

# Katimavik experiences jar Denise but she recommends the program

by Pam Douglas



Denise Dilbey spent nine months in different parts of Canada on the Katimavik program. The 19-year-old Acton girl got back April 13.

pected to be accepted. We felt that some of them were rude to us."

She ran up against even more of a language barrier at the home for the elderly where she began to work next.

The group was in charge of setting up recreation for the people living in a home for the aged.

"When they found out we were English and they didn't want to do what we had set up for them they would just say they didn't understand," says Denise.

The group wasn't being very effective so they were reassigned. They went to a kindergarten classroom where they helped teach the kids. Denise and one other girl in the Katimavik group had picked up some French out of necessity. Denise was being billeted by an all-French family.

"We humans learn out of necessity," she concludes.

That statement almost sums up the whole Katimavik program. Young people from across Canada spend three months in three different communities in Canada where they do community work for \$1-a-day plus room and board. At the end of the nine months they receive \$1,000.

Denise and her fellow adventurers were not in it for the money, so why did she want to chop wood, mend fences, and paint walls for nine months?

"I believe once opportunity knocks, you can't shut the door."

She was five months away from graduating from Humber College's Retail Co-operative Marketing and Management program and had a good job as a trainee manager at K-mart when her sister Dineen, who doesn't get back from the program until July, brought home two application forms. Denise filled one out and was accepted. So she took it.

She says she feels she would have had more responsibilities when she got out of school and got a permanent job and she wouldn't have been able to leave as easily.

"There's a whole world out there to see and you have to lose something to gain something. There has to be a sacrifice," she says.

Also, she wasn't sure what she wanted. She thought Katimavik might be able to help her figure it out.

She is now working in a Japanese restaurant in Rexdale, exercising the language she perfected during the year she spent in Japan as a Rotary Club cultural exchange student two years ago.

The French she picked up in Clair may help her get a job teaching French and English in a Quebec University. She applied to Rimouski University and if she is offered the job she'll take it.

Besides boning up on her French she learned a lot about nutrition through the program. The group had to make their own 100 per cent whole wheat bread. Junk food

was discouraged. She also learned a lot about herself and other people.

"People that you don't know are able to point out things that you're good at, that you didn't know you were good at," she says.

They may point out a knack for drawing that friends and family didn't notice, she says.

She found she had to amuse herself a lot to fill in the time she had at night when she wasn't working.

"Sometimes everyone put their ideas together to come up with something to do," she says.

The program fulfilled her in some ways. She derived a lot of satisfaction out of figuring out for herself how to chop wood, and learning how to bake bread; finding out she can do things she didn't know she could do before.

The program is for anyone with an open mind, she says. She recommends it highly. In fact, she liked it so much she plans to apply in another year or two to go back as a group leader.

The group operates as a family, and she got close to a number of people. She made close friends with whom she corresponds and visits occasionally.

But it was just one of the many experiences life has to offer Denise, and she's eagerly looking forward to the next one, whatever it might be.

## Liberals pick June delegation

By GORD KOLLE

If the views expressed by the five Halton Liberal delegates selected to vote at the June party leadership convention are any indication of who the front runner is; then the race is still wide open.

Four of them, Diane Wiszniowski, Wendy McLean, Willie Campos and Bill Smith admitted they were overjoyed at being selected over 13 other delegate hopefuls at last Friday night's meeting at Richview Golf Club but all remained undecided as to who the new leader should be.

Only Barbara Sullivan made a choice. She is backing Jean Chretien but she is also Chretien's Ontario campaign manager.

The five alternates were more discriminating. Cindy Perras said she would vote for Chretien, while Jordan Sullivan and Derek McLean gave nods to John Turner.

Angelo Serafini remained undecided and Kay Lawson was elected in absentia, because of illness.

None of the delegates have ever been chosen to vote at a leadership convention previously. But that's hardly surprising since 1968 was the last time the Liberals held one.

The five delegates will be joined by three ex-officio Liberals automatically chosen for the convention, HFLA president Bonnie Brown, Senator Ian Sinclair and Bill Perras, who unsuccessfully challenged Halton MP Otto Jelinek in the last federal election.

The small turnout was an unexpected shock to party organizers. Membership coordinator Andy Middleburg, himself an election runner-up, said 300 paid-in-full party members were expected to turn out.

When only 180 showed, the proceedings were held back an hour in a vain attempt to

augment the gathering.

"Oh well, we still did better than our last meeting during February's snowstorm, when John Roberts showed up late," he said, chuckling.

That spirit of excitement seemed to buoy the audience as the nominations began pouring in about 9 p.m.

Each candidate was entitled to a two-minute speech and they made the most of it.

In a dramatic moment, candidate Walt

Elliot declined his nomination to give his full support to Ms. Lawson, who couldn't attend the meeting.

"She's worked tirelessly for the party all these years and deserves our support in this," he said and stepped down receiving a great amount of cheering and approval.

Mr. Campos provided comic relief as he spent two minutes explaining his decision to step back and watch the leadership candidates for a while.

"Rightist Liberals... make me sick," he said. "Leftist Liberals... make me throw up. I'll vote for the Liberal who's straight down the middle with a capital L."

By 11:30 p.m., the speeches were over, 170 ballots had been cast and the winners announced. Of the 13 runners-up, three had been in favour of Mr. Chretien two backed Mr. Turner and the rest were undecided.

Ms. Wiszniowski said she thought the indecision, stemmed from the competency of the seven leadership candidates, Mr. Turner, Mr. Chretien, John Roberts, Mark MacGuigan, John Munro, Don Johnston and Eugene Whelan.

"They're all so good," she said. "I think it's very difficult to make a choice and I'm not ruling any of them out." She added she would make her decision in a couple of weeks.

But they antics of one leadership hopeful had Ms. McLean reverse a tentative decision to support him.

"I was concerned with John Turner's change of mind on the Bill 101 language rights issue," she said. "That has me concerned and I'm now going to go to Ottawa (June 14) and see all seven for myself."

Mr. Smith said he was undecided but would go for the candidate who would best defeat any Progressive Conservative

## High speed chase scatters children

Halton regional police were involved in a high-speed pursuit of a car that forced two school buses off the road and scattered school children Friday.

A 29-year-old RR 2 Acton man is charged with dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving a vehicle whose licence plate was taken from another car.

After the car was seen driving north on the Sixth Line Friday about 4 p.m.—in excess of 150 kilometres an hour—police gave chase, pursuing the car to the intersection of the Sixth Line and Highway 7.

Police say the fleeing car sped through at least one intersection, forced two school bus drivers to pull their vehicles onto the shoulder and at one point sent disembarking students scurrying to the roadside.



Rose Krebs of the Acton area (right) buys a baby's toy from Jean Jackson at the Ospringle Knox Presbyterian Church rummage sale last Saturday.

## House overlaps Youngblut settle with Town reappointed

The porch of the Clark home on Young St. encroaches 1.58 feet over the Town road allowance, and has been that way for many years.

The Clarks became aware of the matter only this year when they had their property surveyed.

Lawyer Gordon Chapman, speaking on behalf of this client, asked the Town for an agreement.

Halton Hills council agreed to enter into an agreement for a five year period for a fee of \$10 a year.

Lorne Youngblut of Maria St. will be reappointed to the Halton Housing Authority if Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has no objections.

Youngblut's current term on the Authority expires at the end of July. Halton regional council last week endorsed a recommendation reappointing him to the Authority for another two years, as Youngblut himself requested.

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