

Encourage Youth to "Get Ready!"

Recruitment is in full swing right now at CWY! Are you a past participant? If so, talk about the program to your relatives, your friends, your colleagues and the people in your community. Encourage more young people to take part in this unique experience!

People who are interested in participating in a 2004 – 2005 exchange program can apply online at www.cwy-jcm.org until **January 15, 2004**, for the first round of selection. For more information about CWY programs, call **1-866-7-VOYAGE** (1 866 786-9243).

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Le bulletin est aussi disponible en français.



New Program Introduces Youth to Biodiversity

This year saw the birth of an innovative new program at Canada World Youth—the Equator Initiative Exchange. This seven-month program, which takes place in communities in Ontario, Kenya and Tanzania, gives participants the chance to work on projects related to ecotourism, beekeeping, medicinal plants, sustainable forest management, and the marketing of environmentally friendly products and services, to list but a few. This pilot project falls within the framework of the CIDA grant received by Canada World Youth as part of the Canada Fund for Africa.

The project is called the "Equator Initiative" because it promotes projects that come from local groups in the equatorial belt and that focus on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with the aim of reducing poverty. This initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and several other partners was designed in support of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. For more information, visit CWY's Web site at www.cwy-jcm.org/en/programs or the UNDP site at www.equatorinitiative.org.

New Journalism and Human Rights Program

December 10th was International Human Rights Day and Canada World Youth marked the occasion with the creation of a new specialized program for young journalists, which will begin in 2004 and will focus on themes related to human rights.

This project, which is scheduled to begin in Autumn 2004, will be managed by CWY, in partnership with another Canadian organization—Journalists for Human Rights. This exchange program will give 18 young French-speaking people from Canada, Benin, and Senegal the opportunity to put their journalism skills to work during their stay in Canada and in Benin. Participants will delve into issues such as freedom of speech and association, democracy, the role of the media, and human rights protection mechanisms. More information about this program will be available in the coming months. You can also consult the Journalists for Human Rights' Web site at www.jhr.ca.

From the Web... www.cwy-jcm.org

Canada World Youth Participants on CIDA's Web site

Testimonials from two CWY participants are currently posted on CIDA's new Youth Zone Web site at www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/youthzone, under the "My journal" section.

Susan Fitzpatrick, who is currently on the Quebec/Benin exchange program, and Mike Henman,

who is on the British Columbia/Indonesia program, both offer us entries from their journals about their experience with CWY. Susan will be traveling to Benin at the beginning of December, while Mike left for Indonesia at the end of November. Make sure to check out their new entries regularly!

New Fujifilm Photo Gallery Now Online!

The winning photos of the 2002 – 2003 Fujifilm - Canada World Youth photo contest are now up on our Web site. These photographs capture participants' daily life during their programs, which took place in more than 20 different countries around the world between August 2002 and April 2003. Once again, the winning teams of this year's contest each chose a charitable organization to receive the Fujifilm prize money.



Second prize: \$500
British Columbia/Uruguay Program
Photographer: Mia Fuentesbella
Charity: Cenpadi (Montevideo, Uruguay)



First Prize: \$1000
NACS (North American
Community Service)
Program
Photographer:
Zach Allison
Charity:
NACS Program, to be
administered by
Canada World Youth



Third prize: \$250
British Columbia/Indonesia Program
Photographer: Matt Soltys
Charity: Comox Valley Youth Resource Centre
(Comox Valley, British Columbia)

“Opened to the World in an Irreversible Way”

Thomas Maguire, a past participant from Canada World Youth's Quebec/Mali exchange program in 1996, offers us this glowing account of how his CWY experience shaped his future. He also writes about his involvement in the House of Mother Earth (HOME) project in Edmonton, Alberta.

I was born in Southampton, England, in 1978. My parents are Danish and Irish. I've grown up primarily in Edmonton. People querying my origins tend to get “how much time do you have?” as a response. I consider myself a citizen of the planet, feeling often as though in my mixed foreign birth and through travelling, I've

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transcended traditional concepts of nationality. I feel very much a part of the modern multi-cultural Canadian ethos.

As someone who had grown up believing in travel and an essential fraternity of humanity,

CWY appealed to my senses as an *integrated learning* way to experience the world. I think at the time of my selection for CWY, I was less interested in the international development aspects of what I was doing and more in meeting exciting and inspiring people from across our country and around the world. This is exactly what happened, though the experience also gave me a firm grounding in issues of sustainability and shared international responsibility. I was opened to the world in an irreversible and spectacular way.

Seven years later, I am still learning things from my exchange. My experience of the world now still bears the mark of CWY and my growth into a transnational citizen. I think this shift is perhaps the single-most important change that needs to take place today. Progressing beyond the notions that race and nationality are paramount is what is building a truly global citizenry. I

cannot ignore issues of third-world poverty and worldwide environmental destruction anymore, as many of our contemporaries do. It's not everyone else's problem anymore. I know the names of people who live on less than a dollar a day now. I have had friendships with them. The concepts are no longer alien or abstract; I have lived through them. When I take a course in Globalization at university, the learning is alive for me in a way that it is not for other students. When I share with them the reasons why I care so much, why I am a student activist and why they should care too, I get listened to. Programs like CWY change people by allowing them to feel inside themselves why development issues are important. Those powerful changes echo throughout everyone participants come into contact with.

Now I am working for an Eco-Village project I helped to found, the HOME Project, in my home city of Edmonton, Alberta. We are trying to start a cooperative housing project that teaches and lives an integrated lifestyle of ecologically and socially conscious living. We've accomplished much in our short operation, and I view HOME as a way to bring

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those things that I learnt on my CWY project to my life. We call it “walking our talk.” Most HOME project members are students or other young people (some of them also former CWYers) looking for ways to “be the change” we know needs to happen in the world. It's my belief that it is through learning about and committing to changing those inequalities and the unhealthy behaviour patterns that cause them that positive change happens. CWY helped effect this change in me and I now live committed to helping effect this change in others.

For more information on Thomas' experience or the HOME Project, you can contact him at (780) 436-9796 or enlighten_i@yahoo.ca.