



Teachers and families of exchange students got to know each other during the French exchange just concluded between students from Cobden and District Elementary School and their exchange twins from Beauceville, Quebec. At a sports night held at the Cobden school, some of the

families and teachers did some visiting. In front is Michelle Matthieu, daughter of Cobden's French teacher Diane Matthieu. Left to right are parents Pat and Mike Egan, Beauceville teacher Donald Allen, Mrs. Matthieu, parent Rene Rose, and Beauceville teacher Paul Rodrigue.

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## Exchange students say goodbyes

Fifty-two exhausted youngsters said tearful goodbyes early on the morning of June 6 after a hectic whirl of activity during the Cobden end of a French exchange twinning students from here and from Beauceville, Quebec.

The 26 Grade 7 and 8 students from Cobden and District Elementary School had been paired off with students from Beauceville at the beginning of the school year. A condition of participating in the exchange was that they would correspond with each other until the time came for the visits.

In March, the Cobden students visited Beauceville. The goodbyes were a little easier then, because the students could look forward to meeting again here in June.

But last Saturday morning, after a whirl of activity that took them up and down The Valley from Pembroke to Ottawa, the adventure finally ended.

During their week here, the students had taken a boat cruise from Pembroke to Petawawa, visited City Hall in Pembroke, played the survival game at Ottawa Whitewater Rafting, met the reeve of Cobden, had a potluck dinner and dance at the Memorial Hall, visited the Parliament Buildings, the Supreme Court Building, and the Governor General's residence in Ottawa, taken a bus tour of the capital city, and shopped there.

The students from Beauceville were accompanied by two of their teachers, Paul Rodrigue and Donald Allen. Mr. All-

en had high praise for the organizers of the exchange visit.

"This is the best-organized one we have ever been on," he said.

Diane Matthieu, who teaches French at Cobden and District Elementary School, co-ordinated the Cobden end of the exchange. She is pleased with the effect it has had on her students.

"It's helped them realize that you can really live the French language," she says. "It's not just something you learn in a classroom."

She feels that the awareness of each other's cultures will also benefit the students greatly. She believes that the effects of the exchange will continue.

"Many of the students have indicated that they are planning to visit with

their 'twins' during the summer," she said.

This is the first French exchange that Cobden and District Elementary School has participated in since 1977. Mrs. Matthieu says that at that time teachers were very much on their own in planning such an event.

Now there are guidelines available from SEVEC, an organization promoting French education, which make it much easier to organize an exchange.

Tentative plans are for an exchange to take place every second year to give students the chance to take part in one at some time during Grades 7 and 8. Teachers and students will explore another option for the "off" year. A four-day trip to Quebec City is a possibility for 1987-1988.