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New faces in town part of Katimavik volunteer group

By Crystal Ernewein
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There's some new kids in town. Eight members of Katimavik, all between the ages of 17 and 21, are here volunteering their skills to local non-profit organizations. The Walkerton Toy Library, Day Care Centre, Brucelea Haven, Community Support Services (CSS) as well as various schools are benefiting from the program.

The group is headed by Marc Goldfinger of Ottawa. As the three Katimavik groups rotate between Trois Riviers, Quebec; Windsor, Nova Scotia; and Walkerton, Ontario, Marc stays in Walkerton to assist them while they are here.

Members of the group located in Walkerton now, are from all over Canada. Two of them are from British Columbia; two are from Quebec; one from Alberta; one from Saskatchewan; one from Ontario; and one from New Brunswick. Over the past little while, they have

grown very close.

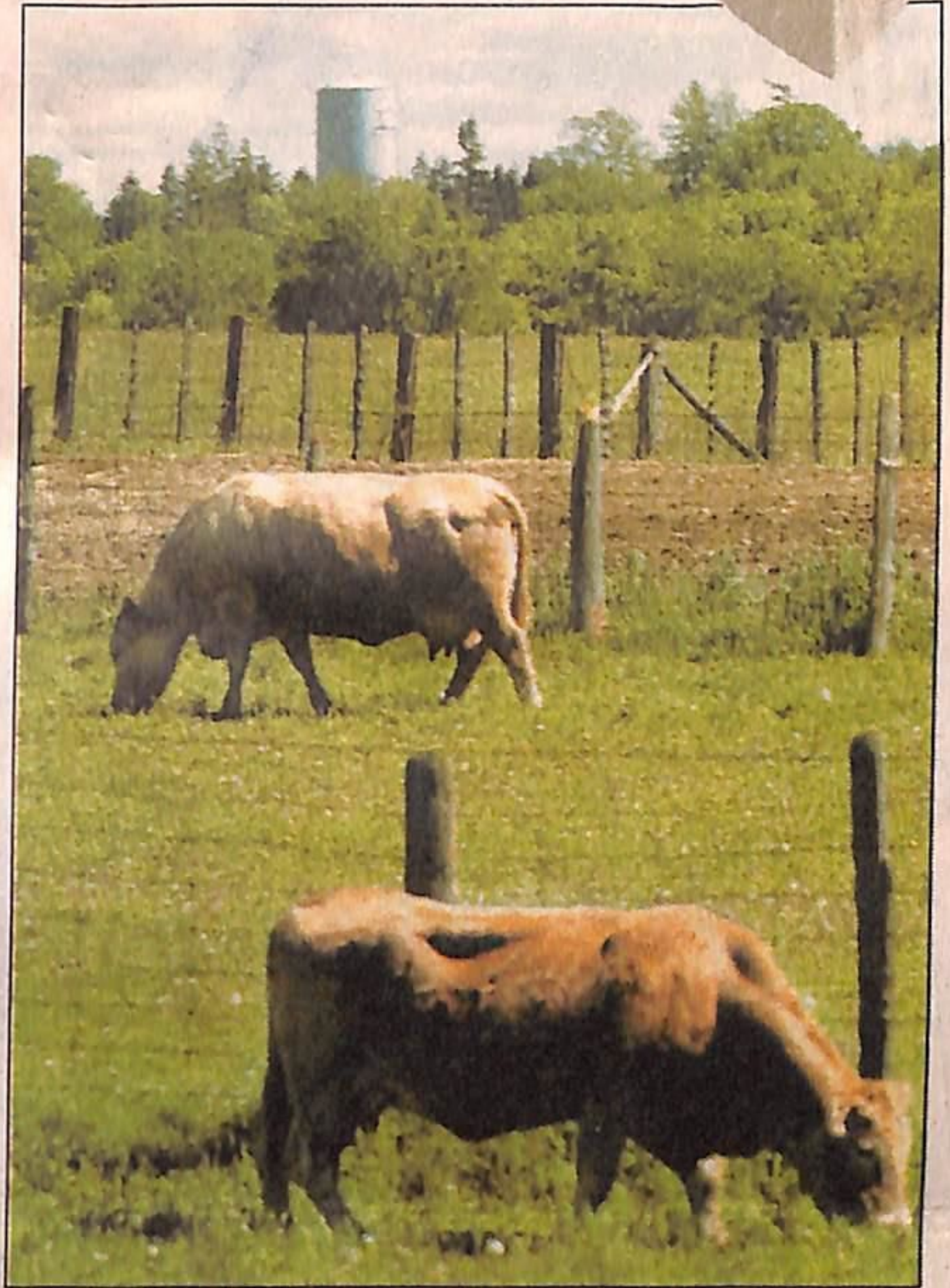
"We've been together for just three months, but it feels as though we've known each other a lot longer," said Andrew Stairs of New Brunswick.

The members of Katimavik will visit the three provinces over seven months. During this time all food, housing, plane tickets, and other expenses are paid for through the government program.. They are also paid three dollars a day and receive a bursary of one thousand dollars when the program is complete.

Before coming to Walkerton on February 2, the group was located in Nova Scotia. They seem to enjoy the small town atmosphere here.

"Walkerton people are extremely friendly," said Stairs. "When we go out they all wave and say, 'Hi. They're all really nice.'"

The group leaves on Apr 19 and will be going to Quebec. At which time, third group will be coming from Nova Scotia.



RICK MADONIK/TORONTO STAR

PLACE TO GRAZE: The deadly strain of E. coli found in Walkerton comes from cattle. Recent studies have shown the bacteria most often comes from recently weaned calves.