

Labour relations committee can call lawyer

Midland's labour relations committee was authorized, at the Mar. 23 council meeting, to telephone Toronto lawyer William Whiteacre with questions, during yet-to-begin contract negotiation with OPSEU.

In February the council

hired Whiteacre "to give legal advice on negotiating with OPSEU on the forthcoming negotiations with OPSEU, keeping the mayor advised, with costs not to exceed \$820 inclusive of writing the three contracts (OPSEU)." The public works, office, and

board of park management employee groups have separate but similar contracts.

The current collective agreement between the town and OPSEU expires today. The first meeting to talk about a new contract will be held on May 13.

The town and its firefighters have had two meetings, the only result of which might be settlement by arbitration.

The town was to have its first contract negotiation meeting with the Midland Police Association yesterday.

On May 13 the town and OPSEU representatives are scheduled to do no more than exchange proposals.

Labour relations committee chairman Councillor Carolyn White has reached one conclusion about the friction between the council and organized labour:

"There's a breakdown somewhere."

"I don't know whose fault it is, but I'd like to know whose fault it is." The councillor said she would have a better idea after she asked some questions of an unnamed individual. The fault might not necessarily be any person's fault, she added.

Many of the disputes which the town and its organized employees send to arbitration for settlement, unable to agree between themselves, "should be and could be dealt with at a lower level," she said.

The labour relations committee chairman wants the contract with the OPSEU members strengthened for the benefit of both parties. She said she is not happy with the rules and regulations in

the current agreement pertaining to the public works department employees. "They have to be thrown out, and replaced with new

rules and regulations, with the agreement of OPSEU."

At the council meeting, labour relations vice-chairman Gail Barrie said

that authorization to telephone Whiteacre to ask questions about the language of the contract was wanted.

SCBE budget passed

The Simcoe County Board of Education (SCBE) passed its 1987 operating budget last Wednesday night. The \$167,628,600 forecast represents an \$11 million dollar, or seven per cent increase over last year's budget of \$157,978,301.

This year the board will get 44.4 per cent of its required revenue from provincial grants, and taxes raised by municipalities will provide 50.7 per cent of the cost. The balance of revenue comes from tuition fees, the Separate School Board's assessment transfer and other sources.

This means an increase in the education mill rates for municipalities of about 5.9 percent over 1986.

Of the 35 municipalities who collect revenue for the SCBE, Penetanguishene's mill rate increase is the highest at 6.13 while Elmville comes in with the lowest increase of only 4.39 percent. The mill rate for the Town of Midland is just below the average, at 5.88.

The mill rate is established by the municipal council. Variations result from the individual councils raising more or less taxes than are required by the

school board in a given year.

This helps reduce wide fluctuations from year to

Salaries represent the greatest cost for the board at \$126,974,600 or 76 per cent of the total budget. Plant maintenance and operations account for 11.27 percent.

The preamble to the budget stated "...because of a modest, but welcome increase in the level of provincial grant assistance, the board has been able to make improvements to assist students and their program needs.



Newly wed

Claude Boileau and Belinda Turcotte exchanged wedding vows at the Nativity Church in Timmins August 30, 1986. Claude is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Boileau of Penetanguishene. Belinda the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orval Turcotte of Timmins. The couple are residing in Timmins.

Auxiliary bazaar for HDH fundraising

Shoppers at the Huronia District Hospital Auxiliary's Earlybird Spring Bargain Bazaar will get more than the worms, they'll get many bargains and a chance to help the hospital.

Proceeds from the bazaar, to be held on Saturday, April 11, will go towards the hospital's \$2 million fundraising campaign that was kicked-off recently.

The many items available at the sale include Easter crafts, folk art, quality used furniture, books, toys, records, flower

arrangements and fresh baked goods.

Refreshments will also be available.

Tickets will also be available on an Easter gift basket.

Donations of quality used items would be greatly appreciated by the auxiliary. For pick-up of any donations or more information contact the bazaar convener Marg Randa (526-4920).

The April 11 bazaar will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Midland Oddfellow's Hall on Dominion Avenue.

Lawyers concentrating

After the Hacker, Gignac and Rice law firm moves into the new building to be built at King and Yonge Streets, a major airplane crash could wipe out a majority of Midland's lawyers.

Joseph Blake is across First Street from the future Hacker, Gignac and Rice building. The Symons and Grise office is on the north,

Elizabeth Street side of the block. Teskey, Heacock, Ferguson and Main, and MacKinnon, DeVillers, Peet and Deacon, are not far away on King, and Elizabeth, Streets.

Hacker, Gignac and Rice will be moving into a two storey, 8,000 square foot building with parking on the lower level.

Animal control single bidder

Huronian Animal Control was the only respondent to the tendering by Midland of the job of animal control in the municipality.

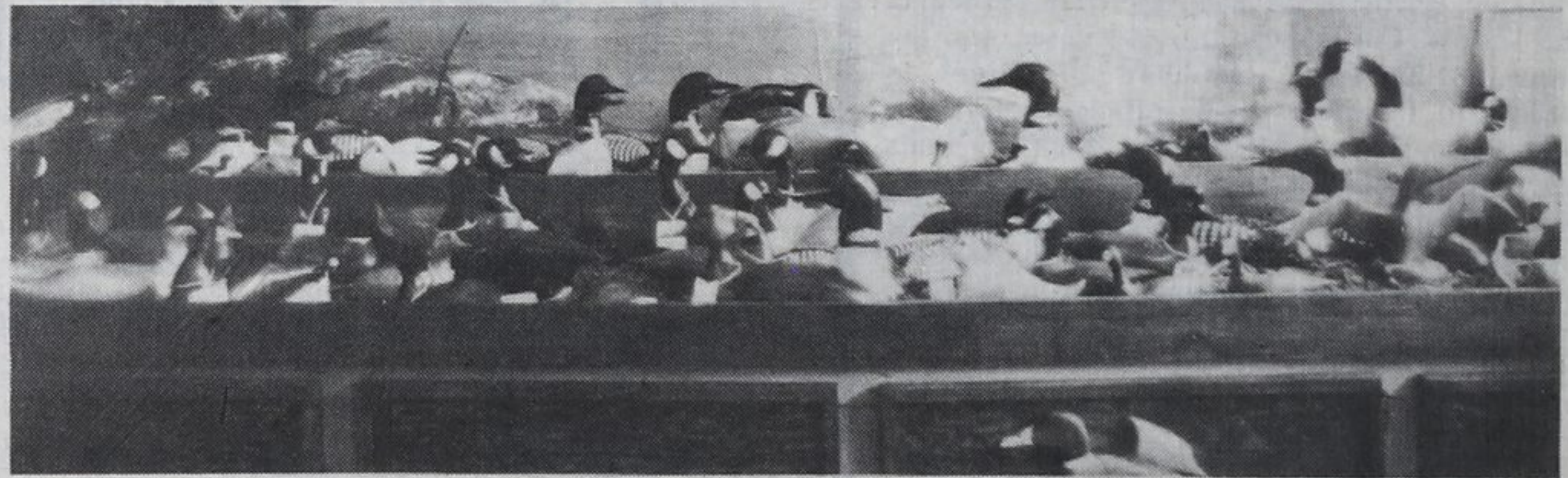
The town is paying Huronia Animal Control \$22,054.69 a year. The bill will rise seven per cent in the next two years, to \$23,598.52 and \$25,250.41, if the council accepts the tender. The town also splits income from sale of dog licences with Huronia Animal Control.

Huronian Animal Control

owner Pete Bidan said the increase amounts to \$4.24 a day in the first year, and \$4.54 a day in the second year.

Huronian Animal Control has supplied the town with animal control for 12 years. "We have been very pleased with the service we have received in the past," public safety committee chairman Councillor Carolyn White told Bidan. The police chief and fire chief spoke well of Bidan.

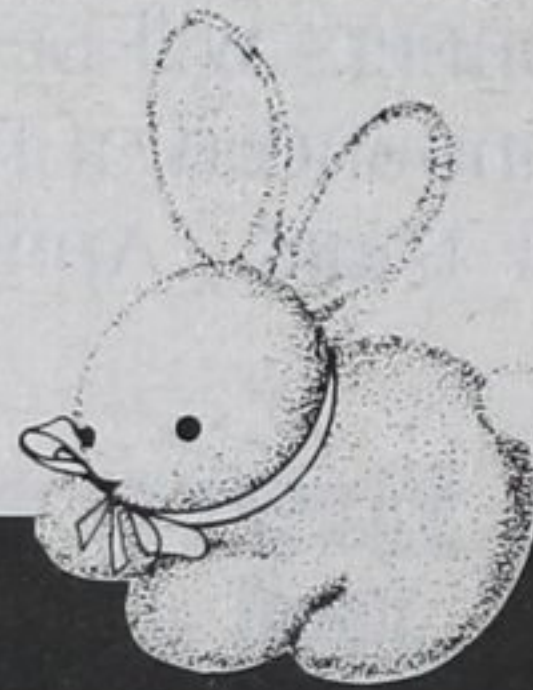
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There is still time to get
into the draw on **April 4th.**