

COUNCIL HAD SERIOUS PROBLEM

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During the past few weeks Marmora and Lake has had one of the most difficult problems to deal with that could confront a municipal council. The Herald has refrained from mentioning the matter until the Council had completed its task of dealing with the problem, but there are so many rumors of various kinds and so many incorrect statements that it appears advisable to briefly state the facts.

The Municipal auditors detected a shortage in the Collector's returns and when verification notices were sent to taxpayers, who were in arrears according to the Collector's Rolls, the amount was found to be much larger than was suspected. A thorough investigation of the 1934, 1935 and 1936 Rolls was undertaken and as nearly as could be ascertained the complete shortage was about \$1800.00. The reason the shortage was not detected in previous years was that in a number of cases no entry had been made of taxes received and receipts from the last Roll had been used to cover up the shortages in previous Rolls.

As soon as it was definitely known that the Collector was short in his accounts the Bond Company was notified. After some delay a representative of the company met the Council and disclaimed any responsibility, owing to the fact that the Rolls had not been returned each year, as required by the Municipal Act, and other requirements as set out in the bond had not been complied with. One may doubt whether the action of the Bond Company would stand good in the Courts, but expensive litigation might have been necessary to settle the question and the Council was not willing to risk any more of the Townships money in an expensive lawsuit.

Another decision which had to be made was whether to prosecute through the Courts or to attempt to recover as much as possible for the Municipality through a voluntary act on the part of the Collector. Some will claim, no doubt, that prosecution should have been started and was required by law, but in that case all the assets of the Collector might have been used in engaging legal defence. On the advice of the Council's Solicitor a settlement was effected by which the chattles of the Collector, a house and lot in the village and cash, salary and other assets were turned over to the municipality as restitution.

February 25, 1937

While it may not cover the amount in default the amount should be less than the amount the Municipality will save in County rates this year.

February 25, 1937

MARMORA AND LAKE COUNCIL

Regular meeting of the Council, all members being present. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read on motion of W.K. Long and W.J. Pack.

The following accounts were passed and ordered paid: Daniel Hawley for digging grave \$10.; Elmer Moffatt for hauling township wood, \$22.25,; H. W. Sabine for printing, \$9.50,; Martin Funeral Home for Ambulance service, \$12,; Belleville Burial Company \$10.; F. N. Marett & Co. \$67.89 being for funeral expenses and relief; C. Kelly for rent of house for relief, \$3.; Dunlays, \$1.95 relief account; M. J. Dafoe \$22.46 for relief supplies; C. A. Bleecker for premium on bond, \$8.; H. McWilliams for cutting wood \$8.13; Stanley Jackson for cutting wood \$8.75; T. J. Byrnes, relief account \$15.48; Department of Health, for Insulin, \$2.03; County Hospital account to J. W. Haggerty \$25.25; and H. E. Vansickle for work done on roads \$11.60.

Mr. Orville Leonard was appointed Tax Collector to fill the vacancy in this office due to the letting go of Collector due to missing funds.

Mr. L.P. Hughes and Mr. J.W. Richardson, Auditors were present and handed in their reports for 1936, the same being adopted on motion of W.J. Pack and Arthur Tompkins.

On motion of W.K. Long and Charles Kelly Council adjourned until our next regular meeting, Tuesday April 6th.

Charles Jones, Clerk

March 4, 1937

The largest number of electors in years attended the nomination meeting of the Municipality of Marmora and Lake last Friday afternoon and unusual interest was taken in the proceedings. Apparently it was expected there would be fireworks over the matter of the shortage in the Collector's Rolls for the years 1934, 1935 and 1936. The question did come up for some pretty frank discussion, but with a few exceptions it was kept free from bitterness or wrangling. The nominations were as follows, the first name in each case being the candidate and the others the mover and seconder respectively:

FOR REEVE

J. A. Bell by Bert Crawford and John Downard

L. E. Neal by Geo. Vilneff and Hugh Jones

FOR COUNCILLORS

W. J. Pack by J. A. Bell and A. Tompkins

W. D. Nickle by J. A. Bell and W. J. Pack

Well Billings by Ed. Post and Henry Clemenger

Geo. H. Davidson by T. E. Laycock and J. W. Richardson

Chas. Kelly by J. A. Bell and T. J. Bateman

Arthur Tompkins by J. A. Bell and T. J. Bateman

Thos. Bateman by W. D. Nickle and W. K. Long

Irwin McCoy by Geo. Vilneff and Hugh Jones

W. K. Long by L. E. Neal and E. D. O'Connor

Geo. Vilneff by Hugh Jones and L. E. Neal

Wm. Hamilton by L. E. Neal and Irwin McCoy

Immediately following the hour for nominations Chas. Jones, township clerk, announced the names of those nominated and the movers and seconders and then called the gathering to order for the addresses by the nominees.

J. A. Bell, reeve for 1937, was the first speaker. After thanking the mover and seconder of his nomination, a courtesy which was followed by all the other speakers, he referred to the discovery of a shortage in the collector's accounts early in the year. As a result of the discovery the Council had a very trying year, but when the auditor's report is completed the ratepayers will find it has been a pretty good year for the municipality.

December 2, 1937

At the beginning of the year the auditors had brought up the question of sending verification slips to all persons appearing by the Collector's Rolls to be in arrears. In spite of the fact it was opposed by the Tax Collector the Council had decided in favor of sending the notices to all appearing by the rolls to be in arrears. When the auditors went to the Collector about the matter he admitted there was a shortage in his accounts and he could not balance his books.

The auditors then notified the Council and a special meeting was called to consider the matter. The Department of Municipal Affairs at Toronto and the Bonding Company were notified and both sent representatives to meet the Council and auditors. The Government representative was an expert accountant and after a thorough investigation his figures agreed with those of the auditors. He started a new method of handling arrears of taxes so that the Council could know at each meeting just what had been paid in and the amount of interest or penalty.

The representative of the Bonding Company showed that the Council had not complied with the regulations under which the bonds had been issued and also that a good deal of the shortage which apparently was charged to the 1936 roll, actually occurred in 1934. As a result the company refused to assume any responsibility.

The investigation and settlement of the matter had meant a lot of extra work, worry and unpleasantness for the Council, but they had considered it their duty.

December 2, 1937

Two incidents have occurred during the past week, which have been featured in some of the daily newspapers.

One was the killing of a skunk by Mr. Albert Burrige, while holding a lantern in one hand and a gun in the other. The animal visited his chicken coop about 2 a.m. last Wednesday morning and devoured one spring chicken and was busy on a second when the commotion awakened Mr. Burrige. He hurriedly lighted a lantern and seized his gun and with two shots both of which hit the target, killed the skunk.

Mr. Burrige left the task of disposing of the carcass to his son, who took a labor-saving and effective method of getting rid of it. He poked the dead skunk down a woodchuck's hole and filled the opening with earth. Just what happened to the woodchuck or groundhog is not known, but unless it proved a second victim it likely vacated the premises.

The other unique event had to do with the fate of a mouse. Mrs. John Gifford, who lives on the Deloro Road, was bothered with mice and set a trap in the pantry. The mouse was caught in the trap, but when Mrs. Gifford heard a disturbance in the pantry and went to investigate she found a large spotted adder had also got in in some way and seized the mouse by the head and was trying to draw it out of the trap. With the horror of a snake, natural to most women, Mrs. Gifford called her neighbor, Mr. James Murphy, to her assistance. When they entered the pantry the snake was coiled around the trap with the mouse's head still in its mouth. Mr. Murphy secured a pail of water and succeeded in tumbling snake, trap and mouse into the water. The adder released its hold and was killed by Mr. Murphy. It was found to measure 43 inches in length.

August 19, 1937

**RECIPIENTS OF RELIEF
MUST PLANT GARDENS**

66

The Provincial Government has decreed that all municipalities having relief rolls, must sponsor the "garden plot" movement among the recipients. Every able-bodied person who has been receiving relief must cultivate a garden at least twenty-five by one hundred feet. The municipality will be obliged to make a report on all cases and if costs are to be shared by the Province and Dominion, approval must be secured. This new program is part of the general relief administration and no municipality wherein relief claims have been made within six months is exempt. Those apt to be seeking relief next winter will be obligated to plant a garden.

About the only able-bodied man in the Village of Marmora who has received relief during the past year, although still without regular employment, has refused to cultivate a garden as required by the Government. That means that no matter what his circumstances may be next winter the Municipality will not be able to put his name on a relief roll.

May 23, 1940

OWNERS 131 - GUNS 227

67

The final period for the registration of guns is now over and if an emergency arose Marmora could arm a couple of companies with guns of some kind or other. The registration showed 131 owners of guns and a total of 227 guns in their possession. About half the guns are high powered rifles. Any person now found in possession of a gun, which has not been registered, is liable to a very heavy penalty.

October 3, 1940

A LENGTHY COUNCIL MEETING

68

A lengthy meeting of the Village Council was held on Monday evening with all the members present. It is reported the meeting lasted until about 12:50 a.m. Tuesday.

A deputation of citizens from the north east part of the village attended the meeting, with Mr. Wm. Burns as spokesman, to protest against the condition of the village dumping ground and especially the part of the village surrounding it. It was claimed that refuse and even night soil and dead animals are being placed at a very considerable distance from the proper dumping grounds and that the road to the dump had been blocked to trucks or cars using it for dumping purposes. Over an hour was spent in discussing the situation and the Council promised to take some drastic action to remedy the situation at an early date.

On motion the Navy League was granted the privilege of holding a tag day on May 31st.

A by-law was introduced and given the necessary readings to fix the tax rate for 1941. The tax rate was fixed at 62 mills, one half mill lower than for 1940.

May 8, 1941

What is believed to have been a rattlesnake was killed about 11 a.m. on Thursday by Joseph Patrick Brawley, eighteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brawley of the Township of Marmora. The barking of "Chum" their dog attracted the attention of Mrs. Brawley who went to open the back door but suddenly decided it were more discreet to pass out by the front door to investigate. Going to the rear of the house, she saw the reptile coiled up on the back steps in defiant attitude.

Mrs. Brawley called to her son who was at the home of a neighbor Barney Callery. Getting a stout stick "Pat" stunned the reptile and then ended its existence.

May 16, 1941

SAW BIG RATTLESNAKE

70

A year ago The Herald received considerable notoriety as a result of a snake story. The article was copied in papers all over the Province and broadcast over the radio. We still believe the facts were as stated as to the length of the snake, but many people doubted the story.

This time we give The Belleville Ontario Intelligencer credit for the following:

"Forrest Dennis of Crowe Lake and Doctor Graeme Mackechnie of Timmins, had a novel experience this week while fishing on Beaver Creek, about twenty miles north of here. They had landed from their canoe at what is commonly known as "The Bear Camp" to spend the night. The doctor was unlocking the door while his companion came behind him carrying the equipment when they heard the ominous rattle of a rattlesnake. The doctor threw himself through the opened door just in time as not more than two and one half feet from him was a four foot rattler, coiled and ready to strike, while Mr. Dennis was not more than five feet in the distance. Before they were able to kill the reptile, it disappeared underneath the cabin. As the men had been wading the creek, their trousers were rolled to the knees, thus making a good target for the snake. The fishermen claim they had a good sleep after first making sure the door fit tightly and it was safely closed."

The "Bear Camp" is the hunting camp used by W.A. Sanderson and other members of his hunting party each fall and owned by them. It is really on Otter Creek near its junction with Beaver Creek.

September 10, 1942

CAUGHT LUNGE ON MINNOW HOOK

71

While Jas. Thomson, Earl Nayler and Herb Vanstone were fishing for minnows last week Earl caught a ten pound lunge on a small minnow hook, attached to his line by a silk thread. They had an exciting time landing it as the thread and hook would not stand much of a pull. Jim handled the boat, while Earl played the fish, bringing it close to the boat and then letting it go out again until it began to tire. Herb then waded out in the water up to his chest with a club and managed to get close enough to the lunge for a good hit with the club, which stunned it after which it was easily landed.

August 17, 1944

MORE ABOUT FISHING

No matter how careful one may be to keep well within the facts in relating a fish story there always seems to be some doubting Thomases. We were surprised, however, when Andy Clark in his Sunday morning broadcast related the story of Jim Thomson, Earl Nayler and Herb Vanstone catching a ten pound lunge on a minnow hook and a silk thread as though he had a little difficulty in swallowing it. We wish to state emphatically that we related the facts before the lunge began to grow.

September 7, 1944

F.N.MARETT STORE ENTERED BY BURGLAR

72

Well laid plans to rob the store of F.N. Marett & Co. last Thursday night almost succeeded and failed only because the car in which the robber expected to make his get away wouldn't start. The car was parked in front of Joe Murray's house and when Mr. Murray got out of his car to drive down to his service station he was requested to shove the car to a garage. He complied with the request, but his suspicions had been aroused and he notified Constable Lavender.

When Mr. Lavender reached the car and made inquiries the driver showed his registration card, which gave his name as David James Coulter and his address as the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto. When the constable started to search the car Coulter attempted to make his escape and ran down Matthew street to the railway track then turned south. He was finally located in a pump house at Clairmonts. A search of the car disclosed a lot of cigaretes, articles of clothing, etc., which had been taken from Marett's store. There was also two or three rugs, some fountain pens, a fur coat and muff and other articles, which had been obtained elsewhere.

After Coulter had been arrested on Friday he was removed to Belleville jail until Monday when he appeared before Magistrate J.L. Lloyd, with assistant County Crown Attorney, S. Gordon Robertson, in charge of the prosecution. The accused pleaded guilty to breaking and entering Marett's store and after hearing the evidence of Constable Lavender the Magistrate sentenced Coulter to one year determinate and six months indeterminate in the Ontario Reformatory.

The accused gave his age as 49 years and said he had no permanent address. He admitted to Constable Lavender that he was confined in Belleville Jail in 1914 or 1915. The officers to whom he was delivered stated they would obtain his complete records as far as the Courts have it.

En entered Marett's store through an upstairs window in the rear. When he left with the articles found in the car later he left the back doors unlocked and a pile of clothing where it would be handy to pick up when he got the car. He stated he was in the store about 4 a.m.

December 6, 1945

Some time last Thursday night or Friday morning burglars broke into the store of F.N. Marett & Co. and Shannon's Drug store and carried off goods to the value of about four thousand dollars, the former losing about \$3000. worth of goods and the latter \$1000. Entrance was effected in both cases through the front door. The robbers first tried to gain entrance at the rear of Marett's store and drilled through the outer door, but when they struck the inner steel door they gave up the attempt. The front door had three locks on it, but were forced by a jimmy or some other tool, two of the locks being broken.

Practically all the men's and boy's clothing in the store was carried off. Cigarettes were completely cleared out and women's hosiery and wearing apparel and a considerable quantity of other stock was carried away. Apparently the thieves took plenty of time to go through the store and it must have taken some time to carry out the plunder and load it in a car or truck. The burglars also forced the lock in Shannon's Drug Store and entered by the front door. The large stock of cigarettes and tobaccos, worth around \$500. was completely cleared out. All narcotics in stock and many other articles were taken. There appears to be little doubt that the robbers were part of an organized gang with lots of experience and a ready market for the stolen goods.

It is not known at what time the stores were broken into, but it is surmised it was around 4 a.m. The same night Herb English's car, which had been left in front of his residence as the clutch was slipping badly, was taken and was found abandoned just west of the village. It is thought it was used to carry part of the loot to a waiting truck. It is rumored a red Fargo truck was seen west of the village during the night.

The thefts were not discovered until between 7 and 8 o'clock Friday morning. The Provincial Police at Belleville were notified at once, but did not arrive on the scene until about 11 a.m. Owing to the theft of the narcotics the R.C.M.P. were also notified and an officer came out from Belleville. So far no clue as to the burglaries has been discovered. Neither of the Marmora Stores carried theft insurance and the loss is a heavy one for both.

February 14, 1946

**DORIS MORROW MAY BE SPARED
AN OPERATION**

74

Three-year-old Doris Morrow, of Bonarlaw, twenty-five miles north of Belleville was conceded a good chance today by physicians here, to be relieved of a two-inch needle, swallowed some days ago, without undergoing an operation.

Dr. G. S. Cronk, in charge of the case, stated that X-ray examinations have revealed that the needle had travelled from the upper to the lower intestines during the past two days, without injury to the child.

The little girl was allowed to go to her home today and will be X-rayed again within a day or so unless complications set in.

"The child has a good chance judging from the progress of the needle within the last 48 hours, of being spared the experience of a delicate operation," Dr. Cronk said.

May 9, 1946

Pet crows- Amos and Andy - cared for by Alphonse Clemens, before they were fledglings, have come into quite an amount of publicity recently owing to an episode which occurred at the residence of Jules Ethier. On Saturday evening, Jules placed a dollar bill and two dimes in a milk bottle at his back door to pay for milk tickets. When Thomas Hannah arrived next morning, there was the empty bottle but no cash so he rapped at the door to report this. The amazed Jules eventually found a dime on the verandah and another on the ground below, but no sign could be seen of the dollar bill. The next morning, when going to his garage to feed some chickens he saw the two crows, but thought nothing of it until a few minutes later they had come closer to the house. The detective element in Jules mind then was roused. So he went indoors and placed a piece of paper the size of a dollar bill within the neck of an empty bottle and took the bottle to the spot where it was generally placed. He addressed the crows thus "Bring back that dollar to me or else." Incredible as it may seem, when he came out of the house a little later, there was the dollar bill. One of the crows presumably Amos, had made restitution.

A picture of the crows appeared in a recent issue of the Peterboro Examiner and Andy Clark did mention them in his broadcast from Dundalk last Sunday.

A few other points about the birds may be interesting to readers. They immediately answer the call of their owner wherever they may be as he calls them with the simple word "C'mon". He tell one from the other through a defective claw. One is more ready than the other to perch on his arm or shoulder and into his shirt pocket goes its beak to extract a pencil or packet of cigarette papers. They show a fondness for pecking at the surface of his cap, but will not touch his face. They are friendly with other folk to lesser degree than with Alphonse. They almost removed a handkerchief from the pocket of Colonel Yates and they extracted a recipe from Harry Loveless to deposit in on a neighbours property. When the blast furnace run was on at the plant, they made several flights to the men at meal times in quest of tid bits. They introduced themselves to the majority of Deloro residents and are proving a good diversion.

August 8, 1946

LOAD OF PIGS IN COLLISION

76

An accident occurred on the south end of Forsythe street on Monday evening which resulted in heavy damage to two trucks and caused a lot of commotion and excitement, especially for a number of boys. A truck was coming north on No. 7 Highway loaded with forty-one pigs ready for market at Peterboro next day. A truck going south hogged the road and side-swiped the truck carrying the pigs. Three little piggies were injured so badly they had to be killed and when the others reached the stock yards at Peterboro the next morning it was found a number of others were lame or injured.

There was a wild chase and a lot of fun and excitement before all the porkers were recaptured. Chasing a greasy pig at a sporting event used to be a big attraction, but chasing nearly forty of them was some job.

The damage to the one truck was estimated at around \$800.00 and to the other from \$250.00 to \$300.00. Fortunately both trucks were insured. We understand a charge will be laid against the one driver.

October 17, 1946

A DISGUSTING EXHIBITION

77

One of the most disgraceful displays of inexcusable ignorance among children that it is possible to imagine took place in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening.

A free motion picture was presented by the Ontario Department of Education similar to the one presented for the school children in the afternoon and had it not been for the noise and confusion caused by the children it would have been a very enjoyable feature. One film particularly was a travelogue of the St. Lawrence River and was in technicolor showing some very beautiful and interesting scenes along that mighty river. The pictures were clear and the sound was superior to most of the portable machines we have had here but it was impossible to hear any of it for the noise.

Fortunately there were only a few adults in the audience as they would have been as disgusted and as disappointed as the writer. There were about one hundred children, mostly of school age, and they seemed to feel that it was the duty of each one of them to create all the disturbance they could in as many ways as possible, among which were walking around the hall, kicking or shoving the seats, throwing hats or caps or anything else they could get hold of, yelling, whistling and cracking gum.

It is about time the parents of Marmora woke up to the fact that the children are only a reflection of their parents and the home training they are given. If children were taught to be decent and orderly by their parents they would not go to such extremes when they get out in public.

This is not the first time that this condition has prevailed at local entertainments. On the contrary, on different occasions lately it has been necessary to send for the police to keep order in the Hall. Unless something can be done to get away from this nuisance the Hall might as well be shut up as far as entertainments are concerned for no adult will want to go to listen to the uproar that the children of Marmora make at a public entertainment.

"One Who Was There"

November 21, 1946

Marmora is receiving considerable undersirable notoriety as a result of a shooting affair which occurred early Tuesday morning. The victim was Frank Lloyd, aged 44 years, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Benny Lloyd, residents of Marmora for quite a number of years after World War 1. The youth who fired the gun, was his adopted son, Bernard Lloyd, aged 16 years. The shooting was the result of a row between Frank Lloyd and his wife, when Mrs. Lloyd called for help.

Both Frank Lloyd and his wife have been drinking a lot of beer, and perhaps other intoxicants, in recent months and as a result have had a lot of rows. When not under the influence they appear to be a very affectionate couple, but when drinking the opposite was the case. A month or so ago one Sunday afternoon Frank Lloyd, accompanied by Bernard, sought to obtain a warrant for the arrest of the former's wife on a charge of attempted suicide, and claimed she had assaulted Mr. Lloyd causing bruises etc. The warrant was not issued and in a week or so everything appeared to be settled and they appeared happy again.

Monday night both were drinking quite a lot and they stayed out late. In the meantime Bernard had attended the hockey match in Madoc and returned home, went to bed and fell asleep. Another adopted son, aged 8 or 9, was in bed with him. According to reports Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd returned home between one and two o'clock and the quarrel, which had started earlier, continued. Mr. Lloyd is said to have attacked Mrs. Lloyd and attempted to choke her. She called Bernard to help her and he got a 22 calibre rifle and shot his father through the back. The shooting had a sobering effect on the excitement and the boys ran for Dr. Donevan.

Dr. Donevan immediately summoned village constable W.D. Lavender and Provincial Constable W.H. Gould and the three proceeded to the Lloyd home. After questioning the others Frank Lloyd was rushed to Belleville General Hospital and Bernard was placed under arrest, without charge at the time, to await the result of the shooting. Later Bernard was taken to Belleville jail, charged with wounding with intent and remanded until Jan. 19th. About 5 o'clock Tuesday morning an emergency operation was performed by Dr. Cronk to remove the bullet. The bullet nicked Mr. Lloyd's lung and passed through his liver.

January 15, 1948

Last Monday Bernard Lloyd appeared before Magistrate J. L. Lloyd in Police Court here on a charge arising out of the shooting of his father about a month ago.

Mr. S. Gordon Robertson, assistant crown attorney, represented the Crown, R.D. Arnott, K.C. Belleville appeared for the defendant, and as Bernard is under 16 years of age Mr. Thos. Ruston, head of the Children's Aid Society, and Mr. Lockyer, his assistant, were also present in the interests of the accused. Messrs. F.R. Wells, E.C. Prentice, F.R. Loveless and Rev. E.M. Cadigan gave character evidence in favor of the accused and all spoke very highly of him. The only other evidence given was by Constable W.D. Lavender and Provincial Constable W.H. Gould and they simply related the facts, which are now well known to the general public.

Mr. R.D. Arnott in summing up the case urged that conditions in the home were responsible for the unfortunate shooting. When the parents were sober the home life appeared to be happy, but when both were drinking, which unfortunately occurred too often, they were just the opposite. He urged that Bernard was not a bad boy and the ends of justice could be served by giving him a suspended sentence.

Both Magistrate Arnott and Mr. Robertson were quite in favor of leniency and were only anxious to see that the boy was under proper supervision and given an opportunity to make good. He was placed on probation for 2½ years and Mr. T.D. Rushton, or his successor in the Children's Aid Society, was made probation officer. He is to go to his uncle in Bancroft until he is sixteen years of age, after which a satisfactory job in some industry and a boarding house will be provided by Capt. Ruston.

Another young man appeared on a charge of creating a disturbance and was fined \$10.00 and costs. On a second charge of resisting an officer in the discharge of his duties he was given three months suspended sentence on payment of costs. The fine and costs in the two cases amounted to \$28.50

February 19, 1948

MARMORA VILLAGE COUNCIL

80

The September meeting of Marmora Village Council was held on Tuesday evening with all the members present. Minutes of meeting of July 7 were read and approved.

Motion Gray-Johnston - That Council purchase a No-U-Turn sign to be erected at junction of No.7 and 14 highways - cd.

Motion Reynolds-Johnston - that Council petition Department of Highways for a stop light at junction of No. 7 and 14 highways, because of the speed of traffic due to the hills east and west of the intersection -cd.

Motion Johnston-Wells - that the following accounts as presented and paid during the recess be approved.

G.B. Airhart Lumber Co.	\$151.65
H. Osborne	46.80
E. McInroy	45.90
T. Foster	8.00
Ed. Wright	48.00
A. Eggleton	33.60
A. Stuckey	14.40
H. Rogers	16.50
F.S. Johnston for T. Bedore	6.00
J.E. Marsh	110.00
J. Bedore	9.90
B. McCallum	2.40
F. Gray	.80
H. Osborne	52.80
C. Hoover	13.80
E. McInroy	34.20
Geo. Empey	56.00
Welfare	30.00
E.C. Prentice, stamps	4.00

Motion Wells-Gray - That Marmora Agricultural Society be given a grant of \$35.00 -cd.

Motion Reynolds-Johnston - That the following miscellaneous accounts be paid - cd.

September 9, 1948

Marmora Herald (Booster Park 13.90) (village 6.10)	20.00
Hastings County	15.00
Geo. S. White, M.P.	15.00
Municipal World	6.16
Fred Johnston (Booster Park)	7.00
Dept. of Health	2.85
E.C. Prentice	3.00
C.T. Archer (Booster Park)	4.00
T. McCann	.98

Motion Gray-Wells - That accounts for fire protection be paid as follows - cd.

J. Bedore	3.00
Wells Bros.	8.40
Jones & Potts	192.87
Walker's Truck	1.90
John Wells	.60

Motion Johnston-Reynolds - That the following street accounts be paid - cd.

J. Bedore	2.70
W. Walker	.50
W. McCallum	10.00
H. E. Vansicke	62.45
County of Hastings	684.26

Motion Johnston-Wells - That clerk place an order with Jas Holt, Stirling, for 70 ft. of 21" diam. and 16 guage standard culvert pipe and 100 feet of snow fence.

Motion Reynolds-Wells - That the following property accounts be paid - cd.

G.B. Airhart Lumber Co.	7.84
J. Logan (wood hauling)	18.00
J. Bedore	13.10
A. Burridge	12.21
A.J. Maynes	11.45

By-laws were given the necessary readings confirming sale of lot to Howard Neal and appointing D.B. Sanderson, assessor, and H. English, auditor.
Council then adjourned

September 9, 1948

The vault, which has been erected in Marmora Protestant Cemetery under the direction of the Vault Committee of Marmora L.O.L. No. 319, is now about completed and ready for use during the coming winter. It is something that has been needed for a good many years. Many times it has been very difficult to have graves dug in the cemetery during winter months when the ground is frozen deep, in time for interment as planned when arranging for the funeral. The vault was erected by Mr. Frank Bobyk and is neat and in keeping with the appearance of the cemetery.

The committee in charge of the construction has found, as nearly everyone does at the present time, that costs have greatly increased over original estimates, and as a result nearly \$500.00 is still needed to completely pay for the vault and fitting it up ready for use. A number have intimated that when the vault was about completed they would be ready to make a donation towards the cost. Now is the time and for the convenience of the public Mr. Alex Fraser has kindly consented to receive donation at the Dominion Bank for this worthy cause. To assist in meeting the deficit the Vault Committee is also selling tickets for a drawing at which three prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st prize 1 turkey; 2nd prize 1 goose, 3rd prize special. The drawing will take place at the old Legion room on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd. Tickets are 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00. Your assistance by purchasing tickets will be appreciated.

AN EXPLANATION

Apparently the article, which appeared last week under the heading "Vault Fund Needs Support" has caused some misunderstanding. Some have thought the deficit referred to in the article was caused by Mr. Frank Bobyk increasing his price for the erection of the vault. That was not the case. He completed the building for the price quoted and visitors from other places, who have seen it, including a government official, state it is one of the best they have seen in Ontario in a place the size of Marmora. The amount raised to date is not enough to meet the original cost and the extras referred to were for levelling the ground, constructing an approach and other landscape work, which all add to the appearance of the cemetery.

December 9 & 16, 1948

Allan McGarvey and Herbert Wright had an experience on Sunday which they would not care to repeat. They had started for their hunting camp, in a boat, driven by an out-board motor, in which they had three hounds and a lot of camping and hunting equipment. They were just a short distance past Airhart's saw mill on Beaver Creek when, for some reason the dogs rushed to the front of the boat. Their weight caused the front of the boat to sink under the water and it rapidly began to fill with water then turned over, upsetting the occupants into the stream.

Herb Wright was able to cling to the boat and called for help, but Allan McGarvey was unable to get hold of it. He is usually a very good swimmer, but the weight of his clothing carried him under and every time he came to the surface the dogs climbed on top of him, scratching his face and forcing him under the water until he lost consciousness. Fortunately Hiram Revoy, and a companion were nearby, waiting for a party of hunters to join them, and they hurried to the rescue in their boat. They got McGarvey to shore and worked over him for nearly an hour, but were unable to revive him. They then rushed him to Dr. Donevan's office at Marmora. When it was found that the unconscious man did not respond to efforts to resuscitate him a call was sent to Belleville fire department for a pulmotor. Two firemen made a very fast trip to Marmora, with the siren going full blast. In a short time McGarvey was ready to be taken to the Belleville General Hospital. An ambulance had been summoned before the call was sent for the pulmotor and the ambulance was waiting before it arrived. The fire chief's car lead the way on the return trip to Belleville and both made the trip in almost record time with the siren wide open.

Later Sunday evening a report was received from the hospital that the patient was getting along nicely. He was able to return home on Tuesday. Herb Wright escaped without any serious effects, but the back of his sweater was almost torn to ribbons by the dogs climbing up on him. Five rifles and a shot gun were in the boat, besides ammunition and camp material, and they went to the bottom of the creek. We have not learned whether they were recovered or not. At the price of guns it will mean a heavy loss if they are not recovered.

November 17, 1949

PRISONER STOPPED BY BULLET

84

Monday evening Constable Percy Embury received a complaint against George Cole of Cooper, on a charge of passing a worthless cheque with intent to defraud. He found the accused at the Royal Hotel and placed him under arrest. As they left the Hotel, Cole made a dash for liberty, running south on Forsythe street with Constable Embury in pursuit. The constable called on him to stop and fired a couple of shots in the air, but Cole did not stop. When he turned at No. 7 Highway the constable fired low, hitting the prisoner in the fleshy part of the leg and in the foot and he dropped. He was carried to Dr. H.G. Parkin's office and given first aid and then taken to Belleville jail, where he was transferred to Belleville General Hospital under guard.

April 26, 1951

Yesterday (Wednesday) morning two armed bandits held up the staff of the local branch of the Toronto-Dominion Bank and made their get-away with over \$5000. About 8.30 a.m. Mr. Roy Moss, accountant, and Miss Wilma McKinnon, of the Bank Staff went to the Bank to do some necessary work prior to the Bank's opening. As they approached the door two men, dressed in work clothes and carrying what appeared to be tool kits, stepped from a car and walked up to them, shoved a gun in their backs and demanded that they take them into the bank.

Once inside the bank the two employees were bound and gagged with tape and kept out of sight. As the other members of the staff arrived they were allowed to enter and then also tied up.

When the manager, Mr. K.C. McKay arrived he was met inside the door by the two men with drawn guns and invited in. They demanded that he open the vault but he persuaded them that it had a time lock and could not be opened before ten o'clock.

The bandits waited for the time to arrive passing the time talking to the staff in a friendly joking manner. Just before ten they demanded that Mr. McKay try the vault and he was forced to admit it was open by that time.

The staff were then all herded into the basement where they were locked in the boiler room.

The thieves entered the vault and took what cash they could find and apparently put it in the tool boxes they had been carrying. They then stepped nonchalantly out of the side door and in plain sight of a couple of dozen citizens walked to their cars and drove off west on No. 7 highway.

Meanwhile the bank staff, having heard the vault door close, tore off the tape binding them and forcing the boiler room door open, ran upstairs to phone the Provincial Police.

Road blocks were set up on the roads leading from the village and Police patrolled all the roads in the area but so far no trace has been found of the thieves or the money. The car was found abandoned near Peterborough shortly after noon.

June 30, 1955

Apparently the robbery had been well planned and the men were no amateurs. They were described as very calm and courteous in their manner and there was no rough talk or bad language.

While it was their first experience (and it is hoped their last) in a hold-up, the bank staff also remained as calm as could be expected under the circumstances and no one was injured in any way. As the money was insured there was no point in any heroics which might have resulted in a shooting like the two in Toronto recently.

The members of the bank staff here include Manager K.C. McKay; accountant, Roy Moss; Messrs. Ron Henry, Alex Fraser, Wm. Cook, and Misses Wilma McKinnon and Joan Shannon.

BANK ROBBERY SOLVED

Frank Turcotte, aged 40, of Bewdley, appeared in Magistrate's Court in Marmora on Monday, charged with the robbery of the Marmora Branch of the Toronto-Dominion Bank on June 29th, 1955. He pleaded guilty to the charge of armed robbery and also to one of kidnapping and was sentenced to 5 years in Kingston Penitentiary on the first charge and 2 years on the second, the sentences to run consecutively.

Shortly after the robbery Orval Ross was arrested and charged with the crime but he was later acquitted.

Some weeks ago Frank Turcotte and his brother Ernest Turcotte were arrested and charged with the attempted robbery of a bank at Stoney Creek. Ernest Turcotte committed suicide but Frank was convicted and sentenced to four years in the penitentiary.

While awaiting trial in Hamilton finger prints of the Turcottes were sent to Corporal Rackham of the O.P.P. who compared them with a print found on a piece of cellophane in the car used in the Marmora robbery and the print was found to match the right thumb print of Ernest Turcotte. Frank Turcotte confessed to the crime and gave a statement which was read in court Monday by Inspector Wannell of the C.I.B.

The only witnesses heard at the trial were Thos. Cullen of Peterborough, who told how he was forced to accompany the two men in his car the night before the robbery he was locked in the trunk of his own car; Roy Moss and Wilma McKinnon of the Bank Staff, Corporal Rackham and Inspector Wannell.

The latter read the statement of Turcotte which told ⁸⁷ how his brother had arranged the robbery and they had looked over the bank two or three times before the robbery. The night before the affair took place the two men went to Peterborough where they met Cullen and asked him to help them move their car. When they got into Cullen's car Ernest Turcotte drew a gun and ordered Cullen to drive them around. Cullen was later blindfolded and taken to Bewdley where they spent the night and in the morning they drove to Peterborough where Ernest picked up his own car and they drove to a sideroad near Marmora. Here Cullen was forced to get into the trunk of his car and they proceeded to Marmora.

When they reached the Main Street they noticed Chief Constable Lockwood come out of his office and get into a car and Ernest said "-----, he's still here." When the police had left they put their car in front of the bank and waited for Roy Moss to come to work. They told him they were plumbers and he let them into the bank where they produced a gun and tied Moss and Miss McKinnon, who had also arrived early, and blindfolded them. As other members of the staff arrived they were also tied up and when the time lock on the vault opened the robbers took \$5400. from the vault and locked the bank staff in the basement. They then left in their car and drove back to where Turcottes car was parked. They gave Cullen some money and told him not to move for 15 minutes. The brothers then went to Bewdley where the money was divided and Ernest Turcotte left for Hamilton.

Later Chief Lockwood visited the home of Frank Turcotte on two or three occasions and asked if he had kept a man there the night before the robbery. Turcotte denied any knowledge of the affair.

The reading of the statement was ordered stopped when Turcotte intimated that Lockwood was implicated in the crime. Both police and attorneys testified that Turcotte had been considerate and helpful all through the trial and the witnesses said that he had been very courteous to them and had tried to make them comfortable all during the kidnapping and robbery.

Both defense Counsel and the Crown Attorney suggested leniency as they felt the prisoner was not a hardened criminal and that he had no previous record. The sentence for bank robbery here will run concurrently with the one received at Hamilton so that Turcotte will serve a total of seven years in Kingston Penetentiary.

November 8, 1956

MARMORA MAN SHOT

88

An unemployed Campbellford youth was arrested Monday by Ontario Provincial Police at Meyersburg and charged with the Saturday night shooting of Russell Pitman, 61, of Marmora. Meyersburg is a hamlet six miles south of Campbellford on highway 30.

Brian Rudy Ellis, 20, was arrested by officers from Campbellford at a friends residence about 6:20 p.m. and charged with shooting with intent to maim.

Ellis is also charged with break, enter and theft at a Campbellford clothing store. The charge was laid by Campbellford town police.

Mrs. Herbert Leonard, operator of Leonard's Clothing Store, Front St., found glass broken in the front door of the store when she opened up for business Monday morning.

Insp. W.H. Armstrong of the OPP's criminal investigation branch, said Mr. Pitman, operator of a service station and general Store on highway 7 about three miles west of Marmora, was shot when he answered a knock at the door of his residence behind the store.

Mr. Pitman had left a telephone conversation with his housekeeper, Mrs. Annie Woodcock, 40, to answer the door. He returned a short time later and gasped to Mrs. Woodcock: "Call police ... I've been shot".

Ellis moved from the Marmora area to Campbellford about a year ago after the death of his father. He was lodged in Hastings County jail and will be arraigned on the charges Thursday in magistrate's court at Belleville.

Mr. Pitman remains in serious condition and under intensive care in Belleville General Hospital. Officials say there has been little improvement in his condition.

November 16, 1967

A 28 year old Marmora and Kingston area man is in the Ontario Hospital, Kingston to-day after being shot down by Provincial Police in a shooting spree on Marmora's main street Saturday evening, June 25th at approximately 11:30 p.m.

James 'Squeak' Reynolds was hit in the chest arm and both legs by bullets fired by Const. Larry McMaster (Madoc) and Const. Ross Bovay (Campbellford) when he refused to throw down his weapon and surrender.

Witnesses said "Squeak" smashed out the window in the front door of Leo's Sport Shop, Saturday night about 11:30 and entered the store and helped himself to a 303 British Army Rifle, loaded it up and began shooting inside the store. In the meantime several people ran over to the Town Hall where the teenagers were having a dance and announced that "Squeak" had broken into the store and taken a gun to start shooting. A hurried call was made to Belleville and O.P.P. officers were on the scene in minutes.

At almost the same time Joe Murray who lives with his wife and family over Leo's Sport Shop (owner of the building) was awakened by the noise downstairs and as he walked down the hall a bullet blasted through the floor only inches from Mr. Murray, ricocheted off the wall, blowing plaster on Joe's shirt sleeve and tore a hole in the ceiling of his apartment. His daughter Catherine who was also walking across the front room in her bare feet was shot at from below. The bullet peirced the downstairs ceiling below and lodged in a beam in the ceiling. Catherine said she could hear the thump of the bullet in the wood directly below her feet.

As police arrived on the scene two men, one of them Jack Balvers, went around to the back door of the building while a Provincial Const. watched at the front entrance. As the Balvers boy reached the back door a 303 slug ripped through the door panel, smashing the outside pane of glass and missed Balvers head by inches. Flying glass struck him in the face and he fell to the ground. It was believed the concussion and shock of the gunblast knocked him out. He was not admitted to the hospital.

May 30, 1968

A fourth bullet was shot through the big plate glass window at the store front at a man who had climbed up on the awning in an attempt to look inside and locate the gunman's position.

After firing the four shots inside the store, the man walked out through the shattered door onto the street pointing the rifle in the direction of the police. He crossed the street to the sidewalk in front of Simpson's Sears Store.

O.P.P. fired warning shots into the air and when Reynolds refused to drop the rifle and surrender they were forced to open fire on him. He suffered superficial wounds and was rushed to Belleville Hospital by ambulance and later removed to Kingston. He has been charged with breaking and enter and 2 charges have been laid for attempted murder. Several Const. remained in town overnight and the investigation was continued on Sunday.

We would like to congratulate the different Detachments involved in this shooting on the speed with which they arrived at Marmora when this emergency arose. Everyone is well aware that unless they had gotten here very quickly this shooting spree could have had disastrous consequences. To protect many individuals from certain death they had no choice but to take the action they did.

One thing we did notice many persons remarks afterwards was the unjust criticism hurled at the O.P.P. by several persons in the crowd. This was certainly uncalled for, they handled a very difficult situation in the best and only way possible. These men are only doing a job, the same as anyone else. They are responsible citizens with wives and families and have feelings the same as anyone else. Let's treat them with the respect they deserve, the same as we would any other professional man. Once again gentlemen, thank you for a job well done in the most difficult circumstances.

Like most of us, the good people of Marmora Village must have got used to the threat of a nuclear holocaust, some kind of a disaster caused by germ warfare, the melting of Arctic ice or the invasion by little green men with antennae on their foreheads.

But whoever figured on rats?

Well, as we have reported Marmora Village was invaded by rats who lost their natural habitat and food supply when the old garbage dump on Deloro Road was closed on September 7.

The hungry hordes of rats have not only invaded neighboring fields and backyards and resorted to trying their luck on ordinary garbage cans, but a dangerously large number of them have gone straight to town.

Residents have reported seeing rats in their backyards, garages, all around some houses, out on the roads and fields and our reporter met a few of the bolder ones on their (the rats') way to town.

Rats were killed in the yard of Marmora Senior School and at least one resident had a field day shooting them with a .22 rifle.

All this may sound like an interesting break in the everyday monotony, and the children probably love the rat hunt, but it should not be dismissed as just one of those things.

Rats are numerous and if they get hungrier they will get bolder, which means that more and more of them will invade the town.

Rats can, and sometimes do, bite, especially if they are hungry or threatened, and who knows when children will start to have a bit of fun chasing them? Rats can also carry a lot of sickness. If not taken seriously enough or not cleaned out soon enough, they can cause serious health problems. They can also cause property damage. They should be taken seriously.

October 1972

SANTA CLAUS SHOT

92

Santa Claus was shot in the neck December 1 during the Santa Parade held in Marmora, December 1.

Madoc Detachment of Ontario Provincial Police said Santa was shot with a pellet rifle used by a 14 year old male living in the Marmora area. Corporal Rick Deering said the name of the youth could not be released, and charges were not laid.

" the matter was settled out of court, no charges were pressed on the child," said Derring.

Many Marmora residents watching the parade said later Santa Claus wasn't "himself" for the event.

December 12, 1984

**FOUR PEOPLE HAVE NARROW
ESCAPE FROM DROWNING**

93

About six o'clock Sunday afternoon two Havelock couples had a very narrow escape from death when their aluminum boat was swept through the dam on Crowe River.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Howard, all of Havelock were cruising on Crowe River above the dam when their outboard motor stalled. While attempting to get it started again they did not notice that they were getting close to the dam until it was too late. They tried frantically to get the oars out to try to row the boat to safety but the current was too strong and the boat was drawn swiftly to the dam.

Mr. Davis managed to grab the floor of the dam and hang on but was unable to stop the boat and it shot through the sluiceway with the other three occupants still in it. There is a drop of about twenty feet at the dam and the boat was upset as it swept through the rapids below.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard were carried through the rapids and Mr. Howard was able to reach the boat as it came out into smooth water. He paddled to his wife and they clung to the boat until the current carried them in close to shore near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gordon. They managed to grab a tree and hang on to it until help arrived.

Under normal conditions the rivers edge is about twenty-five feet from the railway embankment which follows the east side of the river but at the present time the water is part way up the embankment and the tree which the Howards clung to was in about six feet of water.

Some girls were on McGill street at the top of the hill and they saw the accident and ran down to the business section to get help. Bill Sabine was just in front of the Herald Office and he drove close to the river and pulling his shoes off went into the water and swam to the stranded couple and dragged them to safety.

They were still partly in the submerged boat and the minute they let go of it the current pulled it out into mid stream and it was found about a quarter of a mile south of the bridge on No. 7 highway.

When Bill Sabine reached them they were completely exhausted with the cold and fighting the swift current. They both said they could not have hung on any longer. Frank Bobyk, jr. and Doug Nobes waded in up to their shoulders and helped to drag them to shore where quite a number of people had gathered.

In the meantime, Mrs. Davis had caught hold of a tree in the rapids below the dam and she clung to that until her strength gave out and she was swept down the river. Mr. Ed. Killian and his son Al. Killian had launched a boat from the west side of the river and they were able to reach Mrs. Davis and pull her out of the water.

Mr. Davis clung to the dam until Claude Nichol who had seen the accident, ran to him and pulled him to safety.

Both women undoubtedly owe their lives to the fact that they were wearing good life jackets which kept them afloat until help arrived.

BEVERAGE STORE BURGLARIZED

95

Sometime after midnight yesterday morning theives broke into the Brewers' Warehousing Co.'s Retail Store at the south end of Forsythe Street and attempted to remove the safe in the front of the store. Entrance was made by smashing the full-length plate glass window in the south door although the lock on the door was loosened and sprung. The heavy safe is cemented into the floor and the thieves were unable to move it although the floor was marked where they had tried to pry it loose.

They were apparently frightened out of the store and nothing else was missing.

An attempt was made to rob the L.C.B.O. Store in the business section about 1:30 a.m. by the same gang. Here, too they attempted to pry the lock on the south door and then smashed the plate glass window to gain entry. The only thing missing in this store were about a dozen and a half bottles of whiskey.

Bob Maynes, who lives over the liquor store was roused by his dog barking and came to the foot of the stairs in time to see four men leaving in a car.

The robbers sped southward on No. 14 highway but near Victor Neal's farm the car skidded into the ditch. Mr. Neal pulled it out with his tractor and the men went on to Belleville.

A highway sand truck had arrived on the scene before the car was pulled out of the ditch and the driver noted the license number on the car and he and Mr. Neal had a good description of the men.

After daylight Mr. Neal found several bottles of whiskey, a sawed-off shotgun, a heavy hammer and steel bar at the place where the car went into the ditch and he called the police and reported what had happened.

The car was located in Belleville, but the owner reported it had been stolen the night before. The Provincial police are still investigating.

ANOTHER BREAK-IN

96

Dunlay & Murray Clothing Store was broken into last Thursday night but as far as can be ascertained there was very little taken by the burglars. The back door was forced open with a claw bar and some damage done to the door and casing. Three or four cartons of cigarettes were taken and some articles of clothing but apparently the thieves were scared off or else they were amateurs just after something for their own use.

An attempt was made to force the back door at Loveless' Groceteria the same night but the thieves were unable to get into the store.

A controversial issue first raised in the summer of 1975 once again came to the attention of Marmora and Lake Township Council Thursday at its regular meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Chute complained to Council that they are unable to launch their boat during the summer because a neighbour, Glenn Mawer, refuses to allow the Chutes to traverse the property on which his house is built.

The Chutes maintain that Mr. Mawer built his house on crown land, a right-of-way by the Beaver Creek bridge. They also told Council that the Mawers do not have a deed to their property. The Chutes requested at the Council meeting that the Mawers get a clearly defined deed and that Council investigate the situation.

"We don't want to have a summer like we did last year," said Mrs. Chute. To avoid causing problems with their neighbours, the Chutes did not launch their boat, they told Council.

The Chutes have access to another launching location on the creek, but their boat is too large to go under the Beaver Creek bridge. As a result, they would like to be assured access via the right-of-way past the Mawers house for boat launching this summer.

Reeve Graham Bell said at the meeting that it is unfortunate that this kind of property dispute is brought before Council. Council was reluctant to deal with the issue but finally agreed to consult its legal counsel with regard to the problem. Mr. Bell said he thinks the problem might have to be resolved in court, and that it may prove to be a civil matter between private citizens, rather than involving Council.

Two years ago, Deputy-reeve John Wilkes was quoted in the Marmora Herald as saying that the situation on Beaver Creek was "tearing our community apart."

In the spring of 1975, Marmora and Lake Township Council agreed to close the road allowance between concessions three and four at the old Beaver Creek Bridge at the request of three ratepayers in the area. The ratepayers agreed to pay all legal and advertising costs involved.

May 11, 1977

But in June of that year, Council was forced to re-examine the issue when a petition bearing 59 names was presented in opposition to the road allowance closing. Council reversed its original decision on the road allowance, and it was not closed.

The Chutes attended a Council meeting in August of 1975 requesting that Council come to an agreement over the land so that the Mawers could get a clear deed to their property and still give public access to the water. They asked that this public access be clearly marked in order to avoid any misunderstanding.

Mr. Mawer posted a no trespassing sign at that time. At the August 1975 Council meeting, Mr. Wilkes said that Mr. Mawer "had no right to build on the road allowance".

The Chutes spent \$319 to establish clearly where the right-of-way is by survey.

May 11, 1977

MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE FINALLY SETTLED

What one council called "the most contentious issue that Marmora and Lake Council has faced" has finally if reluctantly been settled.

Council voted at its regular meeting on Thursday, February 7, to recognize the right of title of three local landowners to part of a road allowance going down to Beaver Creek.

But the highly volatile issue was still able to touch off controversy in its final stages as Lawyer Andre Philpot told council they had no choice but to recognize the owners' rights. Even at that, two councillors, Deputy- Reeve Wilkes and Councillor Joe McGrath, voted against acknowledging title and Reeve Graham Bell, after inquiring from Mr. Philpot whether or not the issue might lead to a lawsuit, cast the deciding vote while saying, "It won't cause me to sleep any better tonight."

The three involved, Glenn Mawer, Harry Mawer and Jack Jones, had established right to the road allowance because the township had never compensated for a forced road that was put in many decades earlier. Such compensation is required by law.

However, when the Mawers occupied the road allowance six years ago, they but off access for other residents of the area. This caused a public outcry. A long period followed where Mr. Philpot was forced to prove conclusively that the three had right to the property while council:

council looked for every possible way out of granting 99 title, a move that would not only be unpopular but that many councillors find personally galling.

The end to the problem came ostensibly last November when, on the advice of their own solicitor, Doug Bateman of Belleville, council recognized the right of the Mawers and Mr. Jones to the right of way. However, following that meeting Mr. Bateman changed his advice apparently on a misunderstanding and the township quickly rescinded the motion at its Dec. meeting. This led Mr. Philpot to approach Mr. Bateman and led to another reversal of the solicitor's position. Council received the news that Mr. Bateman had again suggested they acknowledge title at their January meeting, but refused to alter their position again.

Mr. Philpot arrived at February's council meeting with both guns blazing. He chastised council for making a political decision out of a purely legal one. "You don't have the power, however savoury or unsavoury the parties involved may be, to refuse to grant this. If we can show you that the municipal act requires you to give over the land, you have to. There are limits to your jurisdiction."

Mr. Philpot was also angry that they revoked the November decision without informing him ahead of time that it was being discussed again. "I'd be glad to leave a dime with the clerk-treasurer so that you could call and inform me when matters that I've attended council on are being discussed."

Deputy-Reeve Wilkes, who moved the November motion, said he had misunderstood at the time. When Councillor Bennett, noting that they had "no choice" because they had no legal grounds to refuse the transfer, moved the closing of the road allowance and Councillor Golden seconded it, Mr. Wilkes and Mr. McGrath voted against.

This put Mr. Bell on the spot. He noted that he usually didn't have to cast his vote and asked Mr. Philpot if a law suit would follow a refusal. Mr. Philpot said that he couldn't say, but Mr. Bell, noting the township solicitor's advice, voted in favour of the motion.

Twice in the remainder of the meeting after Mr. Philpot had left, Mr. Bell indicated that he was quite upset with what Mr. Philpot had said, but did not comment further.

February 13, 1980