

Students 'live-in' 17th century lifestyle at Ste. Marie

by Shirley Whittington
When the live-in contingent from Midland Secondary and Bayview elementary schools arrived at Sainte Marie Among the Hurons recently, they did it in proper seventeenth century style.

They came on snowshoes and packed their gear in on toboggans.

Only their food supplies for the three-day stay at the Jesuit mission were delivered by automobile.

The kids, many of them bundled in chemises, toques, and breeches that they had made themselves, started from the hill-top Bavarian House, three miles away, and plunged overland through the snowy bush, just as early visitors to the French outpost must have done.

Alan MacMenemy is an MSS history teacher, and his wife Valerie is a teacher at Bayview. MacMenemy's grade 13 history students are concentrating on

Canadian studies, and the trip into the past enriched their understanding of what life was like in early Huronia. Both groups undertook extensive research and study before the live-in.

Washroom facilities and one outside faucet were the only 20th Century amenities available to the modern voyagers.

They cooked their meals in the large open cookhouse fireplace. The oven presented a problem, and one student

confessed that they'd cheated a bit. "One of the boys brought in a thermometer."

Student chefs
The menus were as authentic as possible and featured venison stew, fish chowder, sumach jelly and porridge. The Bayview students brought bread and pies which they had made as part of their in-school program. In the cookhouse, one of the girls concocted an interesting dessert, using background research,

and materials at hand. Apples, spices, brown sugar and raisins were stirred into an empty pumpkin shell. She planned to bake her creation in the oven.

Because salt was a luxury probably not found in the original Sainte Marie kitchens, the student chefs worked without it. Nobody missed the seasoning, because appetites were sharpened by the winter air, and the physical work necessary for survival. "All I do is carry wood and boil water," said one girl.

The girls slept in the Bouvin building, and the boys spread out their sleeping bags in the En Pillier - a vertically boarded structure that is a reconstruction of what was thought to be the first building at Sainte Marie. It was in such a building that the first winter at Sainte Marie was probably spent.

During the live-in a fire watch was set up. Students took shifts tending fireplaces in the sleeping quarters, and in the cooking house.

Fire for warmth
Some of the young people elected to sleep in the longhouse in the Indian compound which was warmed by three fires. Convection currents

in the chimney-less building created a relatively smoke free level about two feet above the floor. Nevertheless, students who spent any time in the smokey building were able to appreciate eye and lung problems suffered by the Hurons.

Daytime activities included craft sessions where the students made corn husk dolls, spoons, nails and moccasins. There was time for fun too. Bayview students made "snakes" long wooden poles, painted and polished, which were slid along the snow in an approximation of "snow snake" - a game played by Hurons to improve their strength and accuracy.

This live-in is one of a series. Students have come to Sainte-Marie from places like Willowdale, Oshawa, Oakville, Cambridge and St. Catharines. They now have a first-hand and very personal impression of the day to day struggle for survival that was life in Huronia's 17th Century winters.

Ironically, a 20th Century winter kept one out of town group from participating. There was just too much snow to make the trip.



In kitchens of olde

Marion Bosch and Niko Pruesse, both from Midland, tend to duties in the Ste. Marie Among the Hurons cookhouse. The two were among students from Midland Secondary and Bayview Elementary schools who 'lived-in' at Ste. Marie last week to gain an understanding of seventeenth century lifestyles in the North American wilderness.

Bigger Heritage Festival '78 planned

Bigger and better than ever—those are the promises being made by Midland Kinsmen after their successful staging of Midland's second annual winter carnival—Heritage Days Festival 1977.

The sun shone and at times the air smelled of spring as Midlanders streamed into Little Lake on Saturday to participate in, or watch, log-sawings, nail-driving contests, snowmobile drag races, motorcycle competitions... Estimates

put the number of people in and out of the park on Saturday at over 6,000.

Major casualties of the day were the CKMP "No-Stars" who lost two of their superstars in the first period of broomball action against the Kinsmen Cream Puffs. Martin (Eel) Chapman suffered a fractured arm and Robin (Motor mouth) Geoffrey had to leave the ice with a bloody nose. Kinsmen took the game 3-2. CKMP saved face by winning the hot chocolate drinking contest.

Final winners (for the second year running) in broomball tournament were the Midland Rotary Club, whose star goalie, Vic Mlodecki let only two goals slip by him.

Mayor Moreland Lynn's log-sawing time lasted for one contestant only, as C. Wright won with a time of 40 seconds. Winner of the nail-driving contest was Cheryl Edwards.

In the late afternoon it was the motorcycle races which drew the 'oohs and aahs' as cyclists spun

around the track in often uncomfortably close quarters. The ladies though, took it easy—and the crowds left.

Midland's Kinsmen are already planning next year's Heritage Festival and have said that if the third Monday in February is declared a statutory holiday, Heritage Festival will coincide with that long weekend. Thanks go to the merchants of Midland, and carnival participants and spectators for a very successful Midland carnival.



Mayor tries his hand

Try as he might Mayor Moreland Lynn could not quite put it together in his attempts to win the log-sawing contest, one of many attractions during Heritage Days weekend in Midland.

Council notes

Midland treasurer Hilda Martin resigns

It was a generally quiet meeting of council on Monday night and although there were no major expenditures decided upon, several matters of business were noted.

Hilda Martin, Treasurer of the Town of Midland tendered her resignation last month and will revert to the position of Deputy Treasurer. According to Ms. Martin, the decision was made for "personal reasons...nothing political." Council will advertise immediately for new personnel to fill the vacancy.


They had received a requisition "from the clerk and the treasurer for the authority to purchase: a dictaphone for the Mayor's use at \$500; a cheque signer for the Mayor and Treasurer at \$766; and an IBM electric typewriter at \$805. Finance Committee recommended the purchases.

RCA lays off 550

Planning Director Ken Johnson, Midland's Planning Director, intends to retire at the end of 1977. Council hopes to keep planning on a "housekeeping" basis, but intends to advertise for a Planning Administrator with duties to commence July 1st, 1977.

Continuing Committee
While the Continuing Committee will meet in the near future to discuss "terms of reference" for the committee, the meeting will not be a "Committee of the Whole", off-limits to the press as originally intended. Committee will revert to "Committee of the Whole" only if subject matter falls into discussions of "staff or personnel".

Finance Committee
The Finance Committee announced that

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