

OBS program helps the area's illiterates

Do you know someone without a job because of an inability to read and count? Georgian College has a program to help.

The Georgian College-run Ontario Basic Skills Program has attracted 52 students in Midland. New students are being added at an almost daily rate.

The Ontario Basic Skills (OBS) Program is an academic upgrading pro-

gram for people age 19 and older, some of whom might have less than a Grade 8 education.

Moving people from the level of literacy to the equivalent of Grade 12 is the OBS Program's purpose.

The OBS Program started in Midland on Oct. 1. Last Thursday representatives of local social agencies and of the Town of

Midland were told about the program.

The OBS Program replaces the Technical Upgrading Program (TUP). The thrust of OBS is to offer help to a wider range of people than did TUP. TUP was designed to give to people with a Grade 8, 9 or 10 education, a Grade 12 education. The OBS Program is designed for harder to serve clients, the

gathering was told.

The OBS program in Midland has a budget of \$229,000 for the next four months to assist students who can't afford to pay for child care, transportation to class, or, in certain cases, room and board.

OBS classes are held during the day. Students can attend on a part-time or full-time basis. OBS classes are pure academics,

Georgian College School of Career Development, Orillia, chairman Maureen Watt, told the meeting.

TUP was for people who had dropped out of high school. OBS extends its coverage to people who did not complete elementary school.

OBS Program classes are free, a program of the provincial Ministry of Skills Development. OBS is a part of the Ontario Training Strategy Program. OBS is recognition by the ministry that the problem of illiteracy is an area neglected by government programs, and an area of great concern to the ministry, Watt said.

Fifty-two weeks was the maximum number of weeks a student could be in TUP. There is no such limit on the OBS Program. A person with a Grade 4 education would take a year to advance the equivalent of three school grades, while a person with a Grade 10 or 11 education would take a much shorter time to advance to the same degree, Watt said.

Child care will be a part of the local Georgian College service when the local programs are gathered in one place. A section of the former Bay Street Canadian Tire building is being modified to become the Midland campus of Georgian College. Mid-February, 1987, is the earliest time that Georgian

College will be able to move into that building.

Two features not transferred from TUP to the OBS Program are career planning, and the job finding club.

One group of people for whom the TUP program is not designed is the mentally handicapped.

Watt said that the College is interested in working with local literacy groups which teach people to read on a one teacher-one-student basis.

People who want to take

the OBS Program who are receiving unemployment

insurance can apply for permission to go to school and continue to receive unemployment cheques.

Women receiving Mother's Allowances and other government assistance likewise do not lose financially by enrolling in the OBS Program.

To be eligible for special support allowances, an individual normally must have a family income less than \$21,000.



Demolition

Workers at the Port McNicoll Tavern have almost completely demolished the remains of the hotel that was destroyed by fire earlier this year. The sight of

the construction workers is a joy to many village residents. It took the village council almost five months to get the building torn down.



Maureen Watt

Georgian College School of Career Development chairman Maureen Watt described a new provincial government education program aimed at helping the illiterate, to an audience in the Highland Inn last week.

Postal deadlines

Deadlines to ensure Christmas delivery for cards and parcels are coming and going.

According to Penetanguishene Postmaster John Arbour, Thursday is the deadline for letters heading to Great Britain, France, Germany and other European countries. The deadline for cards heading for Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and South American countries was yesterday.

Yesterday was also the deadline to send parcels to Europe. Mailing packages to countries in the southern hemisphere would have been ensured Christmas delivery if they had been mailed before last Thursday.

For parcels heading anywhere in Canada or the United States, Dec. 8 is the deadline. For letters, it's

the 12.

Friends in-town won't receive their cards late if they are mailed by Dec. 12.

Christmas stamps can be bought in packages of 10, for \$2.90. But, Arbour adds, these stamps can only be used on Greetmore envelopes. Arbour says the postal code must be penciled in on the special matrix to make the mail machine readable and therefore cost less to process. If you got a deal on Christmas cards last year, you won't get a deal on stamps this year



\$1000
EAR PIERCING SPECIAL

Good until Jan. 1st

THE BEAUTY STOP
HAIRSTYLISTS

KING ST.,
MIDLAND TOWN CENTRE
526-3765

Deli Delights

A Gift to Share
With Family & Friends

A Gift for that
"Hard to Buy For" person

We Have • **Fruit Baskets**
• **Cheese Baskets**
• **Gourmet Baskets**

This Year Give a Gift with Taste!

Gianettos of Midland

290 King St., Midland 526-2761

GOLD SOLD BY WEIGHT

All Estate Jewellery 20%

Appraised Diamond and Gemstone Jewellery 66²/₃ off appraised value

Selected 1928 Jewellery 50% off

Cigarettes - Special Brands
Peter Jackson (some brands)
Bensen Hedges Special
Advanti **\$1371** carton

Large Yarn Tote - Multiple Uses
Reg. 29.95 **\$995**

Bic Lighters

OPEN SUNDAY
THE CROW'S NEST
263 KING ST., MIDLAND
526-6131

For that tasteful Ladies Wear Gift, come and see us at the Edwards Village Mall

Isotoner Gloves

Navy, Mocha, Black, Grey, Burgundy & Brown

Reg. \$29.00

Isotoner Slippers

Small, Medium, Large
Royal, Black & Cerise

Reg. \$25.00

10% off with this coupon

CLIP

10% off Isotoner Gloves and Slippers with this coupon

Edwards
526-2272