

Junior Farmer in Germany

A MEMORY OF HER 2004 TRIP BY AMELIA WILSON, FORMER MILTON FALL FAIR AMBASSADOR



Amy Wilson with German friend Frauke.

In March of this year I was chosen to represent the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario in Germany for five weeks during the summer. Every year the Junior Farmers select members to travel to several different countries and, in turn, the JFAO hosts international delegates for the summer.

I left for Germany on June 28th. I was very nervous on the flight about how well I would be able to communicate with everyone. I knew a few words in German, but not a lot. I had nothing to worry about! All of my hosts spoke English and helped me to learn more German so that by the end of my trip I could read a menu and know what I was ordering!

When I arrived in Germany, I was met by Sabrina, my first host. We spent the day driving around Hamburg and then back to her village. We also toured a swine farm which housed 600 sows. On the weekend we went to a Landjugend event. The Landjugend are the German version of the Junior Farmers. It reminded me of a typical Junior Farmer party with people from all over reuniting with friends and having a great time! I met a lot of interesting people that weekend!

My second week was spent in Oldenburg with Andrea. We toured a couple of islands in the North Sea with some friends and helped the father of a friend milk cows one night! It was just a small dairy farm, milking only 10 cows at that time. The biggest difference I have noticed about the farms over in Germany was that the barns are attached to the house, which was nice on the rainy days! Andrea and I also toured a combination dairy and sheep farm.

After my week with Andrea I moved on to Alexandra's. With Alex I saw Hameln, where the Pied Piper originated and toured some castles. About halfway through the week, I moved on to the farm of another member in her club, Henning, who has a dairy farm. While there I learned a traditional German Dance, which reminded me of square dancing to German Music!

At the end of that week, I got on a train for a long trip down to the south of Germany where I was able to visit with my dad's cousin who is living in Heidelberg right now. We toured a few castles including Neuschwanstein Castle, which is the castle that Walt Disney used as the model to design Cinderella's. I also got to see the Alps and have lunch in Austria while we were on our castle tour.

Andrea and I made the 9 hour drive back up to the

North for my last week. I spent my last week with Frauke, who took me to Groningen, Holland for a couple days and then to Berlin so that I could see what was left of the Berlin Wall and see the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie.

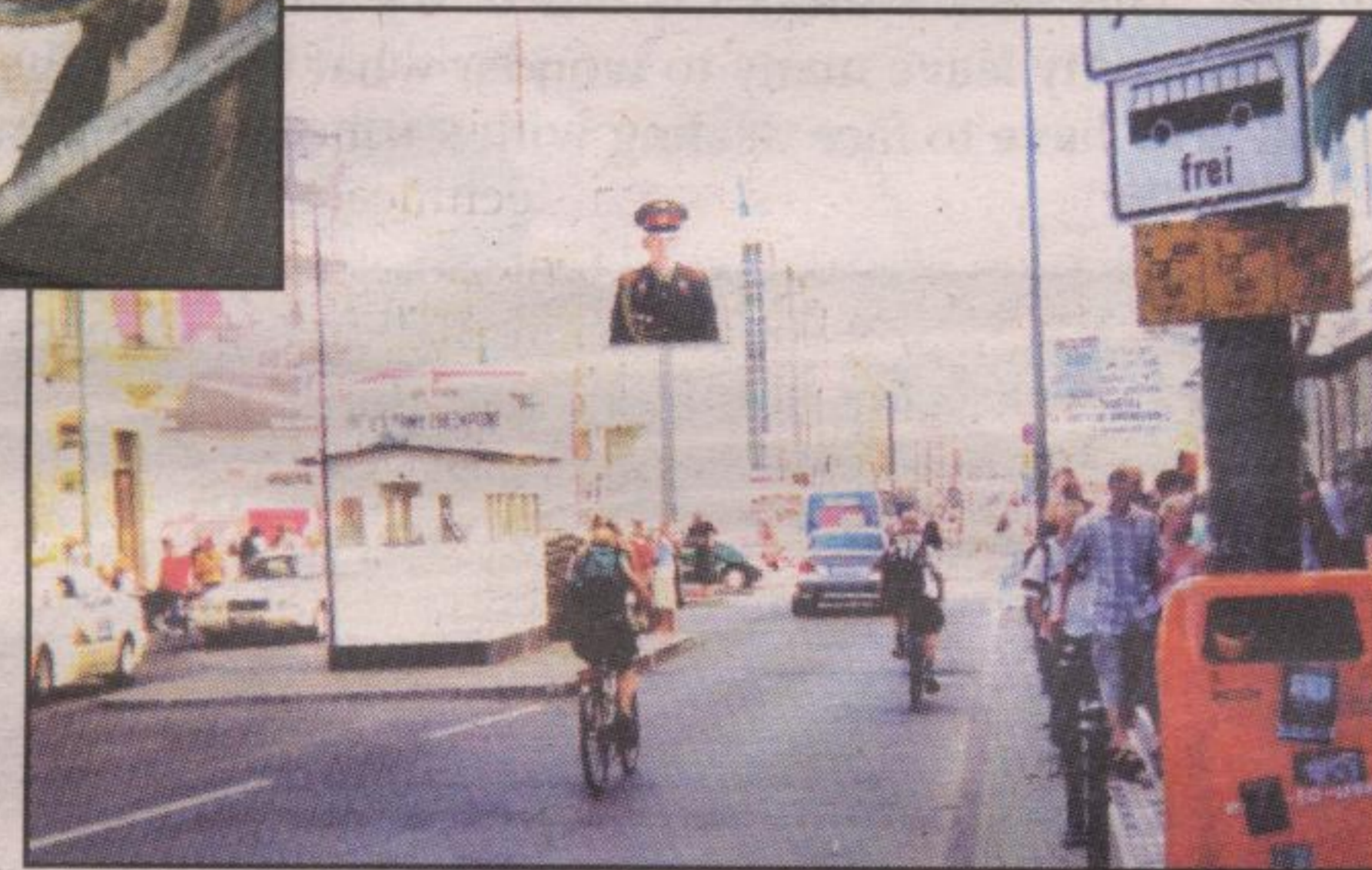
And with that, my trip had come to an end. Or so I thought! Frauke dropped me off at the Hamburg Airport where I found out that my flight to Amsterdam had been delayed. When I finally got to Amsterdam I had missed my plane to Toronto and ended up staying one last night in Holland before flying home from Paris the next day.

I had a lot of fun on my trip and learned so much!

I hope that one day soon I can go back and see everyone that I met. I want to thank the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario for giving me this wonderful opportunity. And I would like to thank my sponsors for all of their support!



SUBMITTED PHOTO
A holstein is a holstein anywhere in the world.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Berlin's Checkpoint Charlie minus the Wall.

Mister Ambassador

BY ANN KORŪTA

They are friendly, energetic, outgoing, involved in the community and knowledgeable in Canadian agriculture. These are the qualities needed for Milton's Fall Fair Ambassador competition. On the surface, it looks like a typical beauty pageant where more emphasis is put on how you look rather than who you are. This competition is far from that and allows both men and women to compete for the title of Fair Ambassador.

The only requirements for this title are to be from the community and to be 17 years or older. After being crowned the Ambassador must attend local parades and bring greetings to events and local fairs. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and gain experience in addressing the public with

confidence. The Ambassador will go on to attend the Ontario Agriculture Convention at the Royal York, Toronto where they will attend seminars focusing on community leadership, personal development and discussion on how to improve their fair and community. They also must attend the Canadian National Exhibition, the highlight of the year because hundreds of Ambassadors from all over Ontario compete for the title of CNE Ambassador.

This year's winner, Vincenzo Carito, a Hornby resident for 7 years is breaking down any misconceptions about Fair Ambassadors by being the first male ever to win this prestigious title. Vincenzo remarked that he was very excited. "It's exciting- I know I have to be my best because everyone is looking at me. A good friend of mine told me about the competition and that no other male has tried out for Ambassador before and I had to give it a shot."

All contestants are judged on an individual interview, personality and deportment as well as a short speech they must write themselves on their choice of four categories relating to agriculture and the fair.

For these young adults this provides a way to get involved with community activities. "I was inspired by the past ambassadors because they said it was an experience of a life time. I thought it was a great way to contribute to my community." Schomberg Fair Ambassador Asha Easton said.

Former Milton Fair Ambassador Serena Purdy commented after relinquished her crown that evening that "Being ambas-

sador is a great experience but it has to end. I think they have selected a great new ambassador so I am not worried for the fall fair. If anything, things are going to improve with Vincenzo as this year's Fall Fair Ambassador."



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Vincenzo (Vince) Carito (third from left), an 18-year-old Milton resident, became Milton's ambassador this year at the fall fair. He did a co-op placement as a student with the Milton Fire Department. Here he is with some of his firefighters friends from the department. From left to right: Dennis Jolly, Stephen Ramkalawan, Vince, Colin Widdis, and John Stringer. The firefighters were also a presence at this year's fair.



PHOTO BY LEILA WILLS

Mr Milton Fall Fair makes history

Vincenzo Carito, the "newly hatted" Milton Fall Fair Ambassador, stands beside outgoing Ambassador Serena Purdy. Carito, 18, made history last Saturday as the first man to enter the competition in the fair's history.

More Milton Fall Fair photos on pages 16 and 17.