

Permanent free parking in Midland

Bouyed by a last minute burst of support, the Midland Business Improvement Association (BIA) board of management has agreed to institute a validated ticket parking program.

Parking committee chairman Bob Voorzanger, Jr., announced the program could start Oct. 1.

At present 96 per cent of retail members of the association support the program. Voorzanger expects support will reach 100 per cent by the time the program starts.

Shoppers will be able to park in the First Street lot behind Arcade Pharmacy, or one of three other municipal lots to be found east of King Street between Elizabeth Street and Bay Street.

Lots

The ticket-spitters in

the four municipal lots will be converted to release two tickets instead of one. Shoppers can take one of the tickets to any business displaying a logo indicating participation in the free parking scheme for a refund. No purchase is required.

The program is one way to make shopping in downtown Midland more attractive, said Voorzanger.

The four lots have space for close to 400 cars.

Advantages over parking on King Street put forward include the opportunity to purchase up to four hours of time versus one hour maximum on King Street, free parking through ticket validation and less traffic.

Parking Authority chairman Bud Lewis

says he expects the authority's share of revenue will increase as a result of free parking for the public, and that the extra income will be used to improve lots and buy new lots.

Cost

The free parking program will cost the public nothing, stated Voorzanger. He expects about 20 per cent of the BIA budget will go towards the program.

Businesses participating will be reimbursed once a month by the BIA for the money they pay out to shoppers turning in their parking tickets. The BIA gets its money through annual levy of its members.

The free parking scheme will not cover parking tickets. Parking Authority employees will continue to check lots at least four times a day, Lewis

said.

The public lots east of King Street are not as well frequented as the First Street lot, Voorzanger said, because the public is not as aware of them. But, Lewis stated, stores on King Street backing on the three lots have rear entrances providing easy access to King Street.

Signs

Large signs will be erected in each lot explaining the program. Participating stores will have a decal in the window or on the door, and posters will be put up inside the stores.

The free parking program is intended to be permanent, and will not be stopped at some point in order to assess its impact, Voorzanger explained.

Full details will be given to the public before the program starts, he said.

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Military connection remembered

Christian Island elder Joe Sylvester, right, opened the pow-wow on Christian Island held on the weekend with an invocation. An estimate was made that 2,500 people took the ferry

from Cedar Point and saw the weekend event. Veterans were included to mark the pow-wow's historic military connection as a war society.



Native Pageantry

Indians came to the weekend Pow-Wow on Christian Island from as far away as Alberta. Others hailed from

Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Thun

No rest for weary police force

Over 240 general occurrences were investigated by the Midland OPP in the week ending Aug. 25.

Eighteen cases of theft, 10 cases of break and enter, four cases of wilful damage, four cases of common assault and seven other offences falling under sections of the Criminal Code were investigated.

Ten persons were charged with violating the Liquor Licence Act. Three drivers were found to be driving while impaired. Two drivers were found to be driving while their licences were suspended.

The Midland detachment also investigated 22 motor vehicle collisions between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Monday

Unusual charges laid by police

Penetanguishene police, called to the Hotel Brule shortly before 10 p.m., laid a series of charges following an incident there.

Edward Black of Port McNicoll has been charged with causing a disturbance by fighting and with remaining on a licensed premises after being asked to leave.

John Traplin of Midland was charged with obstructing police and also with remaining on a licensed premises after being asked to leave.

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