

Postmaster named

Midland will have a new postmaster Monday. Les Bell, presently the supervisory postmaster at the Alliston Post Office, has been named as the successor to former Midland postmaster Fred Grigg, who retired in late December.

Mr. Bell will bring 17 years of Post Office experience with him to Midland. He has performed a wide range of duties in the Post Office, ranging from personnel relations to several positions as acting postmaster.

He began his Post Office career in Brampton, working in the area manager's office. From there he moved to the Toronto district office, where he was involved in staff relations, personnel appointments, and

financial matters. Mr. Bell has served as acting postmaster in Georgetown, Milton, and Brampton, and was station manager in Bramalea.

He was appointed to the Alliston postmastership two and a half years ago. His working life has also seen him employed by the Texaco Oil Company, and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Mr. Bell says that although he has never lived in the Midland area, he has holidayed in Huronia, and is enthused at the prospects of establishing a home here.

"I'm looking forward to coming to Midland. From what I've seen of the area, it's very beautiful, and I'm looking forward to meeting the people in Midland," Mr. Bell

commented. He also said that he is excited about assuming the Midland postmaster's job. He said that he feels the Midland Post Office represents a healthy exception to the norm in today's troubled Post Office.

"We've got a lot of problems generally in the Post Office in Canada, and I think that Midland is fortunate to be a smooth running operation," he remarked.

Mr. Bell is married and has two children, aged 12 and eight. He is active in the Lions Club and in the Royal Canadian Legion.

He says he is "nuts about cross-country skiing", adding that he suspects he will have lots of opportunity to indulge in his hobby once he locates in the area.



\$1,000 donation

Alex Hancox, Clerk-Treasurer of the village of Port McNicoll hands Mayor Moreland Lynn and Clerk Bill Hack a \$1,000 donation from Port McNicoll for Midland's arena fund. Mayor Lynn expressed the town's appreciation for the generous donation. Staff photo

Friday comment

Weber loan shows Midland has potential

We would like to add our congratulations to Weber Tool and Mould Limited on its successful bid for an Ontario Development Corporation loan to finish the expansion project at its plant on Highway 12.

The loaning of \$500,000 to Weber and an earlier loan of \$60,000 to Furnitex Corporation can only be seen as a sign that Midland is a viable community in which to operate a business.

The fact that the Weber company will be locating the country's largest copymilling machine in our town will only add to the ammunition to sell Midland as a place to set up industry.

But, we must thank company president Mr. R. Weber for his kind words, not only about the impact of the new expansion to his firm, but the kind words regarding what Midland has to offer to his employees.

"I selected Midland in 1967 as a new location for Weber, Tool and Mould not for the availability of government

grants, but for the quality of life one can experience in this area," Mr. Weber said, in Thursday's press release.

We couldn't agree more.

As a long-standing tourist area, Midland has a multitude of activities both in summer and winter, so that employees can use their free hours to the utmost advantage.

We would also like to thank Mr. Weber for his belief in the people of Midland through the company's apprenticeship program.

The fact that the company has filled 50 per cent of its new skilled labour requirements with local people through this program is impressive and can only do good things for Midland's overall economy.

Words like these from a corporate citizen such as Mr. Weber should be made known to prospective industrialists.

In some cases, they just might tip the balance in Midland's favour.

Dismissal is criticized

Dear Sir,

I attended the Midland Council meeting Monday night and now appreciate what it would be like to live in a police state.

At this meeting Deputy Reeve Ogilvie attempted to bring forward a matter involving a firm owing approximately \$25,000 in realty and business taxes and also the question of holding the tax rate for this year to the 1977 level.

Mr. Ogilvie tried to explain his action in County Council, in trying to hold the line on the 1978 county levy and explained he fought against the 1977 increase in the county taxes.

These items seemed to send the mayor into a tantrum and he became hysterical and with the aid of his faithful followers on council, namely Alderman Platt, Keefe and Reeve

Ancio had Deputy Reeve Ogilvie escorted from the council chambers by Chief Bates, who quite evidently, found the job distasteful. Following the deputy reeve's departure the meeting adjourned within 10 minutes. They appeared to be completely bankrupt.

Is County Council's expenditures and tax rate are not a concern of the taxpayers of Midland, what point is there in having two representatives on Simcoe County Council.

It would appear the mayor is so preoccupied with his securing his position politically for the 1978 election, that he has lost touch with the practical realities of our civic government. For the taxpayers' sake, I for one, hope this never happens.

Yours truly
Robert H. Merkle

Mayor's optimism hides uncertainties

Dear Sir,

Mayor Lynn's talk to the Y's Men's Club didn't do too much to inspire faith in his ability to lead Midland out of its financial doldrums or dispell future economic uncertainties.

It is too bad that Mr. Lynn, during his more than eight years on Midland Council, paid so little attention to Midland's once thriving tourist industry—the condition of Little Lake Park is a glaring example of this fact. The systematic removal of many of the former attractions and facilities in the park has discouraged many visitors and tourists from visiting the town.

According to the mayor's remarks, he and friends on council and elsewhere, seem hell-bent on saddling the ratepayers with the purchase and

servicing of the Jones farm scrub goat land, supposedly for future industrial land.

The price and servicing of this pipe dream is estimated to be in excess of \$2 million.

I just wonder Mr. Editor, will these people stick around and help pay for the project over the next 20 years?

Apparently, some of our town's senior employees do not share the mayor's optimism, they have unloaded their homes in Midland and are now residing in other municipalities, like certain other individuals, who seem to have a lot to say about how Midland should be run.

Yours truly
Brian Wood

The Friday Times and Friday Citizen

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Midgets even record

On Monday the Midgets evened their season record at eight wins and eight losses with a 5-4 victory over Elmvalle.

Dwayne Storey and Kim Lavigne paced Midland to the win with two goals apiece. Storey accounted for the only scoring in the first period, with goals assisted by Lavigne, John Ironside, and Steve Thomson.

Lavigne scored the first

of his two goals in the second period to put Midland ahead 3-0. Elmvalle got on the scoreboard late in the second period, and as the third period got underway, scored two more to tie the game.

Elmvalle's hopes of a tie or a win were dashed seconds later as Pat Beauchamp of Midland scored on an assist by

Brad Quinn. Lavigne's second goal of the night proved to be the insurance goal for Midland, as an Elmvalle goal with one second left in the game proved not enough.

Steve Friesen played a solid game in the Midland nets, stopping 36 shots.

The Midgets have four regular season games left. They play again tonight at Base Borden.

Letters to the editor

Reader asks Smith's help on rise in assessment

Editor's note: The following is a letter sent to Gord Smith member of the Ontario Legislature for Simcoe East, a copy of which has been filed with the Times.

stop being a statesman long enough to give us some good government. It would be a refreshing change.

I would appreciate any help or explanation you could offer in this instance, as I have no way of comparing my assessment with other homes similar to mine as suggested by the Regional Assessment Office.

Sincerely,
Ray Bonner

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to acquaint you with a residential tax assessment problem I have incurred and to solicit your assistance in obtaining some relief from this unjust and unprecedented increase.

As you can see I reside in Midland and last year my assessment was \$6,195. This year my assessment has risen to \$8,670, which is approximately a 40 per cent increase over a one year period. Naturally I enquired at the Regional Assessment Office in Barrie and was given a copy of a letter sent to the town clerk of Midland which purported to explain the rise in assessment. The people being taxed were not informed. (A copy of this letter is attached for your perusal).

I can readily understand a 15 per cent increase, but 40 per cent is outrageous. The last time my property was actually inspected by the assessor was in 1972, the year before I acquired it and yet nothing was done by the assessment office until 1978.

I am a civil servant and work at the Oak Ridge division of the MHC in Penetanguishene and as you are no doubt aware the Ontario government says my wages will again be restricted under the AIB to probably about six or seven per cent increase if and when the arbitration is completed. The point I am trying to make is this. How can I be expected to pay an increase in taxes of 40 per cent, cope with inflation now at nine per cent when my wages only go up six to seven per cent?

The area I live in has one of the highest unemployment rates in Ontario. Midland has lost two industries and indefinite layoffs are common at the remaining plants. The Ontario government has aided builders to flood the area with low priced homes, mostly unsold. My home has actually decreased in value in what is now a buyers market and also because of the foregoing factors. In the midst of all this my assessment increases by 40 per cent.

Is the Ontario government so unfeeling, stupid and out of touch with the people? Please note that I am only one of many people affected. My neighbour had an increase of 28 per cent and there are many others but I would wager mine is probably the highest. Possibly Mr. Davis could

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