



Informing the minister

Blake Industries President Gord Blake shows details of the expansion to date of Wye Heritage Marina to Minister of Natural Resources Allan Pope. On Monday, Pope announced the province is giving Blake Industries \$570,000 to help finance a major expansion of the Blake Industries' owned marina.

Annexation-bid saga heats up

Burned midnight oil last night in Toronto

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

The legislative committee hearing on Bill 62 went into overtime yesterday afternoon at Queen's Park and the committee was seeking House permission to extend the hearings into the evening in order to hear the last submission by Tiny Township.

Tiny's submission—which was to be presented by township solicitor Gardiner Roberts—was still to be heard by late afternoon. Earlier in the day, the committee had heard submissions from the other parties involved in the hearing: the City of Barrie, the Town of Midland and the Township of Vespra.

Midland solicitor Doug Haig represented Midland and Alderman Richard Platt was in attendance. Reeve Morris Darby, township administrator Guy Maurice and three members of council were also in

attendance from Tiny.

Arguments before the committee centred on the retroactive right given to annexing municipalities to withdraw prior applications from the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) unilaterally under Bill 62, an amendment to the Municipal Boundaries Negotiations Act (MBNA).

Midland reiterated its preference for a negotiated settlement under the new act if Bill 62 is passed to allow withdrawal of their 1981 OMB annexation application.

Tiny's submission was to have asked for an amendment to Bill 62 requiring consent of the respondent municipalities for withdrawal of an annexation application from the OMB by the annexor.

There are eight applications for annexation under the OMB now outstanding that would be affected by Bill 62. The only non-consenting municipalities

are Tiny and Vespra.

The legislative committee is composed of seven members of the Progressive Conservatives, three Liberals and two New Democrats.

David Rotenburg, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is defending the Bill. Main opposition on the committee is from Liberal housing critic Herb Epp and NDP housing critic Mike Breagh.

The new MBNA is essentially a political process providing for direct negotiation by local politicians under a provincial arbitrator, as opposed to the quasi-judicial format of the OMB.

Ultimate arbitrator under the MBNA is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, though final recourse to the OMB would still be possible.

\$570,000

BILD GRANT

by Murray Moore

Wye Heritage Marina, located in Tay Township where the Wye River empties into Georgian Bay, will double in size in the next few years with \$570,000 of provincial money, through the BILD program, and nearly \$3 million from Blake Industries, the marina's owner.

The BILD grant, to be spread over the next three years, will be used to build more boat slips, to construct water and sewer services, and to build roads and buildings.

Blake Industries President Gord Blake said Monday that Wye Heritage Marina now has space for 475 to 500 boats, and that that number will double by 1985. He predicted that the marina "will be the finest boat facility on the North American continent."

Thirty full-time and 30 part-time employees will be on the marina payroll by 1985, he said.

Gordon and Robert Blake became part-owners of the marina in 1977 and full owners a short time later. In the interim the number of slips has increased from 200 slips to around 500 slips.

Minister of Natural Resources Allan Pope, on hand to announce the BILD grant, estimated that 10 permanent jobs will be created by the expansion, and a further 25 construction jobs for three or four years.

Neighbouring Midland stands to benefit from a shuttle service that is to be established between the marina and the Midland town dock.

Pope said that the expanded marina will be a major destination for boaters using the Trent-Severn and Rideau waterways.



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