# Media Committee plans publicity for Papal Visit

CAROL DIMOCK

George MacDonald, co-ordinator of the Huronia Papal Visit, says "about 50 percent of people don't know what day the visit will be."

Pope John Paul II will visit Huronia on Saturday, Sept. 15. He will arrive, according to the proposed itinerary, at 8:45 a.m. and leave at 2:30 p.m. There will be no mass at the Shrine while the Pope is on site, but there are tentative plans to have one after he leaves.

All plans for the historical visit are still tentative, for discussion purposes only, he pointed out to a press conference of local media representatives on Friday, March 23. The press was gathered to meet members of the Media Committee, which is one of two dozen committees charged with planning the visit.

Doug Reed, media committee chairman, spoke of the challenges facing the committee, which include finding people to translate the proceedings into sign language and Cree.

Reed introduced the members of the committee who took turns explaining their roles in planning the historic visit.

Father James Farrell, director of Martyrs' Shrine since 1980, and chairman of the group in charge of arranging the Huronia Papal Visit, spoke of the many people who have volunteered to help with the planning and organization. He explained that every aspect of the plan must be approved by the Vatican, and that a proposed itinerary taken to Rome on March 12 by Msgr. Murphy has yet to be officially confirmed. General plan have been sent 13 or 14 times to the Vatican already, to be sent back with changes.

"We may be asking too much (of the Pope)," said Father Farrell. "We're asking that he give 45 major talks in his nine day tour."

Vice-chairman Jim Armstrong said an educated public is essential to the visit, to ensure the orderly movement of traffic, etc. Press members must be accredited to cover the event and must pass through a security clearance with the RCMP before receiving their accreditation.

"Simcoe County media won't be taking a back seat to the national and international media," said Armstrong, although he recognizes there will only be a limited number of "front row centre ceats' for the press. These will be divided among the media, with other reporters and photographers stationed along the motorcade route and at Sainte Marie, where, it is hoped, the Pope may visit during his stay in Huronia.

John McCullough, sales manager at CK-VR, said his major responsibility on the media committee is to secure a facility for the media.

Up to 200 members of the international press are expected to cover the Papal visit to Huronia, which McCullough said "could be an event to surpass all others" on the tour, because of the historic significance of the site.

Frank Myers, who is program director at McLean Hunter Cable TV, said the aim of the committee is to make the Papal visit as positive an experience for the local people as possible, by keeping them well informed. Myers shares the responsibility for setting up the media centre, where telephone, telex, typewriters, cameras and sleeping and eating facilities must all be arranged to help the press do their jobs.

Bob Kennedy, in charge of promotion and public relations for Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, explained that the Shrine was built as a testimonial to martyred

Jesuits, some of whom lived and worked at Ste. Marie. He hopes the Pontiff will visit Ste. Marie and especially the gravesite of Lalement and Brebeuf.

As many as 1,500 police personnel will be moving into Huronia on Sept. 10-11 to assist with traffic management and crowd control for the Papal visit on Saturday, Sept. 15, says Cpl. Bill Pumputis of the Midland OPP.

Cpl. Pumputis was

chosen to act as assistant logistics officer for the huge task of accommodating the 1,500 officers, many of whom will be working up to 24 hour shifts to see that all goes well during the visit.

Inspector Lorne Hall of the Toronto RCMP detatchment will act as Media Laison Officer with the Papal Visit to Huronia.

His responsibility will be seeing that each media person

wishing to cover the event passes the required security screening and achieves accreditation. His responsibilities will also include directly assisting the media in getting in and out of the security area so they can file their stories during the event.

Cpl. Pumputis and Inspector Hall answered questions from the media regarding accreditation and access to the events.

Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board

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