

Port Elgin council gives blessing to school reunion; plans taking shape already

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Port Elgin Council approved events proposed for a public school reunion at last Tuesday night's council meeting.

Sandra Hewitson, of Port Elgin, approached council saying a parade, festival gardens, street dance and a banner announcing the event all required council approval before they could be definitely included in the reunion plans.

The reunion, which will take place August 2, 3, and 4, is open to anyone who has ever attended or taught at the Port Elgin public school.

Hewitson told council about 800 invitations have been mailed out so far, and ads have been placed in various major newspapers in other cities. She said the organizers expect the reunion to be "the biggest thing that ever hit Port Elgin", with about four to five thousand people coming to town for the event. She said there are people interested in attending the reunion who had never been to the school.

The organizers had no money, Hewitson said, when they

started to plan the reunion. The Port Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Huron Fishing Club have each donated \$250 which helped cover the cost of postage. People attending the reunion are asked to forward a \$5 registration fee, which is coming in slowly, she admitted. Some of this money will also go toward postage, as well as toward a book filled with memorabilia. The book would also have blank pages in the back for autographs.

Pins with pictures of the old schoolhouse on them have already been ordered and will be on sale this week. T-shirts commemorating the event have also been ordered.

Darlene Turner, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, asked where these people will be staying as the August long weekend has traditionally been the busiest weekend for motel owners in Grey and Bruce counties. Hewitson replied the invitations specified an early reply so accommodation can be booked, and said plans are under consideration

to accommodate an overflow.

Plans for the reunion include registration on Friday, followed by a social evening and dance with pictures and other displays set up. Saturday starts off with a parade at 10 a.m. Other events for the day include Festival Gardens at the arena, a garden party, an ice cream social, plays in both the public and high schools, a chicken barbecue, and a street dance. On Sunday, a picnic is planned at North Shore Park. She said other things are on the go, but she was unable to say what they were yet.

The chicken barbecue is being put on by the Port Elgin Suns Hockey Team and the street dance by the Oldtimers.

The reunion organizers have about 5,000 names of people who have attended the public school over the years, but don't have addresses for some or have delivered invitations by hand or through family members.

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If all royalty were so lovely.....Saugeen District Secondary School Prom Queen Kris Kearns is flanked by her princesses Gillian Gardiner (left) and Heather Coulter for this photo taken at Saturday's Prom at the Casino.

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The Lake Huron Fishing Club brought eight months of hard work to a successful end with the release of approximately 34,000 chinook salmon fingerlings into the Saugeen and Penatangor Rivers, this past weekend. The young fish are the result of a fish-hatching program conducted at the Port Elgin town pond over the winter. The club originally had over 40,000 eggs from the Ministry of Natural Resources and having 34,000 fingerlings after eight months is considered very successful. Helping the club with the release of the three-inch fish were members of the 1st Port Elgin Scouts, 'A' Troop, who visited the hatchery during the winter as part of earning their conservation badges. Club officials estimate the fish will grown to about 12-14 inches in length and weigh about one-half pound by the fall. Eventually, the fish will return to spawn in the Saugeen and Penatangore in the fall of 1988 and will test some lucky fishermen's skill with between 10 and 25 pounds of fighting fury. The club now plans to expand the hatchery operation to include approximately 200,000 eggs this fall. Photo above shows a member of the Boy Scout troop transferring the young fish into the large tank that was used to transport the fish to the release points.

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