



Guest speaker

President of the Midland Horticultural Society Madeline Hobson stands and chats with guest speaker Alec Gray. Gray comes from Sudbury where he is the chief horticulturalist for International Nickel. Gray spoke at a pot luck supper on Monday night.

Staff photo

Society presents awards and prizes

The following were presented with awards and prizes at the October meeting of the Midland Horticultural Society:

Past-President's Award for highest points of the year, in both cultural and decorative categories - Doris Scott.

Simpson's Award for second highest number of points for cultural and decorative work - Helen Redman.

Moffat Trophy for highest decorative points - Doris Scott.

Gladys Edwards Trophy for cultural points - Agnes Milward.

Cruikshank Award for cultural and decorative - Marjorie Ferriss.

Sheridan Nurseries Award - Agnes Milward.

Hobson Trophy for Juniors - Terry Beatty.

The Annie Jones Award for memberships will be awarded at a later date.

Trustee honoured

John McCullough was honoured by the Simcoe District of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation (O.P.S.M.T.F.) at a dinner meeting last Wednesday evening.

Orillia campus of Wilfred Laurier University and the projected Simcoe College.

In his address, McCullough praised the efforts of all groups associated with education in Simcoe County. He pointed out that when compared with other systems across the province Simcoe could feel proud of the cooperation, dedication, and inter-communication of trustees, administrators, and teachers. All groups were intent upon the best possible educational opportunities for students in spite of the need for financial stringency, he said.

The Midland trustee on the Simcoe County Board of Education was presented with the district's Meritorious Award Making the presentation, services chairman Doug Muxlow cited McCullough's long service to education in Simcoe County, both as a trustee and as an enthusiastic supporter of the projects of the teacher's education committee such as the

Alec Gray guest speaker at Horticultural Society supper

Some of your horticulturally inclined friends may tell you they're going up to Sudbury to see the flowers. In December. They haven't flipped their bulbs.

They're responding to Alec Gray's warm invitation to come north to see his greenhouse. Gray is chief horticulturalist for International Nickel and he has 1200 acres under glass in the city which hasn't always been famous for its greenery. Each year the company mounts a special Christmas show, and

Gray suggested that it would be worth a trip. The coloured slides that he brought with him to the October Horticultural Society meeting proved his point. They showed a huge Christmas tree made of live poinsettias, masses of chrysanthemums and other festive plantings.

The big Christmas show is just one aspect of Gray's work with Inco. He's in charge of landscaping and planting for Inco installations in Sudbury and the surrounding areas, as well as in Port Colborne,

Thompson, Manitoba and Shebandawon, near the Lake head.

"A mine needn't look like a mine," he said. "It doesn't need to look dismal." And he showed photographs of attractive plantings around the gates from which underground workers emerge at shift's end.

A curved bed of pink petunias took away from the sternly rectangular lines of an office building, and attractively shrubbed and planted rest areas were incorporated into most office and mine building sites.

"There's a lot of rock in Sudbury," said Gray, "and we have learned how to live with it." Pictures showed planted beds flowering on top of and around huge rocks. In some cases, the rocks themselves were part of a colourful arrangement. Gray has even put flowering planters at bus stops "so the workers will feel cheerful when they come in in the morning."

In another case of living with difficulties, a photograph showed neat borders of river stones separating sidewalk and lawn. "We found that the

salt used on the walk in the winter was killing the grass," he said, "and we used the stone to protect the lawn."

He said proudly that Inco has managed to

grow grass on "tailings", which is fine pulverized rock. "This stuff used to form a grey desert," he said. "The wind blew it about and caused a major dust problem." Now the

grass holds down the dust.

Plants are not restricted to the outdoors. Gray raises huge plants with which offices and other plant buildings are

decorated. "I have 292 man-high specimens in my greenhouse," he said. Potted trees and shrubs are used to disguise in-

Cont't on p.29

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Branches of The Royal Canadian Legion will be conducting a campaign within the next few weeks, to enquire if veterans, ex-service personnel or dependents are aware of their rights and privileges under the Veterans Charter. This is a coast-to-coast campaign of The Royal Canadian Legion's Golden Anniversary Year 1926-1976.

All ex-service persons and their dependents are invited to explore fully the possibility that they may be entitled to benefits by virtue of military service performed. This may include certain civilian categories which were engaged in special war work, such as Merchant Seamen, and it also includes Allied Veterans in certain circumstances.

If you know of any needy veteran, ex-service person or dependent in your area, kindly contact the nearest Legion Branch.

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Please contact the above Branches between the hours of 12 noon & 10p.m.