was first employed, which was Benson and Bray Manufacturers.

"I was a labourer then, and we really worked hard," he said, "but it was the best years of my life." Mr. Bray and his son were a pleasure to work for.

Benson and Bray, which in later years, was changed to Midland Wood Products Limited, manufactured window frames, wood floors and other wood products, as well as bomb shells.

During the first World War, an addition was added to the plant, in which bombs were made for overseas combat.

Mr. Magloughlin did not spend all of his working years at Benson and Bray. The plant had to close down in 1936 like many other plants, because of the great depression.

"After it closed down, I went and drove a truck for Hartman Hardware, here in Midland until the fall of 1941 when I went to Toronto and worked in a shipyard," he said.

In 1952 Mr. Magloughlin came back to work in Midland for the same company, as he had worked for when he was 11-years-old. However, the plant had changed its name to Midland Wood Products Limited.

"When I started back at the mill, I worked right until 1973, when I retired at the age of 70," said Mr. Magloughlin.

Magloughlin worked for the company for two years after his retirement, as a part-time labourer.

Now Mr. Magloughlin is relaxing and enjoying life.

"When you get to be my age, you get tired easier. I usually sleep in the morning, but I try to get out as early as possible to get some fresh air, which is good for me," he said.



Drove truck in 1936

Edward Magloughlin is pictured here in 1936, when he began driving a truck for Hartman Hardware.

Staff photo

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Letters to the editor

Pity Midlanders don't attend council meetings: Dion

To The Editor:

It is a pity that more of the citizens of Midland fail to attend the Midland Council meetings. If they did, perhaps they would be more cautious when it came to exercising their right to vote during municipal elections. It is not because most of the elected members are not already off and running for this fall's election, (indeed, they have been since last February), but what took place during last Monday's meeting should be of grave concern to the taxpayers here in Midland.

Mind you, every time a monetary motion was presented, a couple of our council members could be counted on to mouth some suitable motherhood statement to the effect that our council certainly was concerned and indeed, they themselves, had gone on record to hold the mill rate to the level of that of 1977. Then, with the exception of one very controversial member, proceeded to vote in favour of the expenditure.

I suppose they are relying heavily on increased assessment in the town to cover these costs. If the report presented by the chairman of the finance committee is to be taken seriously, perhaps they should have second thoughts concerning their course of action. It did come up in those reports that St. Andrew's were looking for special consideration on their tax bills and the firm of Motorola had a sizeable amount of their assessment written off because of their shut down and this money will not be available to the town this year.

Perhaps this council should be a little more honest with the public and stop trying to win a little more space in the newspapers. If there are some large expenditures in 1977 that will not be

reoccurring in 1978, and there certainly are those, how about giving us a break and instead of taking up the slack and continuing to spend at the 1977 level, let's have a decrease in the mill rate.

Another bit of business not only distressed me personally, but from the comments of others that were in attendance, had the same effect on more than a few, is that, although the council members admitted to having an uncertainty over a "grey area" of a bylaw being presented that evening, they proceeded to vote in favour of it, even though all the financial implications on the general taxpayer could not be fully clarified. I agree with the mayor that this bylaw has been around in one form or another for some time and the members of council had ample opportunity to have all their questions answered before that night, but the questions raised were not answered before they voted and only Alderman Orr and the mayor seemed certain that they knew precisely what they were voting for.

Although more than one member expressed a desire to have this bylaw deferred, nobody seconded a motion to this effect presented by the deputy-mayor (was there some reason of which the public is unaware for this action) and, of course, the bylaw was passed and we will experience the consequence of this action during the normal course of events. What was wrong with delaying this passing for a day or two until all members of council were crystal clear on all facets of the subject?

Yours truly,
 Catherine Dion,
 "Concerned Taxpayer of Midland."

Foster is top Ontario skier

Don Foster of Midland, officially became the top senior men's cross-country skier in Southern Ontario Sunday, at the conclusion of the provincial championships, held on the weekend at Mountainview ski hills.

Foster placed second in the senior men's 30-kilometre face Sunday, and third in the 15-kilometre Saturday, beating all possible contenders for the title.

He had clinched the championship the week before, with a second place finish in the Fischer cup race at Raymond, but was officially named as top SOD skier Sunday.

Reijo Pueras of Thunder Bay, captured the Ontario title with a first place finish in both races. Dave Delange of Sudbury, beat Foster in Saturday's 15-kilometre face, but finished third behind him in Sunday's 30-kilometre race.

Angela Schmidt of Honey Harbour won both the junior ladies 6-kilometre and 10-

kilometre races finishing ahead of Sonja Nehr from Sault Ste. Marie.

Bob Winegar of Midland took 12th place in the veteran's 10-kilometre race Saturday and 15th in the 20-kilometre race Sunday.

Rudy Schmidt, father of Angela Schmidt, finished 14th in the veteran's 20-kilometre race.

Story leads Midgets' 5-4 win

Dwayne Storey led the Midland Midgets to a 5-4 victory Tuesday evening beating out the Elmvale team.

The Midland team won three straight games taking the Georgian Bay quarter finals.

In the first period, Dave Hamelin scored for the Midland team with the assist coming from John Swales. Dwayne Storey scored the second goal of the period, which was assisted by Kim Lavigne.

Second period action saw another goal scored by Storey, assisted by Brad Lavigne. Dale Denis scored a goal which was assisted by John Ironside. Pat Beauchamp scored the fifth and final goal, which was assisted by Pierre Belanger.

Elmvale scored their third goal in the second period, and the fourth and only goal in the third period.

Midland now moves on to the semi-finals and their opponents are likely to be Collingwood although the other series has not yet been decided.

Huronia Lacrosse league meeting

The Huronia Minor Lacrosse League will be holding its 1978 Annual General Meeting Tuesday, March 7 at Park Street Collegiate in Orillia, beginning at 8 p.m. The meeting is called to elect a new executive and make plans for the coming season.

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