

# Rena Bell's book takes a 'Peek at the Past 100 Years'

Rena Bell wishes Midlanders would show confidence in their town. "They had confidence in the past," she says. "This town had some dark days, but there was always a group that had confidence in the town and that things would come out all right. And

they did." Mrs. Bell is working long hours these days, putting together a history of Midland which she hopes will inspire modern Midlanders with the confidence and dedication of the town's forefathers. She describes the book, which will be printed in

magazine format, as "a keeper Centennial keeper". She was commissioned by the Centennial Committee to collate and update our past history. Slated for July publication, the book will be called A Peek Into the Past 100 Years and will be liberally laced

with photographs. The cover will be designed by Bev Hunter, a local artist, and will be based on her Centennial Quilt design. Rena is basing her research on previously written works—those of George Osborne, Edna Shushan and Adelaide

Leitch, but she finds occasional blanks in the development of some features of our history, and this is where the original research comes in. "I think I've developed into the town past," she says with a smile. "When I'm trying to find the facts to complete a story, I bother anybody I know who may have the information."

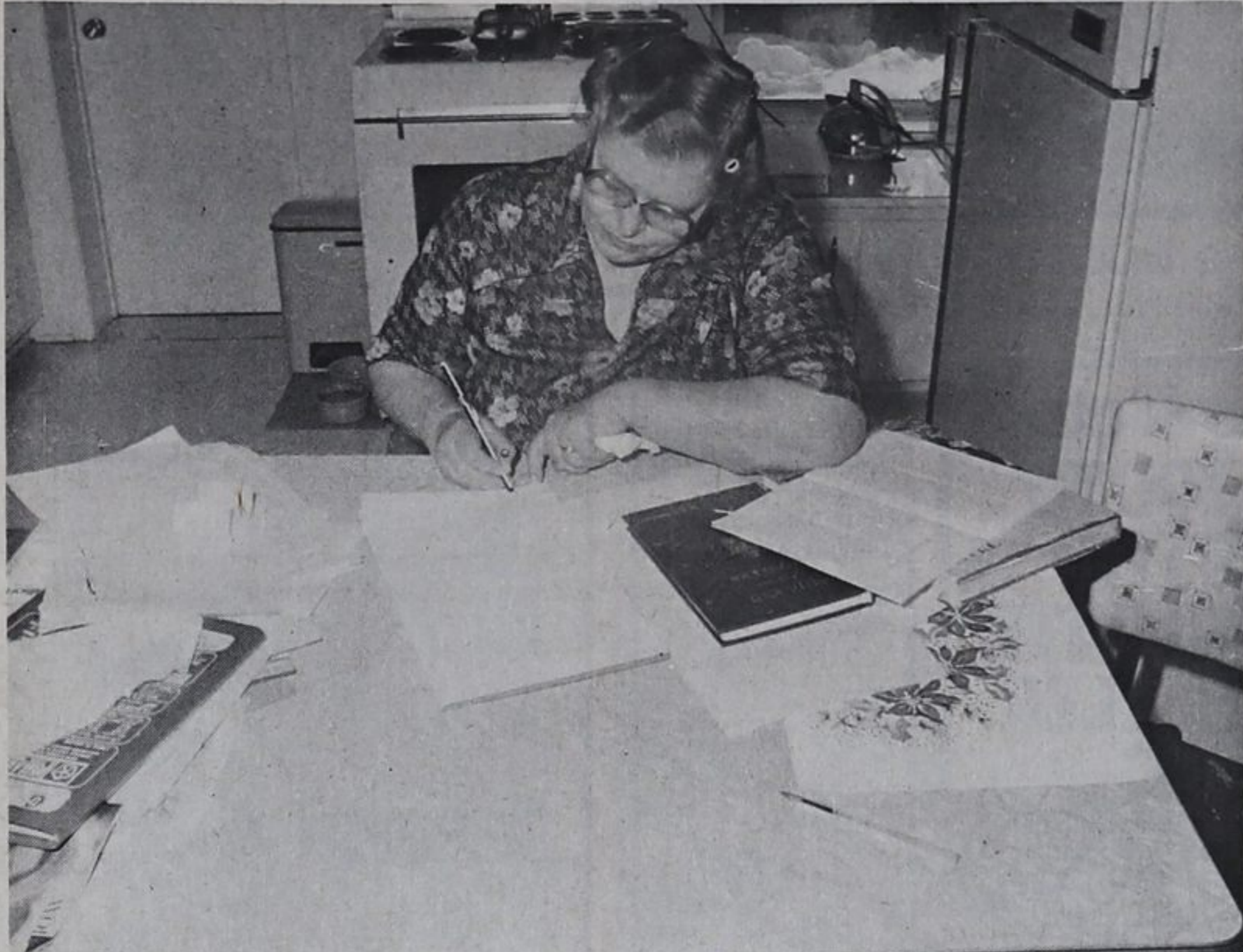
With her tape recorder, she has talked to many of Midland's older residents, and she's also found old photographs which tell a story, and which haven't been used in any previous history of the town. Newspaper archives, personal journals and scrapbooks are other

good sources of fact. Thanks to her own efforts, Rena Bell has a good picture of health care development in our community. For years, she has been collecting memorabilia—old records, pictures and letters—that relate to all of Midland's hospitals—the Marine Hospital in Sunnyside, the old Saint Andrew's and our new Huronia District Hospital.

She has a particular and affectionate interest in this important part of our history. She trained as nurse at Saint Andrew's, and after graduation in 1937, she took post graduate training in Toronto, and returned as the first

Director of Nursing Education at Saint Andrew's. She's convinced that this collection of historical anecdote which relates to our hospital history would make a best-seller. In the meantime, she's up to her ears in dates and facts and anecdotes. "I want to tell a complete story and to establish some continuity," she says. She insists that she doesn't consider herself a historian or a writer.

"I'm more of a romanticist," she says. "But I've been told I have a flair for writing, and I certainly have a deep interest in this town. And the more research I do, the more I feel we are privileged to live in a community with such character, and such a fine record of progress, even when things looked bad." Does she consider 1978 a troubled year for Midland? "No," she says emphatically. "All we need is some inspiration and confidence. We need public watchdog.



Works on book

Rena Bell, seen above working in her kitchen, is compiling a book on the history of the town of Midland for the Centennial Committee. She says that many

people have helped contribute to the book with pictures and information. The book will be available in the future. Staff photo

## MSS rink takes curling title

Paul Harbottle's rink, from Midland Secondary School, captured the Georgian Bay Curling championship Friday, defeating Stouffville 4-2, 3-2 and 6-1 at the Midland Curling Club.

The Midland rink has won the right to represent the Georgian Bay Region at the Ontario Secondary Schools championship, March 30 to April 1, in Ottawa.

Harbottle and his rink of Tim Tully, lead; Steve Strong, second; and Glenn Howard, vice; lost the first game against the Southern Georgian Bay zone champions, but rallied to win the next two games.

In the second game it took the Midland rink two extra ends to win, but the third game turned into a rout and Stouffville conceded after the

seventh end with the score 6-1. Harbottle's rink kept their game up with a win at the Town and Country Auto Supply Spiel in Collingwood, Saturday and Sunday.

Midland defeated two teams from Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute, as well as the host team, to win the Town and Country trophy.

Midland coach Forbes Stewart, expressed his delight with the team's win at the Georgian Bay championship, but would not make any predictions about the Ontario finals.

"It's tough to say how well they (Midland) will do. Any team can be curling well on a given day. Stouffville was an experienced team, but our boys had a good day and beat them."

### Carriers headed for Leaf game

Who says that being a newspaper carrier is not a rewarding job. The following is a partial list of people who will be going to Toronto this Saturday to watch a National Hockey League game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Vancouver Canucks, compliments of Markle Community Newspapers Ltd.

Christine Wilson, Karen Kennedy, Brian Flint, Peter Hawke, Tim King and John McNichol, who are carriers for The Midland Times.

Adam Robitaille, Jeffery LeClair and Bruce McNeo, who are carriers for The Penetanguishene Citizen.

Three more names will be announced today.

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