

'Softening up' is how Ross sees parks board's position

Alderman Ian Ross of Midland chided the local press Monday night just as local law-makers were wrapping up their regular monthly meeting at town hall.

According to Ross, "There appears to be questionable interpretation by the press over the board's latest position as outlined in the release given to the press last week. It is not the intention of the board to have the Szeliga subdivision proposal 'grind to a halt' or to have 'light fade on the development's future'."

Rather than throwing up any further road-blocks to the proposed development, the board feels that a major obstacle has been removed which is to the benefit of Szeliga.

No longer will Szeliga have to concern itself with the design and cost of developing McCullough Park.

The board's latest position is a straightforward lease proposal, giving Szeliga access to the bay and shoreline for the development of their boating facility in return for an annual sum of money.

This latest position could well be viewed as a "softening up" by the board as the "Trade-off" of Szeliga developing the park in return for use of the waterfront has now been eliminated.

board's position

The board takes this position and makes this latest offer due to:

A) Failure to reach a legal agreement for the development of the park. To date, four (4) drafts have been prepared in attempting to reach an agreement. No reply has been received from Szeliga to a letter, forwarded Aug. 17, by the town solicitor on behalf of the board, attempting to resolve differences contained in the draft agreements.

B) Mounting legal costs. To date have been in excess of \$2,000 spent solely on the town solicitor.

C) If Szeliga is to contribute to the cost of developing the park and accordingly be influential in design and content, there is some concern that the park may then be inappropriately developed in the general public interest for Midland. For example, would the board be locked into something which is far from the best potential use of 11 acres of waterfront land on Georgian Bay?

With this latest proposal by the board, the above concern is eliminated.

D) Much time and effort has been spent by

board members and staff in attempting to reach agreement with Szeliga.

The Board is anxious to conclude its part in the total development and free Szeliga to address the next series of steps for its project, such as resolving servicing problems.

Following Ross'

comments, Alderman Joe Blake rose to his feet to wonder aloud, where the board was going to get the \$2,000 to cover legal fees to date?

Blake said the money wasn't in the board's budget. He went on to suggest the developers should pay for legal fees incurred by the board.

Midland businessman

Jim Meridis, project manager for the proposed development, said yesterday afternoon, "I was shocked to read in the papers last Friday that the parks board had said in a press release that negotiations to date are now terminated."

Meridis added, "We have spent a lot of

money negotiating with the board. I haven't seen anything in writing officially of their new proposition. I'd like to be given a chance to look at it before making any decision. We are interested in proceeding with our development. That's all I can say at this time.

The proposed

residential-recreational-marina development for the hinterlands of northeast Midland has been in the discussion stage for two years.

Last February the parks board submitted a modified plan to both Szeliga and town council. It was endorsed by an 8-1 margin by

council while it also met with favourable reaction from Szeliga.

Since then, during the fine-tuning stage, both sides have found it more difficult to come up with solutions to problems that if they were resolved would see a contract hammered out between the parties concerned.

HOMECOMING SPECIALS

at **Roby Reid** CARPET LAND INC.

RICHMOND OASIS \$9.47 Sq. Yd.
100 per cent Nylon Saxony
4 gorgeous colours Min. purchase 20 sq.m. ONLY

(No additional charge for installation for qualifying customers)



Examples-Richmond Oasis

ROOM SIZE	REMNANT
12'x15'	12'x10'
ONLY \$229.40	ONLY \$152.89

(Price includes: Underlay and Installation BUT NOT prov. sales tax)

ARMSTRONG IMPERIAL SOLARIAN

No Wax Vinyl (with Armstrong's special Solarian hard surface that resists scuffs and stains).

Man. Sugg. Retail \$25.97 Sq. Yd.
NOW ONLY AT CARPETLAND

\$14.97 Sq. Yd.

KITCHEN	KITCHEN
12'x12'	12'x9'
\$287.52	\$215.64

(Price includes Installation BUT NOT prov. sales tax)

Examples-Imperial Solarian

Roby's Special Guarantee of Lowest Prices

- Guaranteed Installations

Courteous, Professional Sales Staff

- Largest Selection of In-stock Carpeting in Simcoe County



CARPET LAND INC.

WE GIVE LOW PRICES A GOOD NAME



THREE LOCATIONS:

ORILLIA On Hwy 11 Just N. of Sundial Motor Inn 326-1201	BARRIE On Bayfield St., Opp. Georgian Mall 737-5662	MIDLAND On Hwy 27 Next to Zellers Plaza 526-4231
--	--	---