

# Tiny refuses to play dead, just yet

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

Township of Tiny has written to all members of the Ontario Legislature to "seek their support in forcing Bill 62 before a Committee for deputations."

This action is in response to the first reading of Bill 62 on April 15. Bill 62 would allow a municipality to withdraw an application for annexation to the Ontario Municipal Board "at any time before the Board has finally determined the matter."

Although Tiny had hoped to pursue Midland's April, 1981 annexation application through the OMB, Midland has been holding out for a negotiated settlement under the revised Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act.

Tiny's Toronto solicitors, Gardiner, Roberts have advised Tiny that "only political action can deflect the passage of Bill 62." The lawyers "urge the Township to solicit the support of its local member to assist in the amendment of Bill 62." Tiny's MPP is Ontario Solicitor General George

## pulls out all stops in anti-annexation

Taylor.

In their letter to Ontario MPP's, Tiny outlines the history of the boundary dispute with Midland, and the township's reasons for opposing Bill 62.

Tiny says "Bill 62 is a retroactive law, sponsored by the Minister (of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Claude Bennett) at the request of the two urban municipalities (Barrie and Midland). "The Bill allows removal of a substantive right in the Township to a fair hearing at the Board," Tiny continues in their May 20 letter.

"The Township (of Tiny) believes the Bill to be unfair and pre-judicial. Its sponsorship by the Minister at the request of the urban municipalities seeking an-

nexation leaves the Township with no confidence that it will be fairly treated under the Boundary Disputes Act," the letter continues.

Tiny recommends to MPP's that "Bill 62 should be amended in committee after second reading to require the consent of all parties to withdrawal of the application commenced under the Municipal Act before the Ontario Municipal Board, or the hearing continue."

Finally Tiny asks MPP's to "Please stand following second reading of Bill 62 and, under Standing Order 56(c), demand the Bill be sent to a Committee for review and amendment."

Lawyers for the township advised

council that "Bill 62 may come up for second reading at any time."

Reeve Morris Darby is endeavouring to meet with opposition municipal affairs critics to garner their support for Tiny's request today.

At a special meeting Wednesday afternoon, Tiny council unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to Bill 62.

"The Township of Tiny objects most strenuously to the passing of this Bill on the grounds that it gives the annexing municipality more options while removing substantial rights on the part of rural municipalities being annexed: this, without the privilege of an independent hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board. We further find Bill 62 to be both an obstruction and a detriment to a township whose primary interest is having its land use planning implemented without awaiting the pleasure of another municipality which may or may not wish to annex," says Tiny's resolution.

# Wants mediator involved to get French pre-kindergarten classes off the ground

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

A request to have french pre-kindergarten classes instituted in Simcoe County Separate Schools in 1982 has been deferred by the school board until October.

Simone Levert, who organized the presentation for pre-kindergarten classes at the five francophone schools in Simcoe County separate school board says she is "very

disappointed but not discouraged" at the Board's ruling, which effectively means a refusal for classes for this fall.

Levert points out that although a report by a committee established by the board to study the question "came up with only positive reasons for the classes, the board has made a negative conclusion."

The vote to table the request was a close one. Seven members suc-

ceeded in overturning six votes against the tabling. Gilles Ouellet, trustee to the board from the Penetanguishene area was not present at the meeting, and the lack of his support was critical to the defeat of the proposal.

Levert says she can see "no reasons other than political ones to refuse us."

According to Levert, funding from the ministry of education would have "more than

covered the cost of opening these french classes, and english classes would have been funded by grants up to 82 per cent of the cost."

Children entering francophone kindergarten classes are almost entirely from english-speaking families or

assimilated families of francophone origin, says Levert. These children need the added year of preparation to adapt successfully to french kindergarten, according to Levert.

Although preliminary enrollment figures for French pre-kinderg-

arten in the five schools was 94, and over 300 signatures of separate school supporters in favour of the new classes were presented to the board, they were ignored, says Levert.

The fight for pre-kindergarten classes for francophone schools

will not stop with the boards deferral, however.

Levert says "I am submitting documents tomorrow to the Official Languages Commission in Toronto, and will be asking for a mediator" to study the request.

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