

St. Robert Report

Janine Falcon



French students visit area school

Recently a small reception was held at St. Robert for 22 young guests from Polyvalente Val-Maurice high school, Shawinigan-Sud, Quebec.

Markham Mayor Carole Bell and Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti were in attendance, along with St. Robert principal David Lennon, and vice-principals Allan Mackey and Peter Bahen.

The reception began with greetings and introductions in both French and English, delivered by St. Robert French teacher Mrs. Madeleine Nevins.

Following this was Mr. Lennon's welcome (in French!) and then Mayor Bell's address. The Mayor expressed regret at not being able to communicate "en francais" and went on to praise the exchange for the educational and social benefits it provides.

"Bonjour, comment ca va?" asked Frank Scarpitti, looking rather pleased with himself as he proceeded to dazzle all with an admirable command of the French language.

There were definitely benefits to be had from the program (which began several weeks ago), aside from the tremendous fun the students (44 in all) had. New understanding of the other language is a definite plus.

When asked if she had managed to pick up any new English phrases, Quebec student Janie Lachance responded with an emphatic "Oh, yes!"

Other students agreed. (Apparently it depended on each French/English pair as to which language was dominant). Everyone managed to gain a wider knowledge of each other's language.

Unfortunately, my ability to 'parlez en francais' is not up to par with my meagre understanding of the spoken word. But I did notice the general air of excitement as the students hammed it up for a group picture with Mayor Bell (after receiving 'I Love Markham' buttons).

They then went for lunch and on to a tour of the Ontario Science Centre. The visitors liked Markham, and looked forward to the busy schedule ahead of them, including dinners at the "Organ Grinder" and "Old Ed's", tours of the Science Centre, the CN Tower, Canada's Wonderland, and the Ontario Parliament Buildings. The Royal Ontario Museum and a trip to the Eaton Centre were also on the agenda.

This year's exchange was the best ever, as the program received a great deal of support (including financial aid) from the community of Markham itself and from such groups as the Unionville Optimists.

Thanks go to organizers Mr. Harkin (who has organized the

event for 6 years), Mrs. Nevins, and to all the others who helped make the exchange such a success.

In other important news, the St. Robert yearbooks will be available on May 27.

The new yearbook staff has been chosen for the '86-87 year, as most of the present staff is leaving the school for post-secondary education.

The new list runs as follows: Replacing Phillip Landolt and Janine Falcon as Editors-in-Chief are Phillip Boll and Tim Hutzul; replacing Phillip Boll as Advertising Editor is Cindy Staffieri; replacing Tim Hutzul as Sports Editor is Sharon Kelly; replacing Todd Bougon as Grad. Editor is newcomer Pina Belperio; replacing Christine Losinski as Undergrad. Editor is Lorraine Sunn; and replacing Sharon Sunn as Special Events Editor is Jacqui Swift. A new addition is a Copy Editor (Maxine Chin). Guy Iacono remains as the yearbook artist.

This year, also for the first time, there is a Yearbook award for the most valuable staff member. This honour will be presented to former Undergraduate Editor Christine Losinski (congratulations!) on Awards Night.



Markham Mayor Carole Bell and Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti were on hand at a recent reception for French exchange students at St. Robert Catholic High School. The 22 students from the Shawinigan area of Quebec arrived in the area to stay with partners from St. Robert's. Most felt the experience helped improve their understanding of French and vice versa.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

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