

Revisions in minimum wage rates-MPP

George W. Taylor, MPP Simcoe Centre
One of the major responsibilities of the Provincial Government is the setting of the minimum wage rate for Ontario. Recently the Minister of Labour, the Hon. Robert Elgie, introduced two-stage increases in the wage

rate which will come into effect March 31 and Oct. 1, 1981.
The new revisions in the wage rate will raise the income of a general worker from \$3 to \$3.30 on March 31.
On Oct. 1 this will be increased by 20 cents an hour to \$3.50.
The student rate will

be increased from \$2.15 to \$2.45 in March and \$2.65 in October. Construction workers will receive increases of 30 cents to \$3.55 and finally \$3.75 on Oct. 1.
Persons serving liquor will be receiving \$3 an hour on Oct. 1, while learners will be receiving \$3.40.

As in all things connected with labour law, the setting of minimum wage rates is a complex affair. The Minimum Wage Act became law in 1920 and was designed to regulate the income of female employees.
The Act set wages according to population densities with rates

ranging from \$9 to \$12.50 a week.
It was not until 1937 that this law was extended to cover men.
Changes were introduced in the wage rate in 1947 and 1963. Following September 1963 growing prosperity resulted in regular increases in the

minimum wage. By January 1969 the general wage had risen from \$1 to \$1.30 an hour.
During the 'seventies changes in the wage rate came more frequently, particularly following 1974 when inflation began to gnaw away at the value of the dollar.

The present increases in the minimum wage are in response to changes in the overall cost of living and will affect 225,000 workers in Ontario's service and trade industries. These changes replace existing rates which were established on Jan. 1, 1979.

Coldwater

by E. Lorraine Orr
A Citizen of the Year award for Coldwater and area is a proposal presented to the Coldwater Businessmen's Association.
Elmer Strongtharm, representing his company, A. E. LePage, stated each organization will be asked to appoint a member to serve on the advisory committee to assist in this endeavor.
Sewage and water rates for Coldwater residents will be increased on the March billing. The quarterly flat rate for sewage will be \$33 and the water \$11. Metered accounts will be changed from 30,000 gallons minimum to 20,000 gallons.
This bylaw was introduced because of a letter from the Ministry of the Environment showing the estimated flow of the sewage system from 1981 through to 1985, and what the charges will be to the village. A number of applications have been received from interested villagers who are willing to service on the various boards within the village. They are as follows:-
1- Mrs. Dorothy McHugh for library or cemetery boards. Due

to the fact there are no vacancies on either of these boards, her letter will be kept on file for future reference.
2- David Parker for Industrial Committee;
3- Frank Grise for Industrial and Planning Board;
4- Gordon Godwin for Community Centre.
There is a vacancy on the Community Centre board due to the resignation of Cameron Gill. No decision was made by council for these committees. The council has requested a study of the re-establishment of the power lines and an inventory of the plant within the annexed area. It is understood that the village will underwrite the cost.
The Bay Animal Control has been contracted to provide canine control of the village for the year 1981, for the fee of \$175 per month.
Wages for the village employees was discussed in detail. A motion was passed that the village foreman's wages be increased to \$7 per hour, with his helpers M. Lye and B. Hearn to receive \$5.25 and \$4.90 respectively. The men are to be on standby for each

weekend on a rotating basis, and will be paid \$10 per weekend.
Randy Hearn will be expected to attend the monthly council meetings and will receive \$10 for this, plus \$5 for mileage. The village clerk, Nancy Barron and her assistant, Arla Miller, will receive wage increases of 10 per cent.
Car owners - your 1981 vehicle licences are due before Feb. 28. The renewal application forms for all types of motor vehicles are available at the liquor store in Coldwater.
The cost of the licences is determined by the number of cylinders; four cylinders - \$30; six cylinders - \$45; eight cylinders - \$60. Avoid the frustration of waiting in a long line-up - get them now!
Public ice skating at the Coldwater arena is available to everyone on Saturday and Sunday of each week (unless otherwise advertised) between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is - public school children, 50 cents, high school students and adults \$1 each. Music is provided.
Sorry to report Freddie Brown is a

patient in Soldiers' Memorial Hospital after suffering a fractured hip in a fall.
A floor hockey-a-thon is to be conducted on Saturday, Jan. 31, in the gymnasium of the Coldwater Public School from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The students from Grade 6 are busy canvassing the village to obtain sponsors for this event. Each competitor will play a ten minute period in each hour for a maximum of 24 periods.
The money collected is to help finance the Grade 6 students in their second annual winter trip to Camp Tawingo. The students will spend a weekend at this outdoor education centre located near Huntsville. Spectators are welcome during the games.
The Connelly family of Medonte Heights, Shirley, Graham, Connie and Terri, spent an extended holiday during the Christmas season at their cottage on Mephisto Lake, near Bancroft. They enjoyed the trips by snowmobile and skis around the quiet countryside. They also paid a visit to family and friends in Shawville, Quebec.
Dates for their 1981 bazaars were set at the

recent meeting of the Coldwater Senior Citizens. The summer bazaar will be on Friday, June 19, and the Fall event on Friday, Oct. 30. The next regular seniors' meeting will be held on Jan. 22, at 2 p.m. Craft classes have resumed on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. You do not have to be a senior to attend. Come and bring your lunch.
Theatre lovers, here is your chance to see a Broadway show. "Mame" is coming to the Opera House in Orillia on January 22, 23, and 24, and on Jan. 29, 30 and 31.
Tickets are \$3 for Thursday, and \$4 for Friday and Saturday. The performance begins at 8 p.m. and no seats are reserved. This production is presented by the very capable Park Street Players of Orillia, and several of our local teenagers are taking part.
The lead characters are played by Ted Telford, Kelly Skinner, Edward Goss, Rebecca Hass and Karen Nash. Melanie Fontaine and Michelle Galang are in the chorus. Tickets are available from any of the above mentioned, or from Park Street Collegiate.
There is nothing more comforting during this cold weather than a

bowl of Campbell's soup. While you are enjoying your Campbell's soup, you can also keep the students at Coldwater and Moonstone Public Schools happy by saving the labels from the cans for them.
4,200 Campbell Soup labels are needed by Feb. 20. The students from these two schools are collecting 8,200 labels to purchase a variety of items from which all students will benefit.
Ten blank cassette tapes may be obtained with 1,050 labels. Other equipment includes Math Instruction games, a volleyball net, soccer balls and soft balls. Please help the students obtain their goal by saving the labels for them.
The sympathy of the villagers is extended to Mrs. Maggie Biggs on the sudden death of her brother, John Ferguson, of Orillia.
The grapefruit and orange sales recently undertaken by the students of Coldwater and Moonstone Public Schools was a great success. A special vote of thanks is extended to all who purchased the fruits. Each classroom, in both schools, received \$100 each to use for class projects and field trips. The remaining amount was used to purchase a

classroom video tape recorder.
Can you imagine 70 F below zero? This temperature was recently experienced by Thelma Robinson and her mother, Audrey Williams in the Pas, Manitoba.
The mildest temperature was 32 degrees below. They were visiting Thelma's son Bill, who is a RCMP constable in the area, 500 miles north of Winnipeg. Thelma went to look after her grandchildren Lisa and Robbie, while Bill's wife Joanne was in hospital to give birth to Paul William, who arrived only ten hours after Thelma got there.
There will be a showing of slides of the 1980 Coldwater Fall Fair following the annual dinner. The wandering photographer (Gary Pipher) has managed to catch many unsuspecting fair visitors with his shutter. The Agricultural Society dinner will be on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Coldwater. Tickets are \$6 per person and are available from John Jennett, 686-3341; Shirley Boyd, 835-2297; and John Orr, 686-7847.
Following the dinner there will be a short business meeting and the slide presentation.

Looking for Citizen of the Year

Workshop for history book

by Adelaide Lougheed
The January meeting of Crossland Women's Institute was held in the Lions' Club Hall at Crossland and took the form of a Workshop for preparing material for our Tweedsmuir History Book, under the direction of our curator, Mrs. Edith Doan.
Our former curator Mrs. Gladys Train diligently typed up material, while others arranged pictures in albums, pasted pages for scrap book or clipped articles from newspapers.

the Institute from Mrs. Nettie McElwain, from her winter home in Florida.
Afternoon tea and coffee with a number of dessert goodies were served by Mrs. Doris Nurcombe.
Plenty of pavement
There's almost 50 miles of streets in Midland for police to patrol and public works department crews to maintain.

Crossland news

Several workshops would be helpful in getting ready for a community showing of the books.
The President was in charge of the business, assisted by the acting secretary Mrs. Colleen Regier.
It was decided to have the Hall Committee buy new card tables and purchase gravy boats.
It was also agreed to terminate the contract

for leasing of Crossland Hall from Flos Twp. Council, and to request a written agreement from Elmvalle and District Lions' Club concerning what at present are mutual arrangements.
Mrs. Lougheed reported on receiving a Christmas Greeting for

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