
New Lowell Family Hosts CWY Participants

By Jeanette Carter

With the return of the Canadian participants to Canada, another year of Canada World Youth (CWY) exchanges has drawn to a close. For the last nineteen years the Canada World Youth program has been in operation and has given hundreds of youths from Canada and around the world the chance at an experience of a lifetime. The duration of the exchange is between six and seven months - participants spending

half the time with a host family in Canada, and the other half with a host family in a Third World country. Participants are given the opportunity to live and work in different communities, gaining an understanding of community and farm life in an area - one of the primary goals of CWY.

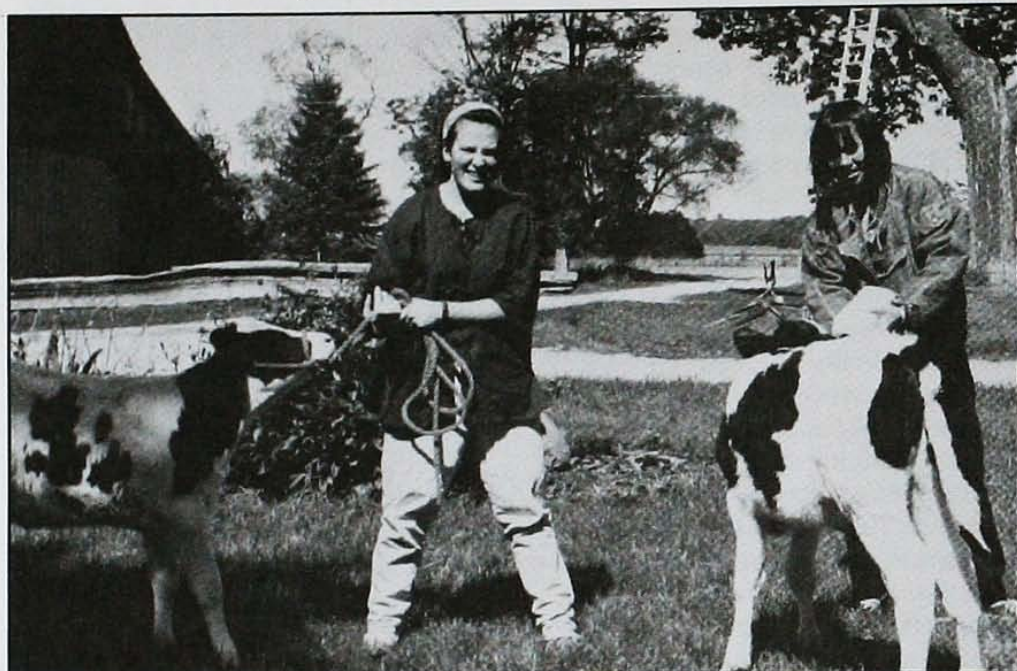
Having had the good fortune of being a Canadian host mother, it is with fond memories of my experience that I write this article. My family was one of seven in the Creemore-Stayner area

asked to participate in the program. With some apprehension and reservation, we agreed. Opening my home and lifestyle to two young people, one of whom spoke virtually no English, made me wonder if I had lost my senses. But an eagerness to learn, a willingness to help, and the exceptionally good attitudes of the participants soon brought my senses back.

To help integrate the participants into their host families, they were placed in a home in pairs; Roxanne Lincourt, a French Canadian from Quebec, and Oraphan Wattana, from Sukhothai in Thailand, stayed in our home. Roxanne spoke very good English, and at the end of the three months Oraphan also did very well with the English language.

The main objective of this exchange for the participants from Thailand was to learn about Canadian agriculture, specifically dairy farming. Their secondary objective was to learn about Canadian culture. And for the Canadians, it was to learn more about Canadian culture, and develop an awareness of the rest of our vast country, as well as learn about the culture of the Thai people. And two pairs of extra hands to help out on a dairy farm was certainly welcomed.

Our ultimate reward of the whole program, however, was to have two youths think of my husband and I as their Ontario Mom and Dad.



Roxanne Lincourt (left) and Oraphan Wattana (right) are pictured above helping out on the dairy farm of their host family in New Lowell, Ontario.

What's Happening with WSA - Winchester

By Dawn Runnalls

Our involvement in the Agriculture in the Classroom program led to participation by two members in the first regional AITC Conference held in Cornwall in October, 1990. And members remain active on our Tri-County AITC Committee.

After a dynamic six year term as President of WSA-Winchester, Dorothy Middleton has stepped down. She is now a Policy Analyst with the Farm Women's Bureau of Agriculture

Canada and is still working on behalf of farm women.

WSA-Winchester co-ordinated another successful series of continuing education courses for farm and rural women. The series, entitled "Rural and Farm Life in the '90's," was held once a week for seven weeks this past winter. As usual, the subjects presented were diverse, topical, practical and interesting. They included: energy conservation, landscaping, intensive grazing management, homeopathy, the GST, 1991 farm income forecasts, the 1991

census, calf care, the environment, and food trends. The final day's craft demonstration and diet-defying pot luck lunch were a big success.

We are in the process of updating our brochure and are eagerly looking forward to the completion of the history of the WSA this year. This will be a satisfying accomplishment!

Dawn Runnalls is the new President of Women for the Survival of Agriculture - Winchester.