

Only time before area sees French language radio



Suited up and ready to roll

Penetang's newest recruits for the Volunteer Fire Department are already for today when their appointments to the brigade take effect. The two newcomers to

the department Bob DeVillers (centre left) and Rob Cascagnette (centre right), were given a little assistance from veteran fire fighters Chief Ted Light (left) and Steve

Bellisle (right) in getting sized up for their equipment. Town Council approved the appointment of the two fire fighters at last Monday night's meeting.

It's only a matter of time before some sort of French language radio service will be transmitting on the air waves from Penetanguishene's Centre D'Activites Francaises.

According to Comite Radio Huronie Chairman Denis Chartrand, most of the ground work for the operations of a French language community radio station has already been completed with equipment being put in place on the third floor of the centre and three staff hired through the Economic Development Program.

Chartrand says the only major question left unresolved is whether the service will be fully independent or an affiliate of the French CBC radio.

If the committee is unable to get the necessary funding or CRTC permission to operate independently, the local group will opt to share air time on French CBC network out of Toronto.

Although much of the work on the station has been accomplished through financial assistance from the federal and provincial governments, Chartrand said the goal of the organization is to become fully self-supporting.

If the committee gets the green light to operate with the CBC affiliate, local French language service could be on the air as early as September.

Chartrand says with all the red tape necessary for the independent service to get off the ground, it would be a year or more before the service would hit the air.

Unlike commercial radio, a community service, Chartrand said, is organized mostly by volunteers from the area.

With a community service out of the French Centre, the chairman said many of the organizations could use the service and produce their own half hour or hour programs every week.

Having an independent station, Chartrand said the committee would be better able to service the French language community compared to an affiliation with CBC where they could possibly only have two or three hours of local programming each week.

Although there is still a large number of issues to look into before the station gets off the ground, Chartrand is very confident that the station is a go.

"It is going to be, it's just a question of when."

Although the chairman says the committee has gotten support from the CBC radio on the idea, many of the details are yet to be worked out.

Because this would be the first attempt at this kind of time sharing for the French language CBC, Chartrand says the national network would be treating Penetang as a pilot project and monitoring the service during a probationary period.

Already, over \$100,000 has been poured into the project that first surfaced locally almost 10 years ago, said Chartrand.

St. Joseph's tops at Fair

It was a banner year for Ecole St. Joseph's students in Penetanguishene at the annual Area Three Kiwanis Science Fair held at Midland Secondary school on March 21.

Out of a possible six categories, students from St. Joseph's took the top prizes in four.

In the Junior division Geoff Grives had the winning exhibit in the living category, with Rebekah Hines' presentation in the engineering classification taking top honours.

At the intermediate level, John Rumble calculated the most points in the physical

science category, while the pair of Kathleen Farley and Giselle Gauthier took the honours in the engineering category.

As well, St. Joseph's cleaned up in the overall awards given to the schools who have the best performances on all of the entries in the fair in a category,

taking the top school awards in both divisions.

Out of the 12 schools competing in the event, St. Joseph's was named the best all-around school in the competition.

John Rumble also captured another award for the school, with the Aubrey Daniels

Memorial Trophy being presented to him for the best overall project in the Science Fair in the intermediate division.

This is the first time, in the four-year history of the fair, that one school has taken this many awards.



Penetang's firemen of the future

Penetang Fire Chief, Ted Light had a whole pack of recruits for the Town's Volunteer Fire Department on hand at the Fire Hall on Tuesday evening. The group from the Penetanguishene First Beaver Pack were

more than enthusiastic about taking up ranks with the local brigade when they toured the fire hall. Unfortunately, this group will have to wait a few more years before the Chief can accept their applications.

Local resident helps child overseas

A very special commitment has been made by a member of our community. Miss Sharon Brooks of Penetanguishene, Ontario, has become a Foster Parent.

Through Foster Parents Plan of Canada she has "adopted" little Wijesinghe of Sri Lanka. Miss Brooks' small monthly contribution brings help to the Foster Child, his family and the community.

The objective is not dependency, but to help the family become independent and self-supporting, through programs of medical and dental care,

vocational training, and counselling by social workers. All programs are adapted to the needs of the people, and tend to be concentrated in rural areas where the whole community can benefit through the provision of wells, schools, and much more. Education is stressed, and all school-

age members of Foster Families are encouraged to attend school.

Foster Parents are advised annually of the family's progress, and a regular exchange of letters builds a warm and meaningful relationship. Through Foster

Parents Plan, individuals, groups and families in Canada, Australia, Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. are currently assisting over 275,000 children in 22 countries in the Third World.

PLAN is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political social service organization officially registered with the Canadian government.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Information on "adopting" a child through PLAN can be obtained by writing to 153 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P8, or calling, toll-free anytime, 1-800-268-7174.