

MAC QUARRIE, Barbara

Peace Brigades volunteer to discuss Central America

Johnell
Aug 18/89

Bel - Belleville -
Mc

Barbara MacQuarrie knows all about the violence in El Salvador and Guatemala through her Peace Brigades volunteer work there the past five years.

And the Belleville Collegiate Institute graduate will share her experiences with the public during a talk scheduled for Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Public Library.

Her talk will focus on whether it's possible to have a "non-violent solution" to the conflict in Central America.

MacQuarrie was a Peace Brigade

volunteer in El Salvador and Guatemala between 1985-89. She returned from El Salvador in June, where she had been living since 1987.

She lived in the small village of Las Hojas, where, in 1984, a massacre of 74 men had taken place.

"The native Indian people that I lived amongst taught me a lot about survival under very difficult circumstances," MacQuarrie said.

Her purpose in the village was to discourage any further massacre or disappearances by providing an international witness.

The basis of all Peace Brigades work, she explained, is to promote a model of non-violent conflict resolution. While in El Salvador, she also worked with CRIPDES, an organization assisting refugees and displaced people, trade unions, concerned churches and the national university.

MacQuarrie's work in Guatemala initially was with GAM, an association assisting families of people who have disappeared. (She began working with the group shortly after two of their members had been assassinated).