

Town gets bill for advice on public relations

A paragraph in a lawyer's bill indicates Midland town council didn't think taxpayers were hearing its side of the story during contract negotiations.

One of the services for which Toronto lawyer William Whiteacre charged the Town in July was, "Advising you on the courses open to the Town in response to the Union's program of disinformation and the reluctance of the local press to carry the Town's press releases" (which were also written

by Whiteacre).

Whiteacre's bill for the period between May 16 and July 14 was \$18,810.85. Not included in that bill was work done for the

town in connection with the arbitration of grievances filed after union-member engineering department employees were laid off.

Arsonist remanded

The man who pleaded guilty to causing the \$400,000 Parkview School fire has been remanded again to the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre.

Mike Crawford, 21, pleaded guilty in Penetanguishene Provincial Court on Aug. 20. He was remanded to the Mental Health Centre. He appeared in court again last Thursday and was remanded to the Mental Health Centre until Oct. 8.

Information about the availability of the land is being distributed to industrial realtors, and to Simcoe County, for inclusion in the county's new promotion campaign. The Midland Chamber of Commerce has been informed of the plan for the land. "The Chamber of Commerce has taken an interest," he said. "We'll start clearing the land when some deals are made."

Lots offered for small industries

Land in Midland north of Heritage Drive and east of William Street is being offered for sale to small manufacturers.

Portside Industrial Estate is the land surrounding Taylor Drive, east of William Street. The lots, 75 feet by 100 feet, are available at an unspecified but "reasonable" price, Matt Parry of Target Consultants said.

"There's a dearth of places where a 2,000, 3,000 or 5,000 square foot plant

can locate," Parry said.

The sale of lots will be handled by real estate agents. Parry is putting together a package and will help businesses which want to settle on one of the lots.

"Making good lots available for small business would be a helpful thing," Parry said. "We're anxious to develop that corner for various commercial purposes." Parry said that the undeveloped land is one of the best spots in the area

for new industry.

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Getting school ready

Today is the first day of school for thousands of youngsters, eager to forget those hot summer days and get back to some serious studying. And while all those students were getting themselves ready last week (books, clothes, there's so much to do!), the schools

themselves were getting spruced up for the big day. Here, Sue King does some last-minute cleaning at Midland Secondary School. Now, students have a whole nine months to mess it up again.

School bells signal the end of summer

School bells will ring again today, signaling the end of a long hot summer for students throughout town.

And, as always, a few things will be different for most school-children when they get back to the books today.

Two schools in Midland were hit by fires in June, and during the summer had to be repaired.

As of last week, books were still being shipped in to Parkview Public School as the finishing touches were added to the rebuilt library and staffroom. Those areas were destroyed in a purposely-set blaze in June.

Parkview Principal Lloyd Farquhar says the new library just received a delivery of 1,500 books. "We're all ready to go," he said. "Just a few odds and ends have to be finished."

Meanwhile, Midland Secondary School has a science room that was also damaged by a fire in June. MSS Principal Dave Chambers said Friday the room "was just finished today. It's all repainted and ready to go."

Other than that, Chambers declared, "the school is clean, the school is ready, the students will be here and hopefully the teachers will be here, ready to start right into work."

Many schools across

town report improvements in their computer stock. While Huron Park Public School has more computers than ever before, Regent Public School reports it has upgraded the system it already had.

"Our computers are more powerful," said Regent principal John Potts. "They have twice the capacity."

Potts was also happy to announce the new gymnasium for Regent school is ready for action today. "We're all looking forward to having a chance to use it," he told the Times. He also said everyone in the school will benefit from renovated washrooms and change rooms.

Meanwhile, students returning to Huron Park Public School will also notice the addition of some new playground equipment, which is now "up and located by the school," according to Principal John Soden.

Returning students at Huron Park will see a new vice-principal and a number of new staff members at Parkview.

The principal of Sacred Heart School, Neale Dillon, said things are pretty stable at his school. "It's a very stable situation," he said. "That doesn't make for good press but it does make for a good operation, a good sound school."

Huron Park principal John Soden had a message that is sure to be endorsed by everyone: "We're looking forward to welcoming

Need document before payment possible: town

The Town of Midland requires a statutory declaration before any debt to former employee Dan Whitfield will be considered.

Whitfield used to be second-in-command of the engineering department, under former commissioner of works, Percy Ehler.

Ehler was let go in January, 1986. Whitfield and the other two engineering department employees were laid off in June, 1986. But Whitfield stayed on the payroll until last September, when another applicant was chosen to fill the newly-created position of manager of public works.

Whitfield engaged a legal firm to approach the town about compensation. The town has been provided with what the lawyer representing it describes as "a memorandum" signed by Ehler. The Ehler memo

all the old students returning and all the new students in the community."

Welcome back, kids.



Up, up and away

Terry Butler, manager of Butler Marine in Penetang, helps Laurie Marshal volunteer at Huronia District Hospital release a batch of balloons at the HDH FUN(d) day at Bay Moorings Saturday. The farthest balloon found to have its tag

returned wins a prize. Bay Moorings and Butler Marine will continue to help raise money until they reach their goal of \$20,000. Says Terry Butler: "I'd like to see other marines in the area try the same thing."

7 injured

Seven people, all with minor injuries, were taken to Huronia District Hospital 11 days ago (after two cars collided on Highway 69).

The Midland OPP said that a northbound car passing other vehicles and a southbound car hit north of Hidden Glen Road.