

ACFO Huronie is active in region

BY CAROL DIMOCK

ACFO Huronie, or the Association of Ontario Francophones for this region, met on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the Centre d'activités francaises in Penetanguishene.

The meeting was well attended, said last year's president Yvon Levert, with over 50 people participating. A number of interesting speakers were very well received by the audience.

This year's ACFO Huronie representatives are: Odette Bussiere, Bruno Desroches, Roland Desroches, Monique Jaiko, Marcel Lalonde, Adrien Lamoureux, Louis Levert, Yvon Levert, Jacques Marchand and Gilles Marchildon. Officers will be elected from this group at another meeting, scheduled for Dec. 6 at the Centre.

A number of resolutions were passed by ACFO at the meeting which concern local francophones, their activities and their rights.

One resolution was to ask the Pope to proclaim the Canadian Martyrs special patron saints of all Francophones living

outside Quebec.

ACFO congratulated the Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce for the new Christmas decorations of Main Street. They were pleased to see banners in both official languages, a "Season's Greetings" and a "Joyeux Noel", stretching across Main Street near the top of the hill.

More bilingual Services

ACFO is concerned about a perceived lack of bilingual service available at Ste. Marie among the Hurons, and asks that more fluently bilingual personnel be employed at the historic site. ACFO Huronie will invite all other regional ACFOs to the south to join in urging Ste. Marie to improve the situation.

A sign at the corner of Yonge and seventh Streets in Midland, advertising the "European Settlement" of the region, used to read "French Settlement", says ACFO, and it will press to have the sign changed back to "French Settlement" before the visit of the Pope next year. The sign should also be bilingual, ACFO says.

ACFO will send a resolution to Tiny

Township Council asking that the municipal government improve the level of bilingualism in their operation. A similar resolution urges the Ministry of Employment and Immigration to do the same.

Post office for Lafontaine

ACFO Huronie will continue to support the plan to establish a post office in Lafontaine. Plans to build a post office in the lot next to the Caisse Populaire Lafontaine Credit Union are underway, and ACFO asks that the person in charge of the new post office, when it is established, should be fluently bilingual. There used to be two post offices in the area, one in Lafontaine and one in Laurin. Cyrille Marchand, president of the Caisse Populaire, is in charge of the post office project.

Supports nursery schools

Simone Levert addressed the meeting regarding rumours that three very successful nursery school programs (pre-maternelles) might close because of problems in the system. ACFO believes it essential for young children to have a good introduction to the French language before entering French

primary school, and resolved to support the nursery schools in continuing as well as press for their extension into Barrie and Orillia.

French radio station

Plans to establish a Community Radio station for Francophones are showing progress, according to Roland Desroches and Denis Chartrand, who are in charge of this project. The Centre d'activités francaises has access to a section of the broadcast band owned by CHAY-FM. A feasibility study will be set up to investigate the possibilities of establishing a French radio station, manned by voluntary personnel. One of ACFO's 1984 projects will be a fundraising drive to raise money for the station.

To commemorate Cartier

ACFO Huronie resolved to prepare a special celebration in 1984 to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in North America, in 1534. A contest, among Francophone students in the area, was won by Kevin Carriere of St. Joseph's school. He won 450 dimes (corresponding to the 450 years since Cartier's arrival).

Penetanguishene



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Midland jammed Saturday

The weatherman certainly played ball with last Saturday afternoon's organizers of the Sixth Annual Midland Civitan Club Santa Claus Parade.

Under mild temperatures and clear blue skies, the popular annual extravaganza was termed "the best and biggest yet" as between 60 and 70 floats and marching units worked their way down King Street from the arena to the town dock.

It's been estimated that as many as 10,000 to 15,000 people of all ages jammed into Midland to watch the gala event.

At times people were packed 10 to 15 deep along King Street especially in the core area of town.

"I can't recall seeing more people in your town for a Santa Claus Parade," St. Nick confessed following the 1 p.m. happening.

"I just can't wait to tell Mrs. Claus how the people of Midland made me feel welcome.

"It does an old gent like me the world of good to see so many happy faces. I'm already looking forward to taking part in next year's parade."

Guess who was in Midland on Saturday?

Literally thousands of people jammed into Midland, Saturday afternoon, to watch the Sixth Annual Midland Civitan Club Santa

Claus Parade. Between 60 and 70 floats and marching units took part in the gala affair. Here's the guest of honour, whose

name escapes us for just the moment...ho, ho, ho!

No answer? You're not alone

The North Simcoe Sanitary Landfill Committee receives so many letters from the public with regard to their search for a new solution to the area's garbage disposal dilemma that, so far, they have not been able to answer their mail.

But NSSLC Chairman

John Lackie is working on a solution to the problem.

"We've considered printing a newsletter, reporting on our progress, and sending it regularly to residents in Tiny and Tay townships," Lackie said at last Wednesday's meeting of Tiny Council.

"It would be impossible to answer all the letters individually."

He was responding to a question by Councillor John Butler, who wondered if the mail was being answered and urged that some reply be sent to those who write. The question came up when Council

received a letter, from Mrs. Margrit Darrow of Islington, urging them to press to have a dump situated in "a township which has not yet had a landfill site and is using Tiny Township dump."

Council sends a reply to any letter addressed specifically to them, but

refers many to the NSSLC.

Reeve Morris Darby said "Each letter requires a personal answer- you can't put together a form letter."

Many letters contain misconceptions which need straightening out, agreed Lackie.

Fete de Noel pour en enfants

Le Centre d'activités francaises organise une fete de Noel pour les enfants de langues francaises jusqu'a l'age de 8 ans. La fete aura lieu de 13h30 a 15h30 au Centre d'activités francaises, mercredi le 21 decembre. Une visite du Pere Noel, des jeux, des chants, des cadeaux et un gouter seront prepares afin de creer un atmosphere de Noel pur les jeunes.

Les enfants doivent etre accompagnes par un parent (un responsable peut accompagner plusieurs enfants). Le cout d'inscription est de \$5 pour un enfant, \$8 pour deux enfants de la meme famille, \$10 pour trois enfants de la meme famille.

Pour inscrire vos enfants ou pour plus de renseignements, communiquez avec Monique Jaiko au Centre d'activités francaises: 549-31167.

N.B. La date limite pour s'inscrire est le 14 decembre 1983.