

If at first you don't succeed...

Wants another meeting with council over proposed development

by Doug Reed

An internationally known investment company will try one more time to convince members of Midland council that it is in the best interest of the town to allow the company to proceed with a multi-million-dollar residential development project in the hinterlands of northeast Midland on 50 acres the firm owns as well as on a portion of T. M. McCullough Park it would like to buy or lease from the town.

Last week council, meeting in special session, rejected (in principle) selling the park land in question which amounts to just under five acres of land and 2.75 acres of water lot (500 feet of shore line).

Only Moreland Lynn and Alderman Richard Platt endorsed the motion while the other six local law-makers turned thumbs down on the resolution.

Alderman Ian Ross wasn't at either of last week's two special meetings which dealt with the proposed transaction.

Disappointed

Earlier this week Fred Hacker, the Midland solicitor representing Szeliga Investments, said he was disappointed at the turn of events last Thursday night.

However this week he was instructed to

make arrangements for one more meeting with council to see if local law-makers might be convinced the project would be in Midland's best interest.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the investment company, Peter Mielzynski of Toronto, was in Midland to echo Hacker's reaction.

Mielzynski indicated he could understand the political difficulties council faced in making the decision it did however he felt those hurdles could be overcome.

Co-operation

He praised the co-operation he had received in the past from Mayor Moreland Lynn, Midland Chamber of Commerce general Manager Wally Cunningham and town planner Brian MacKell during the early stages of Szeliga's interest in developing land it owns in the northeast corner of Midland.

If the developers are not successful in having council change its mind, the millions of dollars the company has set aside for the project will be "land banked" for the time being.

"We would then go after the provincial government to reduce our taxes if the land can't be used since it has been taxed about 500

percent more since we took it over."

Mielzynski, who has had a cottage in the area for almost two dozen years, says it was he who prompted backers of the project to develop here.

The investment firm is backed by Underberg which owns 95 percent of Szeliga Investments Limited. Underberg, a German company, is known the world over as the maker of "bitters."

He went on to note yesterday, "At a time when things are unsettled in Europe more and more people of wealth are turning to other countries to invest their money in and that's the reason we wanted to establish ourselves here."

"Many from Europe enjoy sailing and that's why the whole setting here would be conducive to their and our needs."

Mielzynski outlined the success of "Collingwood." There they had a natural setting (ski hills) and the town has been able to attract people from all over the world. They visit there. They invest there and it is good for Collingwood. It is good for everyone.

"It could be here too... with your wonderful bay."

Initial plans called for the company to build a posh inn, then sell land and build about 40

executive homes on one acre lots on the 50 acres of land it owns.

Access

The park land would be used for access to the bay and also for the establishment of a yacht marina.

"These people for the most part would come from Europe but it would provide a wonderful setting for Midland to tell its story to people from other countries...that's how you get to be known."

It has taken more than a year of planning by the investment company to reach the stage it has today.

"We used an Austrian architect to do our work. We had planned to develop the inn first but as you know it burned down last year...but we still proceeded, discouraged at first, but still feeling everything would go well."

"Yes we are disappointed but we hope council might change its mind..."

"Perhaps your people don't appreciate the great asset you have for attracting people from other countries...perhaps they don't fully see how we could be good for the town..."

What comes out of their next meeting with council is anyone's guess. However the developers feel the ball is still in Midland's court.

SCOUTING AROUND



by Robin Nutbrown

Scouting's goal is nothing less than to affect the future of Canada by exerting a strong influence on the lives of thousands of tomorrow's leaders in our communities, provinces and the nation.

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You can influence the future! Get involved with Scouts-Canada!

This is our goal

OHS calls for boycott

The Ontario Humane Society has called on the public to boycott the CNE Rodeo.

In calling for the boycott the following statement was made by Mr. T.I. Hughes, Executive Vice-President of the Ontario Humane Society:

"Rodeo is a brutal exploitation of animals purely for profit. Most of the profit goes to the American organizers.

Rodeo cannot be held without exposing the animals to an abnormally high risk of injury and suffering. Every year animals are injured in rodeos.

The best way to show the promoters of rodeo that Canadians do not agree with this form of exploitation is to boycott the rodeo. If enough people stay away from the rodeo so that the organizers and promoters lose money rodeo will disappear from Ontario.

If, on the other hand, rodeo is supported and profits are made then it will become increasingly entrenched in a province which has no tradition for rodeo whether imported from the West or from America."

Hughes went on to say:

"We can't have two standards for animal care. If domestic animals such as dogs or cats, were subjected to the type of harrassment which is common in

rodeo there would be a public outcry.

We can't have it both ways. Either animals are protected against unnecessary suffering and abuse or they are not. Since the law in Canada does, in fact, provide that protection

for all animals, then there is no way in which rodeo promoters can claim to be above and exempt from the law.

Inspectors of the Ontario Humane Society, including specially appointed veterinary inspectors,

will police every aspect of the rodeo at the CNE. The promoters of the rodeo have been warned, in advance, that if they subject animals to unnecessary suffering that appropriate action will be taken.

The best way to

convince these people rodeo in Ontario is to your pocket and stay that we do not want keep your money in away."

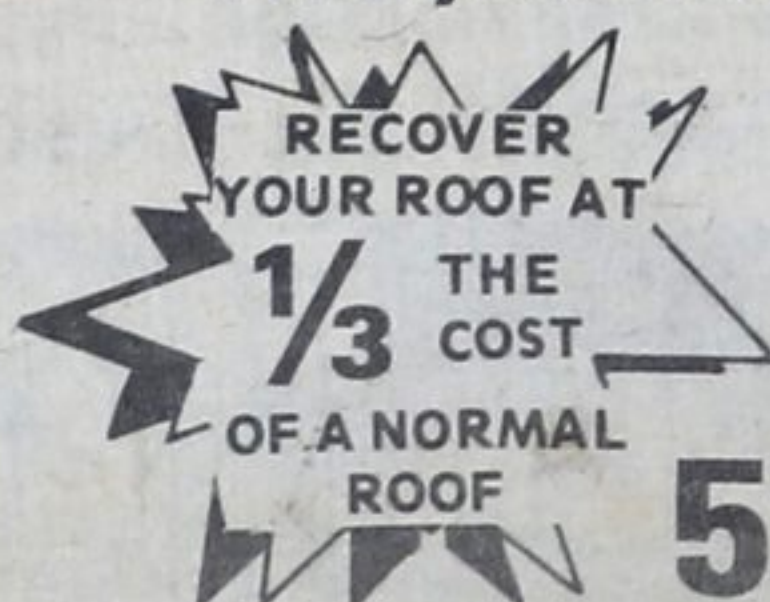
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Council meeting
Next regular meeting of Tay Township council has been set for Sept. 10.