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BULLETINS :: CWY NEWS

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The November edition of our bulletin offers you the latest news about Canada World Youth (CWY)!

CWY and Thailand—Hand in Hand for 20 Years

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the partnership between Canada World Youth (CWY) and Thailand! To highlight this special occasion, a celebration took place on September 30, 2004 in Centre Wellington (formerly known as Fergus/Elora), which was the host community for one of the three Ontario-Thailand teams during the 2004-2005 program.

Canadian and Thai participants prepared a colourful show of traditional dances and songs for the event. Guests included the Honourable Jacques Hébert (founder of CWY), Matthew Pearce (the organization's president), and Sanchai Inwang, Chamnan Wattanasiri and Damrong Jaiyot from Thailand's Department of Community Development—CWY's partner of many years. Members of CWY's Board of Directors were also present, as well as people from the host families and work projects and other citizens of Centre Wellington, an Ontario municipality that has been supporting CWY enthusiastically for six years now!

Jan Jekielek, the group's Canadian supervisor, has nothing but praise for the host community. "The people of Centre Wellington are incredibly supportive. They are always ready to lend a hand and to offer resources for organizing our various activities." Jan's group will be leaving on December 4, 2004 for Thailand, where more celebrations to highlight the 20 year partnership await them.

CWY Takes Part in the Go Abroad Fair

With Canada World Youth flyers and posters in hand, Diane Der, program officer in charge of recruitment at the Central Canada Regional Office in Toronto, and a group of past participant volunteers, took part in the first annual [Go Abroad Fair](#). The fair took place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from October 1st to 2nd. This was a wonderful opportunity to promote CWY to hundreds of students, youth and the general public who have an interest in overseas experiences. The fair offered workshops on topics such as launching a career overseas, international youth programs and international cooperation. The organizers are proud of the event's success (more than 6400 young people participated!) and look forward to the next one, which is scheduled to take place in Toronto again in October 2005.

10 year anniversary of Canada-Cuba programs

On November 4, Canada World Youth celebrated the 10 year anniversary of its international educational programs with the Cuban Department of Education at Government House in Halifax. These programs have provided more than 500 young people from Canada and Cuba with the opportunity to live and work in a cross-cultural setting.

On this occasion, the Honourable Myra A. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, welcomed Canada World Youth's delegation headed by the Honourable Jacques Hébert. She underlined that Canada World Youth's



international education programs allow participants to obtain practical experience that they can take with them for their future endeavours. "These cross-cultural exchanges bring communities and individuals together who, by living together and forming friendships, broaden our views, make for a stronger Nova Scotia, a stronger Canada and stronger citizens of the world."

Mr. Antonio L. Pubillones, Deputy Chief of Mission, Political Counselor of the Embassy of Cuba in Canada was also present. He participated in a three-day Program Review Visit to the communities of Windsor, Bridgewater and Digby where 60 young Canadians and Cubans are currently living and undertaking volunteer work. These participants will travel to Cuban communities in early December for the second phase of their program.

CWY Past Participant Sends 1,000 School Kits to Mali and Sudan



Tina Cormier, a participant in the 2003-2004 Quebec/Mali program, was certainly not at a loss for ideas when she returned from her seven-month experience with Canada World Youth! Originally from Targetville, New Brunswick, Tina was determined to follow up on the volunteer work that began during her program so she decided to gather school supplies to send to elementary schools in Mali and Sudan, where children often have to make do without notebooks and pencils.

It was following a presentation in a local church, when people from her community asked if there was a concrete way in which they could help children in Mali, that Tina developed the project. With help from Janick Léger, another participant from the 2003-2004 Quebec/Mali

program, Tina made presentations in several schools and organizations in the region, asking for school supplies. The result: 1,000 school kits for Malian and Sudanese children! Each kit contains four 80-page spiral notebooks, four pencils, a plastic ruler, a box of crayons and an eraser.

The school supplies will be sent to Africa in November by the Mennonite Central Committee in New Brunswick. Children in Ouelessebougou, the Malian host community where Tina stayed, will receive 250 kits, and the other 750 kits will be sent to other villages in Mali and Sudan. Tina's unique initiative is a shining example of how past participants can be actively involved even after their return to their own Canadian communities.

Cycling to Encourage Youth to "be the Change They Want to See"

Otesha means "reason to dream" in Swahili. It is the name that Jocelyn Land-Murphy and Jessica Lax, two energetic young Canadian environmentalists, chose for the launch of their cross-Canada bicycle tour in 2003. The purpose of the tour was to raise young people's awareness about sustainable development issues. The two young women, accompanied by approximately 30 volunteers, cycled from Vancouver to Cornerbrook, Newfoundland between May and October 2003, giving 254 presentations and speaking to more than 12,000 young people about the importance of acting in an ecological and socially responsible manner.

A new coordination team based in Halifax is now preparing for the next Otesha Coast to Coast Tour, which will take place in 2005. The team members, Kelly Belair and two Canada World Youth past participants—Simon Moll (Ontario/Vietnam 2002) and Steve Parr (Quebec/Brazil 2001)—are in the process of building this year's team, which will consist of dynamic volunteers who are able to commit to the project for the duration of the tour (from April to mid-October 2005). The team's mission will be to inspire the young people they meet to "be the change that they want to see". The Otesha project is partnered with EDGE Halifax (Education and Development in a Global Environment), an organization that was founded by past participants of Canada World Youth. For more information about the bike tour, you can visit [Otesha's Web site](#). This extraordinary project demonstrates how the values developed during CWY programs really get the wheels moving!



Become a Canada World Youth donor!

We need your help to give more people the chance to live the Canada World Youth experience. Your donation will make it possible for young people from Canada and around the world to cultivate the knowledge and values that are necessary for playing an active role in society. They will also gain concrete work experience that will increase their employability. To maximize the impact of your donation, we encourage you to consider monthly donations, which significantly reduce our administrative costs.

Please visit our [Web site](#) for more information about donating.

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Attention CWY Alumni! If you DO NOT WANT your name and address shared with other CWY past participants for alumni activities such as group reunions, please contact Betty-Jo McCarville at: bjmccarville@cwj-jcm.org or by phone at 1 (800) 605-3526. We do not trade, rent or sell any of our names to other organizations.

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