

# Opener was great time

by Ed Pearson

The Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, which used to be the Midland Medical Centre, was a busy place last week. Commencing with a community breakfast on Wednesday, there was four days of baby contests, theatre presentations, workshops on Indian government, Arts and Craft and sporting events culminating in a ribbon-cutting official opening for the new centre on Saturday.

The focal point for Native Awareness Week drew a large crowd of well-wishers, spectators, centre members and politicians. President of the Centre, Mr. Roger Jackson, co-ordinated the ceremonies which were orchestrated by four enthusiastic young drummers.

Band Elders, Leonard Monague and Charlie Tobey regaled the assembly with some humorous homilies which were lost on this reporter because the punch-lines were delivered in Ojibway. Judging from the titters that were coming from one segment of the crowd, I missed out on some good one-liners.

In a more serious vein, the speakers related to some instances during their early schooling when their education was diverted away from their native culture and education. They urged the audience to ensure that the

native language and culture was preserved.

Father Schreteen, from Martyrs' Shrine, was invited to present the book *Gyindamowinan* a selection of readings by Fred Baragan, the noted Indian chronicler. The Friendship Centre aided in the translation and financial support for the publication. Austrian Printers of Penetang have been commissioned to release the book, it will be available from them shortly.

Muskoka-Georgian Bay candidate George Beatty, Doug Lewis, minister of state for Treasury Board and local M.P.P. Al McLean were on hand to add their congratulations to Council members. Midland Mayor Al Roach stole a march by bearing a gift, a handsome Midland Town flag. Roger Jackson thanked the town for the co-operation enjoyed in setting up the project and reiterated that one of the aims of the centre was to encourage interaction between Native and Non-Native citizens. He promised that the town flag would occupy a place of honor in the new premises.

The directors of the centre aim to provide social, cultural and referral services to Native people in the area of Christian Island, Tiny Township, Penetanguishene, Midland, Port McNicoll, Victoria Harbour and smaller villages in the area.

# Lewis to meet with the Chief

The Beausoleil Indian Band (which controls the Christian Island reserve) will meet with newly appointed cabinet minister Doug Lewis to discuss starting a soap factory on the reserve.

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 24 in the Tiny Township municipal offices.

The meeting was discussed at last Wednesday's Tiny council meeting. The township will also join the meeting, as council has some concerns they want to raise.

The band reportedly wants to start the factory on the part of the reserve located on the mainland, at the north end of the township.

The township says it wants to discuss recuperating some of the money it now spends on services for the reserve, such as snowplowing and grating. "We get nothing for that," said clerk Guy Maurice. It also wants to discuss a launching ramp.

The Chief of the Beausoleil Band, Bernard McCue, was not available for comment.

Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis was appointed minister of state for the treasury board last Thursday night, in a mini-Cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Approximately 20 people are expected to attend the meeting.



## Ayash!

One of the best parts of Native Awareness Week at the Georgian Bay Native Friendship

Centre were the performances of Ayash, a play based on an old Indian legend. This is

one of the many mysterious scenes from the play.



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