

# Town workers repair Little Lake vandalism

Each spring town employees can be seen bustling about getting Midland's parks in shape for another summer of use.

They cut grass, burn leaves, paint picnic tables and perform any number of tasks to maintain Midland's high reputation for clean, inviting parklands.

There is, however, one spring activity town employees have to perform and their superiors wish didn't have to be done. That activity is repairing damage to park lands and fixtures caused during the winter months by vandals.

Every spring, as town employees make the rounds of Midland's parks, they come across incidents of senseless destruction—destruction which accomplishes nothing, but increasing the municipal tax burden.

According to parks superintendent Harold "Mac" McAllen, the problem of vandals in Midland's parks is becoming increasingly aggravating.

"It really gets to me. We've got a few in-

dividuals who try to take away what we've done to beautify the parks for the entire community and our summer guests," he said in an interview.

"What we do is for the benefit of the entire community, but some individuals find it amusing to destroy. If they'd just take time to think what they're doing costs them money, they'd probably think twice about doing it."

The main object of vandals' thoughtlessness is Little Lake Park, says Mr. McAllen. Although damage to the park this winter was less than last year, when vandals systematically destroyed every light in the park's camping area, there was still enough damage inflicted to have parks employees shaking their heads in disbelief and frustration.

A partial inventory of the damage done by vandals over the winter justifies the parks employees' consternation.

Vandals knocked off cement balls from the top of stone pillars at the head of a stairway—the same stairway, incidentally, that Queen

Elizabeth was once photographed on.

They smashed the benches on 14 picnic tables, and twisted their metal frames.

They tore shutters off of both ticket booths in the park, and kicked in the doors.

They broke padlocks off the door of a storage area, and threw Midland Minor Baseball League equipment over the floors.

They broke into washrooms and punched cubicle panels out.

They lifted stone caps from stairwells, and left stone flower beds near the park concession booth in a state of disarray.

They drove motor-

cycles and possibly even cars up a steep embankment, gouging large ruts in the hillside lawn.

The list goes on, and with each addition, the cost of repairing the damage increases.

Parks' crews have repaired most of the damage incurred over the winter. Mr. McAllen has no estimate on how much the repairs have cost. He says, however, it will probably amount to less than last year, when taxpayers shelled out between three and four thousand dollars to bring the park back to the condition they had been in before the winter.

The solution to the problem? Mr. McAllen

admits, frankly, that it has him perplexed.

"I don't know what the solution is. I guess if they just realized the cost in tax dollars to themselves and to their parents they probably wouldn't do these things, or at least think twice about doing it," Mr. McAllen said.

Midland Police Chief Ernie Bates agrees that the only way to curb park vandalism is to press home the fact that such pointless activity hurts everyone, including the vandals.

He says the police have a difficult time patrolling the park during the winter, because it is so large and heavy snowfalls make parts of it inac-

cessible. "It's an open public park and it's used all winter long by skiers, snowmobilers and skaters," the police chief said. "You get some rowdy individuals down there and they start breaking stuff and we can't get to them. We don't have any snowmobiles so our patrols are limited."

The public must be made aware of the costs of park vandalism, Chief Bates said.

"If half these people realized that it's their tax dollars that are paying for the damage, they might think a little bit about what they're doing."



## Evacuation

The Ontario Provincial Police and the Elmvale Fire Department had to be called in Wednesday after a gas main began leaking. Several homes in the area of the

break were evacuated, however, workmen repaired the damaged main.

Staff photo

## Police evacuate Elmvale homes after gas leak

by Judy French  
Ten homes on Queen Street East, in Elmvale, were evacuated on Wednesday morning by Elmvale OPP after a natural gas main was broken by construction workers.

Electric Company from Toronto, was operating a backhoe, digging a trench to lay the lines needed to supply electrical services to the new subdivision of Ambercrest, when the machine struck and broke the main gas line into the construction zone.

and the area was blocked off. The Elmvale fire department was called in and brought their fire truck to the scene as a precautionary measure.

Both OPP officers and firemen began quickly clearing residents out of the houses in the immediate area. Those with natural gas heating were asked to switch off their furnaces as an added safety measure.

## Wandering youth returns

A 13-year-old youth missing from Browndale Homes on the Old Fort Road since Wednesday, has been found.

Browndale on Midland Avenue, no information can be released on the child or the circumstances of his disappearance.

A repair crew from Consumers' Gas arrived on the scene within the hour and the pipe was quickly capped, allowing residents to return to their homes safely.

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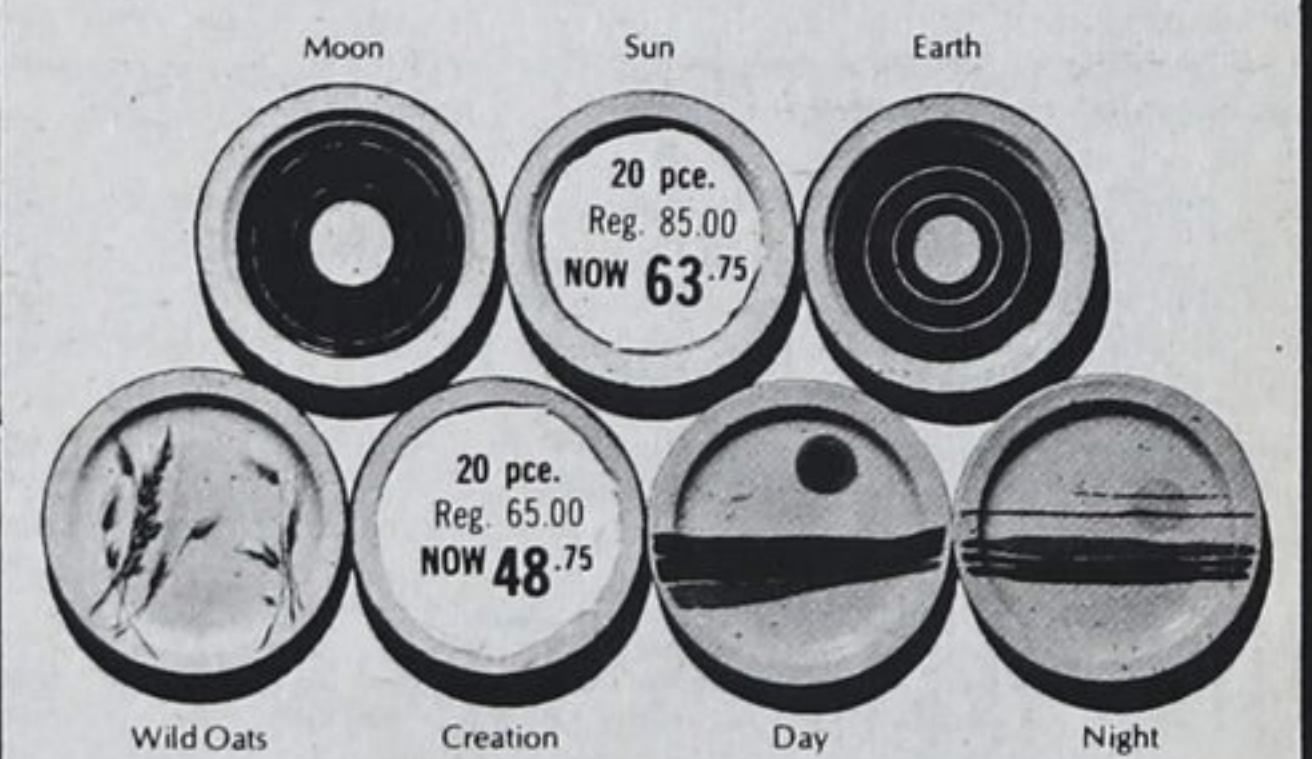
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## Midland and District Community Calendar

- Saturday, April 29**  
—Tulip Tea and Bake Sale will be held at the Vasey United Church, sponsored by the Women's Institute from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.
- Saturday, April 29**  
—The Nurses Alumnae will hold their Spring Rummage Sale in St. Margaret's Hall, doors open at 9:30 a.m. All welcome.
- Saturday, April 29**  
—I.O.D.E. Annual Spring Sale in St. Mark's Parish Hall, corner of Third and Easy Streets. Attic treasures and nearly new departments. Doors open at 11 a.m.
- Saturday, April 29**  
—The C.B.O. Parks and Recreation is having a Card Party at the Surf, Balm Beach at 8:30 p.m. Come and bring your friends and play whatever card game you choose. Refreshments will be served.
- May 2**  
—Penetanguishene Co-operative Nursery School will be holding Open House and Registration for three and four-year-olds who wish to be registered for September 1978. Registration on May 2 and 4th from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Notice**  
—Commencing May 2, 1978, the St. John Ambulance Brigade is offering a Home Nursing Course to anyone interested in learning the basic home nursing techniques. For further information please contact 526-2673 (evenings) or 534-3519.
- Monday, May 8**  
—The HDH Auxiliary "Spring Fashion Show" and dessert bridge will be held at St. Paul's United Church, 1:30 p.m. For tickets, please call Mrs. Barbara Thompson (526-7175), convey Mrs. Tom McCullough or president Mrs. Tom Luke. Bridge players are reminded to bring their own cards.
- Wednesday, May 10**  
—PSS presents the Annual Spring Concert featuring Junior and Senior bands, dance orchestra at 8 p.m. in the School Gym. Tickets available at the door.
- Friday, May 12**  
—Ladies Auxiliary for the Mentally Retarded will hold a Rummage Sale 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the IOOF Hall, Midland. For pick-up of good saleable items phone 549-8452 or 526-7239. Everyone welcome.
- Saturday, May 13**  
—Monster Garage Sale—10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Midland Civic Centre, sponsored by the Midland Jaycees. Call Contact centre at 526-9333 regarding pick-up of donations.
- Saturday, May 13**  
—U.C.W. of St. Paul's United Church, King Street, Midland, will be having a Rummage Sale. Doors open at 10 a.m.
- Saturday, May 13**  
—The Civinettes will be holding a Flea Market at the Parkside Inn. Anyone wishing to donate call 526-6019, 526-9814 or 534-7816.
- Saturday, May 13**  
—Huronians Barbershop Chorus Spring Show - "Forty Years of Harmony" will be held at Penetanguishene Secondary School at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 14**  
—The Third annual Flea Market, sponsored by Historical Automobile Society of Canada, Huronia region. Held at the Penetanguishene Curling Club, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For information contact Gord Maybee, 325-3011 or John Magill 526-4921.
- Monday, May 15**  
—The Midland District Shrine Club is holding their Annual Shrine Circus at the Midland Centennial Arena, King Street, with two performances, one at 4:30 p.m. and the second one at 8:15 p.m.
- May 17**  
—All Saints Anglican Church, Penetanguishene, ACW Annual Spring Dinner, May 17. Two servings, 5:15 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets: call 549-7295 or 549-8856.
- Thursday-Saturday, May 18-20 and May 25-27**  
—Huronians Players present "Once Upon a Mattress", a musical, directed by Lynn Gorell, at Sacred Heart School, William and Elizabeth Streets, at 8 p.m. Lynn Gorell directed last season's play, "Paint Your Wagon".
- May 27**  
—ACW Rummage Sale May 27, 12:30 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church, Peel Street, Penetanguishene.
- Saturday, June 3**  
—Third Annual Vasey United Church auction sale will be held at Vasey Community Park, County Road 23. This outstanding auction sale includes homemade quilts, dishes, antiques, and numerous articles donated by the residents of the area. Time—12:30 p.m.
- June 9, 10, 11**  
—Yoga Retreat—enjoy a relaxing weekend on beautiful Beausoleil Island. Workshops offered include Beginners and Advanced Hatha Yoga, Massage Therapy and Meditation. For information call Janet Phillips 361-2196.
- Saturday, June 10**  
—Miscellaneous auction sale will be held at Waverley Park, sponsored by Waverley United Church.
- Saturday, June 17**  
—Centennial Dance at the Midland Civic Centre. Two dance bands, Modern and Dixieland. For tickets phone 526-9636. Door prize.
- Saturday, June 24**  
—The Fourth Midland Scouting Ladies Auxiliary will hold their annual Book Sale at Zellers. Anyone wishing to contribute books can drop them off at Curry's Gas Station, Zellers, A and P, or call 526-6833 or 526-7909 for pick-up.
- Notice**  
—We are looking for persons to help in the organization of Midland's Centennial Parade on July 1. Please phone Ted at 526-7172.
- Organizers are invited to publicize their upcoming events free of charge in the Times Community Calendar. Please call the Community Calendar editor at 526-2283 or drop your message into the Midland Times office, 525 Bay Street.

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