

'They owe me one'

Town stuck with reeve's legal bill

The Town of Midland's solicitor has been paid \$220 for trying to discover the identity of the writer of a letter to the Midland Times.

Reeve Bev Day was upset by a letter published by the Times on April 6. In late April he said he personally hired the lawyer to find out the letter writer's identity, after the newspaper's editor refused to give him the writer's name.

Day, in April, said he 'probably' would pay the bill, although the mayor had directed that the town pay the bill.

Last week Day said he hadn't seen the bill. He isn't going to pay the bill, he said. He never in his 10-year political life has billed the town for expenses and he figures the town owes him one, he said.

In April, Day said he was suspicious both of the

motives of the writer and of the newspaper. The newspaper's letters to the editor policy was changed to permit printing of the letter while withholding the writer's name, he said. He compared the letter writer to a person who calls at 3 a.m. and who won't say who he is.

The bill from Symons and Grise was included with the law firm's other bills to the Town of

Midland for work done for the municipality in April. Payment of all of the legal bills was approved by the town council during its May meeting.

Symons and Grise was unable to present Day with the letter writer's name. The legal opinion that a libel suit that went before a judge would result in the naming of the writer was given.

Waubauskene bridge 'used' before erected

A creaky bridge in Waubauskene used by about 1,400 vehicles every day is apparently even older than originally

believed. Tay Township officials said last week they discovered that the Waubauskene Bridge on

Duck Bay Road is almost 100. Originally it was thought to have been just 73.

An article in this newspaper last week prompted a Penetanguishene woman to call. She disputed the reported age of the bridge, saying it was younger than Tay Township officials had said.

After some further investigating, Deputy-reeve Tom O'Hara says he found out that the single-lane structure was actually built in 1889 over the Atherley Narrows in Orillia. It was one of the first iron bridges ever built in the province, he said.

In 1927, the 66 meter bridge was moved to its present location.

"When it was put there, it was already a used bridge," O'Hara said.

Tay officials are asking that the Ministry of Transportation replace the structure because a nearby highway project will in-

crease traffic on the road. Fire and ambulance vehicles which now use Highway 69 to reach the northeastern part of Tay will no longer have access to the highway once its lanes have been "twin- ned." Without a strong bridge, they will be forced to take costly detours, according to the township.

At their last regular meeting, councillors requested a meeting with the minister of transportation to press their concerns. No reply has been received, said O'Hara.

The fact that the bridge is almost 100 means the situation is even more urgent, he said. "I don't know why the ministry is shirking at taking responsibility," he said. Duck Bay Road is a service road, the deputy-reeve said, and thus is a responsibility of the ministry.

He added that ministry workers are reconstructing part of the road just beyond the bridge.

Midland man cultivated seven fields of marijuana

Graham Jowett of Midland pleaded guilty to four drug charges and to possession of property obtained by crime, in Barrie on June 13.

Jowett, 40, of Playfair Avenue, was charged last August by the RCMP. Marijuana which police said was worth \$2 million was confiscated from seven fields in five Simcoe County townships.

Graham Jowett was charged with cultivation of a narcotic, trafficking in a narcotic, two counts of possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking, and possession of property obtained by crime.

Charges of possession of property obtained by crime against his wife, Elaine, and his brother, Stephen, were withdrawn.

Stephen Jowett has pleaded not guilty to

charges of cultivation, and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Graham Jowett appears in court next on July 28, for sentencing.

The seized marijuana covered four acres and weighed 8,400 pounds. It was cut, carried away by helicopter, and burned.

Town asks sound questions

Midland's public safety committee has invited the Business Improvement Area chairperson to tell them the status of the sound system for King Street.

The committee has suggested as well that the BIA should survey residents who would be affected.



Multiple awards

Heather Kearns, with Sister Marlene Kelly, during school year-end awards day at St. Theresa's High School, received the School Pin, the School

Spirit Award, and shared, with Nancy Quesnelle, the Johnstone Music Award.

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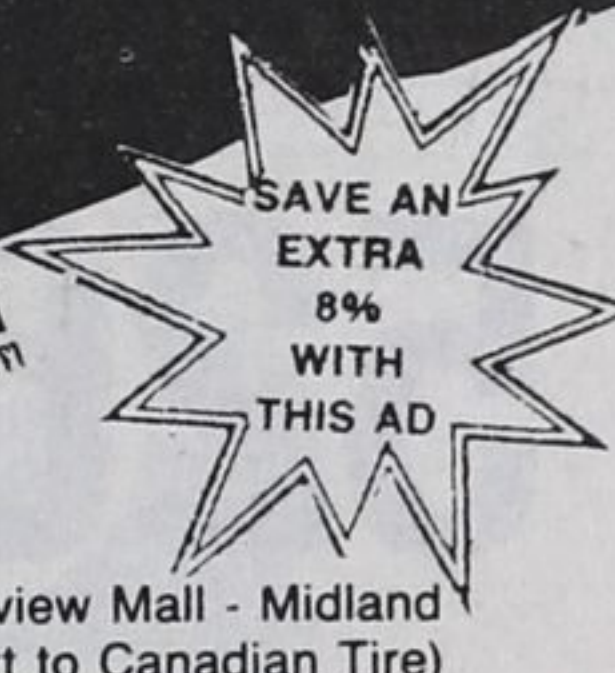
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