Perrin: Promoting the Acadian cause

By Gina Howard
Staff Writer

In January 1999, Lafayette attorney Warren Perrin filed a petition against the British Government, requesting an apology for the exile of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755. The petition was prepared as a law suit and addressed to the Queen of England and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"I said I would like a response in 30 days or I would be filing it as a law suit," Perrin said. "It was done on behalf of the 3 million Acadians throughout the world."

A response came quickly, asking Perrin not to take any action. Since then, he has been in settlement negotiations with a Houston lawyer representing the British government.

"I can't say anything about what we are working on, that was part of the ground rules," he said.

"But I've really been very pleased, they are taking this very seriously."

Although the lawyer has made several offers for settlement to Perrin, he said he feels like they haven't yet offered enough.

"There is no money involved. We are talking about things like a monument or a scholarship," Perrin said. "I am trying to handle this where both (Acadians and the British) gain..."