

**Midland council splits**

**Appointments made over opposition to defer bylaws**

Midland Alderman Miles Blackhurst failed twice during Monday night's council meeting to gain sufficient support to have two major bylaws deferred.

By a vote of 5-4 council moved not to defer a bylaw authorizing the appointment of G.M. Morrison as treasurer and deputy-clerk.

Voting unsuccessfully with Blackhurst were Aldermen Ian Ross, Patrick Kearns and Bob Jeffery.

Voting no to defer the bylaw were Mayor Al Roach, Reeve Bev Day, Deputy-reeve Claude Buck, Alderman Nancy Keefe and Alderman Dan Herbert.

Blackhurst was also unsuccessful in having another bylaw deferred. That one authorized the appointment of F.G. Flood as clerk and deputy-treasurer.

Again, Kearns, Ross and Jeffery voted with Blackhurst while Roach, Day, Buck, Keefe and Herbert opted for the bylaw to appoint.

Blackhurst wouldn't spell out the reasons why he wanted both bylaws deferred other than to say he wanted them deferred and sent back to the town's finance committee for further study.

**HDH deficit shrinks**

by RON JOHNSON  
Huron District Hospital's deficit is dwindling as the fiscal year-end draws nearer and cost-cutting procedures take effect.

Hospital comptroller Murray Chalk stated at the hospital's board of directors meeting Monday, that he "couldn't be pleased with a deficit in the budget", but nonetheless found the decrease in the deficit to be an encouraging sign.

Originally, the hospital forecasted a deficit of expense over revenue of approximately \$200,000. Now with the monthly review of the budget, Chalk is predicting that the deficit may be as low as the \$125,000 to \$130,000 range. This is the figure estimated for

the end of the fiscal year in March.

As of the end of January, forecasted deficit is \$142,000 and shrinking.

Main reasons for this reduction in the budget deficit are twofold.

First, the cost-saving process of combining nursing stations to make 32-bed units instead of 16-bed units is paying dividends already. In Chalk's words, the nursing changes have produced about 90 per cent of the deficit reduction.

Another reason for the deficit decrease stems from in-house maintenance, such things as dietary and laundry costs. The original budget called for these expenses to rise by roughly 12 per cent due to inflation. So far the

increase in costs of these services is approximately in the six per cent area.

These budget figures also include the retroactive raises received by the nursing staff recently through union negotiations. A nine per cent increase back to Oct. 1, 1982 has been included, so there may well be some "light at the end of the tunnel" for the finance department at Huronia District Hospital.

**HDH to buy ultrasound**

Huron District Hospital administrative aide Jack Bateman has been given the go-ahead to order an ultrasound machine for the hospital.

HDH management committee passed the word to Bateman, formerly the interim administrator and now assisting administrator Gord Key, to order the SDU 3000 model ultrasound machine. This model is an updated model from the original SDU 2000 which was to be ordered.

The cost of the SDU

2000 was \$75,200 and the newer type SDU 3000 costs \$4,000 more.

Key Bateman, and HDH board of directors chairperson Elaine Nicholls will be meeting soon with Sister Joan Whalen of Penetanguishene General Hospital to investigate the possibility of sharing costs and utilization of the new machine.

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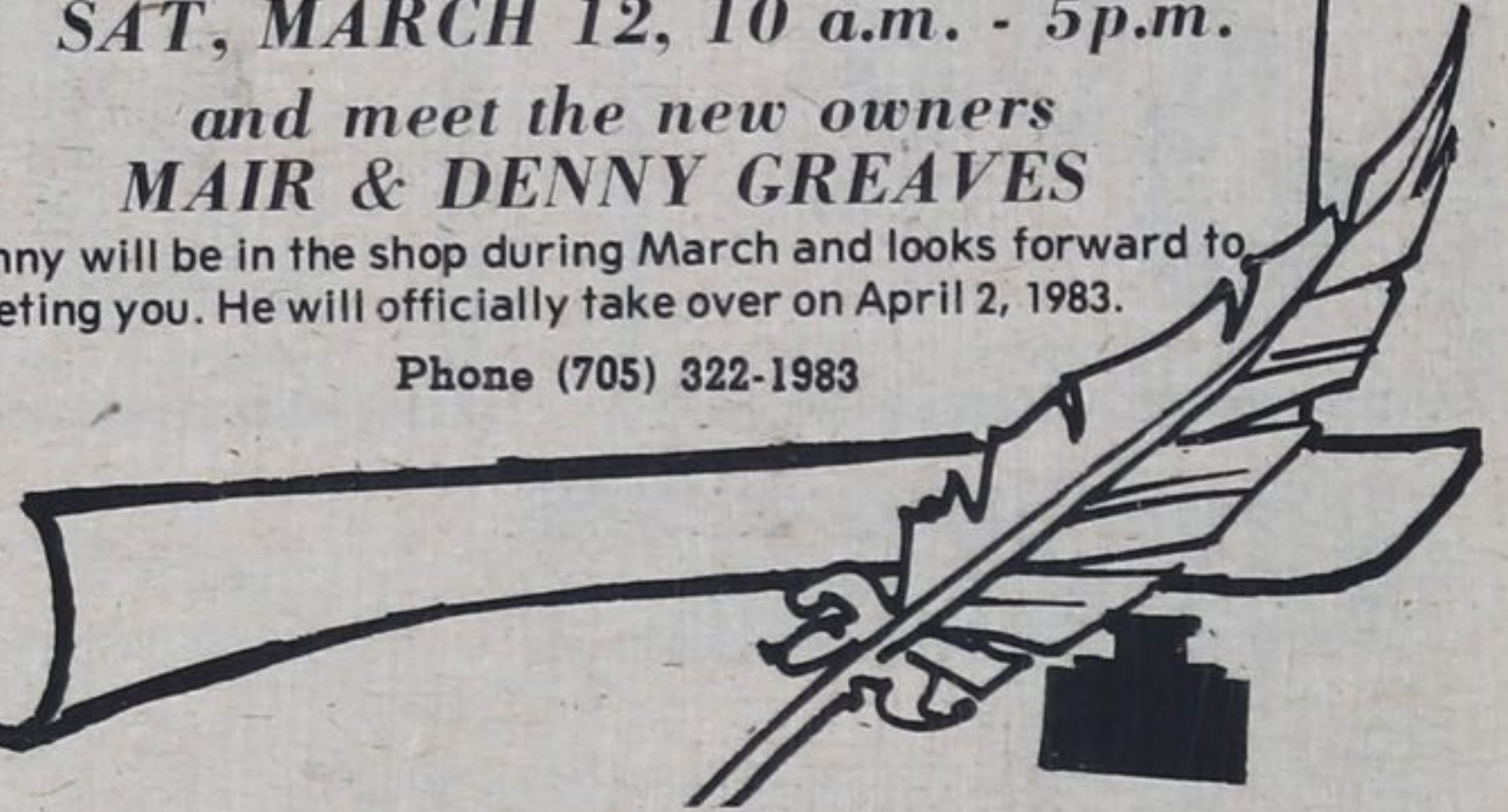
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**Baron meets his reps next week**

The response of Szeliga Investments to the Midland parks board's most recent offer on a lease of a section of T.M. McCullough Park will be made next Wednesday or Thursday, when the development company's principal owner, Baron E. Underberg, meets his Canadian representatives here in Canada.

At that time, says Szeliga's Midland lawyer, Frederick Hacker, "we will know (His client's) final position."

The board and the developer are still at odds about the amount of money to be paid for the lease of a right of way through, and of a water lot adjacent to, the municipal park.

The German developer wants to build a dock on the shoreline of the undeveloped park, and lease that section, as well as a roadway connecting the dock with Szeliga's neighbouring acreage. Expensive residences are planned for the Szeliga property.

Szeliga's most recent offer to the board was the first five year's lease money, \$50,000 at once, and then \$10,000 a year for the remainder of the longterm lease.

The parks board's counterproposal is for \$ 50,000 in lease money through the first five years, and a further \$50,000 when a contract between the two parties is signed.

**Chimney fire**

Lafontaine firefighters quelled a cottage fire last Friday morning on Lake Road, reports

Fire Chief Guy Maurice. There was no serious damage as a result of the fire.

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