## Resident fights for court trial in French language

by Dona Beauvais Rejeanne Guay-Galwas born.

Montgomery of the birth and her mother Provincial Court, in tongue is French. Penetanguishene. She has

The 'Judicature Act' braith says that she feels governs the functioning of like a second class citizen the Ontario Court system. in the country where she According to this act, the working language of the On January 26, 1978 courts is English. Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith benefit. will go before Judge is French Canadian by

Provincial law does careless driving, under take into consideration the traffic act. This in that not all residents of does not feel, however surrounding this case are. is provided by the court courts through an in- here. Ms. Guay-Galbraith for the accused, be they of terpreter nor does she believes that this case French, Italian, German, feel that she should have braith has stated that she will set a precedent in this or any other origin, in to.

order that a case may

will be represented in court, according to that law, and an interpreter will be present for her

According to OPP Constable Ivan Price the interpreter will be "just an ordinary citizen".

"Franco-Ontarion's are not an ethnic group." Ms. Guay-Galbraith states Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith, "we are very much a part of this

Ms . Guay-Galbraith says that she feels that her case should be heard by a French speaking court, from the Judge to the crown attorney. She says: "Anglophones Ms. Guay-Galbraith defend themselves in Quebec, they have their itself is not unique, but Ontario speak English. that she can properly rights, they are as much the circumstances Therefore an interpreter explain her case to the of a minority as we are

> Rejeanne Guay-Galwill not defend her case

through an interpreter. am a French Canadian She has said that she will refuse to answer questions put to her in this manner and that she will repeatedly state that she is a French-Canadian who deserves to have her trial

conducted in French. "I am not avoiding the action. I will gladly go and defend my case, in French," said Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith.

She says that she realizes that there is little that the judge or the court can do about this law and Ms. Guay-Galbraith wants to emphasize that she places no blame on local officials.

"I do not blame Penetanguishene Court, I know the history, I know that as such, and I don't blame the judge either,' she said.

Nor by her actions, she says, does she wish to polarize the people of this

"I just want to be treated with respect due to Franco-Ontarion's,"

Who then is Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith appealing to by refusing to cooperate with the judicial system, when she appears in court this Thursday?

The answer seems to be the Honorable Roy McMurtry, Attorney General of Ontario.

Last week Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith sent a letter to the Attorney General explaining the situation and her views on this subject.

A carbon copy of this letter was given to the Penetanguishene Citizen. The opening paragraphs explain Ms. Guay-Galbraiths views.

"In this letter, I do not wish to discuss the facts. the accusation or the defense of my case since

"The reason for my

woman living in my country, "Canada", and it is my right to defend myself in my mother tongue, which is French." The last paragraph

"Mr. McMuretry, I appeal to you to find solution to this conflict. I hope that it will be rectified as soon as possible, since January 26 is the

date of my next court

appearance." As this story goes to press Ms. Guay-Galbraith has still not had a Attorney General's office. Rejeanne Guay-Gal-

will proceed this Thuron with the case because I refuse to live in prison,

presume that they will find me guilty as accused," she said.

added: "I'm not going to appeals to the Attorney braith says that she can can't defend. I don't know only assume that her case what the judge will decide. In case his decision is jail then I'll "I presume they'll go have to abide by that, but the judge has stated that in which the government they will proceed... Even of Ontario or their harmful foods. She has though I'll be present, representative has sent

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being that I can't defend me without having a water, juices and green in this area.

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myself I can only chance to defend myself in the proper way and so I will not accept their food. That is of course if my

Ms. Guay-Galbraith health permits me." Rejeanne Guay-Galpay a fine for a case I braith has prepared herself for a hunger strike should she be jailed. She says that she has been extremely careful about

charged with 'careless It is almost certain that her vegetarian diet in the eliminating potentially been consuming mainly very well set a precedent

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she be jailed.

vegetables and has said

that she will accept only

juices and water should

Rejeanne Guay-Galbraith

will go before Judge

Criminal Court of Ontario

On January 26

## Life saving attempt

## Hydro workers honoured

Quick thinking and "otherwise we'd have people." capable lifesavers in an emergency. Nine forestry workers found that out when they made an attempt to save the life of Harold Taylor last August:

The crew encountered the emergency in White Falls, where they discovered Mr. Taylor being given artificial respiration by a nurse.

According to crew chief Remi Robillard, the men wasted no time in giving assistance by taking turns giving artificial respiration to the unconcious heart attack victim.

An ambulance was called immediately, and within half an hour it arrived at the scenehaving travelled 25 miles from the hospital.

According to Mr. Ribolard, a number of people were at the scene, but none of them knew how to give assistance to the victim except the

"Not a second is wasted the way we're trained," Mr. Robillard said,

good training make been standing around Mr. Taylor-a retired pronouced dead on Ontario Hydro workers with the rest of the forest ranger-was taken arrival.

to the hospital, but was



Commended

their efforts are four of the nine Hydro of heart attack victim Harold Taylor. From left to right they are: Remi

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Shown with the plaque they received for Robillard, Paul Sauve, John Morrison and Bill Klug. Other members of the workers who attempted to save the life crew who weren't present for the pic-Brad Rayment and Roger Ladoucer. demand is very simple. I

ture are: David Horne, Ken Brown,

she said.

it is now pending in the Penetanguishene Criminal Court.' · "I would like to bring to

your attention my request for a French trial."



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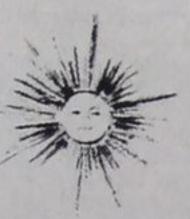
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