



CPF Hamilton-Wentworth

Shop at the CPF Annual Book Sale!

Teachers and students --mark your calendars for Thursday, November 29, 2007 for the annual CPF book sale.

Back by popular demand, CPF Hamilton-Wentworth invites everyone to the Annual Book Sale. This will be the year's best opportunity for Hamilton and area parents and teachers to add to their home and classroom libraries from a wide variety of French publications supplied by Ontario's premiere French bookstore, **Librarie Champlain**.

French dictionaries, beschereilles, novels and stories for readers of all ages, activity books and audio/video materials will be available. As well, there is always a good selection of

greeting cards and achievement certificates and rewards to inspire young language scholars.

CASH, VISA and MasterCard only!
CPF members please bring your wallet card and receive a 5% discount on all purchases!

**When: Thurs. , Nov. 29th,
3 - 7 p.m.**

**Where: St. Joseph's
Elementary School
270 Locke St. S.,
Hamilton**

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth presents "Gotta love that French"

"Gotta love that French" is a multi-media presentation that takes the form of a live TV show. Helene Nicole Richard's presentation is lively and interactive. Designed to make English students fall in love with French, 'Gotta Love That French' presents the French language like never before! Through songs, dances, games and quizzes, students discover French is a vibrant language around the world and in Canada. Here's what they say:

This was the most amazing French class ever. It was better than a chocolate milkshake. It was so fun. Hannah

That was the best French performance ever. (Go Leafs Go).

Can (you) be our French teacher? Tyler

I thought it was cool. I never thought French can be so interesting. Now I can't wait to learn French. Thanks. Faith

CPF has provided a range of dates for Hamilton during January and February of 2008, make sure that your teacher books a date soon!

For further information contact Kaywana Gargarello at 905-526-8660.

Holidays, Hamilton and History in French - Come Celebrate!

Begin your holiday festivities (be they for Christmas, Channukah or Kwanzaa) with a French language tour of Dundurn Castle. Touring the castle decked out in fabulous 19th century Victorian splendour has become a CPF Holiday Tradition suitable for the entire family. The tour will be conducted in French by a fully bilingual tour guide and is a delightful way to start off the holidays as you view how Hamilton's elite lived a century ago.

Tour Date: Sunday, Dec.2nd
Location: Dundurn Castle Museum
610 York Blvd.,
Hamilton
Time: 3 p.m.
Cost: \$6.50 – Adults / \$3.00
Children 12 & under

There is a 45 person max. for a group tour, so reservations are required. Please call Roz by Nov. 29th at 905-318-1646. Leave a message with your name, phone number and the number of people in your party.

Catholic School Board's Accommodation Review looks at FI programs

In March of this year staff of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board presented a report to the Board of Trustees towards the 2006/2007 Pupil Accommodation Review. The annual review takes into consideration questions such as declining enrolments and/or overcrowding, facility needs and programming, financial realities, aging buildings and the need for new facilities.

Within this report there was a recommendation "that the Board direct staff to initiate a French Immersion attendance area review related to the appropriateness of the location of existing programs."

Some facts to consider:

- At present the board has 19,725 elementary students of which 7% are enrolled in French Immersion within 3 schools, St. Eugene and St. Joseph, located in the lower city, and Sts. Peter and Paul on the mountain.
- Sts. Peter and Paul is operating at over 100% capacity, St. Joe's is at 80%, and St. Eugene is at 70%.
- Many students are being bused in from outlying developing communities such as Ancaster, Dundas, Waterdown and the Stoney Creek to the 2 down-town schools.
- St. Eugene's and Sts. Peter and Paul have over 45% French Immersion students, while 60% of the students enrolled at St. Joseph's are enrolled in F.I.

Some of the issues to be considered:

- Travel distances for current students, and how it affects the decisions of families that may consider the program.
- Studies show that the French Immersion program is growing at all 3 sites.
- The geographical areas covered by the schools are very large.
- That surveys should be conducted to assess the potential market.
- That single track immersion schools be considered to maximize available staff.
- That the transition to French Immersion High Schools be given due attention so that students are encouraged to stay in the FI program.

CPF H-W is delighted that FI Accommodation is being reviewed.

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter President receives recognition award from Canadian Parents for French, Ontario

Rosalind Minaji, founder and current chapter president of CPF Hamilton-Wentworth was recognized by CPF Ontario for her valuable work in the community for the promotion of and advocacy for French as a second language.

She received The Mlacak Award at the CPF Ontario annual general meeting on Friday, November 2nd. The award is presented to a volunteer in CPF who has been a member for 5 consecutive years and who has made an outstanding contribution to the organization.

Rosalind has promoted French Immersion in Hamilton and area by staging successful events such as the booksale and tradeshow, bringing French language entertainers to Core and French Immersion student audiences and giving French Immersion parents a voice at the local school board. She was instrumental in raising the issue of transportation for FI students within the public board and is currently working on arranging and promoting an exchange visit between students from Hamilton and Quebec.



Rosalind Minaji, above, is a worthy recipient of the Mlacak Award.

Rosalind is noted for her no-nonsense style of leadership and her tireless attention to detail.

In her professional life, Rosalind works as an urban planner. She has two daughters, Renny and Julia, who are currently in French Immersion and a very supportive husband, Brian.

Congratulations to "Roz". Her friends and colleagues in CPF Hamilton-Wentworth hold her in high esteem indeed.

Catholic School Board hosts FI Info Night

An information night for French Immersion parents and students is coming up. Hosted by the superintendent of the FI family of schools, this information night is being held to discuss ideas and concerns regarding the French Immersion program. Come out and learn about what the Catholic Board is doing to promote and enhance the French Immersion program.

All are welcome to share in the discussion on Wednesday, November 21st 2007 at the Nicholas Mancini Centre (44 Hunt Street, behind the Cathedral.)

Transportation for FI Catholic High School Students New this Fall

Students attending Cathedral High School for French Immersion now have busing provided. Students can catch a school bus from their neighbourhood "home school," which will take them Cathedral High School. Students involved in after school extra-curricular activities are provided with HSR bus tickets for the ride home.

Students and parents alike are pleased with this development. Hopefully this "door-to-door" service will encourage more elementary school students to stay in French.

SEVEC Exchange 2008 - You're Invited to Participate!

Canadian Parents for French Hamilton-Wentworth is sponsoring and organizing a SEVEC exchange to Quebec from **June 29th to July 13th 2008**. Core French and French Immersion students between the ages of 11 and 15 will be twinned with French speaking students from Quebec. The students will spend a week in each location, sharing in each other's home and family life and participating during the day in group activities.

Here are some of the past group activities: Visits to: Old Quebec City, Niagara Falls, Tall Ship Cruise, Toronto Science Centre, Valcartier Waterpark.

The two week program costs \$500 or \$475 for CPF Members. This works out to \$250 per week - a price similar to many residential summer camps and includes all day trip activities, supervision, group accident insurance, administration, and the cost of transportation to Quebec.

While in Quebec, SEVEC participants will be immersed in the French language. Days of shopping, sports, dining and playing in French will improve conversational skills and bring home the reality of French as a living language, not just a subject at school.

CPF is offering the SEVEC program for the second time in Hamilton. Due to the logistical



2005 SEVEC participants experienced a tall ship cruise and made lasting friendships.

effort involved, this opportunity is not likely to be repeated for several years. There are still spaces available, so don't miss out on the 2008 trip.

For information and registration contact:
Deborah Doody SEVEC Co-ordinator
CPF Hamilton Wentworth
H- 905-575-9687
www.hwcn.org/link/hwcpf

Information meetings for interested students and their parents:
Tuesday, November 13 - 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Ryerson School Gym, 222 Robinson St., Hamilton (near Queen & Charlton)

Wednesday, November 14 - 6:30 to 8 p.m.
St. Eugene's School Gym
120 Parkdale Ave S, Hamilton
(near Queenston & Parkdale)

Tuesday, November 20
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Norwood Park School Gym
164 Terrace Dr., Hamilton
(near Upper James & Mohawk)

Welcome New FI School Sites

This Fall we are celebrating the fact that over 90 new French Immersion students are enrolled at the three new public school sites across Hamilton-Wentworth. French books and materials have been filling the bookshelves at Lawfield, Dundana and Guy Brown schools. Morning and afternoon kindergarten classes have been established in each of the sites, and grade one classes have also been successfully filled in Dundas and on the East Mountain. Busing has been

provided for the new grade one FI students with central pick-up points.

In Waterdown, parents kicked off the new school year with a "get to know you" picnic for FI families organized by Krya Paterson. The picnic was a great success with over 60 people in attendance and is expected to become an annual event. Over on the east mountain, students and staff eagerly await their move from Vern Ames school into the brand new Lawfield building when it officially opens on November 19. In Dundas,

Dundana parents have established a French Immersion committee to help address French language learning issues within the school.

CPF welcomes all new French Immersion families to our growing community. We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletters and that we'll see you soon at some of our events. Please consider joining CPF to show your support for our organization. Visit our web site for more details.

In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that we report the loss of one of our former CPF executive committee member, Carrie Crockett. Carrie was an active and enthusiastic volunteer for CPF Hamilton-Wentworth and served as our Chapter membership secretary from 2003 until 2005.

In addition to her CPF work, Carrie volunteered for French language Brownies, Norwood Park School and many other teams and activities which involved her three young children.

One would be hard pressed to find a more dedicated parent or a person who would give more generously of her time. Carrie's friends at CPF send our most sincere condolences to her family.

Carrie, you will be truly missed.

Ancaster Parents Take Action!

Out in the west end of our city, Ancaster parents advocating for French Immersion have been working with the public school board to explore the possibility of another new school site in 2008. A survey gauging interest in French Immersion has been distributed to all Ancaster JK and SK parents by the public school board. A French Immersion information night was held on October 22. The school board will be reviewing the results of the parent survey later in November. If you are

interested in knowing more about Ancaster French Immersion, then please contact Ying Chan at 905-304-6322

or visit www.AncasterFI.com



What is CPF?

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) was founded in 1977 by a group of 35 parents who wanted all young Canadians to have the opportunity to learn and use the French language. CPF works with teachers, administrators and community leaders to strengthen French second language programs in Canadian schools. Today there are over 20,000 CPF members across Canada.

The CPF Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter was formed in 2002 by a group of 8 parents who wanted to:

- Promote and advocate for strong French Immersion programs in Hamilton;
- Provide opportunities for children to use the French language outside of school;
- Build bridges between the English and francophone community; and
- Create a support network of resources and information for parents.

Today there are over 200 CPF members in Hamilton.

Now that you know who we are...

Why not join us?

Be sure to visit the CPF Hamilton-Wentworth website at www.hwcn.org/link/hwcpf for information about our upcoming events, resources for FI parents or to become a CPF member.