

Seniors Centre vote on hold

Financial support by the Town of Midland for the Askennonia Seniors Centre will be voted on by the town council, when it learns if a ceiling can be placed on its annual cash contribution.

During a special meeting last week, attended by eight of nine members of the council, the council members heard a report from Rev. James Manuel. He is the spokesman for the group supporting an elderly persons centre in Midland, half of the budget of which would be funded

by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Rev. Manuel informed the committee that while the ministry's legal branch said "No" to a ceiling on the municipality's cash contribution, the matter will be pursued as high as possible within the ministry.

"We're caught until we can see what we can do," Deputy-Reeve Nancy Keefe said.

The deputy-reeve and the clerk both said their understanding is that the

provincial government is anxious to see an elderly persons centre established here.

Rev. Manuel, when asked how long his group can wait, answered: "I don't know. We haven't talked about it." The Askennonia Seniors Centre group has \$2,000 in hand from the Town of Midland. In 1988 it would need a further \$1,000 and up to eight hours a week of the time of the town's recreation director.

Rev. Manuel estimated that if the 1988 budget is

close to reality, the Centre would not need an increase in cash from the town in 1989. Also, after one year, the Centre could approach for money neighboring municipalities whose residents are members of the Centre.

An elderly persons cen-

tre can't open in Midland unless the municipality passes a special bylaw. Passage of the bylaw binds the municipality to chip in 20 per cent of an elderly persons centre budget. The town council wants assurance that it will have control of the size of its

contribution.

The municipality's support so far has been to commit part of every week's time of an existing employee, and part cash. During the special meeting Reeve Bev Day introduced the question, What would happen if the recreation

director quit, and the board of parks management did not want to replace him? The council could cancel the bylaw, the deputy-reeve answered. Cancellation of the bylaw would mean the closing of a Centre, and therefore that couldn't happen, the reeve said.

Bosses, workers should get along says union chief



Tim Tracey

Instead of telling his union to take his job and shove it, Tim Tracey got involved with it.

And years later he is a leading Canadian expert in the subject of employer-employee relations.

Tracey (who lives in Lindsay, Ontario and works in Toronto), says his approach to labor relations is based on the fact that "there are three sides to every story."

"People are human beings and they see things differently," he told the Midland Rotary Club at its weekly luncheon at the Highland Inn last Wednesday.

"But no matter which way you look at it, somebody has to be the boss and make the decision. That's the way it has to be."

He says he got involved in union activities after he was passed by for a promotion.

But once on the inside, he realized a fellow employee with more seniority deserved a chance to do the job before he did.

"I thought I was being shafted," said Tracey. "But once they explained the facts of reality, I realized it was only fair."

Convincing employees their boss is trying to be But they have to see things from his point of view.

Tracey said he carries this philosophy to collective bargaining. He says

unions can't make unrealistic demands and expect the company to go along.

"Labor relations in general is not large unions versus large companies. If fair is hard work, he said. That is the situation then you've got problems - very very large problems," said Tracey, who is the joint board manager for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Although not based here, Tracey has a great influence over the course of labor relations in Huronia. In his position, he is directly responsible for collective

bargaining for TRW in Penetanguishene, Waltec Plastics in Midland. He also oversees negotiations for Bay Mills and Fabulous Formals, both of Midland.

"As chief negotiator my prime function is to ensure a person in the wrong deserves to be disciplined. It's difficult these days; believe me, it is tough," he told the crowd of about 40 Rotarians.

Workers shouldn't expect to squeeze more out of employers than they are able to give, he explained. "You have to understand business and industry only have so much to give," he said. "The market governs."

But most workers do get along quite well with bosses, he said, quoting statistics that show 93 per cent of agreements are negotiated without work stoppage.

The media is to blame for publicizing strikes and lockouts and ignoring that fact, he noted.

"All you hear about is the other seven per cent."

He told the Rotarians, many of whom are owners or company executives, that "anybody can negotiate a strike - that's easy. It's tough to negotiate a collective agreement."

After his speech Tracey fielded questions ranging from the effect of free trade to the right to strike.

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