

Telling images

For a second year in a row, the Fujifilm-CWY photo contest yielded impressive results. Thanks to support from Fujifilm, participants were again supplied with recyclable cameras to help capture some of the unforgettable moments of their program in Canada and overseas. In all, we received more than

Another year of exciting exposure with the Fujifilm-Canada World Youth photo contest

100 photo submissions. And to recognize the valuable contribution of local community development work, the cash prizes were donated this year to the winning team's charity of choice. To have a look at some of the top picks, visit our online photo gallery at www.cwy-jcm.org.

First prize: \$1,000

Ontario-India

Photographer: Jacinthe Marcil

Charity: AIDS Action Perth; Stratford, Ontario

Second prize: \$500

Ontario-Thailand

Photographer: Isabelle Boivin

Charity: Breaking Down Barriers: An Independent Living Centre; Collingwood, Ontario

Third prize: \$250

Quebec-Benin

Photographer: Stephan DuVal

Charity: Canadian Red Cross Toronto Region Youth Council; Toronto, Ontario

New look for website

For the past few months, we have been working hard to give our website (www.cwy-jcm.org) a dramatic face-lift. Aside from a new dynamic look, we're making the site easier to navigate and infusing it with more interesting and relevant content to keep you coming back for more. So, be sure to visit the site later this month to see the changes — we're sure you'll be impressed by the results!

Learning in action

CWY works with schools and youth groups to develop international field trips

The mere mention of a field trip can turn a customarily complacent and unaffected group of students into an eager and inquisitive bunch of travelers, ready to break from the classroom routine to see the world beyond its walls.

Recognizing that need, Canada World Youth — a leader in experiential learning — has taken the concept of the field trip to a new level, an international level, that is.

About eight years ago, Canada World Youth started its "joint initiative" programs with schools and other groups to facilitate short-term immersions (usually two to four weeks in length) to a developing country. Each program is tailored to meet the objectives of the group.

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Rod Osiowy, teacher

Canada World Youth typically provides the following support: identifying and communicating with an overseas partner organization, preparing a program budget, pre-departure training, hiring field staff when necessary to accompany the group, and providing logistical support. The group is responsible for submitting a project proposal and for the program's financing.

This past summer, for example, Canada World Youth and the *Asociacion Cultural de Intercambio*, one of CWY's Costa Rican partners, helped to organize a three-week project for 11 students from Mount Baker Secondary School in British Columbia to the host community of Quebradas de Perez Zeledon.

The project — called the Social Justice Media Project — included the production of short educational videos addressing environmental conservation and youth. One video on youth and substance abuse was filmed in partnership with students from a local Costa Rican high school. Other activities included a visit to a Nicaraguan refugee camp and a visit to Manuel Antonio Park, a well-known Costa Rican wildlife reserve.

"It's difficult for me to encapsulate the experience into a few words; it was truly life-changing for many of us," said Rod Osiowy, a teacher and project organizer.

(continued on reverse)

A trip back in time

(Jim Austin, a CWY participant to Malaysia in 1976, will be returning, along with his son, to his host country this fall to reconnect with members of his team. The following is an excerpt from an article about his anticipated journey printed this summer in The Malay Mail, a English daily newspaper in Kuala Lumpur.)

It has been 26 years, but the memory of learning to bargain in the market and singing the *Rasa Sayang* is still vivid in his mind.

Canadian James Austin first came to Malaysia in September 1976 when he was 20 as part of the Malaysian and Canada World Youth exchange programme.

And after the long absence, Austin is returning to Malaysia this October to revisit the places which he has missed so dearly all these years.

"I still remember the time I tried my bargaining skills in the best Bahasa of the day and spending Chinese New Year in Penang," he wrote in an e-mail to *The Malay Mail*.

On Dec. 30, 1976, Austin's small write-up entitled *Goodwill dinner for Canadian youths here on visit* was also published in *The Malay Mail*.

In the article, he wrote that he hoped to complete a degree in Social Work upon returning to Canada. And he did.

"Thanks to the encouragement I received from my employer while I was in Ipoh, I eventually got that degree after I went back to Canada," he said.

Since then, Austin has worked with aboriginal children in northern Alberta, people with mental health problems in Edmonton, cancer patients in Toronto, and for the last 13 years, with abused children in a small city northeast of Toronto called Peterborough.

"My specialization is working with foster families who take care of children who are not able to live at home for a variety of safety and welfare reasons," he said.

Austin was also named one of the 30 Top Alumni of Canada World Youth last year.

"I hope that by taking my 14-year-old son, Graham, on this trip to Malaysia, he too will learn that Malaysia is a wonderful place and understand that the world isn't really all that different after all."

Austin can't wait to stroll down memory lane and visit the people who have touched his life in Malaysia.

(If you have a story about returning to your CWY host community or reconnecting with team members, we want to hear about it. Write to Giovanna Panzera, Communications Coordinator, at gpanzera@cwjcm.org.)

Learning in action (con't)

"I think that the combination of great people, excellent projects and wonderful visits to places few people get to experience made the project much more than we could have anticipated."

Apart from schools, Canada World Youth has worked with other youth-focused groups (for example, the Ontario Girl Guides, YMCA, Pape Adolescent Resource Centre) to tailor projects to their goals. If you are a teacher or work with youth, and you want more information on our joint initiative programs, visit our website at www.cwy-jcm.org.

We want to be in touch...

If you know of a past participant who would like to get back in touch with Canada World Youth, encourage them to contact Brenda Whittaker at bwhittaker@cwjcm.org, or visit our website and leave a message in the alumni guest book. We're also attempting to gather e-mail addresses of all alumni in an effort to reduce mailing costs, so please send yours to Brenda at the e-mail address above. Thanks!

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

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