

Annual annoyance for budgetmakers

Midland's Finance Committee, as it does every year at this time, has the problem of being tagged with the blame for higher school taxes.

Committee Chairman Deputy-Reeve Nancy Keefe says school taxes will be higher this year on the basis alone that the separate school system has a full high school system.

The municipality has nothing to say about the level of tax set for education. But since education tax, and the Simcoe County tax, are lumped with a taxpayer's municipal tax when he receives his tax notice, the larger increase in education tax, which raises the amount asked of the taxpayer, sometimes is blamed on the municipality.

Another factor in the making of the 1987 Town

of Midland budget, a factor over which the Town has some control, is contracts with its employees. All of the contracts between the municipality and its unionized employees will be renewed this year. Negotiations have begun.

Municipal politicians have long complained that because municipalities collect the taxes levied by school boards, the municipalities get all of the blame for higher taxes.

Because the municipality collects the school tax, it looks as if the Town is keeping it, Keefe said.

Municipal politicians feel a pressure to keep the tax over which they have control, as low as possible. "It squeezes us at the town level to keep a reasonable tax level," Keefe said.

In recent years the Town

of Midland budget creators have started with the hope of a municipal tax increase of, at most, five per cent.

Budgetmakers have to balance keeping up existing service, increased costs such as wages, and

new expenditure on improvements to roads, sidewalks, and sewers. Speaking of the ideal in-

crease of five per cent, Keefe said "I don't know how much of a dream that is."



And the winner is...

Nicole Grenier of Penetanguishene won the \$1,000 draw sponsored by Centre d'Activites Francaises last Friday. The draw was made Friday at noon by Odette Moreau and Muriele Laurin. The centre uses the draw

as its main fundraising tool. Tickets valid for the monthly \$1,000 draws from April, 1987 to March, 1988, will be going on sale soon at a cost of \$100.

Winter weather

How mild a winter have we had so far?

Significantly less snow than normal has fallen to date in the winter of 1986-87. The average temperature has been warmer, too.

According to the record of snowfall and temperature levels of the Beausoleil Island weather station, as of yesterday morning, snowfall in 1986-87 has amounted to 98.4 centimetres. (By Jan. 9 a year previous, 237 centimetres of snow had fallen on the island.)

The average temperature for December 1986, -2 degrees C., is four degrees warmer than the average temperature of December a year earlier.

The last significant fall of snow of this winter, of 13 centimetres, came on Dec. 12, 1986. The only snowfall approaching that was eight centimetres last Saturday. No more than three centimetres of snow fell on any day between Dec. 12 and Jan. 9.

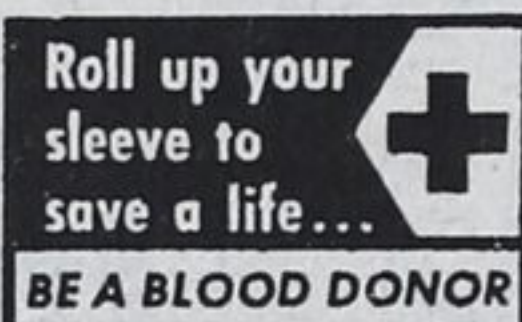
Two Decembers ago, snow fell on the island on 27 of the 31 days.

The snowfall figure for Midland as of Jan. 1, 1986, was 274.6 centimetres. (The fact that more snow falls on Midland than on Beausoleil Island has to be taken into account when comparing Island figures and Midland figures.)

The record snowfall numbers for Midland are a maximum of 523.03 centimetres in 1964-65, and a minimum of 175 centimetres in the winter of 1982-83.

The average fall of snow on the island between 1975 and 1985 was 302.4 centimetres. The total snowfall on the island for 1985-1986, last winter, was 379.8 centimetres, or 77 centimetres higher than the average of the previous 10 years.

Environment Canada has not had a weather station operator in Midland since November of last year, so up-to-date figures for Midland are not available.



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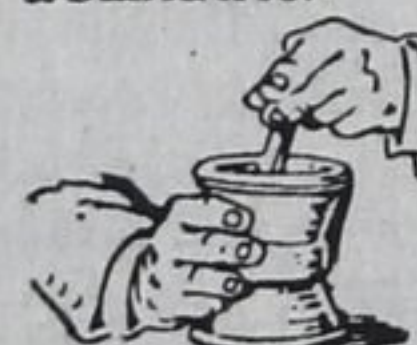
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