

Don't like strings on deal, say politicians

While a proposed seniors centre in Midland is a fine idea, the Town of Midland should beware of committing to long term support, is the opinion of the members of the town's finance committee.

Askennonia Seniors Centre spokesman Rev. Jim Manuel told the committee last week that the centre can open as soon as the town commits itself to continued support. "We are all ready to go except for the bylaw. We can't move another inch without it."

The committee explained its problem with the request that the bylaw it is being asked to approve requires the municipality to provide annually 20 per cent of the centre's approved budget.

The committee decided to recommend that council not approve the bylaw. The biggest problem is the financial commitment beyond one year. Also, the committee's understanding from previous meetings was that the town was being asked only for a one time financial contribution.

The Askennonia Senior Centre is a community-wide project of Calvary Baptist Church. The church is donating space. Church members are among the members of the board of directors.

The Centre can't open without money from the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services. The province will pay half of the budget. The non-profit corporation behind the Centre is responsible for 30 per cent. The problem is that the provincial money won't be released until the town covers the remaining 20 per cent, and commits itself to continuing support.

"Community and Social Services are playing a little game here. It's their way of weeding them down. It's unfortunate," Deputy-Reeve Nancy Keefe, finance committee chairman, said the next day.

The committee at its December meeting is going to hear a request for sup-

port on similar terms for another group's project. The deputy-reeve after the meeting said, "Is (helping groups obtain provincial money) our responsibility? That's the problem I have."

Rev. Manuel said that part of the \$40,000 budget would pay for a program director. Having a program director makes the difference between a club and a centre, he said.

The town has given the Centre \$2,000 and agreed to contribute up to eight hours a week of the time of its recreation director. It was asked last week for another \$1,000.

The committee would like to see the Centre open. Keefe described the Centre as wonderful and needed. "A day care centre for Alzheimer's is one of the best projects you could have."

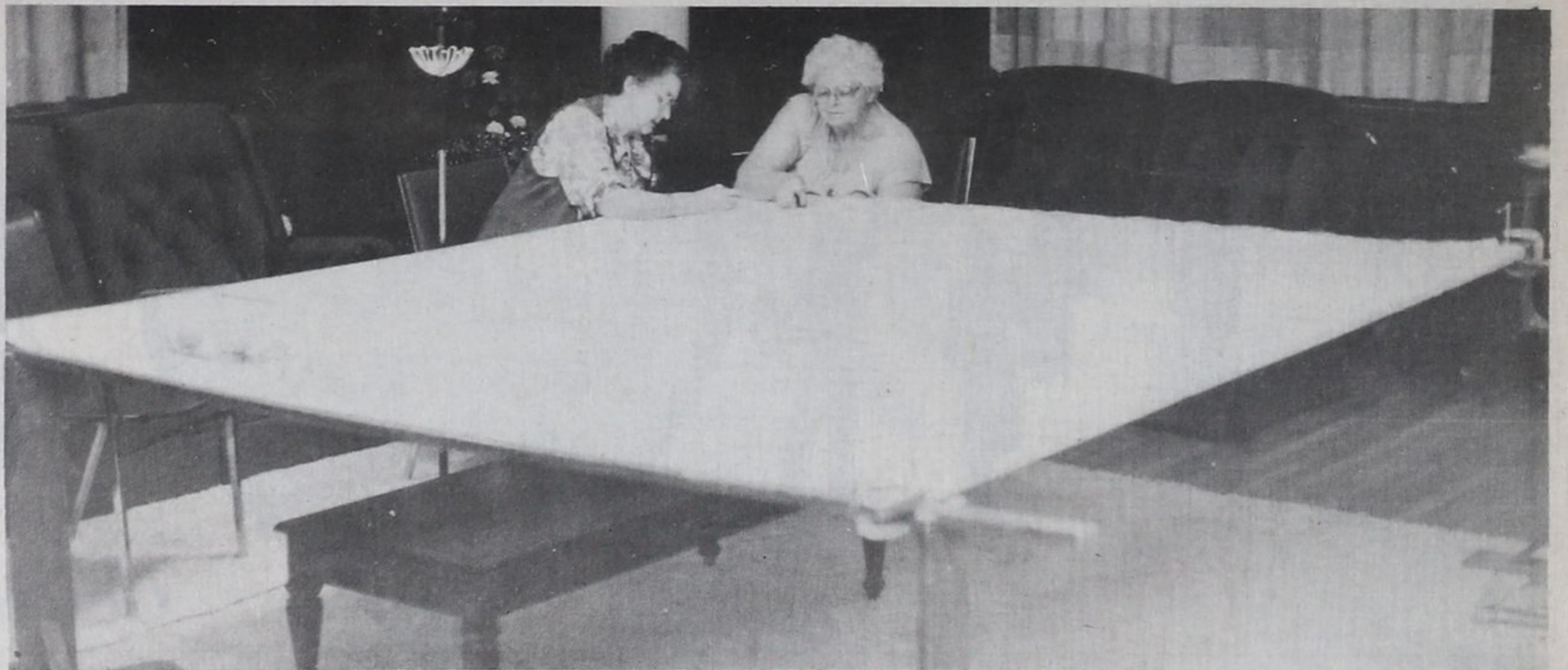
No approval at this time doesn't mean the finance committee can't be approached again. Keefe suggested the Centre approach the Rotary Club or another club for the cash it needs. "I'd like them to try, if they could."

"Our concern is the long-term commitment."

"I would like to be able to write a cheque for \$3,000 myself and give it to them."

The finance committee's attention is focused on the cost of garbage disposal. "Garbage is the the thing. We are going to have to pay a pile of money for garbage disposal. There's going to be holy hang to pay for that." The extra cost of garbage disposal is going to be a burden on taxpayers. "And we can't do a thing about it."

Rev. Manuel told the committee the municipality would enjoy the benefit but only contribute 20 per cent of the budget. "We hope this is the kind of deal you couldn't walk away from." Mayor Al Roach noted that \$3,000 is seven per cent of \$40,000. "I'm trying to find a way to support this," he said. Rev. Manuel described the budget as "\$1 and loose change per senior citizen per year."



Long way to go

Evelyn Banks and Rena Bell and the other members of their informal quilting group are making a quilt with a trillium design. The

quilt is a prize in a raffle, the money from which will be donated to the Huronia District Hospital fundraising campaign. The

two women were starting on the pattern in the Budd Watson Gallery last week.

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STD clinic opens with free treatment

In 1986, 24,918 diagnosed cases of sexually transmitted diseases were reported in Ontario. During the same period 300 reported cases were from Simcoe County, although actual numbers are probably several times this.

The Simcoe County District Health Unit opened a county-wide clinic Nov. 2 at Cedar Pointe Business Park, Unit -39.

Free counselling, diagnosis and treatment

for AIDS, gonorrhoea, syphilis, chlamydia, genital herpes, venereal warts, etc. will be available. Clinic hours will be Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Thursday 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

All information will be confidential. Appointments can be made by calling 737-4222, drop-in clients will be accepted. Local physicians will be providing the medical services.



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