

## Kara, Brigitte share bilingual experiences



BILINGUAL EXCHANGE partners Kara Rosenquist (right) and Brigitte Hannequin have spent the past month together—two weeks in French, in Quebec and two weeks in English, in Halton county. Kara holds an original watercolor painting of the Chateau Frontenac she bought in Quebec City.

After spending a bilingual month together, Kara Rosenquist, Church St., and Brigitte Hannequin of Ste. Foy, Quebec, said their good-byes on Sunday. They were a happy part of a 48-person group which spent two weeks in Quebec and then two weeks in Halton county, as part of a Bilingual Exchange program.

Brigitte, who is 14, also took part in the same program last year and was twinned with a girl from Ottawa. This time she stayed in Acton with the Rosenquist family and the two girls went each day to Oakville to join in the planned events.

One of the "monitors" on the exchange is Eileen Spencer of Milton, who is a French teacher at Acton high. She will be teaching Kara French this coming year.

There were four monitors with the group all the time, two from Ontario and two

from Quebec. Kara, who is 13, knows Quebec pretty well since her family lived in Montreal for about 10 years. She started taking French in grade one in Montreal.

Brigitte learns English in school too. She attends a private school with 600 other Catholic girls.

In Quebec, the girls spoke French and here they speak English, and both feel they are benefitting very much from the experience.

The girls chatted in English, with a few quiet conferences in French and the occasional help of gestures.

"I think I make more sense now," Kara smiles. "I find it easier to put a sentence together."

Brigitte agrees; her English is better now, too. Kara would like to go on a similar exchange again.

She applied for it at the school. Some of the cost is

paid by the school board, some by the federal government, and the rest raised by the individual student. Kara sold garbage bags to raise money for her trip.

The Ontario students went Sunday, July 3 to Sillery, Quebec, to meet the other 24 members of the group. They went camping for four days, enjoyed sightseeing and sports. They stayed at Brigitte's home.

In Halton, they all went camping at Rockwood. They saw Niagara Falls and Marineland, Toronto and Centre Island. At the Science Centre the signs were only in English, making understanding difficult for the visitors. They had a sports day at Oakville.

"How about politics, Brigitte?" She is very interested in the situation, although many people her age are not. And she doesn't think Quebec will separate.



CHARMING CHARMINE Bigelow is one of 80 contestants for the Miss CNE crown this year. Miss Bigelow was chosen Miss Acton Fall Fair of 1976.

## In running "Miss CNE"

Charmaine Bigelow, Miss Acton Fall Fair of 1976, will be among 80 queens from their respective agriculture societies competing for the Miss CNE crown and the honour of reigning over 20 days of the exhibition.

"I can't say I'm not scared, but I am looking forward to it," she said. She added she was "in for the fun of it."

Contestants are judged on

poise, personality and appearance. The entire event will be staged in the main arena of the coliseum starting at 10.15 a.m. August 17, and ending with the crowning of Miss CNE at approximately 4 p.m. the same day.

The annual Miss CNE — Sweetheart of the Fairs pageant is the highlight that kicks off the Canadian National Exhibition.

Free Press Family Page



## Painted Box

by Wendy Thomson

There's always much to read about Alberta, grain, oil, cattle, and things like that, but there is also another resource that isn't talked about too much—the great wealth of stories available. They fascinate me.

Folks around here know that when the talk about past years starts, I'll sit like a sponge and soak up all the words. At some time I fully intend to record some of the tales, but not quite yet. I'm enjoying the luxury of sitting back listening, not having to interrupt with questions or bother taking notes.

Some of the yarns are about homesteading, stories like we didn't hear too often in Ontario.

Others are about happenings not too long ago, that couldn't happen in too many places other than Alberta.

Most stories we hear could happen anywhere, like the one about the guy who chased a porcupine up the road with a screwdriver. If you raise a questioning eyebrow at this, he'll insist "Well, it was all there was in the truck!"

One of my favorite tales came from a farmer who woke one night when a truck pulled into his yard and out of sight behind the barn. Shortly after, a second truck wheeled in, swung a tight circle and took off the way it had come.

Before the farmer could get to the door, the first truck flew out from his hiding place, tore out to the road, and headed off in the opposite direction from the other.

By then the farmer was completely mystified and could hardly wait till morning to phone the owner of truck number two, which he'd recognized. (The driver, incidentally, was described as a rather large, well-fed person.)

Anyhow, the driver's explanation was simple. He also had been asleep and was awakened by the noise of somebody at his 300 gallon gas tank. He ran downstairs and threw open the front door just as the thieves roared out of his yard.

Not really thinking, but madder than heck, he jumped into his truck and followed them, chasing over the country roads until they tried to duck and hide at the farmer's.

The driver thought he had them for sure and followed. He was just about to jump and holler for the farmer to give him a hand, when he realized that, in his rage and haste, he'd forgotten to grab any clothes!

I guess he just couldn't see himself making a citizen's arrest in the buff, and, discretion being the better part of valor, he beat a hasty

retreat.

The story narrated right after that one, came from a farmer who is also a government official. I forget how the mechanical bit goes, but basically the tale is as follows.

This farmer was out in the fields on his tractor, a few miles from home, when something in the motor blew and drenched him to the skin with hot oil. He danced around in agony, and stripped his clothes off as fast as he could.

Then what? There he was, bare (except for an oil slick), some distance from home, on a fairly well-travelled road.

As the cars came along, he ducked behind a stook of oats and watched over the top for someone he knew.

After a few hours, he finally recognized a car and, standing up as far as discretion allowed, waved madly to attract the couple's attention.

They waved back and continued on their way.

It got darker and colder; he could wait no longer. Picking up his oil-saturated things, he vaulted onto the tractor, bundled the clothes in his lap, and headed for home at top speed, hoping to meet no-one on the way.

Whenever I see this man's picture in the paper—solemn, a little debonair—my mind immediately flashes back to imagine him sitting, hunched over, shoulders gleaming blackly in the dusk, teeth clenched, desperately willing the tractor to go faster.

I'll bet it wasn't that way at all though. He probably just moseyed along, commenting casually to anyone he met "Nice evening. A little chilly, though," before cruising on past.

## Visitors

Mr and Mrs. Philip Drysdale and children Heather and Gregory of Sidney, B.C. are visiting with Mrs. Anne Drysdale and family and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Duhamel and family of Eden Mills.

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PAM-BRENNEMAN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Brennehan, R.R. 1, Embro, and John Last, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Last, 216 Main St. N., Acton, will be married at Knox United church, Embro, on August 20 at 3.30 p.m.

## Humber graduate

Norman Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Moore, R. H. 1, Moffat, was graduated with honours from Humber College of Applied Arts and

Technology, Toronto, in Funeral Service. Mr. Moore attended Brookville Public School and Acton High School, and is employed by Wall-Custance Funeral Home, Guelph.



NORMAN MOORE

## Twin Rotary clubs, district governor says

Rotary district governor William MacKay, speaking at the Acton Rotary meeting of July 26, proposed the twinning of local districts and clubs in Ontario with those in Quebec as a way to help end Canada's unity problem.

Twinning clubs would visit each other, or support projects in each other's area. The concept of twinning is not new to Rotarians, as it has been done very successfully with clubs in the Bahamas and the third world.

Mr. MacKay was here on the annual visit by the district governor to the local club. Last week he visited George-



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