

New Thanksgiving event set for Ste. Marie on Oct. 12 and 13

A new Thanksgiving event featuring a unique blend of French and Native culture dating back more than 300 years will conclude another season at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland on Sunday and Monday, Oct. 12 and 13.

The name of the event, "Esprit de Ouendake", reflects the curious mixture of French and Native crafts and skills which played a formidable role in the growth of Sainte-Marie when the Jesuit mission emerged as Ontario's first European community in 1639.

"Esprit de Ouendake" offers many features for those people looking for a different way to spend Thanksgiving. The two-

day event will take visitors back to the very roots of Ontario's beginning as they learn how two diversified cultures coexisted in the desolate wilderness of New France.

Cultures

The collation of the French and Native cultures as they relate to Sainte-Marie will fall under the categories of clothing, travel and basic skills. Visitors are invited to compare the similarities and contrasts of the two cultures as illustrated by several exhibits in the Sainte-Marie foyer.

Artisans will display their skills in the areas of map-making, 17th century writing, leather work, pottery and native crafts. The various

facets of wool production including weaving, spinning and dyeing will also be highlighted.

There will be numerous other activities, on-site, adding to the overall appeal of the new event. Sainte-Marie among the Hurons will be bustling with activity in the form of historic dramatizations and interpretation provided by summer interpreters who will be returning to Sainte-Marie from universities around the province specifically for the Thanksgiving special.

Another highlight of "Esprit de Ouendake" will be a French cafe at Sainte-Marie operated by the "Centre d'Activites Francaises" of Penetanguishene. Visitors can

sample such traditional French-Canadian cuisine as tourtiere, ragout and French bread. Profits from the sale of the food will go back to the centre.

Story

"The coexistence of the French and Native cultures is an integral part of the Sainte-Marie story and, hopefully, the new event will capture the spirit of the rapport as suggested by the name 'Esprit de Ouendake'", commented Bill Byrick, Manager of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.

Regular admission rates will apply - adults, \$1.50; students, 75 cents; children, 25 cents. The family rate is \$3.50. The hours for both days are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Area will lose as a result of pull out

by Mayor M Lynn

The Townships of Tiny and Tay have announced that they will unilaterally withdraw from the Tiny-Tay Peninsula Planning Board. The obvious loss to this locally formed body is that the name must be changed.

In point of fact, Tiny and Tay have not been contributing members, at least constructively, for the past two years. And that is the real pity.

This board, as most readers will probably know, was formed a decade ago to help to lead the area into sensible planning policies, and to develop a plan for the six municipalities which made up the membership of the Board.

A decade ago the Province was promoting the Toronto-Centred Region Plan, a plan which still has been supported in principle by the Province. That plan singled out this area as one in which exceptional growth would take place; and a decade ago we were ill prepared for any surge in population or economic growth from a planning standpoint.

Growth

Five years later, in 1975, the Simcoe-Georgian Task Force Strategy again predicted substantial growth for the Tiny-Tay Peninsula. Again,

without adequate planning techniques and objectives in place the area would be, and still is, unprepared for really significant growth.

Two years ago the Provincial White Paper on planning recommended the abolition of local planning boards in favour of more centralized and sophisticated planning offices which would be located regionally or at the county level.

The decade of area planning involvement has shown real gains and results. Planning has improved in the area. New official plans and zoning by-laws have been developed, and planning has been a conscious part of every municipality in the area. In some instances no formal land-use planning existed a decade ago, and through the efforts of the Area Board, its members and staff, assistance was offered to bring planning into effect. The area municipalities reacted positively.

The municipalities which have now announced their withdrawal from the Area Board were amongst those which had little or no formal planning of any substance a decade ago. Each municipality and each resident has benefited by the decade of effort.

Costs

The costs have been there, for all municipalities, through the share each has paid to operate the Board.

And most of those costs have been borne, over the decade, by the Town of Tiny and Tay's share has been relatively small compared to the costs of the other four members: Midland, Penetanguishene, Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour.

Not always was the course of the Board smooth or without its objectors. From time to time each municipality took the Board to task in one way or another. Each had its periods of strong support and questioning criticism

When costs began to escalate due to full-time staff commitments the Board cut its staff and its costs to this year's levy of just over \$40,000 for the whole area.

But until two years ago not one member municipality seriously questioned, challenged, or disagreed with the ultimate goal: an Official Plan for the Tiny-Tay Peninsula Planning Area.

Two years ago the whole attitude of Tiny changed. It started to change just after the 1979-1980 councils took office.

In the view of this writer the change was not for the better, as far as area planning was concerned. Opposition and objection to an area plan by Tiny, and then Tay, began to grow.

Despite repeated and sincere attempts by the other member municipalities to overcome objections, understand them, and to assist in developing a plan which would be acceptable to all, Tiny

and Tay announced their withdrawal and announced it without bothering to inform their fellow members of the Board or their neighbouring member municipalities of their intentions.

And without bothering to attend a special meeting called for the purpose of attempting to resolve their concerns.

Interestingly, these withdrawals were not done in compliance with the constitution of the body, or with attention to the requirements laid down by the Province when the Board was created.

The area

Unfortunately, the people of the area will be the losers if the withdrawals go through.

Tiny and Tay seem to have opted for a different sort of planning than one determined by local people with local knowledge and interests at heart. They have opted instead for centralized County planning out of Midhurst; solving

boundary and area problems through annexation and the courts instead of local negotiation; higher planning costs for all of us; planning on an individual municipality basis only; more complicated planning which will not feature common terminology or parallel levels of service; planning which will not reflect local area needs.

Tiny and Tay have made a grave error for their own short-run trade-offs, as they see it, in this writer's view.

Position

It is unlikely that their position will affect the long term result of achieving an area plan, but it will make the route to an area plan more difficult, costly, and time-consuming.

Hopefully our control over our own area won't be totally wrested from our control before the plan is in place.

It is really unfortunate that the six municipalities had come so far before two of them showed their real view. The hundreds of Board and committee meetings couldn't have been that wrong.

Hearing loss

The Canada Safety Council warns that hearing losses can result from exposure to high noise levels over long periods of time. Under such working conditions wear ear plugs or acoustic ear muffs.



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