

NORTHERN AFFAIRS HELPS #5The Children's Aid Society - Adoption Service

The need to be accepted as a member of a family is basic to childhood. In an effort to meet this need for as many children as possible, the children's aid societies have achieved great flexibility in their requirements for adoptive applicants.

It is necessary for the C.A.S. to study the home and the parents. They are delegated by law to make a decision for the child which is final. It is not 'perfection' but a normal life for the child that the C.A.S. worker looks for.

Matching feature to feature of child and parents has given way to assessment on the basis of personality and character. Indeed many of the happiest adoptive families are inter-racial.

Age of the parents is no longer a great factor. Any couple over 21 can be considered, although older parents are encouraged to adopt an older child so that the child is nearly the age he would have been had he been born to them.

Adoptive applicants are not asked for medical proof that they cannot have children born to them - only a checkup to make sure they are physically able to raise a child to maturity.

A high income is not required - only the ability to provide an adequate living standard. Even the mother's intention to work is not a barrier, if she has a good plan for the child's care. Some societies help with medical expenses for the child if these are high.

Parents who have already adopted a child are eligible to adopt others. Families who already have children can adopt as well.

There is nothing in the Child Welfare Act to prevent adoptions across religious lines, although efforts are made to find a home of the natural mother's religion.

The 53 children's aid societies are supported in their adoption programs by an 'adoption clearance service', established and maintained by the Province through the Child Welfare Branch. In recent years, a large number of children who, years ago, would have been considered 'hard to adopt' because of being older, or having sisters and brothers, or because of racial factors, have found parents to adopt them through this service.

The Society may be contacted in Marathon at Ph. 229-1879 or in Nipigon Ph. 887-3035.

- J.L. Scott,
Northern Affairs Officer.

ROSS-LEBLANC VOWS EXCHANGED

The wedding vows of Katharine Margaret LeBlanc daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. LeBlanc of Schreiber and Timothy Melville Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ross of Thunder Bay were solemnized by the Rev. J. Favotto, on May 6, in St. Augustine's Church, Thunder Bay. Mrs. Lena Walters was organist.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, chose a long white gown of peau de soie, with stand-up collar, puff sleeves gathered to French cuffs fastened with pearl buttons. Daisy trim accented the empire-waisted bodice and edged the slightly flared skirt. The gown was designed and made by her mother.

Her bouffant veil was caught by a flower cluster and she carried a white satin Bible covered with Sweetheart roses with yellow ribbon steamers.

Cathy Bolan, the bridesmaid, wore a long gown of yellow nylon, with daisy trim, and a sheer picture hat and a bouquet of yellow and white mums.

Phillip Ross was best man and ushers were Scott Ross and David LeBlanc.

For their wedding trip to points east, the bride wore a teal blue ensemble, with black accessories and corsage of yellow roses. They will make their home in Thunder Bay.

P. Ross was toastmaster at the wedding dinner and prayer was offered by the bride's father.

John Santerre, uncle of the bride, proposed the toast to the bride and her parents, to which the groom responded.

Miss Joan Myhichuck, cousin of the bride, and Julie Ross, sister of the groom, served the wedding cake and circulated the guest book.

For the wedding the bride's mother wore a metallic gown in multi colors with black accessories.

The groom's mother chose a fortrel gown in tones of brown and beige, with brown accessories, and both had corsages of yellow mums.

Prior to her wedding the bride was entertained at showers held by Mrs. Judy Brown, by Miss Cathy Bolan and Miss Linda Hinks in the home of Mrs. Jean Simmons, at one in Mrs. Lloyd Ross' home, at a personal shower in the apartment of Miss Linda Hinks and Miss Cathy Bolan, all in Thunder Bay, and at a fondue party hosted by her sisters, Mrs. Georgette Cebrario and Mrs. Lois LeBlanc in the latter's home in Schreiber.

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