

4-H exchange promotes friendship — and fun

By Eileen Argyris

A fifth "H" has been added to the traditional four: head, heart, hands, health, and now -- holi-



4-H friends -- Alison Doig, 15, from Parkbeg, Sask., with Patricia Houston, 16, of Castleton. Each spent 10 days at the other's home. Photo by Eileen Argyris

days.

A summer holiday is being enjoyed by ten 4-H members from across Northumberland, who have arranged an exchange with ten 4-H

members in the province of Saskatchewan.

Patricia Houston, 4-H member from Castleton, is currently hosting Alison Doig, 15, 4-H member from Parkbeg, Saskatchewan.

There is travel and learning involved in the exchange, but one of the primary purposes is enjoyment, says Eric Lawlor, rural organizations specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

"The purpose of the exchange is to let different provinces understand what the other does — it's also fun," explained Mr. Lawlor.

While staying with the Houston family in Castleton, Alison has visited a number of different sights. "It's been great. I'll never forget it — the people, the things we saw."

Those things include the Skydome and the Toronto Blue Jays, the CN tower, Niagara Falls and, of course, the Big Apple. They also toured some farm-related businesses such as the market in St. Jacob's, Ont., a Niagara winery, and cheese and chocolate factories in Campbellford.

But, just sitting around the Houston home in Castleton offers strange new sights to the Saskatchewan native. "Trees — that's the big thing," says Alison, enumerating the differences in landscape between southern Ontario and her home.

Lakes and hills, she said, are also rare, and much smaller in Parkbeg, which is about one and a half hours from Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan.

Although the Houstons do not farm, and Alison's family does, she says the life is very similar, despite differences of landscape.

The 4-H involvement is one thing the young women have in common. Both belong to "homemaking skills" groups, where

they learn cooking, sewing crafts, or even woodworking or environmental studies.

"There are lots of choices. You can take anything you want to. It's fun," Mr. Lawlor explains.

He added there is a growing emphasis on 4-H as being a club for all rural youngsters, not just farmers. With the call clubs and other farm units, the tendency may be to think of 4-H as an activity that can only be enjoyed by farm youngsters.

"There is a misconception that 4-H is about cows and cooking," says Mr. Lawlor. He quickly adds that programs in woodworking, personal and home safety, natural resources, conservation, heritage, in fact about 60 different projects are available through 4-H.

Patricia Houston has enjoyed being involved in 4-H since 1989. Her mother, Lorna, is a 4-H leader.

Alison has been involved for the past six years. Her mother, also, is a 4-H leader.

The girls each spend 10 days in the other's home, with most of their time being taken up with trips such as the ones mentioned above that Alison has taken in Ontario.

While in Saskatchewan, Patricia visited the Wanuskewin native reserve, the Western Development Museums in Saskatoon and Moose Jaw, the Saskatoon Exhibition, the Legislative Buildings in Regina, as

well as enjoying a one-day visit to Camp Rayner, a 4-H camp.


The 4-H groups across the country raise money all year long to help fund the exchange and its side trips. Most of these are taken by bus by the whole group, not left to the host families to organize and pay for.

"The idea is to get young people from across the country together to learn

about the rest of the country and about each other," explains Mr. Lawlor.

The program is partially sponsored by the federal and provincial ministries of agriculture, he added.

"They explore other parts of the country they haven't seen before. They benefit in lifelong friendships and an understanding of other parts of the country and the needs of the people who live there."




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Reed trophy won by locals

Lawn Bowling

The Reed Tournament was held at the Colborne greens Aug. 4. The winners were all Colborne bowlers.

The trophy was captured by the team of Roger Lee, Jacques Filteau and Louise Sheldrick.

The two-game high went to the team of Ron Spencer, Dora Grant and Stan Todd, and the one-game high went to the team of Stan Goodfellow,

Lois Smith, and Gordon Gow.

In recent out-of-town tournaments, Colborne won the Bette Mason Trophy in Trenton, with the team of Louise Sheldrick, Chris Shepherd and Teresa Bowen.

In Brighton, the two-game high went to the team of Roger Lee, Louise Sheldrick and Mary Bloomer.

In Campbellford, the high one-game winners were Bill Brown, Gail Otvos and Teresa Bowen.

— Teresa Bowen

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