Katimavik was 'beautiful' experience

By Olga Darcovich Katimavik. In Inuit it means meeting place. Katimavik is a program which aims to 'provide a service to Canadian commu-

nities while giving Canadian youth a chance to get to know their country, to learn to live simply, to experiment with the brochure calls it. alternate technology for conserving resources and to

A BICYCLE TRIP from Ottawa to Milton followed a 10-month stint with

Katimavik for Stephen Kerry of Vancouver and Paula Sosnowski of

Milton Heights. Katimavik is a program which brings together young people from all parts of Canada for a working and learning experience.

During the month of horse drawn binder. These they are put through the

Provincial Park will be stooks which can be seen in grain from the straw and

and bound into sheaves by a by horse drawn wagon where blown into the grainery where

Miss Sopinka was unable to

Damage was estimated at

\$600 for each of the two cars.

the Hofer vehicle.

Society this fall.

the fields of Spruce Lane blows the straw into the straw

Farm. The stooks then dry mow to be used for bedding

animal feed.

Farm barn.

out and are drawn to the barn for the animals. The grain is

August, the staff at Spruce sheaves are then stacked threshing machine.

Lane Farm in Bronte Creek (stooked) together to form

\$1,200 damage

A two-car accident on Regional Police, the Hofer

Richard Hofer, 52, of Six stop in time and collided with

resulted in \$1,200 vehicle making a left turn

Trafalgar Rd. near Britannia vehicle had slowed for a

damage, but no injuries to into a laneway.

Jennifer

Halton

harvesting some of this

Cereal grains are being cut

Delerin Cr., in Erin was

when his car was in a collision

with a second vehicle driven

Campbellville, shortly after

16-year-old

noon on Friday, Aug. 4.

According

northbound on Trafalgar Rd.

year's crops.

either driver.

communicate in both French and English. An adventure and a total life experience,

But Paula Sosnowski, who recently completed 10 months

old daughter of Jack and Evelyn Sosnowski of Milton Heights, has a whole list of benefits she derived from the program, not the least of which are the friendships she made along the way. "I have a friend everywhere in

with Katimavik, has a single

Ms. Sosnowski, the 19-year-

word for it: "Beautiful."

be self-sufficient and to motivate myself; to be conscious of my environment and new ways of conserving energy; to be conscious of a good diet trees for their tent poles. and how to cook, including making bread.

"Katimavik gives you the strength to be an individual and not be influenced by peer pressure. It shows you another way.

"It teaches you about yourself and to feel good doing what you want to do without feeling self-conscious about it all the time."

In short, she's bubbling over with enthusiasm about Katimavik, a program of the federal government, and would recommend it to any-

Fellow Katimavik alumnus Stephen Kerry, 22, who visited with the Sosnowskis on his way home to Vancouver, says having to live communaly with a group of people with different ideas not people you've chosen to live with" — deepened his understanding of human relationships. The program also added to his knowledge of technological alternatives. such as the harnessing of solar energy.

Ms. Sosnowski and Mr. Kerry were among the first launched sounded, and applied. Both her parents were in favor of he program.

After going through the included interviews, psychological testing and a simulated group experience, she was accepted into

Mr. Kerry, who was getting restless at university, saw Katimavik as an opportunity to learn about himself. The program fit in with a life style he already was developing for Threshing demonstrated himself. Energy conservation and nutrition were important

> He also wanted to learn French. During previous travels, including a sojurn in Africa, he grew to appreciate trust. And I taught them to

This machine separates the

it is stored until used for

Threshing will be in the

afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00.

The demonstration will be an

ongoing activity, weather

permitting, at Spruce Lane

For a daily report on this

operation, contact the Visitor

Centre at 827-6911 or 335-0023.

After a three week training period in Alberta, Katimavik participants spread out in groups of 30, including three leaders and a project co-ordinator, to spend three months in each of three diffe-

Yamnuska, a Y camp near "I learned the value of Calgary, pitched them imwork and what I could do; to mediately into fending for themselves. Arriving in the rain, they had to build their sleeping quarters, starting with the scraping of

> and Mr. Kerry were assigned to worked on projects in Saskatchewan, Halifax and the Gatineau.

> Katimavik youth were requested by community sponsors to help with local projects, but in many cases it was up to participants to discover what needed to be done. "You use your talent and you make the project," says Ms. Sosnowski.

In Wilcox, about 25 miles from Regina, she and teammates created a playschool so country preschoolers could have a place to meet other children. In Halifax, they offered their services to the Children's Aid Society.

While in Wilcox, too, Ms. Sosnowski asked to work on a farm and got a chance to try her hand at combining. " had a fantastic farming experience and I acquired a real respect for farmers,' she comments.

But the main reason for being in Wilcox was to help out at Notre Dame College, a school for boys. They worked in the kitchen, assisting with cooking, and helped students form a mealtime committee to organize meals and increase the efficiency and smoothness of the kitchen They operation. organized a coffee house for students.

In Halifax they were assigned to help restore the citadel. As well, some of the group worked as relief stall in a group home for girls. This experience was an eyeopener for Ms. Sosnowski and one which gave her a great deal of satisfaction. "The problems they (residents of the home) have. I'd never seen. couldn't believe it."

She spent a lot of her time with the girls in the home. Asked what she believes her contribution has been, she replies: "I feel I've taught them a bit about values, about morals, and about

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like themselves more." At Camp Gatineau, located

just north of Ottawa in the province of Quebec, the group lived in a camp for the mentally handicapped and helped with the camp's programs. Though the pair are ec-

static about their Katimavik experience, they acknowledge the program had its share of problems. The Halifax project was the

most stressful. The expectations of the sponsors didn't always mesh with Katimavik's aims, Mr. Kerry says, explaining that the The group Ms. Sosnowski sponsors had a conventional attitude toward the work from Ottawa. The 400-mile whereas Katimavik emphasized volunteerism, interest and freedom to work on their

Moreover, half the original crew had dropped out by that time and remaining participants had to rebuild the team with newcomers.

There were periods of discouragement when the choice was to give up or to get in and fight, Ms. Sosnowski says Those who dropped out lacked the motivation to stick with the program, she comments. Some didn't anticipate the amount of hard work involved, some didn't know they had to learn another language, and others discovered program was not for them.

Several of those who left had jobs to return to. A number had participated previously in Canada World barn. Youth, a program focusing on fostering understanding of third world nations, and were disappointed Katimavik, with its stress on community work and volunteering, was not the same thing, she explains.

Mr. Kerry puts some of the

Pizza Delight

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blame on recruitment and proposal by defence minister selection procedures. "They Barney Danson. It is operated wanted to have it for every- by OPCAN, a corporation of body. But only a certain kind the federal government. of individual can meld into The program is restricted

group work. The selection to Canadian young men and women from 17 to 22. Group strengthened." leaders must be between 23 However, some problems and 30 years of age and project co-ordinators are were inevitable in the first year of the program, he chosen from people between

comments, particularly since there had been a rush to get Katimavik off the ground in At the end of their experi-

ence there was a 46-mile canoe trip in the Gatineau. Then Mr. Kerry and Ms. Sosnowski bicycled to Milton trip took seven days. They stuck to the back roads, as long as they were paved. Fortunately — for they slept outdoors — it rained only one

After a visit in Milton, Mr. Kerry planned to bike home

Asked what she was going to do next, Ms. Sosnowski replies: "I want to do a lot. "I'd like to get involved with solar energy. If there's a somewhere in Canada, I want to be there." She'd like to visit the Saskatchewan farmers

again, do a bicycle tour of Prince Edward Island, get involved in activities with girls from the group home, and take a French immersion course at Jonquiere, Quebec. But first she's going to visit Katimavik friends in Sherbrooke and help them build a

Katimavik grew out of a

Efforts are made to get representation of all ethnic groups, geographic areas rural and country residents. different economic

groups in Canada. Participants in Katimavik get \$1,000 if they complete the program, in addition to "wages" of a dollar a day.

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