

Halton exchange program in its fourth year

By Terry Ruggles
Halton young people have opened their doors to their Quebec neighbors.

Forty-four students aged 13 to 17 from across Halton are playing host this week and next to 44 students from Quebec's St. Felicien district in a French-English exchange program sponsored by the Halton Board of Education.

The Halton students left for Quebec June 30

and returned July 14 with their newly acquired French friends.

Last Monday, to beat the rainy weather the students got together at Lord Elgin High School for an activities day playing basketball, monopoly and piecing together their own mini-newspaper.

Daily trips are planned for the students to local tourist spots such as Niagara Falls or

Pioneer Village. The cost of the program which includes transportation to and from Quebec and the assorted outings was \$85.

Federal grants, provincial subsidy, a garage sale and selling garbage bags to raise money also helped to make the exchange program happen, said Heather Smith, a councillor on the exchange and a French

teacher from Burlington Central High School. This is Halton's fourth year in the exchange program which has been available from the province for the past eight years.

While many of the Anglophone students gathered with other anglophones in games, as did the Francophones with their fellows in the evening in the host home the student has to speak the host language to

manage," he said Smith. The majority of the student's parents in the exchange are not bilingual.

"It's hard to determine the level of improvement (in the student's picking up the second language) but it gives the student if nothing else the confidence to try," said Heather Smith, and at that age confidence is a big thing especially in learning a language.

Another plus in the program aside from the opportunity of being given a start in a new language she said is the student's exposure to an entirely new culture with different foods, customs and way of life.

While this is the only summer exchange program, the Halton Board of Education offers similar programs throughout the year.

The level of speaking

ability of the students participating varies, said Smith. Most students who signed up for the program were students in grade eight going into Grade 9.

Last Tuesday, more than a 1,100 students participating in the summer exchange gathered together in Toronto for a special reception at city hall.



A new friend. Steve Bergin, left and his mother, Olive, of Milton provide a welcome hug to French exchange student Louis Barriere from St. Jean, Quebec.

MP favors energy rebate

Canada's federal government should be doing something to help low and middle income citizens being hurt by ever-increasing energy prices, according to Halton MP Otto Jelinek.

Jelinek recently called on the federal government to introduce an energy tax rebate similar to the one proposed in the December 1979 budget that led to the defeat of the government of Joe Clark.

"We thought then that this was something the rest of the country wanted," Jelinek said in a telephone interview from his Ottawa office.

That budget, which also increased the price of gasoline by 18 cents a gallon became the prime issue in the election campaign that restored Pierre Trudeau to the government side of the House of Commons after a nine month absence.

According to figures provided by Jelinek, consumers pay up to 60 cents a gallon in tax whenever they purchase gasoline. He said a rebate of up to 15 per cent of that tax would assist many being hurt by the ever rising prices.

"This is something that Canadians are really concerned about," he said. "Ask any low or middle income family or farmer who has to depend on energy and you'll get a quick answer about how much it is hurting."

Jelinek added that despite his persistent demands for change, he doesn't expect any action by the government.

Quebec-Ontario exchange brings students together

By Linda Kirby
When 15-year-old Steve Bergin of Milton heard about a French student exchange program available through his school, he decided it was the perfect opportunity to begin learning French.

Louis, also 15, took English in school but has had little practice in using the language.

He chose to participate in the program sponsored by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, because he wished to have a better handling of the English language, he explained.

Steve found his first trip to Quebec an exciting adventure, he said, and remarked upon the friendliness of the people he met.

Excursions in Quebec included a trip to the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, as well as visits to historic sites and amusement centres.

Louis has designs on a career in the sciences, so one of the first trips the pair of teenagers made upon their arrival in Milton was to the

Ontario Science Centre. An avid downhill skier, Louis sampled his first game of squash at the Milton Optimist Centre where he was invited to play whenever he wished.

There have also been trips to Kelso, Ontario Place and the local tennis courts.

Louis will be in Milton for another week and will be shown such points of interest as Niagara Falls. The Bergin family also plans to take him on several days of camping in northern Ontario.

The program which is open to students across the country is a great idea, according to Olive Bergin, mother of Steve.

"The boys are of an age where they can take care of themselves a great deal," she noted, adding she enjoyed entertaining the Quebec student in their home.

Louis comes from a town larger than Milton, but he was full of praise for Milton and its friendly people.

Steve said he would now like to return to Quebec for a visit and admits that he now has a definite interest in the French language where as before he was not overly enthusiastic about it.



Much in common. Bordering on being the best of friends Sherri Hinks, 13 of Milton, (left) and Sarah Bouchard, 13 of St. Felicien, Quebec, (right) are among 88 students participating in a French-English student summer exchange program.

Take off that tie! August month for sport shirt

The men of Milton are looking forward to the arrival of August this weekend—for August is once again "sports shirt month" in Milton, a whole month when jackets and ties are banned and cooler, sporty shirts are in vogue.

Milton Chamber of Commerce has once

again organized sports shirt month, following a successful promotion last year. In the 1980 campaign, tie-wearers were "fined" and the proceeds went to the Terry Fox cancer fund. There won't be any fines this year, said a Chamber official, just a lot of cooler people as the "dog days" of summer arrive.

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