Acadian Welcome
Set For Canadian

By BOB ANGERS JR.

Marcel Robidas, mayor of Longueuil, Canada, and chief of trade missions for Quebec, will be welcomed to Acadiana Thursday afternoon in two public ceremonies, Allen Babineaux, chairman of the French Heritage Committee of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has announced.

The Quebec official is scheduled to arrive at the Lafayette Municipal Airport at 3:35 p.m. April 11 and remain in the area through Easter Sunday. He will be accompanied by at least one other Canadian official.

Acadiana public officials, civic leaders and students will extend greetings at the airport to be followed with a briefing at the Lafayette City Hall and an unveiling of a bi-lingual street sign.

Details on the industrial and agricultural potential of Southwest Louisiana will be given the Quebec official during a dutch treat luncheon at Don's Seafood and Steak House at noon Friday. The Industrial Foundation of Lafayette headed by President U.J. Gajan will host the event.

The Friday schedule calls for visits throughout Lafayette, and on Saturday tours are planned into St. Martin, Iberia and St. Landry parishes.

Babineaux said following a 3-hour meeting of the French Heritage Committee Friday afternoon that special welcome signs printed in French plus Acadian music are planned for the airport welcome.

City Hall Ceremony

During the meeting at City Hall Mayor J. Rayburn Bertrand will extend the community's greetings and later during the visit discuss “twinning” Lafayette with Longueuil.

Police jurors, school board members, legislators, municipal officials and others in public life are being invited to join the Acadiana civic leadership in extending greetings at Lafayette City Hall.

Harris J. Perriou, president of the France-Amerique society, will recapitulate the educational, historical and cultural development of the Acadiana country during the briefing. Chamber of Commerce industrial and agricultural leaders will provide preliminary information on the commercial aspects. During the Quebec official's visit plans will be presented for a French-Spanish Trade Mart in Lafayette, a display of Quebec products here, and a possible exchange of trade missions.

Babineaux said that trips will be taken into St. Martinville to study the Acadian influence there, and to Breaux Bridge to observe a French class.

The visitors will have an opportunity to sample the Cajun cuisine with at least one “crawfish dinner” on the agenda.

The Loreauville Acadian Museum Village, attractions in New Iberia, plus Acadian Architecture of Washington, La., are among sights that the Canadians will see. They will also be taken into other areas to sample the flavor of the Acadian influence and hospitality, Babineaux said.

French teachers and other leaders in preserving the French language will outline programs currently underway, and the possibility of a student summer exchange program explored.