

# Public gets rare chance to see inside Watch Tower



Director of Public Affairs (Canada) for Jehovah's Witnesses Dennis Charland overlooks some of the negatives for the many publications in the graphic arts department of the facility. (Above) Kyle Larson is one of the many volunteers living in the residence complex on the grounds. Single volunteers generally share accommodations with a roommate.

Photos by Ted Brown

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magazines) and to the airport. He added the countryside was also appealing.

"We are pleased to be members of the Georgetown community," said Kenneth Little, chairman of the Watch Tower Society of Canada. "We're delighted to let folks know we appreciate our neighbors and that we're working to contribute in many ways to communities in Canada and abroad."

The complex is home to 380 volunteers who all work there.

Charland said the volunteers work in a variety of different positions. They don't get paid for their work but they are provided with an apartment in one of two residences on the 270-acre property, their meals, along with a small living allowance. He said the volunteers can stay at the complex for as long as they choose. There are no children living at the complex.

Charland said all of the volunteers are also assigned to a congregation. He serves as a minister in Shelburne as well.

Volunteers work in various areas at the complex including religious affairs, community outreach, writing, translation services, financial services, legal services, hospital information services, graphics, maintenance and the printing department.

The large printing complex, which is adjoined to the residences by an underground walkway, houses a five-unit Web offset press which prints 10 magazines per second.

Visitors to the complex during the open house had a chance to learn about the national "quick build" Kingdom Hall construction program, environmental protection initiatives and strategies for energy efficiency.

Short presentations were held on the art of public speaking, improving writing skills, developing a multi-media presentation and energy efficiency in the home.

Last year more than 23,000 people from around the world visited the Watch Tower complex. Visitors can take non-religious tours of the complex Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to noon, by just stopping in requesting a tour.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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