



Mother and child flee smoke-filled Tay cottage

grass fire blamed for blaze
Fire hits Tay Township cottage

According to Midland's Deputy Fire Chief Hal Belfry, damage will run into the thousands of dollars following a freak cottage fire in Tay Township early Wednesday afternoon.

According to the deputy chief, whose department covers a section of Tay Township north of Midland, a grass fire got away and ignited a single-storey dwelling owned by Stanlev Przysieszniak.

At the time of the fire the tenant, Harvey Kalbleisch was in Midland however his wife and child were asleep inside.

The woman woke to discover smoke

filling the cottage. Both she and her child managed to flee the building unharmed and later were rushed to hospital after they became sick.

Firefighters managed to bring the out-of-town fire under control but not before considerable damage had occurred to the inside of the cottage located at Midland Point off Robert Street East.

Firefighters donned air masks to enter the smoke-filled building so as to knock down flames from inside.

Exact amount of damage will not be known until Midland Fire Department officials complete their investigation.

to save money

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reply once the chief had department of this prepared his own corporation; rather my submission responsibility as an elected official is to oversee the operation of the departments, to responsibility of the second guess, if you actual operation of the will our 'resident fire or any other experts' for the elec-

Cultural, recreation study step closer

To date over 40 representatives from various Midland community groups and agencies have been invited to attend a meeting next Tuesday night at town hall to study the logistics involved in Midland entering into a cultural and recreational master plan study.

The proposed study, which could cost about \$30,000, would evaluate the existing supply of culture and recreation programs, facilities and open space in the town.

At the same time the study would also assess the present and future demand to formulate practical guidelines and establish priorities for the provision of cultural and recreation opportunities within the community.

The study would be a very comprehensive one with input from virtually every group or agency in Midland involved in the delivery of a community service program.

A \$15,000 Wintario grant will offset the total cost of the study which would mean only \$15,000 would have to come from town coffers to pay for the project.

It is expected a committee will be formed so as to set out a frame of reference for the study and at a later date tenders will be called for consultants to actually carry out the study.

The master plan study has been called "a visible one" since input is to come from local organizations.

The meeting next Tuesday is set for 7.30 p.m. in the council chambers on Dominion West.

It has also been pointed out that next week's meeting is a general "information only" session and that the real data collection of all affected organizations will commence at a later date.

torate who have charged us with the management of the town's affairs.

"Given that we, as a council, are charged with the responsibility stated. I offer the following recommendations and note that although Chief Lethbridge is opposed, that is no reason to assume they are not correct, have no merit, or that he or any other department head or member of council is infallible when speaking on management issues."

The thrust of Jeffery's report was to show how the town could save money by restructuring the local fire service.

He said the town presently is protected by 13 full-time firefighters supplemented by 20 volunteers and one reserve.

"The fire department," the alderman noted. "Has an excellent rating because of these numbers, however in speaking with Chief Lethbridge and having personally been a member of the volunteers under two previous chiefs, it has become apparent that flaws do exist in the operation, which if satisfied, could not only make for a more efficient department, but also save the corporation and its ratepayers much-needed tax dollars.

Shift
The alderman suggested equally balancing the number of firefighters on each shift with the same number of firefighters and officers.

This would require promoting two men to officer status and putting the deputy fire chief and captain on shifts.

By doing so an officer would be on duty during each shift and that call-backs would be cut back to a minimum as "general alarms will be reduced due to the officer's appropriate reactions." (An officer would always be there to interpret the calls, react appropriately and direct any fire services.)

Jeffery's document also expresses concern over how call-backs could cost the town more than in previous years.

It was suggested at a council meeting earlier this month that if the town approves a new contract with professional firefighters here who want to be paid time and a half for a minimum of one hour per call-back that it would cost the town \$48,000.

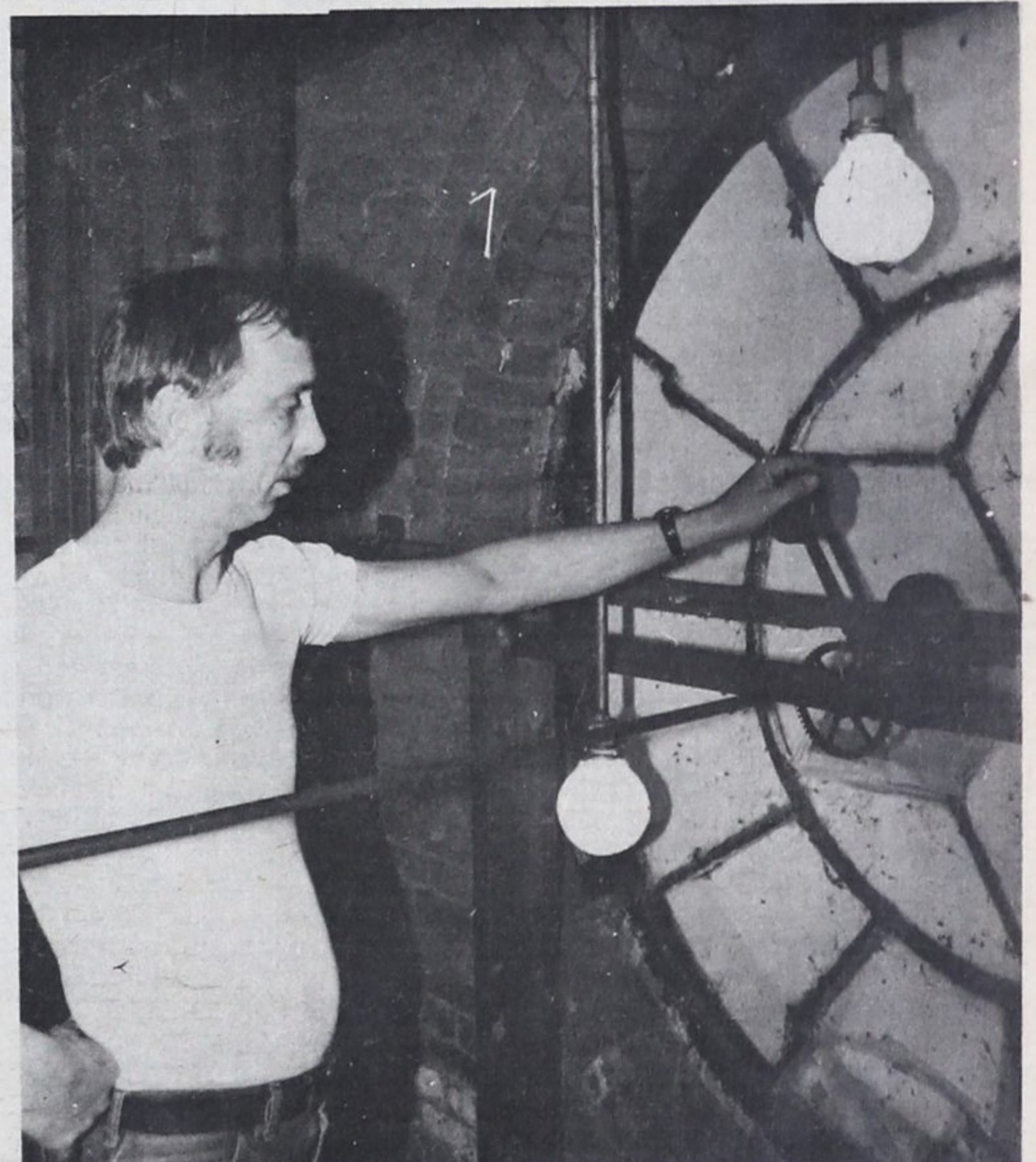
Alderman Richard Platt, Chairman of the town's finance committee told this newspaper yesterday the information he has received from the fire chief is that it would range from between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

During the first three months of this year about \$1,500 was spent on call-backs at actual time, times time and a half.

However under a proposed new contract with the fire department in which firefighters would be paid for a minimum of one hour instead of 15 minutes at time and a half, the figure would have been \$3,000.

Last year a total of \$9,000 was spent on paying for call-backs, Alderman Platt pointed out.

However, yesterday Jeffery again defended the \$48,000 figure



His timing is right on

Rav Mayer, custodian at Midland Public Library checks one of the faces of the tower clock for the proper time as part of his daily duties. Mayer admits the clock is getting older and therefore, has its problems but generally the clock is fairly accurate. One of the duties Mayer has to remember to do around this time of

year is to set the clock ahead one hour tomorrow evening so people in Midland will be able to set their watches to the correct Daylight Saving Time. One of the most interesting things about his job though is how he keeps the four faces of the clock at the same time, a task always not so easy to do.

Apartment proposed

John Masionis, owner of 16,000 square feet of property in Midland on the south side of Dominion Avenue between Charles Street and George Street, has gained conditional approval to build a 10 unit apartment building there.

The Midland Planning Board decided Tuesday evening to give its

approval in principle, subject to Masionis entering into a development contract agreement with the town.

Residents who live within a 400 foot radius of the property will be informed of the intention to rezone the Masionis property.

They can appear at the next meeting of the

planning board with their comments.

The plans received by the planning board showed a two-storey apartment building with

10 three bedroom apartments, a storage room, and a laundry

room on the now vacant land.