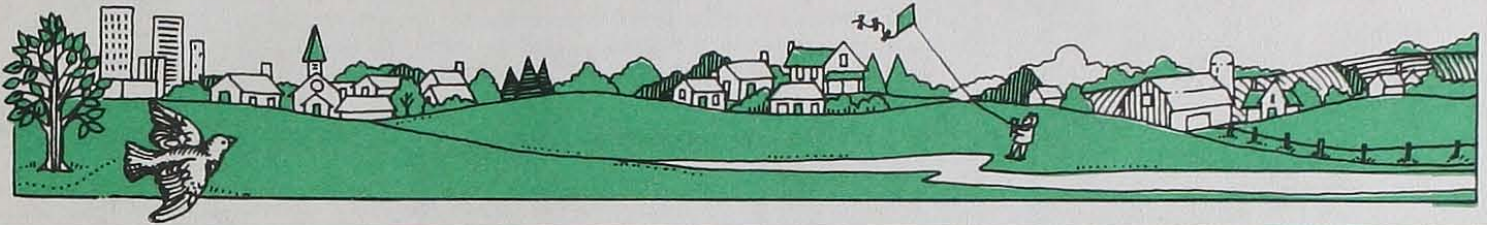


HOME & COUNTRY



Regional Profile:

A Dream Come True

By Anita Bracer

Don't let Teresa Fryer's petite size and quiet manner fool you. She was instrumental in establishing the first Camp Quality in Northern Ontario. To understand the significance of this accomplishment, it helps to know a little about the Camp and also about the community in which Teresa lives.

Camp Quality is a camp founded in Australia in 1983 for children with cancer or recovering from cancer. There are now a total of thirty-five camps in eight countries, including two in Canada. The camp is free of charge to the children and their families. It is operated entirely by volunteers, including people who fundraise, organize activities, act as one-on-one companions for the campers, or work as kitchen and cleanup staff. Nurses, and sometimes a doctor, are also among the volunteers. Others photograph these wonderful experiences, which are recorded in albums and presented to each camper or their family in a follow-up get-together several months later.

The Northern Ontario Camp is located on the shore of Lake Nipissing just past Monetville, about 100 kilometres southeast of Sudbury. It is a small community with approximately two hundred households. Most of its residents are employed in the forestry/lumber industry, farming or jobs related to tourism, hunting, fishing or summer cottagers.

Teresa, her husband and three young children reside in Monetville. She has been an active member of the Star of the North Women's Institute and the Parent-Teacher Association. As well, she is Secretary for her church and a working member of other local committees.

In June, 1987, at a retreat in Guelph, Ontario, Teresa met Vera Entwistle, President and founder of Camp Quality. Vera had come from Australia; she introduced Camp Quality to the women at the retreat. It had been Vera's dream for Camp Quality to become an international camping program for children with cancer.

Three months prior to meeting Vera, Teresa had lost her brother-in-law in a tragic accident. In Teresa's words, "I realized that life was too short and I asked myself, what could I do to help improve the lives of others?" Vera provided the answer to her question. From this point on it was her dream that Camp Quality be held in Northern Ontario. Knowing that there were plans to



Teresa Fryer (far right) is pictured above with a group of children enjoying their stay at Camp Quality in Northern Ontario.

build a cancer clinic in Sudbury within the next five years, Teresa was very excited about the possibility of a Camp Quality program in the North.

Teresa managed to maintain and pass on her enthusiasm. Plans were well underway for a Camp Quality to open in Southern Ontario in August of 1988. Teresa attended this camp on staff. During the next year, Teresa and her husband spent several weekends in the north giving a slide presentation of Southern Ontario's Camp in hopes of generating interest. Even though no one seemed interested in taking on the big responsibility of Director, she continued to have faith.

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