

# Grand finale to Shondecti Saturday will be dramatic to say the least

"Shondecti" - a time for rejoicing and yet a time for serious reflection.

University students who work as costumed interpreters at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland have arranged a striking finale to the new special event, "Shondecti", coming up Saturday in Midland.

The full-day of activities will culminate with a dramatic presentation performed by the students as part of an evening program at Sainte-Marie, starting at 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The play entitled, "More Than This Burning Ash", was written by former staff supervisor at Sainte-Marie, Johnathon Hart.

## Frustration

The play captures the anger, frustration and hope felt by the Jesuit residents at Sainte-Marie who saw their dreams of Christianizing the native people go up in smoke when they decided to burn the mission in the spring of 1649. The presentation takes a somber look at what may have transpired on the evening before the Jesuits put the torch to Sainte-Marie in response to the threat of Iroquois attacks.

The Superior of the Mission, Father Ragueneau, wrote at the time, "...we ourselves set fire to it, and beheld burning before our eyes, in less than one hour, our work of nine or ten years".

Although the fatal event occurred over 340 years ago, the final blow to Sainte-Marie is etched in the minds and writings of countless historians.

"More Than This Burning Ash" is directed by summer interpreter, Greg Ellwand, who will start his final year at the National Theatre School in Montreal come the fall.

The play was originally written and performed two years by the interpretive staff as a tribute to Father Winston Rye who vacated his post as director at the Martyrs' Shrine to join Brebeuf College.

Ellwand has added his personal adaptation to the original play by splitting the production into four scenes and adding a prologue and epilogue which he performs himself.

Another notable modification is the addition of music to the play provided by six of the interpreters. Ellwand expects the music "to enhance the loneliness, the forlornness and the sadness".

## Production

While organizing the production, Ellwand had to contend with the reality that very few of the students had any kind of acting experience but he is delighted with the way they have responded.

"Most of the students have never acted before but they have taken giant steps in understanding the process of making words from a page come alive," commented Ellwand.

Capturing the proper mood and atmosphere does not present a problem as the fifteen minute play will be performed outside in the north court section of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.

The evening portion of the "Shondecti" program starts with entertainment provided by Ojibway Native folk dancers and this represents a milestone at Ontario's first European settlement as it marks the first time a native group has performed at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.

Last summer, as part of the "Boat People" benefit night at Sainte-Marie, the interpretive staff performed the play, "Joseph And His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", before a capacity crowd. The presentation earned three curtain calls from the appreciative audience.

Through hard work and personal sacrifices, the interpretive staff at Sainte-Marie has found an ideal encore in "More Than This Burning Ash".

# Big canoe race set for tomorrow

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highlighting life in 17th century New France.

The afternoon activities include races, 17th century games and folk music, historic demonstrations and refreshments.

The Coureur de Bois has travelled from all over Ontario to participate in 'Shondecti'. The group is interested in preserving the ways of life of the original Coureur de Bois made up of fur traders and explorers in the 17th century. They will have displays set up in Sainte-Marie Park, including a lean-to construction, animal

hide tanning and demonstrations of how to start a fire with a flint and striker and fire bow.

Transportation has even been provided for all those attending the afternoon program with buses leaving the park every half hour, free of charge.

## Program

The evening program at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons promises to be a fitting finale to an eventful day. Ojibway native folk dancers in full costume will kick off the evening activities at 7:30 p.m., performing native music and dance rituals.

Wrapping up the 17th century-style evening will be a play performed right on site at Sainte-Marie by the costumed interpreters. The play,

written at Sainte-Marie in 1978 by a former interpreter, follows the thoughts and feelings of the Jesuit priests on the evening before they burned Sainte-Marie in 1649.

"Everyone is very enthusiastic and we are trying to get into each and every character," said summer supervisor Bill Brodeur who portrays a Jesuit in the play.

In keeping with the entire 'Shondecti' program, there is no admission charge to the evening activities.

With over 100 canoes entered including one from this newspaper and many more spectators involved, the first annual 'Shondecti' is quickly emerging as one of the premier summer events in Ontario.



## Last notes

Another popular staff member in the area is leaving PSS to take up duties at Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute. John Coull, head of the PSS music department for

nine years, put his senior band through its paces one last time at the high school graduation exercises June 26.

# Ontario Scholars number 26

Twenty-six grade 13 students in Penetang, Midland and Elmvalle schools have achieved the status of Ontario Scholars. This provincially sponsored

scholarship is awarded to all grade 13 credits. Students receive \$100 in scholarship money and a certificate from the Ministry of Education. Midland Secondary

School graduated 14 Ontario Scholars this past June. Peter Dietz topped his classmates with a 96 per cent average. Others at MSS are Diane Carpenter,

Pat Dundas, Herbert Egelkraut, Phillip Hancox, Janet Hawkins, Michael Leitch, Sharon MacMillan, Joan Miller, Petra Pausch, Kym Pruesse, Alan Smith, Heather Tilson and James Watson.

At Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School ten students were Ontario Scholars, led by Bev Beauchamp with a 91.3 per cent grade average. Other grade 13 students are Tina Brophy, Lorraine Gignac, Karen Hammond, Terry King, Maurice Marion, Renee Maurice, James Rankin, Lisa Robillard and Larry Wagg.

Flavio Mazzer, a grade 13 student at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Separate School achieved an 87 per cent average this year.

At Elmvalle District High School, a former MSS honours student, Heather Newman, 19, graduated with an 84 per cent average.

In Wednesday's paper a photo caption said that MSS student Peter Dietz was the top grade 13 student in Ontario with a 96 per cent average. The information should have read, top student at MSS, not Ontario. We regret the error.

## Sidewalk Sale set for three days

Midland Town Centre is gearing up for next week's giant three-day Sidewalk Sale and Fun Days.

To be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday of next week, the event promises to be the biggest and best year.

Again a portion of King Street will be blocked off to through traffic and in its place will spring a huge mall with plenty of bargains, live entertainment, exhibits and lots more.

The Midland Times, the town's only locally-owned newspaper, along with participating Midland merchants will again be featuring the 'Right Combination' contest in conjunction with next week's extravaganza.

All one has to do is visit participating merchants and pick up a combination and then head for the booth on King Street.

If the combination works, you'll be able to unlock our treasure chest and pick up a cash award.

At least \$400 worth of cash prizes will be up for grabs.

A special supplement will be carried in this newspaper next Wednesday and Friday outlining the three-day program and where you can pick up the bargains during sidewalk sale days in Midland, July 17, 18 and 19.

Don't forget all roads in North Simcoe will lead to Midland next week for the big event... don't miss it.



Sharon LeClair

Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert LeClair of Midland, graduated recently from Seneca College of Applied Arts & Technology with a diploma in Accounting. Sharon, who is a former graduate of St. Theresa's High School, is presently employed in the Accounting Division of the Continental Bank in Toronto.

## School board transfers

John Potts, vice-principal at Bayview Public School in Midland, will transfer to Regent Public School as principal this September.

Simcoe County Board of Education made the announcement Wednesday evening at its July board meeting. Mr. Potts is replacing Rodney Rankin in the post. Mr. Rankin is moving to become Superintendent of Area 6 school this August.

Replacing John Potts as vice-principal at Bayview will be Edna Parker, a teacher at Port McNicoll Public School.

Douglas Bailey, vice-principal at Corpus Christi School in Penetanguishene will be transferring to the same post at Huron Park Public School in Midland this September.

## Moira Hunt will open Market

by Marion Sleep

Moira Hunt, popular CKVR Barrie television personality will officially open the 15th annual Summer Antique Market at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15.

Miss Hunt, whose lively 'Moira Hunt Show' is well-known in the CKVR viewing area, has been a long time fan of the Market.

Each visitor this year will receive a souvenir program commemorating the 15th anniversary.

Convener Jennifer Chalmers and her artistic assistant Bev Hunter have put together an informative booklet containing names, addresses and telephone numbers of the 1980 dealers; a Country Mill floor plan showing each booth's location; a map of the many local antique shops; and a message from auxiliary president Barbara Simpson.

This little booklet, the first of its kind, should be a helpful keepsake for antique buffs and tourists visiting the Midland area.

The Country Craft Shoppe, so popular last year, will again be stocked with hand-crafted articles and will occupy the stage along with the 'Quilting Bee.'

Originally the only July show of its kind in Ontario, the Midland Market has seen many imitators come - and go. Detailed organization by auxiliary members, the participation each year of well-known dealers, and the obvious rapport between the two groups is largely responsible for its success.

As Miss Hunt remarked 'Your show really doesn't need any publicity at all any more!'