

Back from ROMA to Tiny

Tiny Township's Reeve Morris Darby is resting up this week after being super involved in this week's 50th anniversary convention of ROMA in Toronto.

The Rural Ontario Municipalities Association chairman, who is also a former warden of Simcoe County, noted yesterday that as many as 960 politicians and civic leaders had registered for the convention which was staged in Metro from Sunday noon to Wednesday afternoon.

Darby, who is now ROMA's out-going chairman, was replaced by Dr. Arnold Taylor a member of the Osgoode Planning Board near Ottawa.

Taylor like Darby will serve for one year. But Darby won't sit on the executive of the newly restructured provincial group: the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The AMO will now take in other associations including ROMA, the Larger Ontario Urban Municipalities Association, the Smaller Ontario Urban Municipalities Association, the County and Regions of Ontario Association and the North Ontario Municipalities Association.

Darby termed his year as ROMA chairman as a "successful one." ROMA is composed of nine provincial zones and an executive of five people.

At ROMA's final banquet this week well over 1,000 people attended the anniversary celebrations marking ROMA's half-century of service in Ontario.



On cottage patrol with the OPP...

Midland detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, aside from operating its own snowmobile cottage patrols has also been able to call upon one of two OPP 'choppers in the province to act as the local detachment's "eyes in the sky" for the same purpose. These pictures were taken aboard the OPP's Long-Ranger which was flown by OPP

Const. Dwayne Sedgewick. The spotter was Const. John Miller. That's the OPP detachment office on Highway 27 in TOP photo. Cottage in LOWER photo was "snapped" north of Honey Harbour by the editor of this newspaper who went out on one of the 'chopper cottage patrols.

Milk store robbery

Second man charged

A 28-year-old Penetanguishene man has been charged in connection with the Jan. 21 robbery at the Mac's Milk store in the Huronia Mall.

Allan Larry Joseph Cadeau of Cambridge Street was to have appeared in provincial court in

Penetanguishene yesterday.

He's the second person charged by Midland OPP in connection with the incident in which a lone clerk in the store was physically forced to hand over all the cash in the store's cash register.

D-Day for docs Feb. 18

Doctors protesting an OHIP fee dispute with the province are planning a variety of protest measures across the province including a series of walkouts and study sessions.

The walkouts planned by the OMA over the next two weeks are in support of demands for a 31.2 percent increase in OHIP fees.

"We will be cancelling our afternoon offices on February 18," says Dr. Peter Cameron, area Ontario Medical Association delegate. "Most doctors will simply take their half day off on Thursday instead of Wednesday."

The doctor added that there will be two general practitioners and a surgeon remaining in Midland to look after people. "All of us will be seeing our patients in hospital in the morning," he said.

The Thursday afternoon study session is one of a rotating series planned to draw attention to OMA dissatisfaction with the Ontario government's offer of a 10 per cent increase in doctors' fee schedules.

OMA is seeking a 31.2 per cent increase over two years, plus a cost of living allowance.

At a recent Hamilton study session OMA vice-president Murray McAdam said the income of doctors in Ontario rose 38.3 per cent from 1971 to 1979, compared to an 89.8 per cent increase in consumer prices in the same period.

Dr. Cameron says that teachers' salaries went up 100 per cent over a 10 year period, and the salaries of nurses escalated 180 per cent. "And the mail people went up 220 per cent!"

Paul Weiler, a government fact-finder says that the province's doctors should get a financial catch-up. Dr. Cameron claims that last year's 14 per cent increase was the first tangible step.

Dr. Cameron admits that 10 years ago, doctors were well paid

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STAFFS COULD BE CUT IN MOVE TO CONTROL SPENDING

Department heads, committees have role to play

Midland's Mayor Moreland Lynn is to meet today with municipal department heads to tell them something they probably by now already know: the town intends to reduce staff in an economy move.

While the great Midland witch-hunt continues to determine who let the cat out of the bag before the mayor could officially tell the town's top brass, most members of council this newspaper talked to yesterday agreed something has to be done in order to meet rising costs associated with managing a municipality the size of Midland.

Alderman Ian Ross said yesterday, he was "very upset" at how a report on the subject prepared following last Sunday's caucus meeting of council was leaked.

He added, "I personally plan to look into this matter further. If need be I'll stand up at the next council meeting and say it wasn't me and then ask the rest of them (councillors) to do the same thing.

Ross said he "has a good idea who leaked it and I plan to get to the bottom of

this matter."

Mayor Moreland Lynn who was in Metro for two days earlier this week said he was "a little surprised and disappointed (concerning the leaked report). We didn't want to cause any undue alarm.

"At this stage there has to be some restraint. Our assessment is down for the first time in decades while costs have gone up."

He cited last year's re-assessment as one of the major culprits. "After the appeals we ended up with a lower assessment which in turn means lower revenues for the municipality."

Mayor Lynn said the way council would like to attack the issue is for the various department heads to study the matter, to make recommendations to their committees and the committee make final recommendations to council as a whole.

Alderman Richard Platt said it "was unfortunate it (the report) leaked out this way as opposed to going through the proper channels of informing department heads first, and so on.

"It's not good for morale that this kind of information shouldn't be leaked this way."

Deputy-reeve Bev Day said, "I feel badly about the leak. It is a poor way of doing business."

However he agreed there was a need to look at staff reductions where they can be made.

Reeve William Orr said he was "disappointed" saying he too "felt department heads should have been told first."

Alderman Al Hennin echoed his colleagues remarks, adding "I feel it is a very sad state of affairs. It has caused bitterness between the department heads and council."

Alderman Joe Blake had similar thoughts adding, "I don't really know how much damage the announcement Wednesday actually made.

"It is unfortunate the staff had to learn about it this way however we do plan to make some cut-backs. I'm just sorry the announcement couldn't have been made on Monday (the day after the caucus

meeting) so that there wouldn't have been rumours."

Alderman Jack Gerow said he "was shocked to see the report in the paper. We all agreed the mayor would meet with department heads on Friday."

"You know I don't like hiding anything. However it was a personnel matter and the mayor was to tell the department heads."

Gerow said he thought "there's a need to cut back where we can. However I think it was shoddy the way people were informed Wednesday."

Alderman Bob Jeffery said he "received a call about 4 p.m. Tuesday and I went four feet off the ground. I don't know how they got it."

Jeffery in noting he was shocked that the report had been leaked added, "I must say though I have been concerned about the amount of staff we have.

"Last year I wrote a memo on the subject to council. I agree though that reducing staff should be done (orderly) properly like the mayor has said."