

Learns of possible changes

Roach sits in on county council

by Barbara Skelton
Al Roach referred to himself in jest as the mayor of the "city" of Midland at the Simcoe County council chambers at Midhurst last week. He was addressing a task force on county government.

The task force is holding hearings throughout the province to get the reaction to the report, Patterns for the Future, prepared by a provincial government

committee on county government

Cities do not sit on county councils (for example, Barrie and Orillia do not participate). To be elevated to city status, a town needs a population of at least 15,000. A check with the Midland tax department sets the town's population at 12,049, but this is a 1985 figure.

Midland, as a town, is represented at the county

level by Reeve Bev Day and Deputy Reeve Nancy Keefe. Mayors of towns do not normally sit on county council.

The advisory committee on county government recommended a change: all heads of municipalities should be on county council, it said.

But Deputy Reeve Keefe said, "I wouldn't run for mayor if I had to come to county council, because of

the commitment." Keefe said that doesn't mean that she is planning to run, only that the mayor's job is demanding enough as it is.

The report suggests possible higher pay for city mayors or easing the mayor's workload through delegation to other council members or citizen appointees.

Since some municipalities have more ratepayers than others, the

larger ones have more than one vote on county council.

The advisory committee recommended a change in how a municipality's number of votes at the county level is calculated. But it suggests keeping the multiple votes system. For instance, it wants to change the minimum population for a second vote from 1,000 to 2,500.

Simcoe County has already recommended such an amendment to its act, according to the reeve of Collingwood.

An alternative would be a federation of municipalities with one vote each. In the case of very small towns, two or more could join under one representative. There was



Saddy



Keefe

little support for this idea at the hearing. The needs of one small community are not necessarily the same as those of its neighbor, some said.

County representatives could be directly elected on

the basis of population, one per 5,000. But as population increases, councils could become too large for effective participation in debate, according to the report of the advisory committee.

Governor-General's Medal won by St. Theresa's grad

St. Theresa's High School student Melissa Belfry has received the Governor-General's Medal for High Standing in Grade 13.

The Ontario scholar received the award Sunday afternoon during the 1987-88 graduation ceremony at her school.

Belfry was one of seven Ontario scholars at St. Theresa's. Also winning a

certificate of merit, and recipients of \$100 each, on Sunday, were Lori Belcourt, Kent MacDonald, Julie Merkley, Sara Garrett, Michael Roth, and Mia Garrett.

Peggy Monague had the highest standing in Grade 12. She also had the highest standing in English in Grade 12. She received \$50 from the St. Margaret's Catholic Women's League

for highest achievement in Grade 12.

Melissa Belfry received \$50 from the Catholic Women's League for highest achievement in Grade 13, and \$100 from the Grey Sisters in recognition of her academic excellence and creativity.

Kent MacDonald received the \$50 Bernard LeClair Memorial Bursary for outstanding achievement in Grade 13. That bursary is donated by the Laurier Council of the Knights of Columbus.

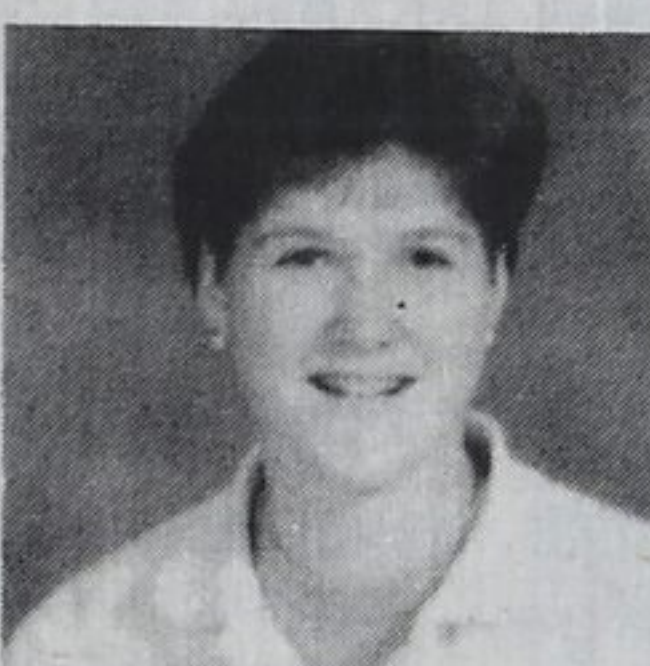
MacDonald also received \$50 donated by the St. Theresa's Ladies Auxiliary for being the best Grade 13 history student; the \$50 Anne MacDonald Memorial Bursary, for consistency in mathematics, donated by the Auxiliary; and the NEBS Business Forms \$500 scholarship for a student studying business at university.

Julie Merkley was presented with the \$700 Arthur Robitaille, Sr., bursary, as a deserving student who will be continuing her education.

Nancy Quesnelle was considered the student whose exemplary conduct, service and achievement, merited the commendation of the Catholic Education Community of Ontario. She received a certificate.



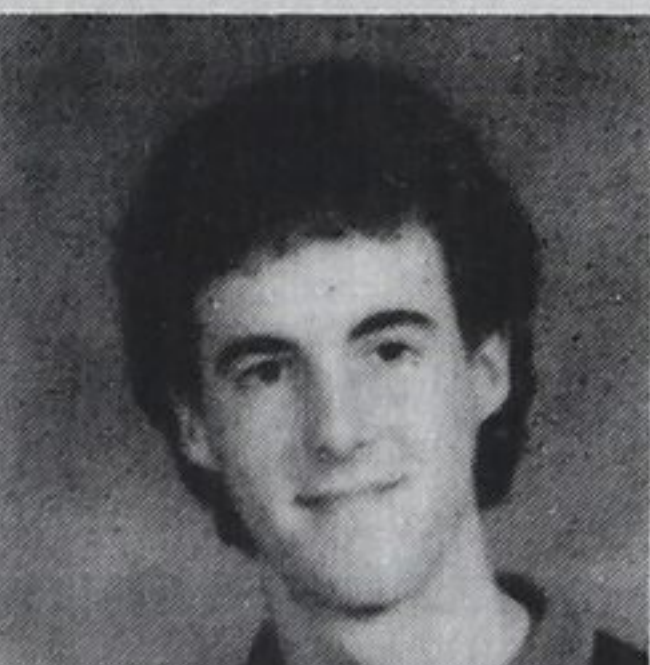
Belcourt



Quesnelle



Belfry



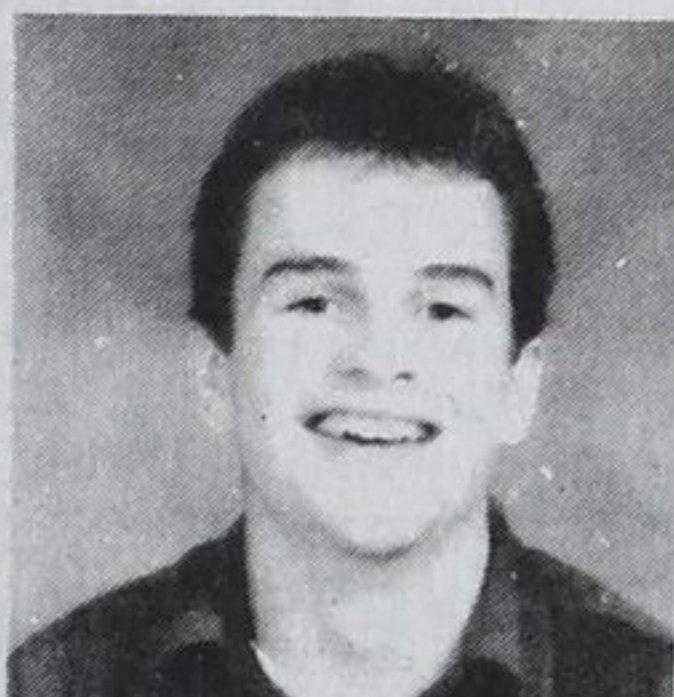
Roth



Sara Garrett



Mia Garrett



MacDonald



Merkley

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