

Reader's comments

An ode to St. Margaret's Church

Dear Editor:

Attached are some of my thoughts and memories of St. Margaret's Church which came to mind after the destruction of last December:

Why does a death or some serious illness of a loved one have to occur? Why does some earthquake, devastation or catastrophic event come upon us? Why must these things have to happen before we tell that loved one how much we love, appreciate and are eternally indebted to them for their indelible stamp and influence implanted in us through their love and care for us from our first meeting together? Surely a eulogy or a "Thanks for everything" would be more meaningful if freely given in sunny weather rather than being prompted by the storm.

Indeed it is now so, my beloved spiritual mother, St. Margaret's, your hour of desolation and crucifix-

Lions give a roaring good hand

Dear Editor:

May I use your editorial page to thank the Midland Lions Club for their superbly competent sponsorship of the second Daffodil Open on Monday August 31?

When the Cancer Society was looking for a group to organize their second golf tournament, the Midland Lions Club were quick to offer their services. Their organizational abilities and enthusiasm resulted in an extremely successful day. The prize table was wonderful, and 99 golfers turned out to enjoy a great day at Brooklea. The special event added more than \$4,500 to the cancer fund, and it will be well used. There are many in our community who depend on the Cancer Society for assistance and moral support when this disease strikes. They are all as appreciative as we in the Cancer Society are.

To Lions Alex Guoba and Gord Hogg and all their fellow club members and to organizer Lloyd Roberts and everyone who helped to make the day a success, our warm thanks. Because of people like you, we are winning!

With best wishes,
Shirley Whittington,
Chairman of Campaign,
Midland and District Unit
Canadian Cancer Society.

ion has urged me to tell you how I have loved you from the beginning and how you have shown your love for me in so many ways from one day old at baptism, through the formative years of childhood, the demanding years of adulthood and yes, even more, the insecure years of the seventh age of man.

Your motherly concern and care, how you gathered all your children from the cradle to the grave, around you under your mantle of love cannot adequately be expressed by the actual written word as your love is of the spirit forming the very foundation of our lives in time and in eternity.

However, now in your hour of trial as you await your resurrection, while you still continue your loving care though your mantle is in ashes, it seems so right, so natural to review with you some of the beautiful memories while I was under your mantle, which lovingly protected and guided your children of Midland, of the land of the Hurons and Brebeuf, of the inhabitants surrounding our beautiful Georgian Bay.

You gave your altar servers so many privileges and pleasures over the years. As altar boys (girls now too, and rightly so) we shared in the emotional experiences of so many of your children, laughed with them in joys, cried with them in sorrows, the babies at baptism, the marriages with all their finery, flowers and confetti, the funerals as the bells tolled with the parish family comforting each other in mutual affection and the joyous participation in the glorious liturgy of the special feast days - how could one forget Christmas

and Easter in St. Margaret's. In all these events involving your children you, dear mother, dispensed the graces of God abundantly, tenderly and graciously as only a loving mother is wont to do.

You provided your flock with beautiful music from your great organ, the glorious singing of the adult and children's choirs. I always loved the solos of George Grise and Kay O'Reilly - how peaceful to listen to Mildred Robitaille gently playing the hymns to our Blessed Mother at evening benediction.

It was always reassuring to hear the friendly peal of your bells rolling out over our town and the bay, reminding us to thank God at mid-day with the angelus, to pray for the soul of one of your family as the bell tolled both in joy and sorrow, to call us to vespers in the peace of the evening. Indeed it was reassuring to hear that you were still there watching over us as we daily pursued our raison d'etre.

Your third pastor, Father Barcello, enfolded so many of us in your mantle of love, of trust, of hope, of reconciliation and wisdom in the sacrament of baptism. He carried out his mandate so well for so long, 1897 to 1921, with the visible highlight which became our second home for three quarters of a century, the building of the St. Margaret's Church of 1912 to 1986.

Father Castex, the successor of Father Barcello, has left the legacy of "the builder" also. Within a year of his arrival the magnificent bells of St. Margaret's began pealing out the good news over Midland for the next 64 years. These bells were cast with tender lov-

ing care near the birthplace of Jean Marie Castex near Lourdes in France. He and his St. Margaret's family left their indelible mark also in the building of Sacred Heart School in 1928 and St. Mary's in 1929. In these my early years of childhood, I can say that Father Castex, his housekeepers, Helen and

B. McCullough, his sacristan Mr. Pitman and St. Margaret's rectory were truly my second family, my second home. His schools rounded out the family circle of life.

And so the Second World War came along, many of your children left home to defend one of your

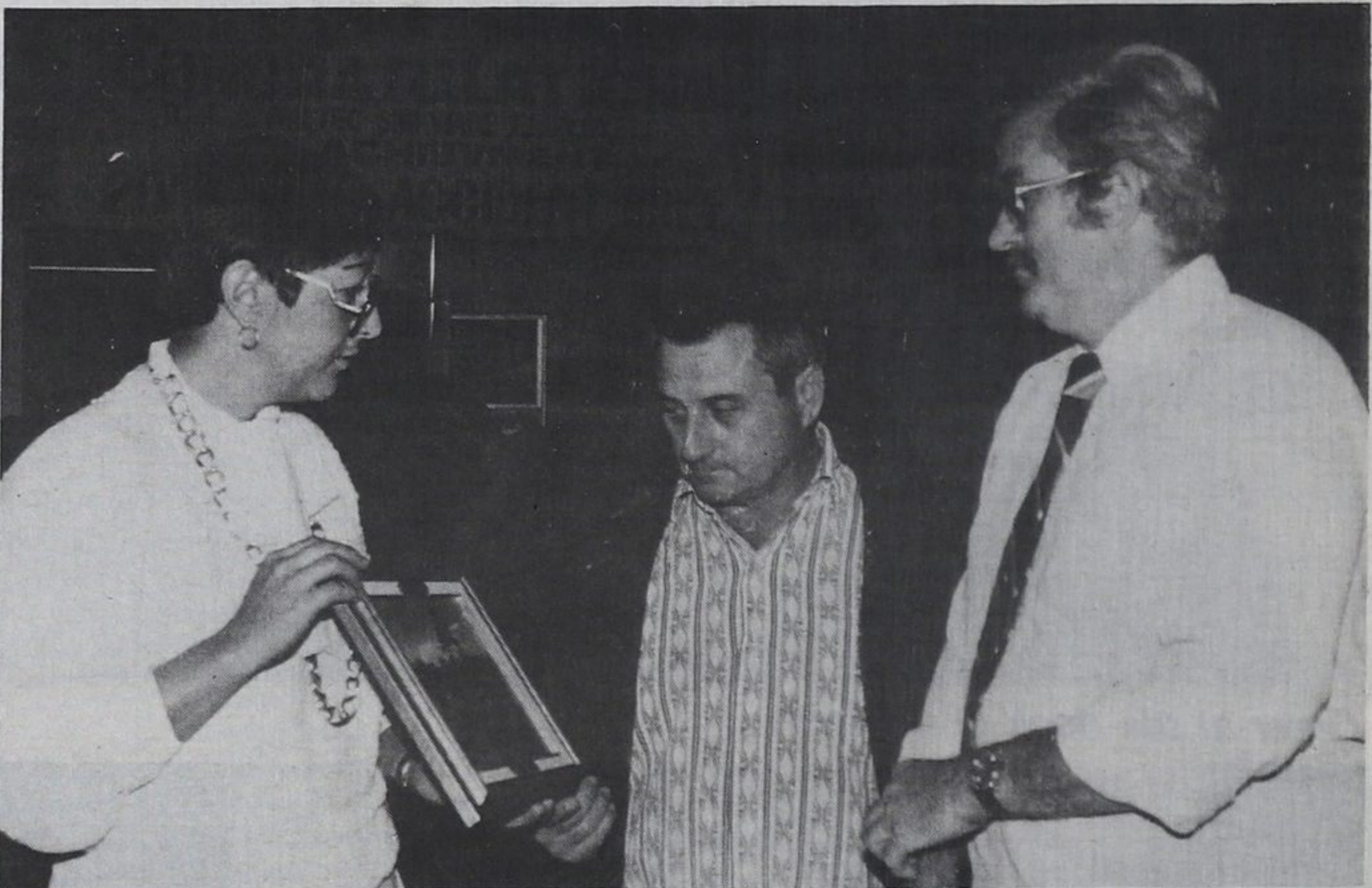
values, among many, the freedom to worship. The years have gone by to this day and yet you, St. Margaret's, will continue to influence, to protect and guide your children under your mantle of love, your children of the past and your children of the future.

As your home lies in ashes you are there for us

- at your resurrection you will be there for us - your motherly love will always be there for us.

Thank you, St. Margaret's for the love affair from one of your children of your early days.

Charles Ambrose Strimas,
Orillia.



Anniversary recognition

Waltec Sinkware has been a Midland industry, under its present name and formerly as Kindred Industries Ltd., for 25 years. The Midland Chamber of Commerce has congratulated the company. Above, Chamber

manager Carol Baker makes a presentation to two 25-year employees, Murray Ladouceur and Stan Bastedo.

Chamber to open weekends

With the increased tourist traffic, the Midland Chamber of Commerce has decided to open both the King Street and the Martyrs' Shrine tourist information centres for weekends in September.

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