

OPINION

Jubile leaves its memorable stamp on Woonsocket

Look at any city and you will likely find some identifying mark that no other has. Much like a person's one-of-a-kind stamp is at the tips of their fingers, a city's fingerprint generally is found in the heritage of the people who live in it.

Woonsocket, perhaps, carries its identifying mark as no other — transplanted French ancestry via Canada is the undeniable foundation of this community. *Les Quebecois* at the turn of the century formed this tight community and, although Woonsocket today reflects the melting pot that the United States has become, deep French-American roots still push up through the ground bearing fruits of pride in a culture that may always be Woonsocket's fingerprint.

The organizers of the 2nd Annual Jubile Franco-Americain held last month are in tune to this fact and have launched a tradition to preserve the city's dominant heritage and ancestry.

The leaders of this successful four-day celebration have extended gracious appreciation to the scores of volunteers and contributors who worked hard to create and sustain this lively city event.

The Call in turn would like to extend its appreciation to those leaders who realize the importance of a community's heritage. They are Jubile Chairwoman Trudy Rheame, Co-chairwoman Angelina P. Dagasse and producing director George T. Marshall of Flickers.

They were happy to report that this year's Jubile "finished its run in the black with a modest profit which will be put toward the Scholarship Fund we established this year to promote greater understanding of French-Canadian culture."

We would also like to share with readers some statistics from this year's celebration such as:

- 725 people attended the Le Spectacle Concert, a near capacity crowd.
- The Taste of Quebec dinner, with 250 in attendance, sold out.
- More than 1,000 people attended the special French Mass.
- Jubile Franco-Americain reached more than 2.5 million households with cable television. The Friday night concert received state-wide attention through WPRI-TV and a special report by news anchor Karen Adams.

These statistics, and the many more not listed, are testament to the interest in and nurturing of Woonsocket's Franco-American culture. It is truly an effort everyone can support and celebrate, even if your ancestry is not French. It is a bridge-builder that connects an important past with our equally important future.

See you, Jubile Franco-Americain, in 1997.