

Hands of time will go back to 1648

'Destination' flotilla arrives this Saturday



The scene is Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in 1648 and the air is charged with excitement and anticipation as residents at the Jesuit mission anxiously await the arrival of a canoe flotilla from "Kébec".

The flotilla is the first to reach Sainte-Marie in two years and will prove to be the last as the Jesuits will burn their hallowed mission to the ground a year later.

On Saturday, July 10, this scene will be recaptured at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons to commemorate the arrival of the "Destination: Sainte-Marie" crew as they complete an exhaustive, 1,200 kilometre canoe trip from Quebec City. The historic expedition is an authentic re-enactment of the 1648 flotilla and the 17 volunteers are portraying some of the people on the original trip.

The celebration is all part of the third annual "Shondecti" and there will be no admission charge to Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland on Saturday, July 10.

"The Destination: Sainte-Marie participants have made incredible sacrifices to re-create the 1648 flotilla and the staff at Sainte-Marie will try to capture that spirit on July 10 by stepping into the roles of people who lived at Sainte-Marie in 1648," said Sharon Armstrong, Education and Interpretive Officer at Sainte-Marie.

The arrival of a flotilla from Quebec was a time for rejoicing at Sainte-Marie as 800 miles of intimidating wilderness separated Sainte-Marie from the nearest European community. Contact from the outside with other Europeans was extremely limited.

"You can sense the excitement of our own staff at Sainte-Marie as they look forward to the arrival of the crew and so it isn't hard to imagine why the arrival of a flotilla to Sainte-Marie 334 years ago was such a momentous event," Armstrong said.

"Destination: Sainte-Marie" is expected to arrive at Sainte-Marie Park on the Wye River at 1:45 p.m. on July 10 and the crew will present a short drama before completing their expedition to Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. They will arrive at Sainte-Marie at 2:30 and a number of dignitaries will be present to officially welcome the flotilla home.

Paul Deault, General Manager of Huronia Historical Parks, is personally arranging the official ceremonies in North Court and he is optimistic that they will prove to be a fitting finale to "Destination: Sainte-Marie".

"We expect to have a strong complement of dignitaries from both the public and private sectors and, if the weather cooperates, I am convinced the ceremony will prove to be an exciting program in honour of this remarkable re-enactment," Deault said.

Deault also points out that plans are nicely falling into place for the third annual "Shondecti" which also takes place in Midland and at Sainte-Marie on July 10. "Shondecti" is a Huron term meaning, "They returned to such a place", commemorating the arrival of canoe flotillas to Sainte-Marie more than three centuries ago.

The event features a canoe portage through downtown Midland followed by races and a flotilla from the town dock to Sainte-Marie Park.

Gala event marked at Burkevale

Saturday was a red letter day for present and past students and teachers of Burkevale Protestant Separate School in Penetanguishene.

That was the day the school celebrated its centennial complete with a rather special homecoming.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Don Kenwell, a former pupil, teacher and principal of the school.

The afternoon was devoted to recalling fond memories and renewing old friendships.

More details and pictures from this special event will appear in the Friday Times-Friday Citizen.

Shriners get into the act

The weather couldn't have been better for last Saturday's Penetanguishene Centennial Parade. Shriners from all over Ontario helped to spice up

the two-mile long affair which worked its way past Penetanguishene General Hospital then down Main Street to the town docks.

Wishing well Unique way to raise funds for Guides, HDH

Awenda District Girl Guides have come up with an unusual way to

the local Guiding movement.

Centennial Parade has now been set up at the IGA in the Poyntz Street

raise funds for both the Penetanguishene General Hospital and

A wishing well Guides displayed on their float during last Saturday's huge Penetanguishene

Maill in Penetanguishene where it will sit during the

summer months.

Proceeds will be evenly split between PGH and Awenda District Girl Guides.

Needless to say

donations will be gladly accepted at the wishing well.

"We wish you well," say Guides who are behind this unique fundraiser.