

'Underbelly' revelation to former newsman

Doug Reed prided himself during his many years as a newsman in Midland as "always being on top of the news scene." Since going to work for the Salvation Army, he has learned about "an underbelly" to local society that as a newsman he didn't know existed.

Reed has been the manager of the Salvation Army's Experience House, temporary housing shelter for young men, since Experience House opened last October. He also since last September has been the local bail superintendent.

Reed has become aware of the number of both young men, and women, who are homeless in Midland and area. "It's not just happening in New York, Chicago, and Toronto. It's happening here in Midland," Reed told Midland Rotarians

recently. Experience House as set up by the Salvation Army is for the assistance of young men. Women who are abused by their husbands can go with their children to Rosewood. Reed estimated that as many young women as young men are thrown out or run away from their homes, but an Experience House or Rosewood equivalent for them does not exist.

The young women often end up in Toronto, experiencing "terrific problems," frequently supporting themselves as prostitutes.

A young man who has stayed for a time in Experience House might have trouble communicating with his parents, or could be fleeing abuse, Reed said.

Another young man who Reed encountered slept for three nights in a cardboard

box behind a downtown business, while however not missing time at his job.

Some homeless young people sleep in doorways. They know the schedule of patrolling police officers well enough to disappear while their doorway is passed, only to reoccupy it for a few more hours.

Experience House is a place to sleep, a source of meals, and a counselling service. "We try to turn them around," Reed said. Some Experience House residents return to the family home. Others are helped in finding a job and a place of their own to live. Authorities in different walks of life visit Experience House to talk to the young men. One expert on the prison system, a man who had spent half of his life behind bars, so impressed at least two of his listeners that they immediately went to the

Canada Employment Centre to look for a job.

Experience House is not the answer for all who enter its door. Seven of the 50-odd young men who have stayed at the House have been expelled. They broke rules and regulations.

Experience House is not a Holiday Inn, Reed said. A day starts before 8 a.m., with the making of beds. After breakfast, at 9 a.m. a short devotional period, in line with the nature of the sponsor, the Salvation Army, is held. During the day residents meet with visiting speakers, go to work if they have a job, or go to school, or do chores in the House, the Salvation Army Thrift Store, or in the community.

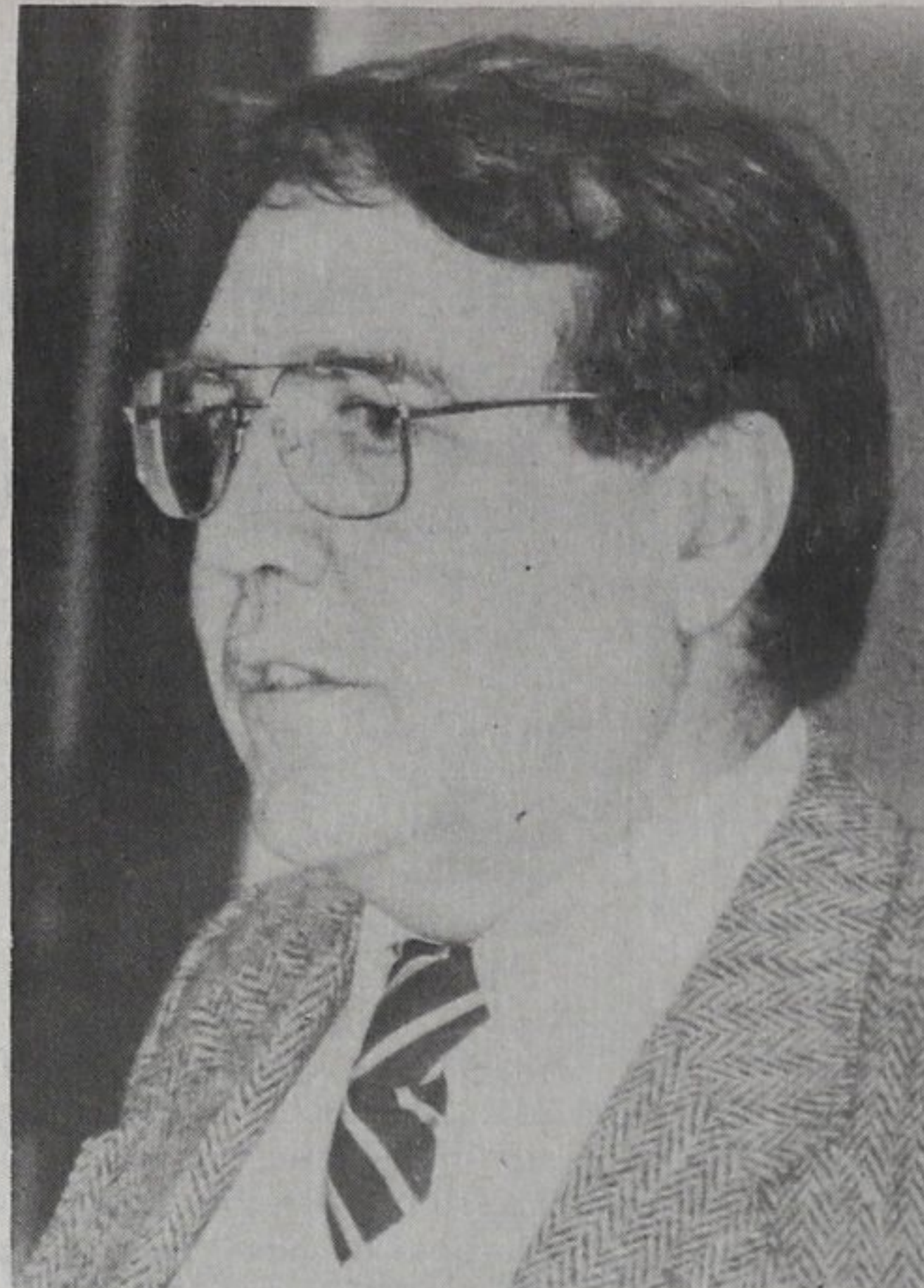
Seventy-five per cent of the \$40,000 Experience House budget comes from the Salvation Army and its

supporters. The Army already owned the building which it put to use as Experience House.

Support for Experience House from representatives of local institutions, service groups, and in-

dividuals, has been considerable.

More and more, Experience House will be a place for young men to "cool off" for two or three days following a fight at home, Reed expects.



News to him

Long-time local newsman Doug Reed, since last fall, the director of the Salvation Army's Experience House, has learned a lot about the homeless in his new job. This area needs a shelter for homeless women, he told Midland Rotarians.

Area's water an untapped source

A professional fishermen's association says the local shores of Georgian Bay are untapped resources—chock full of beautiful bass.

Penetanguishene could be the host community of the Pro Bass Fish Hunt this summer. If all goes well, the Pro Bass Association could

Penetanguishene as the host town for its Annual Pro Bass Classic, which would draw bigger crowds and more tourist dollars.

Pro Bass President Mark Mandic told the Arena, Parks and Recreation Board the derby, which is planned for Summerama Weekend, July 31 to August 3, would bring in

\$40,000 that weekend and possibly more in later years.

Mandic was quite excited about the possibilities for the fishermen around the Penetanguishene-Midland area, and he added people do not realize the riches that live beneath the surface off-shore.

"Basically the reason we picked it (Penetanguishene) is its potential for big fish. We like to see big fish and open up new areas," he said. "The fishing potential is just unreal."

"We're trying to open up new areas," Mandic said as he began to tell the committee about the riches hidden off shore. "We predict they'll catch close to a Canadian record."

The group of 100 fishermen would set off from the town dock early Saturday morning, he said, and would attract more crowds when they brought in their catches at four in the afternoon. He reassured the Chamber of Commerce's representative, Bob Klug, that the

hunt would not detract from but add to Summerama festivities.

According to Arena, Parks and Recreation Board Secretary Ron Marchildon, the town still must consider whether it has the facilities to host the event.

Villa volunteers thanked

Among the many volunteers who give their time to residents of the Villa Community Care Centre, all of whom will be honoured on Thursday, is a 13-year volunteer, Vera Paul of Midland.

Thursday evening is the time of the annual volunteer appreciation night hosted by Alex Jarlette, owner of the Villa.

Eleven-year pin recipients will be Lily Loverock, Freida and Harold McFarland, Mae Schramm, Edna Beauchamp, Ted Johnstone, Florence Logan, Marie Kelly, Bea Campbell,

Doris Johnson, Johanna Beaugois, and Ernie Cowden, all of Midland.

The other volunteers are Gleneice Baker, Ed Baker, Adeline Robillard, Jean Foster, Elsie Sommacal, Kit Burroughs, Edna Harrison, Helen Grigg, John Gianetto, Joan Goodfellow, Marg Brown, Gail Donavon, Sybil Goldring, Lucie Markham, Vi Rudyk, Audrey Head, Beryl Girard, Lillian Chessell, Jean Gibson, Isabel Bradshaw, Marj Dalziel, Vi Ellis, Alice Horne, Wally Smith, Clarence Lee, Joe Burns, Earl Roberts, George Freeman, Al Freeman,

Larry Pearson, Marg Shewfelt, Helena Cheatley, Doris Widdes, Grace

McGuire, Olga Lefaive, Bea Marchildon, Mary McMulkin, Betty and Norm Tumber, Cy and Nina Tumber, Cathy Smith

and Wally Smith, Ed Baker, Glennie Baker, Mary-Jo Quilty, Frances Irvine, Clem Asselin, Florence Moreau, Loretta

Boyd, Isabel Casey, Nesa Levigne, Brenda Duckworth, Jean Kendal, Elaine Bruer, Jim Hart, Tilka Hart, Becky Ehl, Melody Miller, and Stephanie Worts.



Spelling whiz

Olivia Brusselers, a grade 6 student at St. Ann's school in Penetanguishene, will be added to the school's wall of fame. She won a spelling bee involving the Penetanguishene elementary schools, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Brusselers says winning was not difficult, because the words were easy.

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Winner receives Dinner for two plus flowers for the table, a corsage or a boutonniere.

Draw will be Feb. 11th

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