

# Town says contract means wage rise

Statements explaining the Town of Midland's position on a new contract with its OPSEU-member employees emphasize wage increases and "industrial peace."

In a statement intended to be released in time for last Friday's edition, a 15 per cent wage increase over three years was em-

phasized. (The release came too late for last Friday's edition.)

The statement designed to follow, for today's edition, presents the Town's version of a new contract as a means "to bring industrial peace to the Town and its employees."

The Town's tabled contract included a wage in-

crease of five per cent in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

"The Town of Midland has always been a generous employer," Councillor Carolyn White, Town labour relations chairman was quoted as saying. "We expect our employees to give us a good day's work and we do not propose to nickel and

dime the people who we rely on to give service to the Town."

"In 1985 the present council was elected on a promise to cut the cost of operating the Town, but we do not propose to do it on the backs of our loyal employees."

Industrial peace is the theme of the second press

release. It begins, "The Town of Midland has proposed to the union representing its regular workers that new and revised collective agreements will aim to bring industrial peace to the Town and its employees."

"The present contracts are so sloppily worded that

it is uncertain just what they mean, as a result the Town's taxpayers and union members are having to pay the enormous price of a rash of grievances and arbitrations," Councillor White says in the press release.

The council was elected "by and large" on a platform of cost-cutting, but

because of the present wording of contracts, the means by which the Town is permitted to save its taxpayers money is in doubt, is the Town's position.

"How long can the taxpayers of Midland continue to pay people for whom there is no work to do? An ordinary short arbitration costs the taxpayers of Midland between \$4,000 and \$5,000 plus staff time, and no doubt it is costing the union members just as much. This is no way to run a town: We need a new era of industrial peace and we will only get it when union-management rights are clearly stated in the contract and fully understood by both," Councillor White was quoted as saying.

## Union will speak out now, Scott says

Now that contract negotiation has broken down, OPSEU will take its case to the public, the leader of the OPSEU member Town of Midland employees says. The Town is a big step ahead of the union in making public statements about contract negotiation.

Union Local President Bill Scott says that the

union might bring in a public relations expert. The union feels free to publicize its side now that negotiation apparently has ended, he said.

Negotiation did not go well either between the two sides alone, or with a mediator.

The Town had announced its position through a written statement, and a

report by the Town's chief negotiator, Alderman Carolyn White, during a council meeting.

After a negotiation deadlock led to a request for a government-supplied mediator, White in a press release put the blame for lack of progress on the union.

The union "simply would not discuss wor-

ding" in the expired contract which the Town is determined to have changed, she said in the June 2 press release.

Two more statements were issued by the Town last Friday, after both sides asked the Ministry of Labour-supplied mediator to file a no board report. A strike can begin 14 days after receipt by the

Minister of Labour of a no board report.

Councillor Gail Barrie, vice-chairman of the Town labour relations committee, offered a third press release intended for publication this coming

Friday, on the condition it be held until Friday.

Councillor Barrie called the newspaper last Thursday prepared to read a statement from the Town, but too late for a story in last Friday's paper.

## Town says contract costs

The Town of Midland is using an arbitration case which the union lost as an example of why the contracts binding the two must be rewritten.

"When the taxpayers have to pay out \$4,000 to \$5,000 for an arbitration just because the title of a department head was changed, things have gone too far," chief negotiator for the Town, Councillor Carolyn White, said in a

prepared statement.

OPSEU unsuccessfully argued at an arbitration hearing that the confidential secretary in the public works department was no longer exempt from being a part of the bargaining unit, because the position was described as secretary

to the commissioner of works, an abolished position. The arbitration board decided that the secretary's work was the same and that the person in charge of that department, with a different title, had most of the responsibility of the commissioner of works.



### Help appreciated

Chuck Fraser and the staff at Little Lake Service Centre Ltd. are some of the people recognized for their contribution to the local St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Fraser, left, and other individuals and groups, received a certificate last Friday from local Brigade chairman John Gignac, right.

## Ambulance brigade thanks friends

Friends of the Midland-Penetanguishene St. John Ambulance Brigade were thanked last Friday.

Chairman of the board John Gignac delivered certificates of appreciation to Gord Key, administrator of Huronia District Hospital; radio station CKMP; Chuck Fraser and the staff at Little Lake Service Centre; Holder's Bakery; Sheila Bassett; the members of the

Town of Penetanguishene's council; Nick Boudouris; and Jim Blackwell.

Key, the administrator of Huronia District Hospital, offered the Brigade assistance to obtain both meeting and storage space at the hospital.

CKMP was thanked for assistance in providing news about Brigade functions and fundraising activities.

Chuck Fraser and his staff kept the Brigade's mobile first aid post on the road.

Holder's Bakery donated cakes for the Brigade to sell.


Sheila Bassett made arrangements for the Brigade to obtain facilities for meetings and first aid training at Huronia District Hospital.

Penetanguishene council provided accommodation

for the Brigade at the corner of Water Street and Scott Street.

Nick Boudouris provided coffee, hot chocolate and food to Brigade members while they were on duty at Junior C hockey games in Penetanguishene.

Jim Blackwell organized a St. John Ambulance day at McDonald's and donated \$750 from the proceeds of the day.



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