

# Join the MIDLAND TOWN CENTRE TREASURE HUNT

**NEW CLUES EACH WEEK**  
Somewhere in Midland Town Centre, there are hidden 6 medallions (worth either \$100. or \$1,000. each). New clues can be obtained with your sales receipt each week from any participating merchant.

**FIND UP TO \$1,500.**

## Midland policeman honoured for 20 years of fine service

"Down on Bay Street the Fire Department fellows pulled their car up beside the building, ran the phone out the window and put it in their car. They couldn't stand it in the building—it was lousy with bugs!"

Staff Sergeant Ross Willett laughs out loud as he reflects back on his first days with the Midland Police Department in July of 1957. In those days the firefighters and the police force shared the Public Works barn behind the liquor store on Bay Street.

Willett says they never took their jackets off because of the bugs. He says repeated attempts to fumigate the building merely scattered the bugs around, instead of killing them. He says "it was

just unbelievable."

Willett received his 20-year medal for service with the Midland Police Force at a meeting of Midland Town Council on Monday night. He was 23-years-old when he started with the force.

Willett says 25 years ago his dream was to be an RCMP officer. However, he adds, "school and me just didn't get along." So, instead he took a job with the Department of Transport in his hometown of Parry Sound. His travels with the department brought him to Midland where he met his wife. When the job on the Midland force came available, he applied and got it.

When Willett started, the police force was a lot scantier than it is today.

The chief at that time was Robert Cameron and the force was only seven men strong. Today there are 14 constables.

**Number of promotions**  
Willett has gone through four promotions in his 20-year stint with the force. He was promoted to first class in 1962 and following a ten-week course at the Ontario Police College in Toronto, he was promoted to the rank of corporal in 1968. Three years later he became a sergeant until 1972, when he took on the rank of staff sergeant.

Willett doesn't like to talk about his most memorable days with the force. He says the only memories he can conjure up are bad ones of big arrests or tragic deaths. He says it's sad, "but that's all that really

sticks out in my mind."

He says the worst part about being a police officer, if there is a worst part, is having to tell a parent that their child has just been hit by an automobile. He says he remembers one particular time when he had to tell a mother that her son had drowned. Just mentioning this, Willett looks at his feet, his voice drops off, he's obviously affected.

Willett says he still spends some of his time walking the beat—he likes walking the beat. He points out that although his rank has changed his general duties have not. A higher rank merely means more responsibility, he says.

**Rewarding**  
According to Willett the most rewarding thing as far as he is concerned, is receiving letters of thanks from people he has done a small service for. He remembers one letter he received thanking him for finding a place for a person to stay for the night. He says, "I think when you go and do something which helps



### Twenty years on the beat

Staff Sergeant Ross Willett leans back and shares a laugh as he reflects back on his 20 years of service with the Midland Police Department. Willett was presented with his 20-year service medal at a meeting of Midland town council earlier in the week.

the general public it gives you a feeling of satisfaction."

There are only two others on the Midland force that have been with it as long as Willett. Chief Ernie Bates is approaching his 25th year in February and Constable Currie, has been on the force since Willett has.

Willett says he was pleased that Alderman Nancy Keefe got to present him with his

medal. He explains that Nancy is from Parry Sound as well, and he knew of her family as a child. In giving Willett the medal, Keefe thanked him for his 20 years of fine service.

Willett seems pleased with his job and indications are that he is a fine police officer. He says, "there have been some great experiences over the years."



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## Schools plan activities for Christmas season

There will be lots of Christmas entertainment for the whole family in December, when the elementary and secondary schools of the district mount special seasonal productions.

Amahl and the Night Visitors, a Christmas musical production will be presented at MSS on December 14. Complementing the one act piece will be Christmas music, presented by the concert band and choral

group.

Amahl and the Night Visitors will also be presented in Alliance Church on December 11. Later there are plans to take the musical to Bayview, Regent Huron Park and Monsignor Castex elementary schools.

At PSS on December 8, both concert and dance bands will present a Silver Jubilee Concert in the school auditorium.

The kindergarten at Bayview Public School will present their annual Nativity concert, for parents on the morning and afternoons of December 16. Bayview is also presenting a Christmas concert for parents and friends, but no date has been set at this writing.

An operetta, Harry and the Prince, will be staged at Huron Park school, under the direction of Mrs. H. Veall. Described as a Persian fable, the piece is set for December 7 and 8, with curtain time at 7:30.

Parkview Public School is presenting a Christmas concert on Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. the Primary choir will be conducted by Mrs. K. Stewart, and Mrs. Catherine Richardson and Mrs. J. Widdes will conduct a combined junior and intermediate choir.

At Monsignor Castex school December 22 is the day when tickets will be drawn on a number of prizes—including ceramic Christmas trees and hand made dolls. The proceeds from this draw will be used to send grade four students to Marygrove Camp next June.

Within the school, advent will be observed with special masses for the students.

After you have circled all these important dates on your calendar, two more important dates must be noted. The school vacation is shorter than usual this year, December 21 is the last day of classes, and school resumes again on January 3.



## Santa will arrive Recreation forum selects consultants

At the last meeting of the Huronia Recreation Forum it was decided that George Kormos and Associates from Sudbury would be given the task of doing a recreation feasibility study for the interested municipalities.

According to Hilda Sibthorpe, who sits on the Forum, they still have to negotiate a price with Kormos since they plan on doing some of the work themselves. Kormos' price is \$32,000 with he

and his associates doing all the work.

Sibthorpe says once they have a confirmed price, the members of the Forum will go back to their municipalities with a scheme for sharing the cost among those municipalities still interested in being a part of the study.

The next meeting of the Forum is Monday night in the Port McNicoll municipal offices at 8 p.m.

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Give the perfect Christmas gift this year—a travel gift certificate. The value of the certificate will be applied to any holiday purchased from any of our conveniently located offices.

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WIN up to \$1,500.  
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### WE NOW HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT NEXT SUMMERS CHARTER FLIGHTS

All departures from Toronto include air fare and hotel. Prices are per person based on 2 in a room. Airport and hotel extra. Subject to availability at time of booking. Prices vary with hotel and departure date chosen.



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