

Residents can help Asian refugees

Hotel
July 11/79

Belleville - Ontario
Belleville residents wishing to donate funds to the stricken families fleeing South Vietnam can do so through World Vision of Canada.

The humanitarian group has established a mailing point through the Hastings Park Church in Belleville. All donations are tax deductible

as long as the person's name, address and postal code are included. Each person will then receive a receipt. Cheques can be made payable to World Vision of Canada and sent to Operation Sea Sweep, Hastings Park Church, 6724 Harder Drive, Belleville and the cheques will be forwarded to World Vision.

Quinte's arms open to Vietnamese refugees: Speck

By HARRY MULHALL
Staff Reporter

It hasn't been overly obvious—but the plight of Southeast Asia refugees has also been reaching, and touching responsiveness, in the Quinte district.

That response may have a higher public profile after Monday—when an alderman has booked time to speak to city council on the situation.

And it may not be too distant before some refugee immigrants themselves start showing in the Quinte area, a federal immigration official has indicated.

Harold Speck, Canada Immigration Centre manager in Belleville, said Friday offers of refuge for the stricken and

homeless of Southeast Asia—including the Vietnamese boat people—have been steadily mounting in recent weeks.

"A good percentage of our time has been directed to the situation at present," said Speck.

"We've taken quite a number of applications. It's been a pretty active response."

The inquiries have been coming from church and community service organizations willing to sponsor refugees in the Belleville-Picton-Cobourg area.

Speck's jurisdiction covers the counties of Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland.

The immigration official said his office received its first inquiry in

February—and since then requests "have continued to grow" particularly since earlier in June.

In fact, the first arrival—from Laos—could be due soon in Cobourg, he added.

But, it may not be long before other refugee families arrive in the region.

"They're doing the final processing of them overseas right now," he said.

Church groups seem particularly involved.

In recent weeks, civic attention to the plight of the refugees received a dramatic boost when Ottawa mayor Marian Dewar suddenly pledged her city to take 4,000 refugees. The offer drew plaudits in the media, including calls for other cities to follow Ottawa's lead.

Now, in Belleville, the agenda for

next Monday's council meeting says Ald. Joe Cox has asked for time to discuss the situation of "the Vietnamese boat people and the possible placement of some refugees ..."

Earlier this week, a Napanee newspaper report noted formation of a refugee fund in the town, where Trinity United Church is participating.

A key organizer, Nancy Little, said "great support" for the organization "was evident."

However, immigration official Speck said he was not yet aware that any set amount of sponsorship fundings was yet a part—"in black and white"—of

federal regulations under which refugees are being admitted.

Rules stipulate that sponsoring organizations have to be a group of not less than five persons.

An individual family cannot yet sponsor a refugee family, he believed.

Guardian groups have to sponsor refugees for a minimum of one year in Canada.

Applications from sponsoring groups, said the official, are forwarded from Belleville to the department's Ontario regional office in Toronto, where decisions are made on how many refugees could be assigned to an area.

BELLEVILLE - FOREIGN POPULATION

Refugees arrive at Toronto airport

TORONTO (CP) — Sick, starved and exhausted, 27 Vietnamese refugees have arrived to start a new life.

They were met Thursday at one Toronto International Airport by members of Ontario Welcome House, the Vietnamese Association of Toronto and Mennonite sponsors.

Huddling close to the bags and aid that held the meagre remains of their former life, the refugees talked about their plans to start afresh.

For Tran Hui Loc, 29, his wife, Hang Dieu Phuong, 25, and year-old son, Tran Hui Dat, their new temporary home — a suite at a Toronto hotel — is ACE.

"In the refugee camp in Hong Kong, these two rooms would hold about 30 people."

The Hong Kong camp had more than 6,000 people and when they left, "There wasn't enough food and the sanitation was bad."

Intell July 14/79

Ald. Cox to arrange help for boat people

*filed
July 17/79*

BELLEVILLE —
FOREIGN
City councillor Joe Cox has undertaken to personally coordinate any community response easing the plight of Southeast Asia refugees.

If there is interest he'll arrange a meeting and have a federal government spokesman explain what can be done locally to help with the situation.

Ald. Cox took on the role after he was rebuffed Monday night in city council with

POPULATION
a request for city hall moral support to help with the refugee problem.

Not only that. He drew a personal rebuke from Mayor Ben Corke.

Cox suggested a meeting called by the mayor with invitations going to interested groups.

The mayor declared to "some degree" he considered Ald. Cox's remarks a criticism of the mayoralty.

City answering *Intell July 19/79* alderman's plea

By HARRY MULHALL
Staff Reporter

City councillor Joe Cox says he's already tapped enough community eagerness for helping Southeast Asia refugees, that he's organized a public meeting to get Belleville's contribution rolling.

The support calls started after a crestfallen Ald. Cox Monday decided to go it alone after failing to win city council backing for a city hall initiative toward refugee relief.

"There's a spirit of people feeling that, perhaps, after all they are their brother's keeper--and maybe they have to assist them when they're in difficulties," said a happier Ald. Cox Wednesday.

On the community support indicated, he:

--Has now booked city council chambers next Monday night. It's hoped an organization can be formed to coordinate goodwill efforts.

--Hopes to organize a relief fund, and supplies of household articles--in a central storage area--to meet immediate basic needs of refugees.

Kingston has had a "very active program"--launched June 25--and now is home for 18 refugees, said the councillor.

'I'm going it alone to get things set up. But I'm not going to be alone after Monday

night. There are a lot of people that want to help."

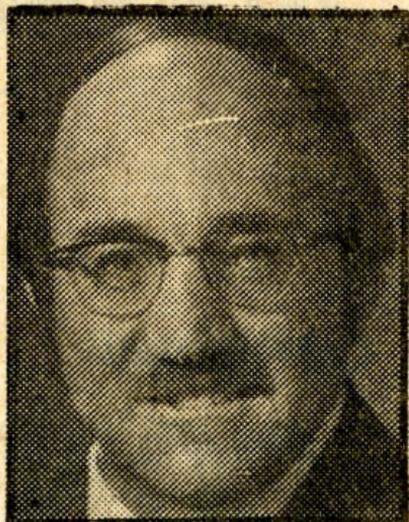
He noted a number of callers on an open-line radio show opposed Canada becoming involved in refugee relief.

"That's not going to deflect me. I've had a concern. ...And I had thought I'd better get cracking on it.

"I don't think we want to impose on people who don't want to help. But anybody who wants to get involved should have that option too.," he declared.

"The main thing is to help them (refugees)."

Monday night's meeting will hear from Harold Fleck, Belleville district manager for Canada Immigration, who will explain the federal government's refugee program and what's involved for community groups.



Ald. Joe Cox

Bloomfield: A 'haven' for boat people

*Intel July 20/79
Charters -
Quite area*

By TERRY SPRAGUE
Staff Correspondent

BLOOMFIELD - Operation Safe Haven (OSH) is expected to move Monday into office space at 116 Main Street, Picton, donated by Ted Rose of Demorestville.

The office will act as an information centre from which assistance or information may be obtained by any person or group wishing to sponsor an immigrant family to Canada. It also will serve as a centre to which donations to OSH may be directed.

Ted Rose emphasized it was premature at this point to request support from those present. "I have enough faith in the local people to know they will come to aid very

quickly once the program is set up."

Harold Speck of the immigration office, Belleville, explained that anyone wishing to sponsor an individual or family is required to complete a 1266 form on which information regarding the number of people, the type and age bracket the applicant is interested in.

He said no set guidelines has been established yet as to how much financial assistance is needed by the sponsoring group or individual, although eight to \$10,000 for the one-year period, an amount which may be pledged, has been estimated.

Chantres - Quinte area
Intel July 20/79

Realtors issue clothing challenge

If every realtor and real estate broker in Canada donated \$2, then about \$400,000 worth of Canadian-made clothing could be made available to the Vietnamese refugees arriving in the country.

Frank Geerkens, public relations officer with the Quinte and District Real Estate Board said Thursday, the Quinte board, the first board in Canada to pledge \$2,000 in clothing for

refugees. It has challenged all other real estate boards to follow suit.

He said each of the 280-members of the Quinte board donated \$2, and with that money they were able to purchase \$2,000 in clothing at retail value from Canadian manufacturers.

"There are about 65,000 realtors in Canada, which if everyone gave \$2, could raise \$130,000. And that could mean

about \$400,000 worth of Canadian-made textiles," he said.

"We expect it will go beyond real estate boards, perhaps to service clubs and professional in Canada," the official added.

Jack Ellis, MP for Prince Edward-Hastings said if all real estate boards got together in the aid scheme, "it would be a great contribution." But he said the boards shouldn't expect the government to gather and distribute

the clothing.

"Individual real estate boards would have to work with their own communities in distributing the clothing," Ellis said in a telephone interview from Ottawa.

Geerkens said the Quinte real estate board initiated the contribution plan because it wanted to do something for the refugees.

"Since realtors are taking a lot out of the community, we decided to put something into it. Because of the plight of

these people, we thought it would be an excellent thing to do, and to start this rolling in the Quinte area," Geerkens said.

He said the board decided against sending the goods to the Far East, because of the potential loss in handling, and chose instead to assist those families landing in Canada.

Hopefully, he said the board's \$2,000 in clothing can go directly to families coming to the Quinte area.

Cox confident residents want to help refugees

By HARRY MULHALL
Staff Reporter

still July 21/79
City councillor Joe Cox says he's still getting supporting calls about community refugee relief--and sees the response as an optimistic sign for the organizing meeting he plans Monday night.

Meantime, local real estate representatives have widened co-operation from counterparts in helping with a clothing fund for distressed Southeast Asians coming to Canada.

CHARITIES - QUINTE AREA
The Quinte and District Real Estate Board this week put up \$2,000 from its membership to purchase clothing--and challenged other realtor organizations across Canada to meet or beat the pledge.

The gesture now has received the backing of realtors in the Ontario Real Estate Association's region 7, John Halloran, local board president, said Friday.

The support came at a meeting in Bowmanville. Region 7 covers an areas from Oshawa to Deseronto

and north to Haliburton.

If other groups across Canada followed the same formula as the Quinte board it could result in clothing purchases running into hundreds of thousands of dollars, estimated Halloran.

His board won the support of local industry--making it possible to buy clothing at, or below, wholesale prices, a generous gesture, said Halloran.

One of the objectives of the scheme is to have the funds spent in Canada' instead of sending it abroad.

"No one is going to get wealthy out of it. But at least this way it keeps the money in Canada," said Halloran.

Meantime, Ald. Cox says from the calls he's received he believes the public is responding to his idea for forming a refugee aid organization for the Belleville area.

He had a close-up Thursday night of how such an effort works when he was invited to a meeting of a committee sponsored by Kingston area municipalities--where a number of refugees already have arrived

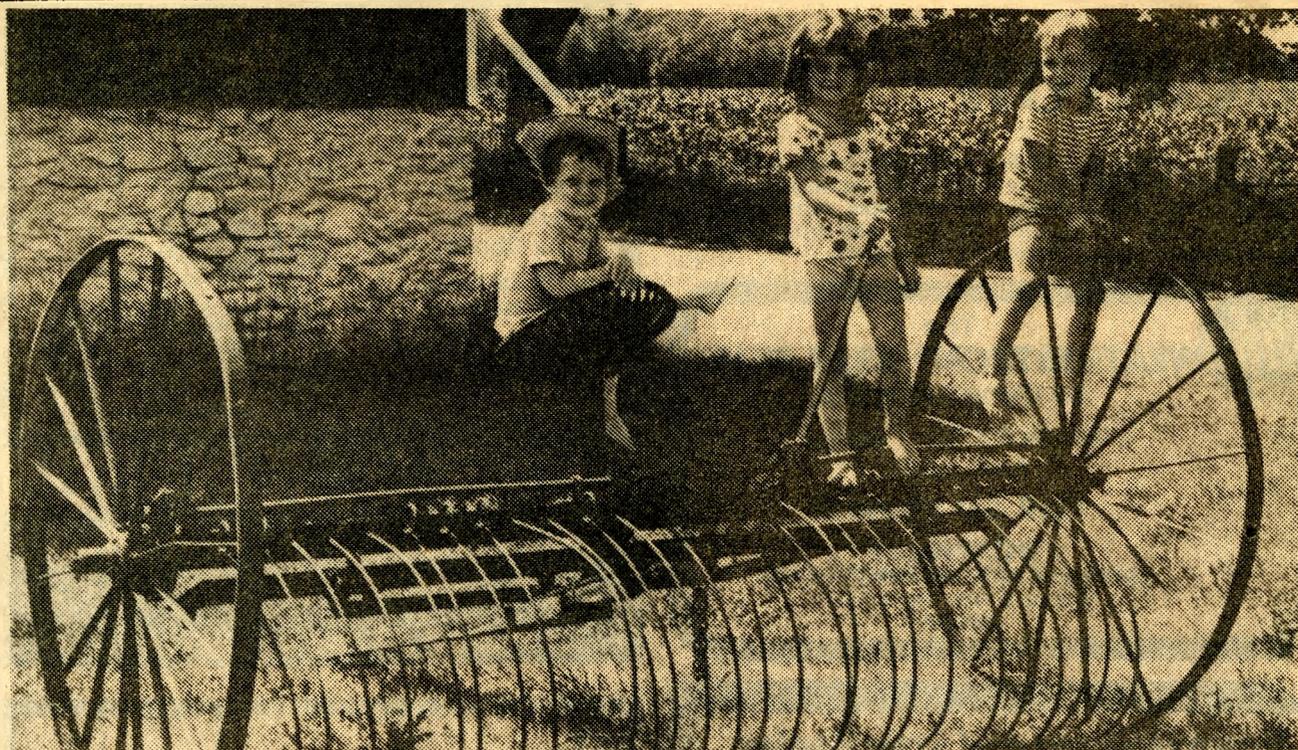
Ald. Cox says it's imperative Monday night's meeting at city hall--set for 7.30 p.m.--draws support from 60-70, people.

Also necessary to the committee's success is that it have a chairman with a "high political profile in the area," said Ald. Cox.

He said his personal intent was to get the project "rolling" and then play a supporting resource role.

Ald. Cox decided on the meeting after city council Monday declined to back his proposal for a civic initiative

Charities - Centre area
total July 23/79



Daniel Valentik's children, (L-R) Michel, 3, Darina, 6 and Ivo, 5, show

off an old cultivator which will be auctioned off in a

sale. The auction will be held in effort to raise money to sponsor a Vietnamese family.

Community unites to help boat people

By LINDA WHYTE
Staff Reporter

Persons from Stirling, Frankford and Batawa have been busy these past few weeks preparing to help the Vietnamese boat people.

The group, as a community, have agreed to sponsor a family to come to Canada.

Daniel Valentik, one of the organizers, said about 30 families have been preparing various fund-raising events to help raise money for the family.

The group is working under Project 4,000, an organization that has set out to help get boat people to Canada.

As each group must have the agreement of their minister or priest, the local organization here got the okay from Father John Grainger, who is very enthusiastic about the project.

The whole idea originated, explained Mrs. Valentik, when Paul Soucie of Belleville came to speak at their church, and discussed the plight of the boat people. "We felt moved to do something," she said.

"We're just little people," Mrs. Valentik pointed out, "but we can do something."

The group started meeting about two weeks ago, and

their application for a family has already gone to Ottawa for approval.

The first of the fund-raising events will be an auction sale to be held on the premises of the Valentiks, at RR1, Frankford, on Sunday, Aug. 12, around 1 p.m.

They are currently looking for donations of items for sale, anything from buttons to farm machinery, she said.

Mrs. Valentik stressed that every cent of the money donated will go directly to helping the refugees.

Auctioneer John Ryan of Bloomfield has agreed to donate his services for the auction.

For pick-up of articles, call Frankford 398-7703, Stirling 395-3838, or the Valentiks, 398-6917.

Although the group has little idea how much money they will raise at the auction, funds are needed to provide the family with a home, food and the necessities of life until they can find a job. An area doctor has donated his services for up to a year.

Mrs. Valentik explained that they got involved in the project because "we hate to see people standing by, condemning these people to death."

Other fund-raising events planned include a fastathon late in August for teen-agers, a barn dance and picnic.

City offers helping hand to refugees

By HARRY MULHALL
Staff Reporter

Intell
July 24/79

A humanitarian helping hand has been quietly but effectively endorsed for Southeast Asia refugees in the Belleville area.

An overflow crowd at city hall Monday night readily engaged to organizing the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee and a backup bank fund for public donations.

The initial response left its organizer--city councillor Joe Cox--personally optimistic of the concept's coming contribution in aiding various community sources now intent on playing a role in refugee aid.

"It's all very, very gratifying," commented the alderman, who decided to tap community response himself after city council last week turned down his proposal for a civic initiative.

"I really felt from the response I was getting (since) they would turn out. They far exceeded that (in numbers). And I'm very, very happy."

He had predicted he'd need about 60 people to show starting enthusiasm for his idea to have a chance of success. About 90 showed--individuals, members of organizations and church groups, already

planning--or contemplating how to contribute--their own aid efforts in Belleville area communities.

The concept that emerged: The committee itself will not directly sponsor any refugees.

But, it will act as a coordinating unit for resources and funds to back up the projects already being organized by other groups hoping to help refugees immigrate to Canada.

This also removes the committee's work from the publicity of goal-setting on the numbers of refugees communities may absorb--a method of organization used in other centres.

It was a more restrained approach that won ready favor from the assembly after hearing city surgeon Dr. Bruce Morgan.

"There shouldn't be any ballyhoo. This situation is too horrible for us to get into that kind of competition," proposed Dr. Morgan. "...I think it's a good case for individuals

doing what they feel they should do."

Ald. Cox already has received several donations to the fund he said--which will be established at the Royal Bank's Front St. branch.

Refugees coming to Canada are mostly from the business sectors of their former communities and are "quick to adapt," Harold Speck, Canadian Immigration Centre manager for the Belleville district, told the meeting.

While sponsoring groups must agree to support refugees for a year after their arrival, experience has shown most are self-sufficient in four to six months.

Only groups from five to 25 persons, or incorporated organizations can offer sponsorships and must be able to pledge \$1,200 for each member of a family.

The first meeting of the steering committee will be held next Monday night at 54 Forin St.

Local wheels in motion to help boat people

By HARRY MULHALL
Staff Reporter

The committee supporting Vietnamese refugee relief in the Belleville district is mobilizing its membership to get to work as swiftly as possible.

The group, launched a week ago, formed its executive and working organization Monday night—and formalized methods of community contributions.

"I think we have a lot of people who are very enthused and willing to work," declared Henk Frijters, selected executive head of the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee.

Frijters was chosen overall chairman as the committee formed several sub-groups to organize help for Vietnamese refugee families expected in the area.

But, the relief drive will not bog down in committee work, stressed Frijters, furniture firm sales manager and member of the Christian Reform Church.

"This is a working group. It's not committees, it's not red tape. We're here to assist in any way we can."

The committee itself will not bring in any Viet-

namese families. It will act as a backup resource providing help for sponsoring groups who guarantee the refugees' well-being for a period after their arrival.

The committee sees its role as a contact assisting with a wide range of needs—from job placements, to language courses, material and other social necessities.

And, it's now also officially ready to accept donations in its own name.

To date, money lodged in the relief fund in the past week has totalled \$175, reported city councillor Joe Cox, who initiated the relief drive.

But, the alderman said he wasn't disappointed with the amount, since the drive is only getting under way.

He felt more people would have subscribed but didn't know where to give the money—now being lodged in an account at the Royal Bank's Front St. branch.

"I feel it has just started to gain momentum now and I feel by the end of this week there will be considerably more in the account," said the alderman. "I think people are going to give. It just takes a bit of time to generate enthusiasm."

Meantime, while the sub-committees meet through the week to organize their various

assignments—the main steering group meets again in a week's time—Gord Mullin, United Community Services executive director, will continue to act as co-ordinator, taking any calls offering assistance.

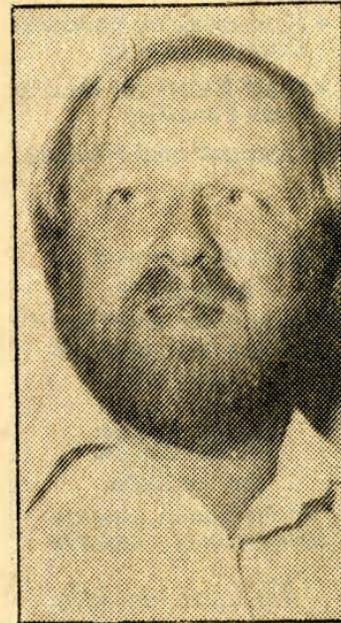
Mullin told the committee, since he assumed the role a week ago, he'd had several offers of help. Most of them were for accommodation and the majority—from the addresses given by the UCS director—outside Belleville, one from as far north as Maynooth.

The group also decided to write federal authorities a letter expressing thanks to the government for "humane assistance" extended the Vietnamese.

The letter will go to Prime Minister Joe Clark, External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald and Employment and Immigration Minister Ronald Atkey.

With Frijters on the executive are Cathy Ward, secretary; Steve Waller, RR 4 Stirling, treasurer, while Ald. Cox will play a liaison role.

Heading the sub-groups are county registrar Steve Geneja, social resources; Beverley Seemungal, public relations and Susan Stevenson, finance.



Henk Frijters

Instal July 31/79

Charities - Quinte area

Intell July 31/79 Chantres - Quinte area

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONTARIO

Belleville outpaced responding to boat people

Smaller communities in the Quinte district seemed to have outpaced Belleville in the initial response to aiding Southeast Asia refugees, a local immigration official indicated Monday.

However, the city is still in the organizational stages of its response and more applications offering aid may be forthcoming, Harold Speck, Canada Immigration Centre manager in Belleville said.

"The smaller places seem to be picking it up quicker than the main centre (of the district) for some reason," he assessed.

He noted a support committee to help with local relief efforts had only been organized a week ago. It met for the first time Monday night.

The Belleville immigration centre administers an area that includes Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland counties.

Churches have been the groups "that are really involved" so far in the district in refugee aid initiative, said Speck.

Several applications to sponsor stricken families in the district have been approved--and now go for final processing before the families

are sent from Asian refugee centres.

One application from the Bloomfield area involves a family with 11 children.

Sponsorships can be offered by groups of not less than five persons--or incorporated groups.

Such groups must be able to satisfy federal authorities they can aid the refugee families--an undertaking that includes familiarization with Canadian lifestyles, said the official. Government "recommendation" is that the groups allow \$1,200 in cash or assets for supporting each individual for a year.

County readies aid for boat people

Intell
Aug 3/79

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

*Charities -
Spike area*

PICTON - Prince Edward County has now organized "Operation Safe Haven" as part of the national drive for people from Indo-China to be re-located in Canada, with refugees expected to arrive here by early October.

Ernest Shortt, retired business administrator for the Prince Edward County board of education is chairman of an advisory committee of 16 trustees. Shortt spent a year in Vietnam as a member of a United Nations mission there.

Ted Rose, treasurer for Operation Safe Haven has donated office space for the project at 116 Main Street and Pat Draper, a retired lawyer is acting as legal counsel. Draper is now making application for a charitable donation number for receipts affecting income tax deductions.

Through the efforts of George Thompson, manager of Bell Telephone in this area, telephone calls to Safe Haven may be made by 476-6422. Correspondence should be directed to Box 2041, Picton.

Volunteers are required and offers of assistance are being accepted at Safe Haven headquarters. Donations of furniture, clothing, dishes, utensils and bedding are being sought, too.

To date, sponsoring groups expect at least five families and other groups are also discussing plans for sponsorship.

Committee eager to aid refugee sponsors

By Intelligencer Staff

The local committee for Vietnamese refugee relief is anxious for contact with any group which plans sponsoring settlement of stricken families in the Belleville area.

Henk Frijters, committee chairman, says his group needs to know the sponsors to whom it can offer help.

Information on sponsoring groups was still sparse when the committee executive met Tuesday night at the Pinnacle recreation centre.

Details exchanged between members identified a possible seven groups in the district--mainly church or affiliated sponsors.

The committee already has gathered some information aids which will assist those already planning--or contemplating--guaranteeing establishment of refugees in the area.

Meanwhile, the committee is still receiving

funds and organizing itself for support roles in helping with refugees settlement.

As yet, there have been no requests for help to the committee, said Frijters, but he doesn't see this as any indication of diffident response.

The big demand--and the timetable to which the committee is gearing itself--will come after Vietnamese families begin arriving in the district.

"That will bring a lot of questions from sponsoring groups," said Frijters.

More than the economics of immigration will be involved. There will be the wide-ranging special needs of accustoming and accommodating Vietnamese to all aspects of Canadian society and culture.

The Quinte Refugee Relief Committee, launched two weeks ago, does not itself sponsor families, but is to act as a support resource for

material and social needs--from clothing supplies, to job placement and education.

Meantime, the executive Tuesday night:

--Learned donations to its relief fund had reached \$610--up from \$175 eight days ago. Frijters called the trend "tremendous"--since it had tripled the total in a week.

--Approved a constitution so it could quickly apply for incorporation as a charitable organization--allowing it to give tax-deduction receipts to donors. The incorporation process will take six-eight weeks, but Frijters didn't believe this would be a problem. It will take at least that much time before the first refugee family is expected to arrive, he said.

--Decided to call a public meeting of the entire committee--formed from a founding session which drew about 100 to city hall. The meeting is expected for early September.

Intell Aug 8/79

Charities - Quinte area

At least two months before boat people in city

Bel - Foreign population

By BILL WHITELAW
Staff Reporter

As the move bringing Vietnamese refugees into Canada gains momentum, agencies and sponsoring groups are gearing up to provide the boat people with the basic necessities of life.

In Belleville, a committee headed by local businessman Henk Frijters has been formed to assist refugee families arriving in the Quinte area.

While the committee will not bring in any families, it will act as a back-up resource for sponsoring groups. The Quinte District Refugee

Relief Committee has been in existence a little over a week and spokesmen say it will strive to assist the wide variety of needs from language courses to job placements.

In the first six months of 1979, over 1,600 refugees have entered Ontario. A large number of Vietnamese have taken up residence in several other provinces but Quebec and Ontario have accepted the largest numbers.

The Ontario Region of Employment and Immigration Canada has proposed several cities in the province accept a number of families

each month for the balance of 1979. Belleville's proposed allotment is two families each month.

Although no families are expected to arrive in Belleville for the next few months, Mike Collins, coordinator of the refugee program for Canada Manpower, said he anticipates no real problem finding employment for them. Collins explained no jobs had been lined up because qualifications of individual refugees are not known at the present. However, he explained refugees will be eager to

work hard at almost anything and appreciate it.

Reaction to the boat people is mixed. Some feel with rising employment and the state of Canada's economy, bringing more people in will jeopardize the country's future. Others feel that being trapped on an overcrowded vessel on the high seas with the constant fear of death by drowning or disease warrants taking a few thousand homeless into Canada. Still others feel they don't know enough about the situation to give an opinion. The following are some basic facts that will answer most of the questions asked by potential sponsors.

Groups that may sponsor a refugee family should be a legally incorporated organization such as a church or service club or be a constituent group of a national or regional organization. The groups are obligated to provide material assistance in the form of accommodation, furniture, household items, clothing and incidental expenses including health care. The sponsor undertakes to assist the family for one year or until they are self-sufficient. The sponsors are asked to specify the size of family they wish to care for. Two to four months later the family arrives but as the influx increases the time may be cut to one to two months.

The procedure is as follows. The would-be sponsors contact their local branch of Employment and Immigration Canada. After the group has been approved they will be asked to complete a notice of intention which will indicate the type of assistance the group is willing to provide. After a family has been selected, an immigration official will provide the group with information concerning the family.

There is some controversy over the status of the refugees. Some argue the boat people are not actually refugees but well-educated, middleclass families looking for a better way of life.

However, in defining a refugee, the United Nations Convention says anyone with a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality or membership in a particular social or political group is a refugee.

Students, teachers to be polled

School board could sponsor refugee family

By HENRY BURY
Staff Reporter

The Hastings County Board of Education has come to the aid of the Vietnamese boat people, agreeing Monday to sponsor one family for a year's stay in Belleville.

There's one hitch though. The 1,500 staff members of the school board and its 21,000 students will be polled in September to get an indication of their financial support for the family's sponsorship, before any final commitment is made.

Fraser Rose, chairman of the board, and the person responsible for making the recommendation, said it would cost anywhere from \$4,000 to \$9,000 to sponsor the Vietnamese family, but emphasized the money wouldn't come from the school board's coffers, nor from the taxpayers.

The money, he said would come strictly from the board's staff and students, and any other volunteer contributors.

"We (board) would never be put in a position to pay. I would have to cover any shortfall myself," Rose said, replying to a trustee's question on what happened if the necessary money wasn't raised while the family was already liv-

ing in Belleville.

Rose said a separate bank account would be set up to receive contributions from students and staff, and that receipts for income tax would be granted.

Rose said one reason for the board's sponsorship for the Vietnamese family would be on humanitarian grounds.

"Further to that, the project could, if handled properly, provide in several ways a worthwhile educational experience for the pupils within the Hastings County school system. Firstly, it would provide a focus for school fund-raising activities wherein pupils could learn the merit of raising money for someone other than themselves."

"Secondly, within the classroom in any lessons involving the history, or geography, of Southeast Asia, this project could provide both motivation and information for the students....By undertaking this endeavour, the board would be reaffirming its belief in the concepts of trust and risk. It would be trusting that its staff and students will be willing to support this project both in principle and with contributions, and risking that support is sufficient to meet the obligation of sponsorship," Rose said.

Trustees, after debating about an hour whether or not to support Rose's recommendation, voted nine-to-six in favor of accepting the recommendation, provided the students and staff were questioned as to their support for the family's sponsorship.

One of those trustees opposed to the recommendation was Eloise Burr who said the sponsorship of the refugees was outside the mandate of the school board.

"Our job is to operate the school system. To go beyond that, we shouldn't even consider it," Mrs. Burr said.

Bill Hockley agreed, saying it wasn't the school board's term of reference to support the sponsorship.

He argued that the board should pay heed to the proverb "charity begins at home", and show compassion to the needy families in Belleville, and those in Woodstock who lost their possessions in a tornado last week.

He also pointed out that the board's teachers donated about \$4,200 to the United Way campaign last year, "and these are going to be the people you're going to ask for \$9,000."

Intell Aug 14/79

Charities - Quite a few



Refugee adrift in the China Sea.

At Hastings Park Church

*Hotel Aug 17/79
Charities - Quinze area*

Rally to aid refugees

Hastings Park Church on Harder Drive will focus on the plight of Vietnamese refugees at a "share-and-care" rally Sunday at 7 p.m.

Representatives of World Vision International, a non-profit, inter-denominational humanitarian organization, will be present and information on refugee sponsorship will be provided at the free rally.

A 30-minute documentary, filmed on board a rescue ship in the South China Sea and at a refugee camp on the Thailand coast, will be shown at the rally.

The film documents the growing plight of refugees fleeing Vietnam and of efforts to aid them, according to information provided by World Vision.

"The program focuses on the actual stories of refugees who have chosen the perils of attempted escape on the open seas rather than life under a repressive communist regime," says a news release.

World Vision says the program reveals "new in-

sights" into the complex international issues that have left thousands of people homeless.

In the film refugees will describe drifting on boats for days without food or water, of attacks by pirates and their hope of re-settlement.

"By focusing attention on the refugees' plight, World Vision hopes to create international concern that will lead to permanent re-settlement of displaced Southeast Asian refugees throughout the world," says World Vision.

Those who attend the rally will have the opportunity to help refugees through financial pledges to Operation Seasweep; a 345-ton mercy ship chartered by the organization to provide refugees with food, clothing, medical care, and mechanical and navigational aid.

World Vision was formed originally to aid children orphaned by the Korean War. Its work has since expanded and in 28 years the organization has contributed "millions of dollars" in direct aid through projects in approximately 50 countries.

Bel - Foreign population
From Montreal

Intell Aug 23/79

First city refugees to arrive Saturday

The first Vietnamese family to relocate in the Belleville area is expected to arrive in the city Saturday.

Mike Collins, co-ordinator of the refugee program said the family is expected to ar-

rive in Montreal today and make their way to Belleville by the weekend.

The size of the family, their background and other details are unavailable at the present said Collins.

Chantres - Orville area
Intel Aug 24/79

Collection centre arranged

PICTON - The former location of the A and P Store on Main and Elizabeth Streets, here, is being used as a collection centre for clothing and other items needed by the "boat people."

Hillier deputy-reeve Frank Westerhof, Tuesday, told Prince Edward County councillors the Safe Haven Committee has been organized by several county groups to offer aid. Four active groups will sponsor five families, with the first two of these scheduled to arrive here in October or November.

He said the refugees will be flown here by the government at a cost of \$750 per person but this money is a loan that must be repaid when the individuals become self-supporting.

Westerhof said all sponsors for the boat people in Prince Edward are church organizations and Safe Haven now has donations totalling \$2,000.

Sponsors must provide jobs and housing for the incoming boat people.



The first Vietnamese to arrive in Belleville were met at the bus station Sunday by representatives of various groups. From left, Alderman Joe Cox, Mike Collins, co-ordinator of the refugee program at Canada Manpower, Tran Nguyet Lan, her brother Tran Co Quoc and Henk Frijters, chairman of the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee.

FROM SAIGON TO BELLEVILLE *Hotel Aug 27/79*

Six-month journey ends

Bel - foreign population
By Bill Whitelaw
Staff Reporter

Slightly bewildered and very tired, Tran Nguyet Lan, 20, and her younger brother, Tran Co Quoc, 16, arrived in Belleville Sunday, nearly six months after fleeing their native South Vietnam.

The pair arrived at the Voyageur bus terminal and were greeted by several local representatives of various organizations. Mike Collins, co-ordinator of the Refugee Program for Canada Manpower and Henk Frijters, chairman of the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee were among them.

"The first priority is to get them settled," said Collins, who took charge of the pair. "We have an immediate prospect for a live-in job."

Quoc and his sister Lan will spend the first nights in a local hotel but Collins said he would like to see them settled as soon as possible. (In Asian countries, surnames are first with given names last).

If the first attempts to gain employment fail, Collins said a small house or apartment will be found for the pair. Monday will find them going through basic immigration procedures after having a good night's sleep.

Quoc and Lan's ordeal began in March of 1979. They

fled their home in Ho Chi Minh city (Saigon), South Vietnam and made their way to Malaysia by boat as did hundreds of thousands Vietnamese. After a four-day trip, they discovered they were to spend an additional 15 days on the boat before being allowed to enter a refugee camp in Malaysia. They spent five months in the camp before their turn arrived to leave. To Montreal and then Toronto by plane, they finally arrived in Belleville by bus.

The Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee was formed several weeks ago by concerned citizens. City Alderman Joe Cox, who originally initiated the relief committee was also on hand to greet Quoc and Lan. The committee was formed as an umbrella group to provide assistance to any sponsoring groups. While not actually bringing in families themselves, the committee will assist in finding accommodations, furnishings, clothing and other social necessities to help the Vietnamese adapt to a new culture.

While Quoc speaks no English and Lan only a smattering, Collins, with the help of an English-Vietnamese dictionary was able to get the pair settled. Between them two members of the relief committee speak a bit of three Asian languages and may be able to assist in translation.

Pirates robbed refugees during ordeal at sea



TRAN CO QUOC

By BILL WHITE LAW
Staff Reporter

Following a six month ordeal that included being robbed by Thai pirates, spending nearly 20 days on an overcrowded boat and five months in a refugee camp that had one washroom for over 4,000 people, Tran Nguyet Lan and her brother Tran Co Quoc are beginning a new life.

The Vietnamese pair arrived in Belleville Sunday, nearly six months after they left Vietnam. With the help of Canada Manpower officials, Lan and Quoc began to fill out the necessary paperwork that will ease them into their new culture.

Besides completing the basic immigration and financial assistance forms, Quoc,

16, and Lan, 20, are applying for a social insurance number and Ontario Hospital Insurance coverage. A social insurance number is required before they can begin work, however, if an employment opportunity arises immediately, an emergency number can be issued. Also if a medical emergency arises, Mike Collins, co-ordinator of the refugee program at Canada Manpower has the power to authorise emergency treatment.

Because Lan speaks only enough English to get along and Quoc none at all, an attempt will be made to enroll Quoc in the English for New Canadians at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

During this time, officials are busy getting acquainted with the procedures should

another group of Vietnamese arrive in the city.

Work was made easier for Collins and Joe Celestini, also of Manpower, when upon visiting a local Chinese restaurant, they found Nancy Lo whose husband Kwan can speak Chinese and converse easily with the Trans. Lo, a local businessman who divides his time between his Toronto and Belleville businesses, stayed on Monday to help the Manpower team with their paperwork.

With the help of Lo, the story of the Tran's ordeal came out.

In March, 1979, Quoc and Lan were part of a family whose mother worked making Chinese medicines. Their father had died in 1968, leaving the mother to care for the five children. Secretly, the

mother was saving to send Quoc and Lan out of Saigon. Part of Lan's wages at an auto parts factory were secretly sent to her mother to help pay for the trip.

Six hours was all the notice that Lan and Quoc, a high school student with one year left to complete, had before they were to board the boat bound for Malaysia. Upon boarding, they found they were not allowed any baggage because of crowded conditions. In all more than 250 people crowded on to a boat less than 60 feet long and 15 feet wide. Each passenger had to pay a large sum of money to board.

During their four day trip to Malaysia, the vessel was set upon by Thai pirates. All passengers were robbed of the small valuables they had

managed to bring aboard. Lan and Quoc managed to hide a pair of gold rings, which were their only possessions on entering the refugee camp.

However, on reaching Malaysia the Trans were faced with more bad news -- they were to spend an additional 15 days on the boat before being admitted to a camp. During this time, each person was given one half cup of rice and a tin of sardines, expected to last them for the 15 days.

Gaining entry to the camp marked the beginning of a five month wait before being moved. During their stay in what was considered one of the best camps in Malaysia, the Trans has to share one large bathroom with 4,000 people.



TRAN NGUYET LAN

Intell Aug 28/79

Bel - Foreign population

Picton clearing depot *est. Aug 29/79* *Charities - Quinte area*

Boat People donations hit \$2,000

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

PICTON - The old A and P store on Main and Elizabeth Streets has become a storage depot for Operation Safe Haven to aid Vietnamese boat people.

Mrs. Don Misener, an enthusiastic volunteer for the project, said the supply centre will be staffed each Wednesday, starting Sept. 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers will be present to receive donations, with clothing (sized), furniture, appliances, canned and packaged foods, sewing machines and bicycles needed.

Mrs. Misener said response to Operation Safe Haven has been excellent with cash donations totalling \$2,000. Many persons have volunteered their time and skills for the boat people and more are needed.

It is expected some of the

television sets and other appliances received will require minor repairs and persons familiar with this type of work are being asked to give their time.

"There isn't much time left," said Mrs. Misener, noting the first boat people will arrive here in October.

She said from 40 to 50 persons are expected and homes have been opened to them, throughout the county. Several persons have donated the use of houses for the newcomers.

Operation Safe Haven has an office, supplied through income tax consultant Ted Rose, at the Quinte's Isle Tourist Association building near the cenotaph. Although the office is not staffed, at present, an answering service receives incoming calls and inquiries.

Mrs. Misener said use of the A and P building was donated with money required only for lighting and liability insurance.

Refugees move to apartment

By RON HIUSER
Staff Reporter

After several nights in a hotel, Tran Co Quoc and Tran Nguyet Lan, the first Vietnam refugees to arrive in Belleville, are beginning to settle into an apartment on Dundas Street East.

Sixteen-year-old Quoc and his sister, Lan, 20, had just barely carried their few belongings into their apartment Thursday when John Halloran, president of the Quinte and District Real Estate Board presented them with a package of new clothes which was donated by various area businesses.

The package contained two pairs of jeans, six shirts, underwear and T-shirts, three pairs of socks and two pairs of shoes.

"Similar packages will be given to others coming into this area," Halloran commented. The board which organized a relief fund, has about \$3,000 to provide clothing for refugees. Packages will be given as long as the money lasts.

"Basically, the gift is to help get the people started," he commented.

But there is still a need for more items primarily houseware items, said Mike Collins, refugee co-ordinator

for the Canada Manpower Centre. Working in co-operation with the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee, Collins has been arranging for things such as a stove and refrigerator and smaller kitchen utensils.

The apartment is being supplied by the federal government which also sponsored the pair to Belleville. However there are no furnishings.

Pat Pamerter, a member of the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee, said dona-

tions of kitchen utensils will be accepted. People can contact the United Community

Services, 962-9531, if they want to give something, she said. The community services will contact the refugee relief committee.

"It will be the same story every time," when refugees settle in this area, she said.

Halloran said the next group of refugees are expected in early October. There will be four families settling in the Picton area. One of the four families is reported to have 13 members, he said.

If businesses want to donate items or money, they can contact himself, Halloran said.

Intel Aug 31/79

Bel - foreign population

Space needed to store donations for refugees

The committee supporting Vietnamese refugee relief in the Belleville area is now seeking storage space for articles donated for its work.

The growing stockpile ranges from personal to household items--clothing to furniture and utensils--in a response Henk Frijters enthusiastically describes as "tremendous."

Frijters is chairman of the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee, formed in late July to organize help for Southeast Asia immigrants--left destitute by their plight--destined to for the district.

In recent weeks area residents have been steadily offering goods and articles for use by refugees in organizing new lives, indicates Frijters.

But, the committee has yet to find a central storage depot and clearing house and now is seeking an offer of space.

To now, the goods offered are still being held by the donors.

"We really need a place for storage," says Frijters.

Any offers of help can be placed with Frijters at 966-1353 or by writing post office Box 602, Belleville.

There also has been monetary support and the group's relief fund now has reached about \$1,000, added the chairman.

Meantime, Wednesday the committee was issued its government designation as a charitable organization--allowing it to issue tax-deductible receipts for donations, he said.

The first two refugees, sponsored by the federal government, arrived in Belleville last week.

Frijters said the latest indications from officials is that two government-backed refugees a month will arrive in the area until the end of the year.

This is exclusive of families or individuals sponsored by private groups.

More than 100 people turned out at city hall July 23 to form the relief committee.

Intercept 6/79 Caritas - Quinte area

Province won't allow school board to sponsor refugee family

By HENRY BURY
Staff Reporter

The Hastings County Board of Education won't be sponsoring a Vietnamese refugee family after all, -- it learned from the ministry of education that it's not allowed to do so.

The school board last month agreed to sponsor a family, if a majority of the students and teachers in the system indicated their interest and financial support

for the sponsorship. The cost of sponsoring the family would be anywhere from \$4,000 to \$9,000 a year.

But at Monday's school board meeting, chairman Fraser Rose, and the man responsible for making the recommendation, said he received a letter from the Ontario ministry of education saying it has to abandon its proposal.

"The ministry said we must not proceed further with our motion. It said it's not in the prerogative of the board. The motion is

illegal, and we cannot proceed. We must rescind the motion," Rose told trustees.

He said he was in Toronto Monday discussing the matter with the ministry officials but was unable to change their minds.

However, he pointed out there is an alternative whereby the school board could sponsor a family.

"Interested trustees and the administration would have to band together as a

private group. And as a private group, we could then sponsor a family," Rose said.

In this way, the corporate name, the Hastings County Board of Education, wouldn't have to be involved in the family's sponsorship.

He said he will be meeting with trustees and the administration in the next few days in order to gauge their interest in the sponsorship.

"I'm disappointed. It's very unfortunate if we have to drop it. We would need at

least five trustees in the group," he said in an interview afterwards.

The group, he said, would also need about \$2,000 in the bank before they could set the wheels in motion for the sponsorship.

"That might be difficult for us. But I look at that as an inconvenience," Rose said.

He hinted the interested persons might even loan money into a bank account, and then be reimbursed from the donations

received from the students and teachers within the school board.

Rose said last month the sponsorship of the family would be based on humanitarian grounds. Also, it would provide an educational experience for the students by their learning to raise money for someone other than themselves, and it might provide both motivation and information in any classroom lessons dealing with the history and geography of Southeast Asia.

Intell Sept 12/79

Bel - Foreign population

Volunteers needed to aid refugees

By HARRY MULHALL
Staff Reporter

Willing to spare a little time to help ease adaptability of Canada's Vietnamese immigrants to their new environment?

Contact the Quinte District Refugee Relief Committee.

The plea for helping hands came Tuesday night as the committee's executive reported to the organization on what it has accomplished since the group was formed little more than a month ago.

"The only problem we've encountered so far is to find people concerned to become involved with these people--to show them around our way of life and doing things," said Henk Frijters, committee chairman.

What's needed, says Steve Geneja, the group's social resources chairman, are volunteers willing to take refugees on shopping expeditions, acquaint them with schooling, medical and dental attention, transportation -- "all the ABCs of everyday living."

Geneja said government has the funds to aid the stricken immigrants but "doesn't have the individuals available for this kind of work."

Belleville's first two refugees--a young brother and sister--arrived in the city two weeks ago.

Frijters says federal officials have told him the official quota so far for the Belleville of Southeast Asian refugees is two families a month

to the end of 1980--what it's estimated the district can absorb.

Private groups sponsoring families have indicated they have resources to look after their arrivals but still may call on the committee for help, he cautioned.

"So we desperately need people who are willing to come out and take these people under their wing. ...We're going to need people willing to adopt groups and take them around."

Frijters also had a reminder for any groups contemplating sponsorship of one poignant situation that is being overlooked in the adoption of families.

Many groups are bringing whole families to Canada. But the refugees in Asian holding centres also include many teen-agers--who either lost their parents during the ordeal of sea flight from Vietnam or left the country by themselves. These are being overlooked.

"They'll be left in the camps if people don't get around and start sponsoring them," said Frijters.

Advice on methods of personal contact--and conduct--with the refugees also was given the group by Francis Sim, one-time Singapore native and now local professional engineering company president.

Sim reminded the members many of the immigrants had never known freedom as Canadians understand it--and have spent their lives endeavoring to survive capture or death from

one enemy or another.

They have been left sensitive by a life "continually under fear. They never take anything for granted."

He indicated they should not be overwhelmed by personal contact and those involved with the refugees should not "be overly protective."

The provincial government also is moving in the education area to further language services, said Diana Aitken, field services consultant for the culture and recreation ministry.

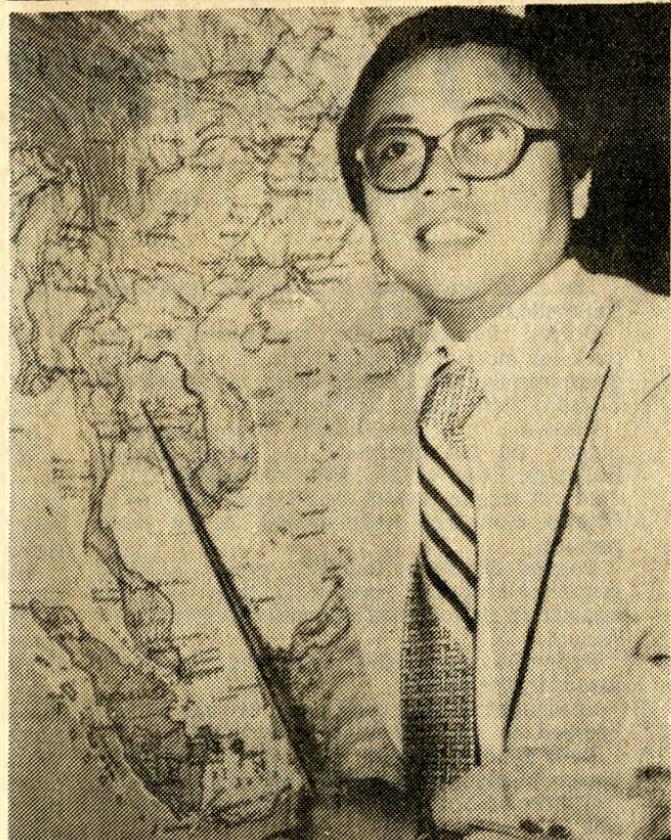
"We see a great mandate to assist from a family point of view to help them with English. ...There will be more and more (government) information and systems set in place. We see our mandate to help with language whoever we can, wherever we can."

About 25 people showed for the meeting at the Alhambra --a big reduction from the the crowd that packed city hall council chamber for a founding session of the group.

However, Frijters felt this was no evidence of a dwindling of interest--rather the opposite, since it denoted the group was now well organized, and other members without specific tasks were ready to be called on when necessary.

The committee continues to seek a storage depot for clothing and household articles donated for refugee relief.

Meantime, Geneja is asking any persons who can assist with various chores to contact Pat Pamerter, at 962-5655.



Francis Sim details plight of refugees

School sponsorship investigated

Refugee family not expected for months

By HENRY BURY
Staff Reporter

A Vietnamese refugee family won't be arriving in Belleville until at least the beginning of 1980, if at all, says the chairman of the Hastings County Board of Education.

Fraser Rose said Friday the sponsorship of the family will hinge entirely on a meeting with the presidents of the three local teacher's federations and area principals sometime in the next couple of weeks. This meeting will determine whether the support's there for going ahead with the sponsorship of the family, which could cost anywhere between \$4,000 and \$9,000 for a one-year's stay here.

The Hastings County Board of Education last month approved its sponsorship for the family, provided the board's staff and students showed their interest, which would include contributing financially. But at this week's board meeting, it found out from the ministry of education that it doesn't have the prerogative to sponsor a family. So it had to abandon the proposal under the name

of the Hastings County Board of Education.

But following the meeting, Rose said he would try to get a group of trustees and administrative personnel interested enough to form an independent group which could ahead itself with the sponsorship. The group wouldn't need to use the Hastings County Board of Education name as the official sponsoring agent for the family.

Rose said five school board trustees and three administrators have already expressed their interest in forming this independent group.

"I want to also contact the presidents of the three teacher's federations and also some principals. If they feel there will be a grassroots support for the sponsorship, we'll go ahead," Rose said.

Even if this support is there, Rose said the group wouldn't be able to proceed as quickly as planned in bringing the Vietnamese family over here.

"Originally, we were expecting them shortly after mid-October. But now it won't be at least into 1980," the chairman said.

He explained that when he made the motion on

behalf of the school board to sponsor the family, he had already completed the first two stages necessary in the sponsorship procedure.

"Now, the group would have to start from step one all over again. We first have to get approval from the department of immigration, which takes about a month, and in the second step, we have to describe the family we want, which should take another couple of weeks. I had already done these two things for the Hastings County Board of Education this summer, but I can't transfer it to this independent group. I have to go through the red tape all over again."

Rose said last month the sponsorship of the family would be based on humanitarian grounds. Also, it would provide an excellent educational experience for the students by showing them the value of raising money for someone other than themselves, and it might provide both motivation and information in any classroom lessons dealing with the history and geography of Southeast Asia.

"We don't want to give up. It's too worthwhile. If the support is there, we will do it," Rose said.

Intel Sept 15/79 Bel - Foreign population



Intel
Sept 17/79

Refugees arrive

The first of six Vietnamese refugee families expected to be brought to Prince Edward County in the near future, arrived in Bloomfield Friday afternoon. On hand to greet the new family were representatives from the Bloomfield Christian Reformed Church sponsoring group, Operation Safe Haven and

the Quinte Real Estate Board. The family consisting of Lam Khan Duc, 46, and his wife, Tran Thi Ten, 45, and their 11 children, ranging in age from five to 20, will be housed in temporary quarters in the village until a house in Bloomfield is made ready in early October.



The Giang family from Vietnam arrived in Trenton Tuesday afternoon and they stand with all their possessions at the Trenton Bus Station. The family arrived with only a few hours notice for the Christian

Reformed Church which is sponsoring five families of refugees. The Giang family is the second family of refugees to arrive in Trenton. The first arrived last Thursday.

Intel
Sept 19/79

Boat People

Chantres -
Quinte area

Second of five families find new home in Trenton

By RICK HOBBS
Staff Reporter

TRENTON- The second of five Vietnamese refugee families arrived in Trenton Tuesday afternoon.

Rev. Adrian Van Geest, minister at the Christian Reformed Church, in Trenton, said Tuesday afternoon that the church is sponsoring five families which will settle in the Trenton area.

The Huu Giang family is the second to arrive in Trenton within a week. The first family arrived last Thursday afternoon.

Rev. Van Geest said the church only had three hours notice that the refugee family was arriving.

"There was a mixup. The first family we were told about a week in advance that they were in the country and would be arriving in about a week.

"This time someone forgot to tell us that the family had arrived in Canada and we only got the word on Tuesday morning."

Rev. Van Geest said the father of the first family is already working at a job in a machine shop in Trenton.

Because the second family arrived with little notice, he said, no permanent apartment has been found for them and the father has no job.

"We are looking into possible jobs for

him. He is a trained air conditioner mechanic."

There are five children in both families. All children from the families will be attending the Trenton Christian School.

Language is a big problem for the refugees and Rev. Van Geest said people in the church will be helping the refugee families as much as possible to learn the language.

The first family spoke Cantonese and he said local Chinese people speak that dialect. An interpreter was brought in and the family could communicate with their Canadian sponsors.

The church could stand to lose \$10,000-\$12,000 in sponsoring each family but Rev. Van Geest said the church hoped it would only cost about \$1,000 per family.

He said most of the materials the refugees will require have been donated through members of the congregation.

"We are hoping to get by with about \$1,000 but that depends on finding jobs for the refugees so they can support themselves."

In total five more refugee families are expected in Trenton this year. Two more families are being sponsored by two groups within St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church as well as three more families the Christian Reformed Church is bringing in.

Refugees begin new life thankful to be alive

*Intel Sept 21/79
Cherries - Orange
area*

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

Giang Thi Dung, who are in their late teens.

70-metre boat.

The family said they paid the Viet Cong in gold for their passage and on March 26, 1979, landed in Malaysia where they spent four months in a refugee camp. Life here was described as "good and bad" and officials took the family's remaining money, saying it would be returned after they reached Canada.

representatives of Operation Safe Haven and their sponsor group.

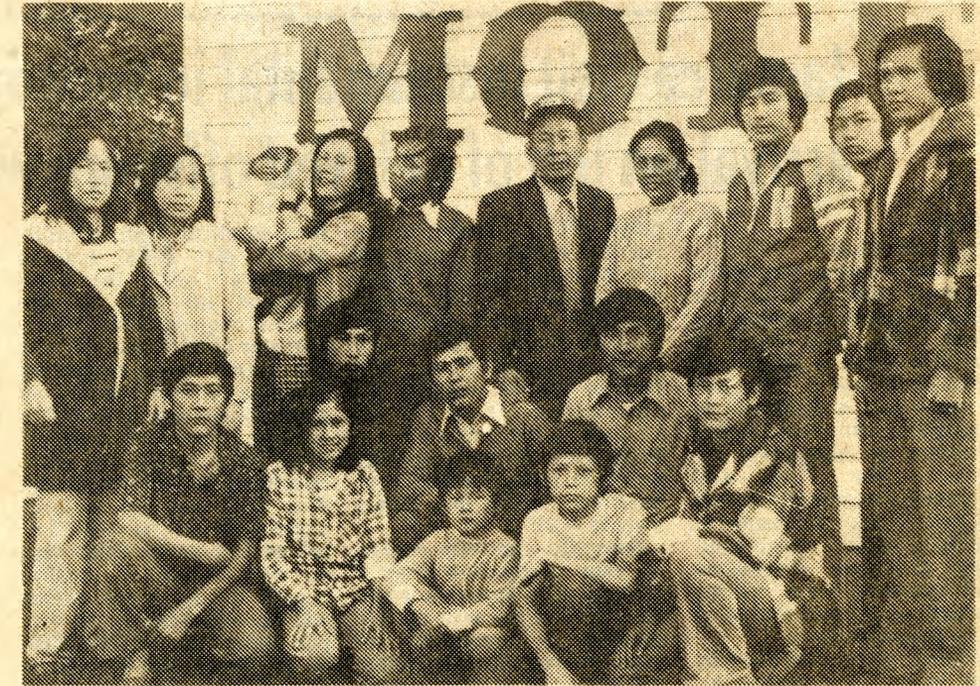
The family members said they did not like to leave their homeland because, it is a beautiful country but death would have been likely had they remained.

Lam Long Ngoc is doubtful that he will resume his medical studies here. He speaks a limited amount of English, learned at high school, as do one of his brothers and two sisters.

The Lam Khon Duc family lived in the Vietnamese city of Quan Long, from 1975 until the time of their flight to Canada. They owned a coffee plantation and business operation and the eldest son, Long, had been enrolled in medical school for two years.

They fled the country in March, 1979, crossing by boat from Quan Long to Kota Bharu and saw pirates, both Vietnamese and Thai, on their three-day trip aboard a

The "boat people" flew from Japan to Vancouver, then to Edmonton and Toronto and reached Belleville by bus. Here they were met by



Bloomfield motel temporary home for these refugees

BLOOMFIELD - After a day of picking in a Prince Edward County apple orchard, Lam Khon Duc, who owned a coffee plantation in Viet Nam, declared Canada is "number one".

Head of the first family of "boat people" to arrive in the county, he said Thursday he and his wife and children faced annihilation in their homeland but have found a new beginning here.

Lam Khon Duc, 46, and his wife, Tran Ten Thi, 45, speak no English but expressed their feelings through Ernest Shortt of West Lake, who served with the International Control Commission in Viet Nam in 1964 and speaks some of the language.

The couple and their 11 children, Lam Long Ngoc, 20, Lam Son Ngoc, 17, Lam Ho Ngoc, 16, Lam Hung Ngoc, 14, Lam Hai Ngoc, 15, Lam Thanh Ngoc, 13, Lam Tuan Ngoc, 10, Lam Ian Ngoc, 8, Lam Dung Ngoc, 9, Lam Minh Ngoc, 7 and Lam Duc Ngoc, 6 are living at the Coach House Motel here. Their sponsors are the Bethany Christian Reform Church.

Also at the motel is another Vietnamese family, Giang Van Thanh and his wife, Lam Tuyet Mai, daughter of Lam Khon Duc and their year-old daughter Giang Lam Khanh Linh. With them are two sisters, Giang Thi My and

Refugees keen to learn says teacher

Intell Sept 25/79

PICTON - When a five-year-old enters kindergarten, he has a vocabulary of approximately 1,800 words but Vietnamese refugees now attending classes at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute recognize just 125 to 150 words.

Four brothers, Lam Ho Ngoc, 16, Lam Hung Ngoc, 14, Lam Hai Ngoc, 15 and Lam Thanh Ngoc, 13, are participating in special English classes taught daily at PECI by Earl Holt, of the school's guidance department and six

Charters - Downtown

student volunteers. In addition, each boy receives help from a student "escort", who attends classes with him.

Holt said the student escorts are Steve Webster and Scott Davis, pupils in grade 10 and Shawn Cowan and Rick Leavitt of grade 9.

"They are learning rapidly and are very keen. They write everything down," said Holt, who travels to Bloomfield nightly to give English lessons to the older members of the Lam family, who are living at the Coach House

Motel.

Holt, who has been a teacher for 24 years, has volunteered his time to help the Vietnamese refugees, as have six other PECI teachers who assist as time permits.

Holt said the younger family members are learning English more quickly than their elders and benefit from their exposure to the

language during regular class sessions.

The special English classes at PECI are offered during the last period of each day and the student volunteers participating, take part while on "spares."

Holt said the Vietnamese students are exceptionally competent in math, art and drafting.

Little advance notice of arrival

*Intel
Sept 26/79*

TRENTON- The third of five refugee families being brought to Canada by the Christian Reformed Church here arrived Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Jean Van Geest, wife of the minister of the church, said five members of the Tran family arrived in

Belleville. The reason the family arrived in Belleville was so they would be closer to immigration offices.

Currently the family which is made up of two brothers and their wives and a sister have settled in a house just outside Smithfield.

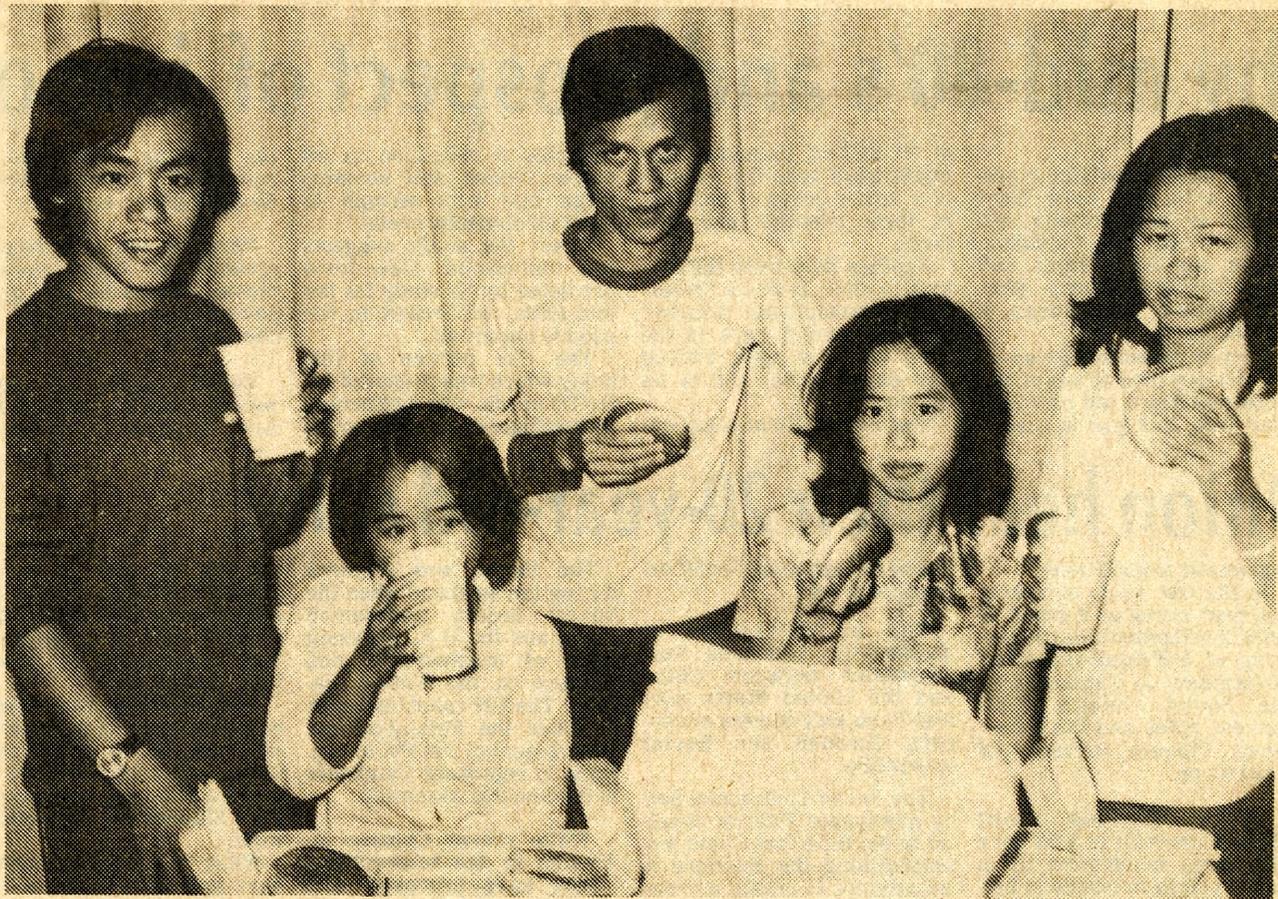
Mrs. Van Geest said this

time the church had one day's notice that the Vietnamese refugees were arriving.

She said both men are mechanics but no jobs have been found for them yet.

"We have several possibilities we are looking into but nothing definite."

Oct 27/79 Churches - Quarte area



First local meal

A family of Vietnamese refugees who arrived in Smithfield this week sample some Canadian food,

donated by McDonald's. The Tran family arrived here on Tuesday. They are being sponsored by the

Trenton Christian Reformed Church. Left to right the family members are, Phong Tran, 24, Hue Dinh

Tran, 12, Hai Hong, 22, Hue Nhi Tran, 20 and Hue Thoi Tran, 19.

Refugees adapt well *littel* to county way of life *Nov 8/79* *Christie's -* *sample area*

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

PICTON - In Prince Edward County, the boat people have received a warm welcome and Mrs. A.D. Egan, who operated a clothing depot for Operation Safe Haven said community donations have been "fantastic."

"There are a lot of people who do not agree with it, but we don't get much of that flak," she said, discussing

local attitudes toward the Vietnamese refugees.

In September, a family of 13' the Lams, arrived and were given free accommodation in an apartment at the Coach House Motel in Bloomfield. The Giong family, a group of five, also came to the village and were given living quarters in motel units. Other Vietnamese families are expected in Prince Edward this month.

Christina Misener, an Operation Safe Haven

volunteer, said 16 members of the original families to come to the county are still living in Bloomfield. Two left to join their families in Trenton. At least three more families will be welcomed here soon.

Mrs. Misener said the Lam family is now living in a house in Bloomfield, which was donated for their use and the Giong family is occupying an apartment at the Coach House Motel.

The children of the two Vietnamese families are adapting well to their new environment said Mrs. Egan. Five members of the Lam family are employed at the Campbell Soup Co. Ltd. mushroom farm in Wellington and the eldest son of the family works at Cer-A-Met Manufacturing in Wellington.

"They all have to learn the language first, before they can go on to other jobs," said Mrs. Egan.

"Operation Safe Haven has formed a group of instructors and twice weekly they give English lessons in the families' homes."

"The Vietnamese children are very smart in school and they all excel in mathematics."

Mrs. Egan said support for the Vietnamese refugees has been strong from church groups and hundreds of individuals who have donated clothing, appliances, housing and other needed items. By finding employment, the two families in Prince Edward have become almost self-supporting.

A storage depot for donations was set up at the former A and P Store this fall but has closed now because of lack of heating. Donations are still being received, however, and volunteers will pick up items offered.

Mrs. Misener expressed enthusiasm concerning the community's eagerness to accept the Vietnamese.



Language lessons

Vietnamese students attending Prince Edward Collegiate Institute in Picton, each day, receive English lessons from fellow

pupils who volunteer their spare periods to help. Vicki Christie of grade 13, Wednesday assisted Ho Lam in his studies.

School poll will gauge area aid for refugees

By HENRY BURY
Staff Reporter

All the employees of the Hastings County Board of education, and student councils will be surveyed in the next two weeks for their sponsorship support of a Vietnamese family.

Fraser Rose, chairman of the school board said Wednesday the 1,500 employees, and student council representatives of all the schools in the system will be asked to show their amount of involvement financially in the sponsorship scheme.

"It (sponsorship) all depends on the survey. We have to find out how many teachers and other staff are interested. Unless the survey shows grassroots support, it will be abandoned. If the support is significant, then we'll go ahead," Rose said.

In August, the school board passed a motion agreeing to sponsor a Vietnamese refugee family, but was later told by the provincial government that it wasn't in its jurisdiction to do so.

Consequently, a group of administrators and trustees formed a committee which itself could go ahead and set the wheels in motion for the family's sponsorship to Belleville for one year.

It would cost the group between \$4,000 and \$9,000 for the family's one-year stay here.

If the support from the staff and students is realized, Rose said the family could settle down in the city as early as next spring.

Intel Nov 8/79

Charters - Ontario

Poll data to decide refugee sponsorship

Intel
Dec 3/79

Charles - Centre area

The public school board committee studying the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family here for one year won't know until Dec. 13 whether to go ahead with it.

Fraser Rose, chairman of the Hastings County Board of Education, a member of a committee said results of a poll will be tabulated on that day.

The poll, consisting of almost 1,200 surveys, was sent out to school board employees, selected students and teacher federation officials this week. The poll is trying to gauge whether there is support for the sponsorship project, either through financial contributions or volunteering time to help the refugees, Rose said.

All the results of the poll will be studied at its Dec. 13 meeting.

"Until it (poll) comes back, we can't say if we're going ahead with our plans or not," Rose said.

The committee, he explained, is made up of Bruce Mather, director of educa-

tion, several trustees, members of the public school board's administration and representatives of the local teacher federations. There are 10 members in all.

The committee was formed a few months ago, after the school board was told by the provincial government that it couldn't sponsor the family. The ministry of education said it wasn't in their mandate to undertake such a project.

But Rose and several other trustees said they wanted to pursue the idea, and consequently, formed the committee which itself could go ahead and pave the way for bringing the refugee family over here.

It would cost the committee between \$4,000 and \$9,000 for the family's one-year stay here.

Without the support of the school board employees, students and other interested persons, the sponsorship would be abandoned, Rose said.

Refugee support lacking

By **Intelligencer Staff**

Although support so far for the sponsorship of a Vietnamese family's one-year stay in Belleville has met with little backing, a final decision on the project won't be made until Jan. 16.

Fraser Rose, chairman of the Hastings County Board of Education, said in an interview Monday night 160 teachers surveyed by the sponsorship committee said they were either opposed to the sponsorship or were already committed to raising funds for another charitable organization.

A total of 62 teachers said they would contribute financially or organize fund-raising events for the students.

No students were surveyed in the sponsorship project, Rose said.

"I don't consider this a highly affirmative response," the chairman said.

Rose said a letter will be sent out to every teacher in



Fraser Rose

the school system inviting them to a special meeting Jan. 16 at the Education Centre to discuss whether to go ahead with the project.

"I would like to see all the people who have indicated their interest, attend the meeting," Rose said.

It would cost the private committee, comprised of 10 members, about \$4,000 to \$9,000 to sponsor the family for their one-year stay in the city.

Intell Dec 18/79

Chantres - Amsteas

Loved ones are far away

Ideal gift won't arrive this year

By **SHELLEY WILSON**
Staff Reporter

If 20-year-old Lan Tran could have a Christmas wish granted, she would be united with her parents and two sisters from Viet Nam.

While Canadian families come together to celebrate the Christmas season, Lan is thousands of miles away from her home and loved ones.

"I would wish that I can meet my family again," she said.

The former resident of Saigon spent five months in a Malaysian refugee camp before being sponsored to come to Canada with her brother Quoc Tran, 17. Since arriving in Canada this year, she has written her family several times, but has received no reply.

Chris Mewett, her teacher at the Quinte Adult Day School where the brother and sister studied when arriving in Belleville, said Lan has written her family several times but has received no reply. Lan and Quoc aren't even sure if their families are safe, she said. Their father is in the business of making Chinese medicine, Lan said.

Despite missing their families, the brother and sister like Canada and are enjoying the festivities surrounding Christmas.

They are aware of the meaning of Christmas now, although they are not members of the Christian faith.

Lan said she used to have a Christian friend in Saigon, and once attended a Christmas office party. She was aware of Christmas even though the Christian population in Viet Nam is small. Lan said her mother is of the Buddhist faith, and Mrs. Mewett said many Vietnamese people believe in worshipping their ancestors.

Lan said she now enjoys attending services at the Baptist Church in Belleville.

Decorations on Front Street in Belleville were the first indication Lan and Quoc had that something unusual was happening at this time of year. They asked Mrs. Mewett about their meaning. Both say the decorations are "beautiful" and they have their own artificial Christmas tree at home. A church member gave them the tree for their apartment, Lan said. She added that some Christians in Viet Nam decorated trees at Christmas time.

Learning about Santa Claus was a new experience too, and Mrs. Mewett said it was quite a job to explain the traditional character. She emphasized the idea of the spirit of Christmas which is the basis for having Santa.

"It helped us to define what Christmas is really all about," said Mrs. Mewett of explaining the meaning of Christmas to her Vietnamese students. "I think it was really good for the other students too."

For Lan and Quoc in Viet Nam, Chinese New Year in February was the big occasion to celebrate. Chicken dishes were served and feasting was a main part of

celebrations, Lan said. Mrs. Mewett said she hopes to arrange to send Lan and Quoc to a central celebration of Chinese New Year for Vietnamese residents of Ontario in February.

When food is served for a holiday by Vietnamese people, it must be as attractive as it is appetizing, Mrs. Mewett said. The Quinte Adult Day School held its Christmas party recently, and before the food was eaten, the Vietnamese people, formerly students at the school, arranged the food imaginatively for the occasion, Mrs. Mewett said.

Lan and Quoc are no longer taking classes at the Quinte Adult Day School because they are now enrolled in a government-sponsored course to learn English at Loyalist College. Lan already speaks both Chinese and Vietnamese.

Lan says when she finishes her schooling she would like to get a job, anything available, to support herself in Canada. She said her family had hopes that she would be able to sponsor them to Canada.

A new experience for Lan and Quoc since coming to Canada is seeing snow. Lan said she loves the snow, adding that it looks like cotton.

"It's cold, but I think I will get used to it," she said. Lan and Quoc are more familiar with rain, because Viet Nam gets rain for half the year, she said.

Both young people say they have plenty of warm clothing to shield them from Canada's cold winter weather.

CHARITIES - QUINTE AREA



The Christmas tradition of decorating a tree is admired by Lan and Quoc Tran at the Quinte Adult Day School's Christmas party.

Intel Dec 24/79

District

THE INTELLIGENCER, Monday, Feb. 4, 1980—5

Refugees find cold a shock

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

WEST LAKE - With the celebration of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, on Feb. 16, Mary Dang and her three brothers will mark their birthdays in Canada for the first time.

Miss Dang said that Tet, in addition to marking the new year, is the official birthday of all Vietnamese. It is a time for putting aside old grudges and making peace.

The Dangs, who arrived in Prince Edward County, two months ago, fled Saigon and for seven months lived in Malaysia.

"For five days, we were on a small, 24-metre boat that was four metres wide. There were 650 of us," said Miss Dang, 26, who speaks English fluently.

"We first landed on the shores of a fishing village. There was very little to eat. The people were poor and there was no rice."

From the village, Miss Dang and her brothers, Duc, 17, Tri, 16, and Hai, 15, were sent to a refugee camp run by the Malaysian Red Cross. After seven months in Malaysia, the family was flown from Kuala Lumpur, via Korea and Scotland, to Montreal.

The Dangs were surprised by the intense cold of a Canadian winter but have adapted themselves, to the harshness of this new season.

The family now resides in an apartment at the home of James and Corinne Musgrove, here, and the boys have learned to skate and chop wood for the fire. Shortly before Christmas, the Dangs joined a group of carollers in the neighborhood, ignoring the cold.

The celebration of Christmas was similar to the festivities the family had shared in Saigon. As a special treat, there was a long distance telephone call placed to Saskatoon, where two brothers of the Dangs now live.

Mary Dang had been a university student in Saigon, for three years before the Communist takeover and had planned to become an English teacher. Today, she is a student at Loyalist College, where she is studying business. Her ambition is to obtain employment in a bank.

Her brothers are students at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute, where Duc and Tri are enrolled in grade 11 classes and Hai in grade 10. All of the boys express keen interest in mathematics.

"Duc keeps bringing me problems I can't do," said Musgrove, a retired secondary school principal.

All of the boys attend welding classes and enjoy this new subject. For several weeks after their arrival, they were observers in their classes but they have begun to participate now.



First winter

For the Dang family, winter in Canada is an adventure and Mary, 26, Duc, 17, Tri, 16 and Hai, 15, accepted an invitation from Corrine and James Musgrove of West

Lake to learn to skate. Miss Dang and her three brothers fled Saigon and arrived in Canada two months ago, after a seven-month stopover in Malaysia.

Int'l July 5/80

Accepted in communities

BELLEVILLE - FOREIGN POPULATION

Refugees well settled in area

By SHELLEY WILSON
Staff Reporter

Indo-Chinese refugees living in Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland counties, have settled in well and been accepted in their communities, said Harold Speck, manager of the Canada Immigration Centre in Belleville.

"On the whole, the reception has been excellent. People have accepted them, with no hassles," said Speck.

There are currently about 300 Indo-Chinese refugees—about 65 families—living in the three counties, Speck said. They were sponsored to come to Canada primarily by church groups, with only a few instances of a private group of citizens serving as sponsors. Altogether, there are 38 sponsors in the region, Speck said.

There have been no problems with the sponsoring church groups meeting their responsibilities, but two of the private groups have encountered difficulties. One

has been disbanded and the government has taken over sponsorship, and the other has had eight out of 11 sponsors drop out, Speck said.

The majority of the new Indo-Chinese residents, who have come to Canada since last summer, are living on their own in apartments or homes found for them by their sponsors, Speck said.

The majority of the refugees have had English training since coming to Canada.

"A number have just graduated from English as a Second Language at Loyalist College, and some are still attending," said Speck.

Learning English has been the biggest challenge for most of the refugees to face since coming to Canada, he added. They have also had to learn many aspects of Canadian lifestyle, such as how to use electrical appliances.

"It's quite a (culture) shock," said Speck. "Many have no idea what electrical appliances like stoves, refrigerators, washing

machines, and so on, are."

They apparently have no difficulty adapting to Canadian food, however, he said. Most sponsors report the newcomers enjoy Canadian food.

While most have had English training, some have even found employment, with about 10 families self-sufficient, Speck said. One engineer has found employment in his field in the Toronto area and has moved there, he added.

Children are adapting well, attending elementary and secondary schools in the counties and taking part in Canadian sports.

The immigrants' educational background and experience range from those who are illiterate, to others with university educations.

Each family is different, with varied needs and problems Speck pointed out.

The aim of the refugee immigration program is to have the newcomers living independent of their sponsors by the end of their first year

in Canada, Speck said. The immigration department originally thought it could be achieved in six months, but found more time required for both English training and then job hunting.

The responsibility of sponsors is to provide food, accommodation, clothing and spending money, to the sponsored family for the first year.

The Canadian Immigration department's responsibility is to take applications from sponsors, send the information to immigration officers in Singapore and Bangkok, meet the refugees when they arrive in Canada and introduce them to their sponsors, and do followup on how the match is going. Followup checks on refugees' progress is done by Speck and John Bateman from the local office, to ensure they are settling in well, and to advise sponsors on how to handle any problems which might arise. Followup is carried out after the first month, the fourth month, the eighth and

even after the twelfth, if necessary.

The peak time for arrival of refugees since the program started last summer was in January and February of this year, Speck said. There is only one more local sponsor to match with a family, Speck added.

The immigrants are primarily from Viet Nam, although there are Laotians and Cambodians as well, he said.

Asked if there have been any problems in dealing with the people, Speck said he couldn't think of any.

"The Vietnamese are nice people. They are very friendly and well mannered," said Speck.

He added that he has enjoyed working with the Indo-Chinese refugees.

The best aspect is "seeing them come in, advancing, finding work and bettering themselves", he said.

"They're willing to take any type of work until they can master the English language.

He thinks Canada's great

Somdy Bouabane of Belleville says he can't think of anything he doesn't like about Canada.

The Laotian refugee, his wife and two children, and two of his wife's sisters, came to Canada six months ago.

Bouabane said in an interview Monday he has had no problems since coming to Canada, and likes the freedom in Canada, and Canadian laws.

A trained nurse who has worked in hospitals for years, Bouabane says he would like to get a job of any sort in the hospital here. He is hoping that he will find work soon, and has put in two applications.

"Now I want to go to work, but I don't have a job," said Bouabane in an interview this week. "I like to work. I don't like to stay at home too much."

Bouabane has completed an English course at Loyalist College, and can communicate adequately in English. His sisters-in-law also took the English course at Loyalist, and his wife has taken night school English courses at Belleville Collegiate.

Daughters Sengmany, 4, and Matmany, 7, are learning some English, and Matmany is a student at Queen Victoria Public School. Sengmany will be attending kindergarten there in the fall.

There have been many things for the family to learn since coming to Canada. Bouabane said he didn't know anything about Canada before he came here, and he spoke only a little English.

He laughs about a misunderstanding which happened when he first started shopping in Canada. In Laos, everyone barter with merchants about prices. When he went to the grocery store here, he soon found out that the price marked is the price you have to pay—plus tax.

A trip to the Quinte Mall was an adventure in itself, taking the city bus for the first time. Bouabane said they finally made it to the mall and enjoyed looking at the stores.

Through his English course at Loyalist College, Bouabane learned how to deposit and withdraw money at the bank.

When the family came to Canada six months ago, they had only a few clothes with them. They had to wait two months after their initial interview in a refugee camp before being brought to the country, he said.

Now they have "too much", says Bouabane with gratitude to his sponsoring group of doctors in Belleville. His wife, who worked as a salesgirl in Laos and who is also a seamstress, has a sewing machine to use thanks to the sponsors. The family has bicycles to use for transportation in the city.

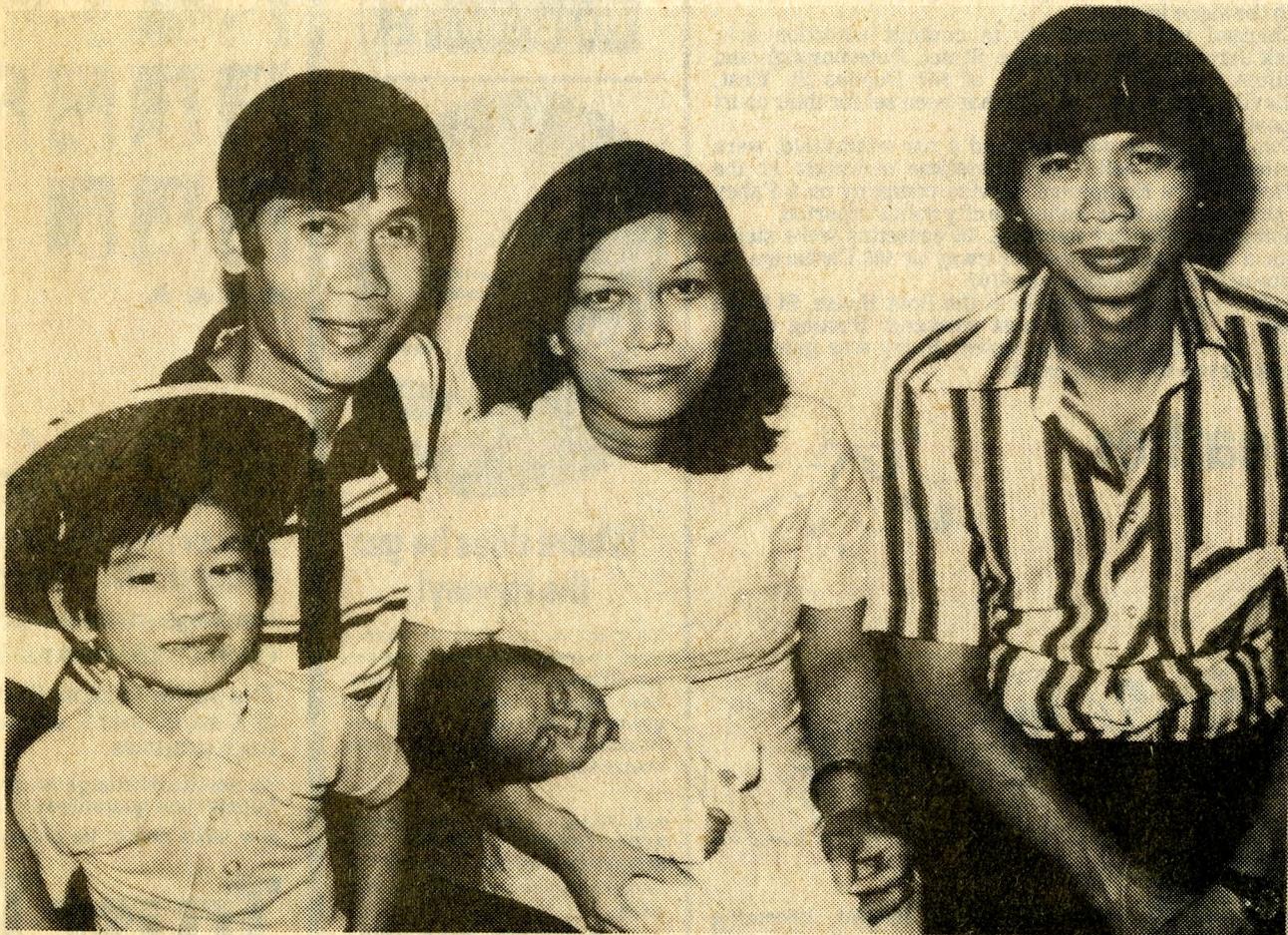
The Bouabanes live in the upper half of a house on Ann Street in Belleville. Bouabane jokes that he doesn't have a front yard, but he has a park, as the house faces Corby Park.



Somdy Bouabane and his youngest daughter, Sengmany, 4, are shown at home in Belleville. Bouabane, his wife, two daughters and two sisters-in-law, came to Canada from Laos six months ago, some of

the many Indo-Chinese refugees who have immigrated to Canada over the past year. Bouabane likes Canada and hopes to find employment here soon.

City welcomes first refugee baby ^{Intell} July 22/80



Chi Thuan Lam, left, and Phuong Lu Lam are the proud parents of the first Vietnamese baby born in the Quinte area. Fong Yit Lam was born in the Belleville General

Hospital June 28. Also pictured are his five-year-old brother Phuong Lee and his uncle Thuan Ly.

By BILL WHITELAW
Staff Reporter

Fong Yit Lam is luckier than most babies.

He will grow up enjoying the benefits of living and learning in two different cultures — that of a young Canadian boy and that of a child whose parents will instill in him the pride of his Vietnamese heritage.

Fong Yit is the first baby born to one of the several Vietnamese immigrants who arrived in the Quinte area last summer.

Chi Thuan Lam, his father, and Phuong Lu Lam, his mother, are proud and happy that the child was born in their adopted country. The baby was born June 28.

"We want him to go to school and grow up as a Canadian," said Chi Thuan. "We'll also try and teach him to speak Vietnamese."

If the baby's five-year old brother is any indicator of the way Fong Yit will grow up, he'll fit it in without any problem. Phuong Lee is ready to start kindergarten in the fall, he can count past forty in English and walks around the family's Hampstead Square apartment on Haig road complete with a cowboy hat and sixguns. He has also made a lot of friends which is evident by the youngsters in to admire his baby brother.

Because of the western influence in Vietnam, there isn't much difference in having a baby in Belleville than

there is in Saigon. Phuong Lu, however, has one fond memory of Belleville General Hospital. It was there she first tasted toast and has been eating it regularly since.

The family's plight was similar to that of thousands who fled the oppression of Vietnam last year. They were boat people in the true sense as they fled to Malaysia where they spent eight months in a refugee camp before arriving in Belleville last October. The family was initially sponsored by the Presbyterian Church.

Along with Chi Thuan and wife, are his brother and sister, who share the same apartment.

Chi Thuan now works as a waiter at the Modern Cafe on Front Street. When he arrived in Canada, he spoke no English but has come along remarkably well after taking courses at the Quinte Adult Day School. Phuong Lu is a graduate of English as a Second Language at Loyalist College.

Despite escaping growing up in a land of conflict, there are some things young Fong Yit may miss. His grandmother on his father's side still lives in Vietnam and chances are slim he will ever see her. But as her father sincerely puts it:

"We're very grateful to be here. Everyone from the government down to our English teacher has been very kind."

Intel May 8/81

Refugees - Orville area

'Boat People'

Helping refugees learn new language something this teacher could contribute

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

PICTON - In September, 1979, the first family of "boat people" arrived in Prince Edward County and Earl Holt, a teacher at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute, started an intensive volunteer program to teach them the English language.

For 18 months, he spent four nights a week visiting the homes of the Vietnamese refugees and has driven more than 2,000 miles during the volunteer program he initiated with fellow PEI teacher, the late George Elson.

"I volunteered on the strength of 15 years of elementary school teaching experience from kindergarten to grade eight. I felt that I had something to contribute," Holt said.

"George Elson and I said that for years we had contributed to missionary and maintenance funds and never knew where the money went. Then there was a chance to give some direct help."

The two teachers worked closely in the program, until Elson's death, just a few months after the arrival of the boat people. The men had been close friends for a number of years and Holt says he had a minor heart attack, while driving to Bloomfield to inform a Vietnamese family that Elson had died.

"I've backed off this year but I still go out two nights a week," said Holt, who has helped approximately 53 Vietnamese in learning English.

Five Chinese from a local family that opened a restaurant here also participated in the program. Few of the boat people spoke any English and all were perplexed by Canadian customs that often were in sharp variance with those of their native land.

On one occasion, when Holt and Elson were instructing a Vietnamese group, a toddler from the family came into the

room. Holt tousled her hair and the entire gathering looked startled, while both teachers tried to comprehend what was wrong. They later learned that the Vietnamese do not touch their children's heads, in this casual manner. To them, it is the equivalent of placing a curse on the individual touched.

The young Vietnamese children who were enrolled at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute and in county elementary schools integrated well said Holt. At Prince Edward Collegiate Institute a group of from 16 to 18 students volunteered to assist the newcomers in learning the English language during daily study periods.

Holt said he became so engrossed in the program that he was spurred to even deeper involvement, as it progressed.

"Prince Edward County has more compassion than most of the people I've seen in my life."

Operation Safe Haven was the umbrella group for the boat people and this association lent full support to Holt in his efforts. Teaching manuals were supplied by the ministry of culture and recreation and James Taylor, MPP Prince Edward-Lennox was of assistance.

The program to assist the Vietnamese remains active and the results have been rewarding. Most of the refugees have become taxpayers and Vietnamese students are progressing well, academically.

"The people I have here are being fed into post secondary programs," said Holt.

The PEI teacher says he is concerned by the number of schools, particularly elementary schools, that are threatened with closure and he feels the problem might be solved by allowing other countries to buy education in Canada.

"Since the world population is so fluid, a lot of countries are buying education in the United States and various parts of the world. Many new Canadians wouldn't mind taking a crack at English."



Valuable volunteer

Earl Holt, a teacher at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute, joined the late George Elson, also a teacher at PEI in a volunteer program to teach English to the

boat people who began to arrive in Prince Edward in Sept., 1979. Holt worked four nights a week, for 18 months helping the Vietnamese to learn the language and still volunteers two evenings weekly.