

64,000 questions - and Debbie has the answers

"What is there to do in this town?"

"Is there a good place to eat in Midland?"

"Where can we pitch a tent for the night?"

"Is there a washroom in here?"

These are some of the dozens of questions fielded every day by Debbie Walker, Midland's Tourist Counsellor. Most of the people who come into her office in the Chamber of Commerce Building on King Street are hot and tired and looking for a miracle.

The office is cool and welcoming. Debbie answers the first question, then invites her visitors to sign the guest book. Then she waves toward the huge rack of leaflets and brochures, and says with a grin, "Do you want the whole spiel?"

She tells them about boat cruises, historical sites, golf courses - everything a vacationing family would want to know.

Although she is frequently asked to recommend motels and restaurants, this is something she's not allowed to do. But she does give them typed lists of nine area motels, eight

campsite and trailer parks, twenty five cabin and cottage facilities and twenty three restaurants.

As well, there are four tourist homes listed.

When she isn't actively answering questions in her office, Debbie attends to the mail which has

dropped off a bit now, but was particularly heavy earlier in the summer. One letter came all the way from Sheridan

Arkansas, from a family who wanted advance information for a holiday in our area.

Another letter, written

in French came from a school child in South

Porcupine who wanted information for a school project.

Debbie is employed through an Experience '77 program, and she loves the job. She's familiar with the area

and picked up additional insights into recreational possibilities when she was taken on a week-long orientation tour around Georgian Bay early in June.

"It was a week without pay," she explains, "and

it was fantastic." The Bluewater Circle Route, which she followed is outlined in an attractive booklet available at the centre, and Debbie recommends it to families with a week to see the country.

More facilities needed

Daily contact with visitors has raised a number of questions in Debbie's mind. Although she can't give opinions in her job, she wishes there were more campsites around. "Tents are not allowed in Little Lake Park any more, and a lot of young people, especially, come in here where they can pitch a tent. The motels fill up fast too and it seems to me we could use more motel accommodation."

She also can't un-

derstand why there is no water taxi service from the town dock. "At least, there isn't one that I know of. People are always so disappointed when I tell them they have to go all the way to Honey Harbour to get across to Beausoleil."

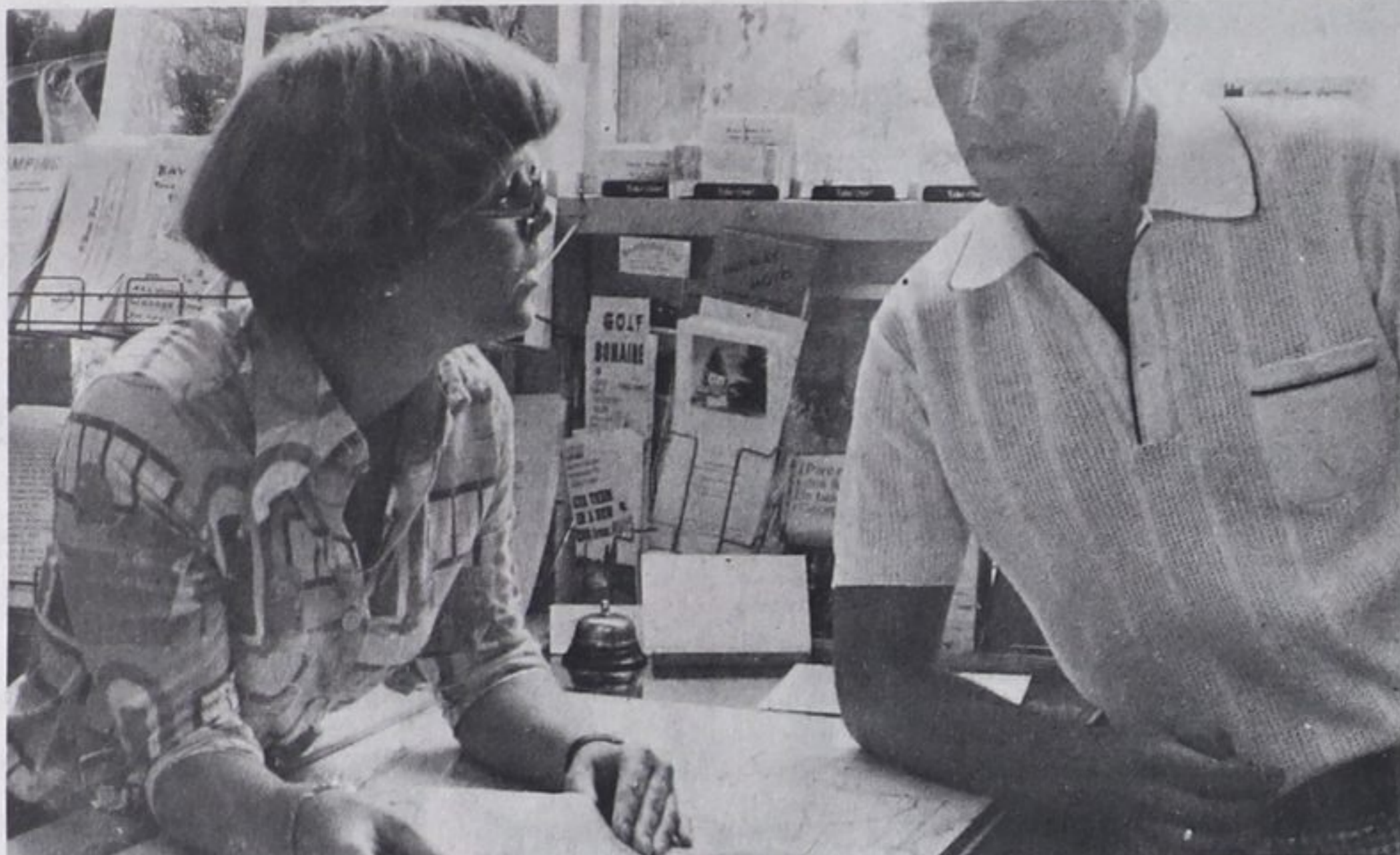
Debbie Walker, Tourist Counsellor, has some tips for travellers who are venturing into other areas this summer. "Really, you should book ahead for accommodation," she says. "It's best if you can start gathering information on the area you're planning to visit months before you go. And definitely, make your first stop in any town the Tourist Information Centre. All the information is gathered in one place there, and you

can really get the personal touch."

Debbie's guest book shows that Midland has had visitors this year from all over Canada, and from Europe too - the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria and Belgium. "One chap came in," she says "and saw his brother-in-law's name at the top of the page. They hadn't seen each other for a couple of years. I often wonder if he managed to track him down."

Most of the questions Debbie gets across her desk have to do with accommodation, food and recreational facilities, but sometimes she gets more unusual requests. "One young fellow came in and wondered what was happening in

town. Then he asked me what time I got off work." Debbie had a quick answer for him. "Five o'clock, and then I go out with my boy friend!"



Can I help you?

People from all over the country stop at the Midland Tourist Information Office on King St. However, this gentleman, Rudolf Pohlmann is a Midlander asking

Debbie Walker for some information on Manitoulin Island. Staff photo

Sunday celebrations mark anniversary of first R.C. mass

In 1615, five years before the Mayflower left England for the American colonies, the first Roman Catholic mass was said in Ontario.

On Sunday, August 14 at 2 p.m., a memorial anniversary mass will be held at the same location.

Father Joseph Le Caron, a Recollet Missionary was invited by the explorer, Samuel de Champlain to celebrate the mass at Carhagouha, near present day Lafontaine.

Champlain was present along with 14 Frenchmen and scores of native Hurons who didn't understand a word spoken, but were curious about the white men.

In later years, Champlain was to bring many Jesuit missionaries into the Huron lands. The Jesuits themselves built Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, their central residence in the wilderness.

On Sunday, August 14, the 362nd anniversary memorial service will be held at Carhagouha east

of Lafontaine on Concession Road 16. Watch for the sign on the road to Cedar Point. The bilingual service will begin at 2 p.m. with Father C. Robitaille, from Lafontaine, saying mass in French, and Father James McGivern S.J., of the Martyrs' Shrine, Midland saying the English mass.

Antiques, their selection, identification and care, will be the subject of a free illustrated talk at the Midland Public Library on August 17th.

The session, which starts at 7:30 p.m., is being sponsored by the library with the assistance of the Georgian Bay Regional Library System and the Outreach Ontario program of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. It is open to everyone and admission is free.

The guest speaker will be James Greaves, a specialist in early Ontario furniture, collector's plates, lamps and antique glass. In his address Greaves will give help on how to tell reproductions and fakes from authentic period pieces, and discuss refinishing and repair.

He will be prepared to give practical information and advice and those attending are welcome to bring their problems and questions, or even to bring along small antiques for comment.

'What is an Antique' subject of August 17 talk at Midland Library

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church directory

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF FLOS
SCHEDULE OF MASSES: Father Neil Varley
Phelpston: Sun. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Allenwood: Sat. 6:30 p.m. Sun. 9, 10, 11 a.m.
Elmvalle: Sat. 7:30 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
Minister: Rev. Sydney McDonald BA
Phoness: The Church 322-1411, The Manse, 322-2453
Elmvalle Church: Christian Education, 10 a.m. Christian Worship, 11 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St. John's - Elmvalle Minister: Rev. B. Gazzard
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Nursery during Service)
Phoness: Church 322-1472, Manse 322-1522
Wyevalle United Church: 11:30 a.m.
Waverley United Church: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Allan J. McLaughlin, Minister

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army are meeting in the Youth Hall at the rear of 251 2nd St., Midland. 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Meeting 7 p.m. - Sunday Evening 7 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Fellowship Wed. 2:00 p.m. - Ladies Meetings

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ELMVALE
Rector: The Rev. J. Allan Kirk
Rectory - 322-2115 Church - 322-2712

AUGUST SERVICES:
Wycliffe Church, Elmvalle, 8:00 a.m. - August 7 only, Holy Eucharist (no 8:00 a.m. service August 14, 21, or 28), 11:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, August 7, Morning Prayer - August 14, 21 and 28. St. John's Waverley, 10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - August 21, Morning Prayer - August 7, 14 and 28. Good Shepherd, Wyebridge, 9:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - August 28, Morning Prayer - August 7, 14 and 21.
Church School during Main Service at the churches

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- Shelbourne (519) 925-3945
- Torrance/Bala (705) 762-3811
- Burkes Falls (705) 382-2501
- Collingwood (opening soon) (705) 445-4281