

# Trip made great impact

By **MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY**  
The New Tanner

Tina Peterson recommends Encounters With Canada to anyone with the opportunity to participate in it.

The Acton High school student spent her week in Ottawa with 130 other 15 to 17-year-olds from across the nation who shares her passion for arts and art-related activities.

Literature on the program said "never has a week made such an impact on (my) life." It sounded like great propaganda, but it turned out to be

true. She credits that shared interest in arts for making the week so special.

"We were all into music or dance or drama or visual arts of some type," she says. "That's why we could share so much so quickly. We had that common interest as a base."

Encounters offers a variety of programs including the Canadian Experience, Law, Journalism and Communication, Business and Entrepreneurship, Canada and the World, Sports and Fitness, RCMP Forum, Science and Technology and Arts and Culture. Each program operates independently.

Peterson learned about the program through a school newsletter. When she decided to apply her older sister encouraged her since she had attended the Science and Technology group.

Peterson travelled to Ottawa by train and met a large group of fellow participants enroute. That was the start of the highjinks.

The gang from Nova Scotia turned out to be the life of the party, she says. They had all been to a leadership camp and knew plenty of tricks for getting groups interacting.

As they arrived participants were assigned to groups with their own monitor who would lead them in their various activities and sight seeing visits. Peterson's group called their leader Wrinkles because he never smiled.

Participants each received a \$150 scholarship from the Royal Canadian Legion and were expected to raise most of their trip costs from sponsors. Peterson's sponsors were the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197, the Acton Rotary Club, Acton High school, the school's student council, the school principal and several of her teachers.

The program itinerary included visits to the Parliament Buildings, the National Museum of Civilization, the National War Museum, the National Arts Centre, a Native Elders' Lodge, the National Art Gallery, a session on the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Corporation (CRTC), a movie on Terry Fox, a session with a former chef at Buckingham Palace, sessions on balloon sculpting and clowning, calligraphy, modern dance and English impromptu skits. They also had an all-night dance to end their week and a brief shopping spree in downtown Ottawa.

Peterson says she didn't cry during the good-byes but many of her fellow participants were reluctant to see their good time end.

"I missed my Mom's good meals, hot showers and my own bed," she says. "But it was an exceptional program and I'd recommend it to anyone who has the chance to go."



**PYSANKART DISPLAY;** Doris Burfind, left, and Rosemary Hart-Dibbits pose with the stylus, beeswax, and dyes they used to create the pysanky in their display at the Acton Public Library. The women plan to operate their own business teaching the art form. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

## Ancient art form classes centre around Easter eggs

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Easter may be the traditional time for creating psyanky but they aren't associated with that festival exclusively.

Doris Burfind and Rosemary Hart-Dibbits find the ancient Ukrainian egg-painting techniques make great sources of entertainment any time.

"Once you do one you just want to keep creating and creating," Burfind explains. That's why the two women plan to establish their own business, Pysankart, teaching the wax resist techniques for painting on raw eggs.

"You need the contents inside or the stylus would penetrate the shell while you're drawing on it," Burfind explains.

A friend taught them the ancient skills a few years ago and the women have passed them on to everyone in their families, including the young members.

"They all love it. That's why we figure it would make an alternative to magicians, bowling and assorted other

birthday party entertainment," Hart-Dibbits says.

Historically the eggs were associated with pagan rites of spring. After Christianity was introduced to Ukraine in 988 the ancient symbols were translated into very Christian interpretations.

But artists don't need to feel limited to these very traditional forms. Inspiration can come from anything, "even the pattern in your blouse", Burfind says. However, they do have patterns available for copying by students who think they don't have the necessary artistic bent.

The colours have specific

meanings too. White is for purity, for instance, and brown is for the earth.

The two women are training at the Vladamir Institute in Toronto and will conduct programs in Acton and Georgetown later this month.

The Youth program is offered at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 28 while the adult program runs from 7 to 10 p.m. at Acton High school on March 26. For course information call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2601 ext. 275. For Pysankart, call Burfind at 877-8205 or Hart-Dibbits at 873-1724.

## Leap of faith ...

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people," Black said, adding that he calls the project "a miracle."

Reverend Bob Matton agreed that the project really got off the ground with the gift of a used elevator by two congregation members who work for Dover Elevator.

"There have been some wonderful spin-offs from this project as well, including a lot of energy and enthusiasm that it's generated," Matton explained on Sunday.

"We've identified about a half-dozen people who have not been able to come to church because they are in wheelchairs and have great difficulty in getting around

and we have others who will now also find it easier to attend church."

Matton also said they hope the handicapped lift will make the church more accessible to the community at large so the church can be utilized more by different Acton groups.

Much of the money for the project was raised through church fund raising events and also through debentures issued to congregation members who made 10-year loans to the church.

Trinity is planning a celebration day May 3 to officially dedicate the new lift and other parts of the building project.



Tina Peterson swapped badges and pins with students from across the country during her Encounters With Canada trip to Ottawa. She also received a list with all the names and addresses of participants so they can keep in touch. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

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