



The dog is optional

This motorcycle was for the dogs -- it was last week, at any rate, as this pooch settled down in the noonday sun while his owner did a little King St. shopping.

Firemens' dispute in referee's hands

Both the Town of Midland and the Midland firefighters had the gloves off for more than 13 hours last Friday in a marathon arbitration meeting concerning the layoffs of two firemen, but both sides will still have to sit tight for at least a few weeks before a final decision comes down.

Professor Robert Prichard of the University of Toronto, arbitrator in the case, dispute, said yesterday from London that "my guess is that the parties could have a decision in their hands in three weeks."

The dispute centres on the layoff of two firefighters -- Tom Toole and Jim Ironside --

which were effective March 31.

Toronto lawyer Jeffrey Sack, representing the firefighters, couldn't be reached for comment this week but the original grievances were based on alleged discrimination and improper layoff.

Harry Haworth, former president of Local 1581 of the Ontario Firefighters Association and now chairman of the Local negotiating committee, declined to discuss details of Friday's meeting but did express confidence that the firefighters' arguments were effective and sound.

"It was a long, drawn-

out session," Haworth said yesterday. "We're just waiting now and hoping for the best."

Others representing the firefighters at the meeting were OFFA District 3 (Windsor) vice-president Doug Cassidy, District 4 (Hamilton) vice-president Ron Bowman, and Elliott Hastings of the International Firefighters Association.

Midland was represented by town solicitor Doug Haig, along with Mayor Moreland Lynn, Clerk Mike Owen, Fire Chief Terry Lethbridge, Reeve Bev Day and Alderman Richard Platt.

Platt said yesterday the layoffs were due

directly to the "economic conditions of the municipality." He said the firefighters were claiming the layoffs were a result of a January, 1981 contract settlement (the firefighters signed a two-year contract signed by the Midland Police Department.)

"They said the layoffs were not, in effect, layoffs, but that the town was locking those employees out," Platt said. "But the contract had absolutely no connection with the layoffs. There was just no way we could anticipate the economic conditions of the municipality in 1981 when the contract was signed."

Antique show grows

More exhibitors, larger range of goods offered at curling club site

Huronian District Hospital Auxiliary president Jennifer Chalmers says this year's edition of the organization's antique market will be the biggest and best ever.

At least 22 dealers will be offering their goods at the 17th annual market, scheduled for July 20-22 at the Midland Curling Club.

Proceeds will go toward fulfilling the Auxiliary's \$50,000 pledge to help HDH purchase new ultra-sound equipment.

Aside from the Auxiliary's on-going gift shop effort at the hospital, the antique market is the largest fund-raising project

put on by the group.

The market has been held at the Country Mill for the past 16 years. The move to the curling club site allows a major expansion, Chalmers said, and the Auxiliary is confident it will improve on the \$3,000 raised last year from the sales of 18 exhibitors.

"We've got a lot more space this year," Chalmers said. "In past years it's basically been glass and china and smaller pieces of furniture. This year more furniture dealers will be here and there'll be a much larger range of pieces."

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