

150 sign petition to oppose apartments

Joe Baggio's neighbours want him to know they haven't changed their minds. They are not "sleeping," one of his neighbours said.

Up to 150 people living in the vicinity of the former Manly Street, Midland school, have signed a petition opposing Baggio turning his building into an apartment building.

Baggio yesterday said he would like some support voiced from townspeople. "Is this what the people want? Is this what the town wants, when there is a crying need for apartments?" he said when speaking of his alternative, turning the building into a factory. The community in general agrees about the "crying need" for more apartments, he said.

Baggio said all he needs is a building permit to build seven duplexes or townhouses on his acre of land. But he doesn't intend to demolish the school. An alternative is to seek a change of zoning to permit commercial and office use of the one-time school.

Petition organizer Dorothy Dundas has lived on Manly Street across from the school for 22 years. The petition's purpose is to make Baggio "think twice before carrying on whatever his intentions are," and to make the town aware of his neighbours' feelings.

Two year's ago, Dundas

said, Baggio's first rezoning application was opposed by his neighbours and turned down by the town. At present he can use the building as his home and rent one apartment, she said.

Baggio said in early July, before this petition was circulated, that he will be approaching the town again, perhaps in six months. Yesterday he said he won't be ready until next year at the earliest.

Baggio hopes that Midland residents will express support for him. He would like to create 17 apartments in addition to his family's living quarters.

Petition signers are concerned about their property value not increasing, greater population density, and more traffic on a narrow street, Dundas said. Baggio's neighbours are suspicious of his intentions. "People want to find out what he is doing."

Land is for sale elsewhere on which apartment buildings can be erected, and on which a "proper structure" can be built, she said. Baggio knew when he bought the building that a previous owner's proposal to build apartments was turned down, she said.

His neighbours, Baggio said, "don't understand that a large building like this is not for a single family unit."



Lot of room

Joe Baggio's Midland neighbours two years ago opposed Baggio converting a former public school into an apartment building. They haven't changed their minds two years later. A neighbour of Baggio has up to 150

names on a petition to be presented to the town planning and development committee. Baggio said yesterday the community recognizes the need for more apartments. He

hopes support for him will be voiced. "The Town of Midland is crying for units. It's up to someone to step up and make some kind of contribution toward the conversion."

Motorbike shop will convert to a lounge

A local motorcycle dealer plans to convert half of his business into a bar.

Performance Motor Sport on Vinden Street will sell motorcycles and related equipment on one side and beer, wine and liquor on the other.

The plans are dependent upon approval of an "Entertainment Lounge Licence" by the Liquor License Board of Ontario. The Town of Midland,

despite some reservations raised at a public safety committee meeting last Thursday, does not plan to stand in the way.

"The man wants to invest \$300,000 in the community. How can we say, 'No?'" said Mayor Al Roach.

It was noted that the owner of the establishment, Brian Reeve, had carefully planned every step of the conversion.

Cottage, wallet thefts rising

It only takes a short time for a thief to strike.

Nobody knows that better right now than the Midland OPP, which have been receiving more and more reports of thieves taking advantage of "easy pickings."

The OPP report at least three instances of a person entering an unlocked cottage while the owners are out for a short period of

time, usually at the beach.

Also, according to an OPP bulletin, there have been two reports of wallets stolen from unlocked cars.

"Please help us reduce the crime rate by taking the time to secure your property," the bulletin says.

"These thieves are opportunists who will take advantage of easy pickings. Don't become a victim of crime."

Drifters concert Aug. 1 cancelled

There will be no concert by The Drifters at the Pen 1 theatre August 1, as reported on Page 9 of the Summerama '87 supplement contained in today's paper.

The concert, which was to have been presented by the North Simcoe Arts Council, was cancelled due to "disappointing advance ticket sales."

ANOTHER PROGRAM FROM ASSURED HOUSING FOR ONTARIO.

MAKING YOUR HOME OR RENTAL APARTMENT MORE LIVABLE FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

HERE ARE 3 WAYS YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

1. Homeowners: Are you disabled or do you have a disabled relative living with you?

Forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 are available to help you make modifications to your home for yourself or a disabled family member. For example: building wheelchair ramps, modifying kitchens and bathrooms.

Loans received through our *Ontario Home Renewal Program* will equal the cost of the work undertaken.

2. Convert part of your home or non-residential building into a rental apartment.

Interest free loans of up to \$5,000 are available to make new rental units for disabled occupants in single-family homes and non-residential buildings.

This special financial assistance is in addition to a *\$7,000 per unit loan* which you could qualify for through our *Convert-to-Rent Program*.

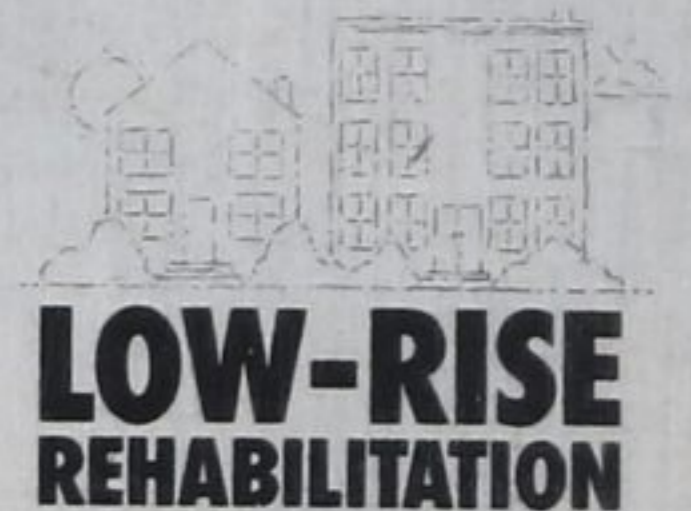
3. Landlords of older low-rise buildings can also get assistance.

Are you the landlord of a low-rise apartment building built before 1960? You could qualify for a *forgivable loan of up to \$5,000* to make your rental units more livable for disabled persons.

This amount is in addition to a forgivable loan of up to two-thirds of the cost of rehabilitating units in older low-rise apartments (loan maximum is \$5,000 per unit). These funds are available through our *Low-Rise Rehabilitation Program*.



Ministry of Housing
Ontario Hon. Alvin Curling, Minister



For more information, contact your nearest Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing.

Regional Offices of the Ministry of Housing

Southern Office 55 Hess St. S. Hamilton, Ontario. L8P 4R8 (416) 521-7500 or dial toll-free 1-800-263-8295	Eastern Office 1150 Morrison Dr., 2nd Flr. Ottawa, Ontario. K2H 8S9 (613) 820-8305 or dial toll-free 1-800-267-6108	Northwestern Office 540 West Arthur St. Thunder Bay, Ontario. P7E 5R7 (807) 475-1465 or dial toll-free 1-800-465-3015	Southwestern Office 380 Wellington St., Suite 1100 London, Ontario. N6A 5B5 (519) 679-7110 or dial toll-free 1-800-265-4733	Northern Office 1191 Lansing Ave. Sudbury, Ontario. P3A 4C4 (705) 560-6350 or dial toll-free 1-800-461-1190	Central Office 4950 Yonge St., 4th Flr. Toronto, Ontario. M2N 6K1 (416) 225-1211 or dial "0" and ask for Zenith 20450
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