

Names in the news

TED SCHMIDT, head of "Teachers for Social Justice", will give a challenging talk on peace at the Project Ploughshares meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

David Mair of Barrie, a spokesman for Project Ploughshares, explains that the aims of "Teachers for Social Justice" are to design curriculum and to sponsor professional activities which deal with issues of justice,

and to raise the consciousness of teachers, students and staff to build communities of human concern in our schools.

Mair says that the title of Schmidt's talk, "Peace on Earth! Goodwill to all men! What are YOU doing for Peace?", reflects the challenge that we are all called to be peacemakers.

Ted Schmidt is head of Religious Studies at Neil McNeil High School

in Toronto, and is active in peace concerns within the Roman Catholic community. He writes for the award-winning Catholic New Times newspaper.

Mair says: "We stand in a tradition which dares to suggest that we must struggle for justice. The struggle against the threat of a nuclear holocaust, and the Canadian government's complicity in the arms race, is an essential part of the

struggle for justice".

The meeting is on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7:45 p.m. in Collier Street United Church School Room, Barrie. The audience will have an opportunity to challenge, question, and discuss the issues.

Local people from Barrie, Elmvale, Alliston and Orillia will describe what is happening in the peace movement in Simcoe County.

Native Artists' Nativity Scene on display

The Georgian Bay Tribal Council office is displaying a beautiful nativity scene in its front window on King Street in Midland.

The nativity scene was designed and constructed by Marge Brunelle, Anne McCue and Gary Monague, who are all native staff at Ste. Marie-among-the-Hurons.

The idea for the scene came from the carol written by Father Brebeuf, one of the original Jesuit martyrs. He wrote the carol for the Indians to make the Christmas story easier for them to understand.

The basic premise of the song is this:

"The baby Jesus was born in a bark lodge and wrapped in fur. The great

chiefs, warriors and family came from afar to honour Jesus with gifts of corn, fur, and tobacco."

The figures are all done in corn husk dolls, a traditional Indian form. There are no features on the faces of the dolls because the Indians believed that giving a doll a face would also give it a soul. Also the dolls could not have the features of a recently deceased family member, or one who was absent from the tribe.

The nativity scene is beautifully laid out on a wooden base in the front window of the Council office at 278 King St. Take a look next time you are passing, or go in and ask Chief Roger Jackson about the scene.

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