

Canada day speakers explore culture, identity at high school

Garbage clean-up is community good deed



A FRENCH FOLKSINGER was just one of the many guests at the high school Canada day. The bilingual singer entertained students and teachers with his versatile guitar and piano performance. Many different cultures and languages were on display at the event.



SQUARE DANCING was just one of the topics at the high school Canada day that required student involvement. Students danced to both traditional square dancing music and popular tunes such as Bad Bad Leroy Brown.



WILLIE THRASHER, an Inuit folksinger, entertained and informed students at the high school Canada day. Willie's songs convey many of his feelings about the treatment and beliefs of the native people of Canada.

Many of the traditions, folklore and culture of Canada were exposed to students and community members at the high school Canada day last Wednesday. About 25 guests from various parts of Canada were on hand to discuss with students their identity as a Canadian and some of the language and heritage problems so much a part of Canada today.

The day began with a film assembly and Canadian music performed by the high school band. George Vincent, a well-known broadcaster, writer and lecturer on Canada and Latin America, took students on a trip across this vast country with the help of slides. Beginning on the east coast Mr. Vincent worked westward discussing much of the history of Canada and the outstanding features of each province, including the huge northern territories.

At 11 a.m. the seminars began with the remainder of the day divided into three sections. Demonstrations, films and discussions were presented each hour.

A demonstration in the bear pit area on the training and handling of guard dogs was a favorite for many students. The dogs performed for students not only their most vicious, protecting ways but their friendly enjoyable pet qualities as well.

Gordon Miller, a representative from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, conducted a discussion with students on the contemporary Indian people and how the department works with the Indians to help them help themselves.

Mr. Miller, who is an Indian from the Six Nations reserve in Brantford, explained to students many of the problems facing the modern Indian. The problems of education and preserving their culture are all big issues among the Indians.

his songs of the north and the problems the native people face today. Mr. Thrasher, originally from Aklavik, in the Northwest Territories, is now a recreation director for the Native People's Centre in Toronto. He feels that Canada's Indian and Eskimo people have a unique culture that must not be forgotten, but instead brought to life, respected and enjoyed by all Canadians.

Gwen Powers, a teacher at Sheridan College in Oakville, presented an interesting seminar on quilting. Mrs. Powers began with a slide presentation showing how quilting has changed throughout the depression, the wars and the decades leading up to the seventies. Mrs. Powers stressed that quilting is a very old art that represents the people of Canada and the changes they have experienced. Each quilting design has a story to tell. Mrs. Powers works for Community Services and Special Interests at Sheridan and instructs quilting, design, stitching and needlepoint.

Mrs. Janet Beck instructed students and parents in the art of spinning. Mrs. Beck had many types of materials on hand that could be spun into thread, including her own hair. Some of the many uses for spinning and weaving threads were suggested by Mrs. Beck.

Representatives from the Canadian Armed Forces, R.C.M.P. and the 48th Highlanders spoke to students about the requirements for joining these groups and the type of activities in the various programs.

Frank Cosentino, ex-Argo, spoke to students about how sports play an important part in our culture. Using a tape-recorder Mr. Cosentino

played back some of the great moments in Canada's sporting world.

Other topics presented by the guests include Halton Agriculture, Seals and Sealing, Building the C.N. Tower, Square dancing, writing with Carol Bolt and Graeme Gibson, Ministry of Energy, Project North, Toronto Harbour Commission, Ecology in Ontario, Mennonite Folk Art, Condition of the Great Lakes, Conservation of Energy, Niagara Escarpment and folk singers.

Keeping the theme of Canada day, a red and white contest was held. Bonnie Caplan and Jim Saxon were each presented with watches for wearing the most red and white.

A variety show featuring one of Canada's most popular folk group, Maple Sugar was

held for everyone at 2.30. The show included folksingers, fiddlers and dancers. John Bottomley, an Acton resident, performed a medley of bagpipe tunes for the variety show audience.

Canada day was originally planned for January 10, however the effects of a real Canadian storm caused it to be cancelled. Mrs. Wanda Hall and Harold Mahatoo, both teachers at the high school, spent many months in preparation for Canada day. Their dedication to provide students with something different, exciting and informative made Canada day a big success at the high school.



SERGEANT Paddy Coyle was one of the guests present for Canada day at the high school last Wednesday. Sergeant Coyle was a representative from the Canadian Armed Forces.

A group of 81 Guides and Brownies set out Saturday morning at 10 a.m. to clean-up the town for their Litter Glitter campaign. The program was sponsored by McDonald's who also supplied garbage bags for the day. By 1 p.m. the girls had collected 70 bagfuls of garbage from around town, at the park, school grounds and the library. This activity was the girls' community good deed.

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KAREN Chapman and Mike Morris promenade during the square dancing session on Canada day.

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