



Terri Jolliffe had two French exchange students, Cedric Vuagnat (left) and Cedric Denis (right) staying with her in Georgetown.

Exchange students visit Georgetown

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

"School is cool" in Canada, say visiting exchange students from France, but they aren't sure if that's a good thing.

Twenty-five students from Annemasse, a town in France very close to Geneva, Switzerland, have been staying with students at Georgetown and District High School since Easter weekend and they

were expected to return to France Tuesday and Wednesday.

Each of the French students was matched with 22 Georgetown students, who visited France March 3 to 20. They stayed with the family of their partner and spent some time in school but also went on numerous excursions.

"There are lots of not very important differences. At school (in

Canada), it is more cool," said Emmanuelle Malaguti. "In France teachers scream a lot. We can't sit in the corridor," she said. Students also aren't allowed to leave a classroom to go to the washroom, can't chew gum, wear a hat or listen to a walkman in school. They aren't allowed to talk in class as much.

"In my opinion it is a bad thing in schools here. Students don't work enough, this is a great difference between us and them," said Julien Ceccon.

"It's better for students, but more bad for teachers," said Natacha Boissicat, who prefers the system in Canada.

"I can't say if it is better or worse, there are so many differences I could write a book," said Cedric Vuagnat. At 18, he is planning to be an engineer and said students in France have to make career decisions when they enter high school.

"We're really

concerned by unemployment problems. Every day it is present," he said.

Family life, however, is not so different between Canada and France, with some of the students coming from single income and some from two income families. Most of the students from France had been learning English for five years, while most of the Canadian students had been in French Immersion since Grade 1.

Cuisine is another matter of difference. While Celine Cousin had never had casseroles for dinner before coming to Georgetown, her Georgetown counterpart Danielle Malenfant wasn't enamored with the rabbit and frogs legs she was served.

"We had some rabbit and frogs legs. It tasted good, like chicken and is a normal thing to eat there, but I didn't want to eat too much of it," she said.

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