



Township of Norfolk Mayor Jerome VanDeSlyke displays the official crest of the township which was accepted at Monday's council meeting. The form of the crest was picked from various entries of school children in the township and the final design was made by Irene Anderson. (Photo by Richard Houghton)

Mayor defends council stand

By Richard Houghton

According to Mayor Jerome VanDeSlyke, the Township of Norfolk can hire a truck to give an hours service for less money than if it was operating the truck itself.

"This is the reason," said Mayor VanDeSlyke, "that Norfolk Council has asked the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to change the classification of the Township of Norfolk from a rural to urban municipality."

Under the rural classification the municipality owns its own road equipment, but the MTC pays 50 per cent of the cost when the

equipment is bought. Under the urban classification the MTC pays 50 per cent of the cost when the road work is let out. Also under the urban classification the municipality received a seven per cent subsidy to cover overhead.

When the change is made from rural to urban, the equipment which the MTC paid 50 per cent of becomes the property of the municipality.

Township of Norfolk will hold an auction sometime in the spring to sell the equipment, some of which has been recently purchased.

Mayor Jerome VanDeSlyke said Monday, that the township is expected to do well on the

equipment because it is in such good shape. The funds from this sale will be set aside to collect interest and purchase any new equipment necessary.

According to the mayor the township can save in excess of \$100,000, and get

better road maintenance into the bargain. He described the change as a change in bookkeeping procedure with the MTC.

The change was also convenient because it thwarted a strike by the road maintenance workers of Norfolk Township, The Canadian Union of Public

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Council charged with Township mismanagement

Last weeks decision by Norfolk Township to put 17 CUPE, Local 246 outside workers out of work has raised allegations by CUPE representative Peter Douglas that Norfolk Township is being "mismanaged."

At a joint meeting of the Haldimand-Norfolk NDP nominating convention and striking CUPE workers, Mr. Douglas stated that "Norfolk Township had bargained in bad faith because they never intended to settle with CUPE workers."

CUPE and Norfolk began bargaining on November 10, 1974, and "Norfolk's initial reaction was to dump their own lawyer and hire David Byers, an Independent Industrial Labour consultant firm lawyer who works for \$100 per hour," said Mr. Douglas.

Byers told CUPE that if they would agree to

voluntary check-off dues, the Township would put a wage offer on the table.

"CUPE went to conciliation talks on February 17," said Douglas, "and offered the workers a ten per cent increase over the present wages. This amounted to an increase of 33 cents - or \$3.58 compared to \$4.42 in other areas."

Douglas said CUPE had tried everything possible to avert strike action. "When mediation talks began, Norfolk refused to negotiate. CUPE went out on strike and started a petition among the ratepayers. At present that petition carries 1,050 signatures supporting CUPE demands. That petition will go to Queen's Park," said Douglas.

Last Thursday, CUPE workers gave in and told council they would drop

union security demands, but Norfolk refused to negotiate. "One hour later," said Douglas, "Norfolk Township voted unanimously to fire workers, sell the machinery, and get the work done by sub-contracting."

Douglas told the group that sub-contractors will get the municipality into a position where, once the machinery is gone, they can jack up their rates until the municipality is at the mercy of the sub-contractors.

Mr. Douglas said, "After Thursday we began to feel that there was more to this situation than met the eye, and what we have come up with, based on circumstantial evidence, is that in January or February of 1974, John White, Treasurer of Ontario, promised Norfolk \$400,000 to buy road equipment."

"That money never arrived in Norfolk. Meanwhile, Norfolk tendered and received half-a-million dollars worth of road equipment. We can only ask, how did the township pay for this equipment?"

"We can perhaps conclude that Norfolk Township does not have

Oldest Wallet

The oldest wallet in Norfolk-Haldimand is now owned by Frank McCall of Victoria, Ontario. The wallet is dated 1773 once owned by a Mr. John Cowan as he was known in the western part of Ontario, but in the eastern part he was known as John Cowie.

Tobacco stolen

By Richard Houghton

When Jaques Rebry checked his tobacco last week he noticed that a whole row had been stolen from his barn, at R.R. 1, Clear Creek.

The 60 bales of tobacco are valued at \$3,000 and none of the loss is covered by insurance. Half of the loss is shared by Gerard DeMaiter who is the owner of the farm from which the tobacco was stolen.

"We had an idea that some was stolen last year," said Mrs. Brenda Rebry, "but this year we kept a closer track of the tobacco and found a whole row missing."

"It is kind of disgusting when you work hard to get the crop all in and then you don't get to market it."

The Rebrys suspect that the thieves cut across the frozen fields with a large truck.

The only laneway that leads to the barn goes past the Rebry's house. The thieves broke open the locks on the big doors of the barn and took a whole row of tobacco in order to make it look like it was just a space.

"A large quantity like 60 bales would have to be sold to a farm owner who could melt the tobacco right in with his own crop so that it wouldn't be noticed," said Mrs. Rebry.

"The tobacco board offers a \$10,000 reward for information leading to conviction, and this may be our only hope of ever getting it back."



Thieves gained entry into this tobacco barn by breaking through these doors. Jaques Rebry who stores his tobacco in the barn lost 60 bales in the theft. (Photo by Richard Houghton)