

CHADWICK, Wayne + Sylvia (cont.)

It's simply a large container with multiple nipples and lines feeding into the main container so that up to 16 calves can feed at once. Wayne thinks the idea could save calf-feeding chores.

The human diet, as is most shopping choice, is much more limited than in Ontario. Supermarkets are much smaller and the varieties of basic products are sharply limited, say the Chadwicks.

Actually, Sylvia sees some merit in that. "You really don't need 15 varieties of tissue paper," she quips.

While in New Zealand, the Chadwicks' two older children, Emily and Megan, attended regular classes at the local school. "The school was one thing the children

would have liked to bring back with them," the parents agree.

They described the school as something like an old-fashioned one-room rural school with several grades mixed in together—but sufficient teaching staff to ensure more teacher time than they can get in Canada. There is also more interaction between both teachers and pupils and pupils themselves.

Even in the farm community groups, there are regular meetings when ideas and information are openly exchanged.

Amateur acting and performance are a mainstay of local rural culture with active participation in sing-songs, shows, plays and so on, and there's excellent attendance at such events, they say.

New Zealanders tend to travel a lot and many are well-informed about Canada, although local newspapers carry "very little" news about Canada.

Meats are the mainstay in regular meals, mostly beef, lamb or mutton. The basic fast food is fish and chips, which, they add, "are excellent."

Roads are well surfaced with hard-top, but with many sharp curves and steep hills, they really aren't safe for the 100 kilometre-an-hour speed limits, the Chadwicks believe. A heavy toll of life is taken on New Zealand roads they report.

There are no mosquitoes, no poison ivy, no flies; the water really does gurgle down the drain counter-clockwise; one drives on the left side of the road and shifts gears with the left hand.

The Chadwick's claim that "missing summer" in Ontario may have been a "psychological shock" -- but they will also miss many warm friendships from New Zealand in return.