



Volunteers with heart

February is an important month for hearts. St. Valentine's appeals to the heart's romantic side, while the Heart Fund Drive deals with the more serious aspect of our most vital organ—heart disease. Soon these and other canvassers will be knocking on Midland doors seeking donations to the Heart Fund. When they arrive, remember that it is your health you

are investing in. Pictured in the front row from left to right are: Bea Patterson, Mary Hudson, Susan George, and Doretta Knapp. Middle row: Rita Ancio, Pat Gidley, Donna Gidley, Catherine Dion, Eleanor Smith, and Helen Grigg. Back row: Kathleen Norton, Nancy Strachan and Adele Crawford.

Staff photo

Pride in his 25 years on the Midland force

When Midland Police Chief Ernest Bates looks back over a quarter of a century of police work in his town, he confesses to a certain pride in the fact that he is now chief of police in the town where he was born and grew up.

Like a lot of small boys, Mr. Bates always wanted to be a policeman. When an opening came up on the force, he was hired and he's been with the force since February 1, 1953.

When the chief joined the police force, the station was located where Jack Parr's Supersave store is now.

"Then" he says, "we moved to temporary offices in an old brick barn of a place between the Liquor store and the beer store. It was temporary, but we were there for two or three years before we finally moved into the new building."

For Ernie Bates, police work is interesting, and sometimes dangerous. "In the old days, when there were only six of us on staff and a lot of the time we were alone. Two or three times I'd come home with a torn uniform, or some scratches on my face and my wife and I would both wonder if I

should retire." Lila (Culbertson) Bates has come to terms with the dangerous aspects of her husband's job, but her husband admits that shift work presents another problem for the wives of policemen.

"A policeman's wife is often left alone while her husband is working. When there are children, this is a hard thing for a woman."

On a relatively small force like Midland's, every police officer is called upon to investigate whatever happens on his shift.

"This is a good arrangement really," says Bates. "It means that an officer uses everything he learns at police college. In a larger city, he may be posted to only one particular aspect—traffic, or on a beat—and, very often he never gets to follow through on a particular case because something he investigated initially is turned over to another department."

Yet, the chief says that he always advises young people who are going into police work to start in another town.

"I found that when I started out here, I often



Bates

found myself apprehending people with whom I'd gone to school. And they'd say 'C'mon, gimme a break...' and I couldn't—I'd just tell them I had a job to uphold and a family to support—and that's one of the reasons I'm here today. Mind you, I don't find that a problem any more, but in the beginning it was different."

When one asks Chief Bates about the highlights of 25 years on the force he hesitantly mentions the Queen's Jubilee medal, then quickly moves back to the police work he loves.

"I remember once, after I'd only been on the force for a couple of years, I investigated a phone call and found a house with blood and bullet holes all over the place. I worked on the case with the assistance of the OPP, and the person responsible was apprehended. I found the guns, two of them in a field, hidden under a rock. I took them to Ottawa and ballistics tests there showed that

one was the same gun used in the shootout and the other was the same gun used in a hold-up in Toronto."

The most upsetting part of police work is any crime or misfortune which involves children.

"When we get a phone call reporting that a child has been missing for three or four hours, I am always so relieved and gratified when the child is found and safe."

The chief has investigated plenty of accidents, but he never gets used to the sight of sudden death.

"It really bothers me and it is always so hard to have to tell people that a next of kin has been involved in an accident. No policeman likes to do that."

He finds that there is less respect for police officers today than when

he was a youngster. "And it's not just the kids. It's our society. It's a faster world. And the lowering of the drinking age didn't help."

Right now one of his biggest concerns is the increasing amount of vandalism in the community.

"Most of it is done by young males," he says, "and a lot of it could be prevented if people would let us know when they see gangs of kids hanging around."

He says most people don't bother reporting such gatherings—either because they don't want to bother the police or because they don't want to get involved.

"It certainly isn't any bother. That's our job. And as for getting involved, the name of the person who reports anything is a secret

between the officer and the person concerned. We certainly aren't going to make it public."

Off duty, Chief Bates finds time for active membership in the Masons, the Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Club, the Midland Legion, and organizing Bantam hockey.

And he watches the odd cop show on TV.

"Some of them are far-fetched, like where they solve a crime in one hour. But, if you watch closely, there are things you can learn from them."

Midland's Police Chief Ernie Bates likes his job, and he looks back on 25 years with the force (seven of them as chief) with a sense of accomplishment. But, it's an on-going sense. Last Wednesday was just another workday, an anniversary or not.

Heart disease problem isn't getting better

In 1975, 80,000 people died of heart disease in Ontario and with today's affluent lifestyles, the problem isn't getting any better.

But like cancer, heart disease can be beaten. This is heart month in Ontario and everyone will have their chance to contribute to the heart fund without even leaving their house.

In the next month canvassers will knock on every door in Midland asking for a donation and dropping off literature on heart disease. When the canvasser knocks, think about the loved ones you have lost due to heart disease. It's the number one killer of mankind.

Kay Dion, a Midland citizen and area-coordinator of the Simcoe County Branch of the Ontario Heart Fund, is

involved with the heart fund because of her family's problem with heart disease.

She says, "heart disease runs in my father's family."

All of those that have died were struck down by heart attacks or strokes. A 32-year-old relative died of a heart attack and her brother who is only five years older than she was hospitalized because of a heart problem.

"It's something we've always been dreading," she said.

Midland's goal this year is \$6,000. Last year \$7,000 was raised and the goal was only \$3,000. Across Ontario, heart fund organizers hope to raise \$5 million. Mrs. Dion says there were several large anonymous donations to the fund last year which helped bring

them over their goal.

According to Mrs. Dion, out of every dollar which you donate 72 cents goes to research, 17 cents goes to education, five cents goes to administration and 6 cents to finance the heart fund campaign.

"Without money for research we can't make much more progress and we stand to lose the scientists unless they are funded," she adds.

In Midland and Pen-tanguishene schools and banks there will also be small roses on pins for sale. These are called "Roses for Research".

The buyer can donate any sum of money for the privilege of wearing a rose.

The idea of using the roses was a pilot project in Midland last year, according to Mrs. Dion. She says the idea of

putting them in the schools was to get the children to give roses instead of Valentine's on Valentine's Day. She says it became quite a status symbol to see how many roses each child could get. Every cent that is raised from the sale of the roses goes directly into research.

As well as the money raised from the roses and the canvassing, local industries will be solicited for donations to the heart fund, says Mrs. Dion.

There are 150 blocks in Midland one canvasser for every block is needed. Mrs. Dion says they are still in need of volunteers and explains that it only takes about three hours at the most to do the complete canvass.

The job of the canvasser is easy, says Mrs. Dion, each volunteer has

to write out receipts for the money they take, and distribute the literature.

Anyone interested in being a canvasser should contact Mrs. Dion or Mrs.

Fred Griggs. According to Mrs. Dion, people will do it if they are asked, but it's so much nice to have people phone and volunteer.

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