

CWY's Alumni Network is Ready to Take Flight

As of January 19, 2004, Canada World Youth has an alumni affairs officer mandated to set up a national alumni network. Betty-Jo McCarville, a past participant from the NetCorps Russia/Nova Scotia program in 2001, has been hired for this position. Originally from Prince Edward Island, she is an energetic young woman, full of great ideas.



Betty-Jo can't wait to hear from you! If you are a CWY past participant and are planning on organizing a reunion, conference or workshop, or if you would simply like to get in touch with other past participants, Betty-Jo is the person to talk to! You can reach her by phone at 1 (800) 605-3526 or by e-mail at alumni-anciens@cwj-jcm.org.

ATTENTION CWY ALUMNII! As part of the planning of various alumni activities, such as group reunions, we are often asked to make our program lists available to past-participants who undertake the organization of these events. If you do not want your name and address shared with other past participants for such activities, please contact Betty-Jo McCarville at: bjmccarville@cwj-jcm.org, by phone at 1 (800) 605-3526 or at the address on the reverse. We do not trade, rent or sell our list of participants to other organizations.

New Members on CWY's Board

In 2003, Canada World Youth had the privilege of welcoming five distinguished new members to its Board of Directors:

- Frédéric Bérard is a lawyer with Dufresne-Hébert-Comeau in Montreal. He is also a lecturer at the *Université de Montréal* and a doctoral student at McGill University.
- Candis Callison is a doctoral student in Science, Technology and Society at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Mass.
- Elizabeth Ann Dadson is the senior advisor of Policy and Communications at the Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor at McGill University.
- Pascale Fournier is a doctoral student and tutor in law at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Mass. She was also a CWY participant on the New Brunswick/Egypt program in 1995-1996.
- Bruce Linton, a former CWY participant in Sri Lanka, is with Computerland.ca in Ottawa.

In other board news, Anne Leahy will now serve as vice-president of the Board, with Michel Desjardins.

Two recent Canada World Youth past participants have also joined the Board for 2004:

- Christian Gour is a student in International Studies at the *Université de Montréal* and was a participant in the British Columbia/Uruguay program in 2002.
- Anna Lundeen is a Nursing student at the University of Alberta and participated in the Quebec/Mali program in 2002-2003.

Welcome to the Canada World Youth family!

54 New Programs in Africa Over the Next Three Years!

The new Africa-Canada Eco-leadership Program will soon be underway! Funding comes from the Canada Fund for Africa, which is managed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The program will allow Canada World Youth to develop 54 new programs with its African partners over three years, placing an additional 1,100 youth on projects. **This constitutes the single largest increase in programs and participants in the history of Canada World Youth!**

This innovative program is aimed at youth between the ages of 17 and 24 with an interest in the environment, biodiversity conservation and community development. Each team includes participants from two African countries and from Canada. The program takes place over a seven-month period in two host communities—one in Canada and one in Africa (eventually, the program might be hosted in Canada and in two African countries). The partner countries are South Africa, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania, with more African countries likely to join the program in the coming years.

For more information about the Africa-Canada Eco-leadership Program, visit the "What's New" section of our website at www.cwj-jcm.org.

CWY's NetCorps Programs

A Stepping Stone Towards Employment

Mike Wells is from Newfoundland and was a participant in Canada World Youth's Saskatchewan/Ukraine/Poland NetCorps program in 2002-2003. This is the story of the interesting and unexpected employment opportunities that came his way after the program.

Mike Wells was a rather shy individual who, despite his excellent IT skills, had not been able to land a stable job in his field before his CWY program. Over the course of a few months in the NetCorps program, he was able to improve his interpersonal and communication skills while strengthening his IT skills.

For the Canadian phase of the program, Mike and his Ukrainian counterpart, Vasyl Parfeniuk, had the opportunity to work with the Prince Albert Grand Council, a consortium of First Nations bands in northern Saskatchewan. Mike and Vasyl were given a very challenging and complex task by the Grand Council: they were asked to build an intranet so that key documents, forms and communications could be accessible by the various reserves and institutions served by the Grand Council throughout northern Saskatchewan. As well as successfully completing this task, the two participants carried out a number of hardware and software upgrades and repairs for the IT section of the Grand Council.

Mike's excellent work during his placement did not go unnoticed; after his return from Ukraine at the end of his CWY program, he was offered a full-time permanent position with the Prince Albert Ground Council as an IT specialist. Mike chose to move to Prince Albert to accept this position, having developed a great deal of affection for the city and the organization for which he had volunteered during the NetCorps program. Mike is now planning to buy a house and settle into the community with his new wife—a Ukrainian participant who was on the same CWY program as he was!

Canada World Youth returned to Prince Albert for a second year, this time with the Guatemala NetCorps exchange. The Grand Council was eager to host CWY participants again and Mike was given the responsibility of supervising them, which he did with a great deal of care and enthusiasm. The Grand Council has been extremely satisfied with its participation in the NetCorps program, as have the four CWY participants who have now worked with them.

In little more than a year, the NetCorps program brought about changes and new opportunities for Mike Wells that he could never have expected.

Testimonial submitted by Ron Berezan (Canada World Youth, Western Canada Regional Office).

An Award Inspired by Jacques Hébert's Work

The Jacques Hébert Global Citizenship Award, established in 2004, recognizes the achievements of young people working on innovative community projects that promote the principal traits of global citizenship: peace, tolerance and intercultural understanding. Two cash prizes will be given to a Canadian and a resident of another country.

To qualify for the award, individuals must be:

- playing a significant role in an innovative project in their community;
- no older than 24.

The project must be:

- related to youth;
- in existence for at least two years;
- directly or indirectly promoting peace, tolerance and intercultural understanding.

The applications and more information about the award will soon be available on the Canada World Youth website (www.cwy-jcm.org).

Visit our online *bulletin* at www.cwy-jcm.org

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