

## Guy Asselin leader with project

# Katimavik could work for town, non-profit groups

The federal government's KATIMAVIK program could be put to good use by the town of Penetanguishene or by other non-profit groups in the area, according to KATIMAVIK group leader Guy Asselin.

A local man, Asselin is one of the field staff of the program, and he said recently that the town or groups in the area, such as the Pen-Glen Corporation, should apply for a team of thirty young people to do work in the community.

Under the program, the federal government would pay the workers, and pay for their board and transportation to the area. The team would be composed of three groups of ten young people, chosen from applicants from across the country. The program, which this year will involve about 1,000 young people, provides for three teams to work on each project, each team staying for three months. If a project cannot be completed within nine months, it would be continued in the next year of the program, until it is completed.

Asselin recently

completed the first national formation camp for field staff, held at Lac St. Denis in the Laurentians, north of Montreal. He, along with about 70 other group leaders, spent a month learning group animation skills, how to get involved in a strange community and maintain good relations with the local people, and a little about appropriate technology and land management. They also prepared the agendas for the participant training camps.

He was in town two weeks ago for a short rest, before taking off for Alberta, where he will be a group leader for a project, although he doesn't yet know exactly where the project will be, or what the team will be doing.

He said there will be three group leaders working on each project, one for each of the three groups which make up a team. The group leaders will remain with the project, rather than moving along every three months with the teams. He said this will provide continuity, which would

otherwise be non-existent. "That way we're not a hit and run affair," he said.

Asselin said the young participants in the program would learn about parks and recreation, land management, alternate energy, and environmental work. But he said the most important part of the learning experience would be personal development. The experience of living and working with a team, of becoming self sufficient in many ways, and of integrating into three different communities, he said, would provide the participants with an educational experience they could never get in school.

Each team will spend at least one three-month period in a French speaking community, and Asselin said the organizers would try to make sure there were representatives of both Canada's official language groups on each team.

He admitted that it could appear as though the program was thought up to help hold Canada

together, in light of the recent national unity crisis, but he denied that this was actually the case.

He said KATIMAVIK was thought of at least five years ago, long before the national unity crisis came to a head with the election in Quebec last year of the Parti Quebecois.

He said, "I don't think there is any push to make this a nation building program. It is supposed to be an educational experience."

He said the minister responsible for the program, Barney Danson, Minister of National Defense, and the two co-chairmen, Jacques Hebert and Howard Nixon have high hopes for the people involved as participants in the program. "These three men have a lot of faith in the youth of today in terms of building the

future of this country."

He said at the moment, with the program in its first, more or less experimental year, only physically fit people between the ages of 17 and 22 are being accepted. But he added that it was the hope of Jacques Hebert that eventually the program could be expanded to accommodate handicapped people, or even juvenile delinquents. "I think it's desirable, and I think it's possible," he said.

Asselin said he has often asked himself how a Penetanguishene boy, a graduate of "Science de la gestion" at the University of Ottawa, managed to get involved with programs such as KATIMAVIK. He said his first experience with groups, travelling, working and learning through experience, was with an exchange

program between Ontario and France, sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Education. He did that for two summers.

It was then that his brother Henri joined the Canada World Youth program. Asselin thought the program sounded interesting, but by that time he was too old to take part. Not letting a thing like that bother him, he applied to take part as a leader rather than as a participant, and was accepted. Last year, he worked in Melfort, Saskatchewan and in Abbotsford, British Columbia, spending six weeks in each place with a group composed of Canadian and Philippine students. He then accompanied the group back to the Philippines, where they worked for three months on the island of Sebu, attached to the Philippine

Nutrition Program.

That program provided an alternative form of education, he said, just as the KATIMAVIK program will. "It followed that I would join KATIMAVIK because of my experience with Canada World Youth."

With respect to the

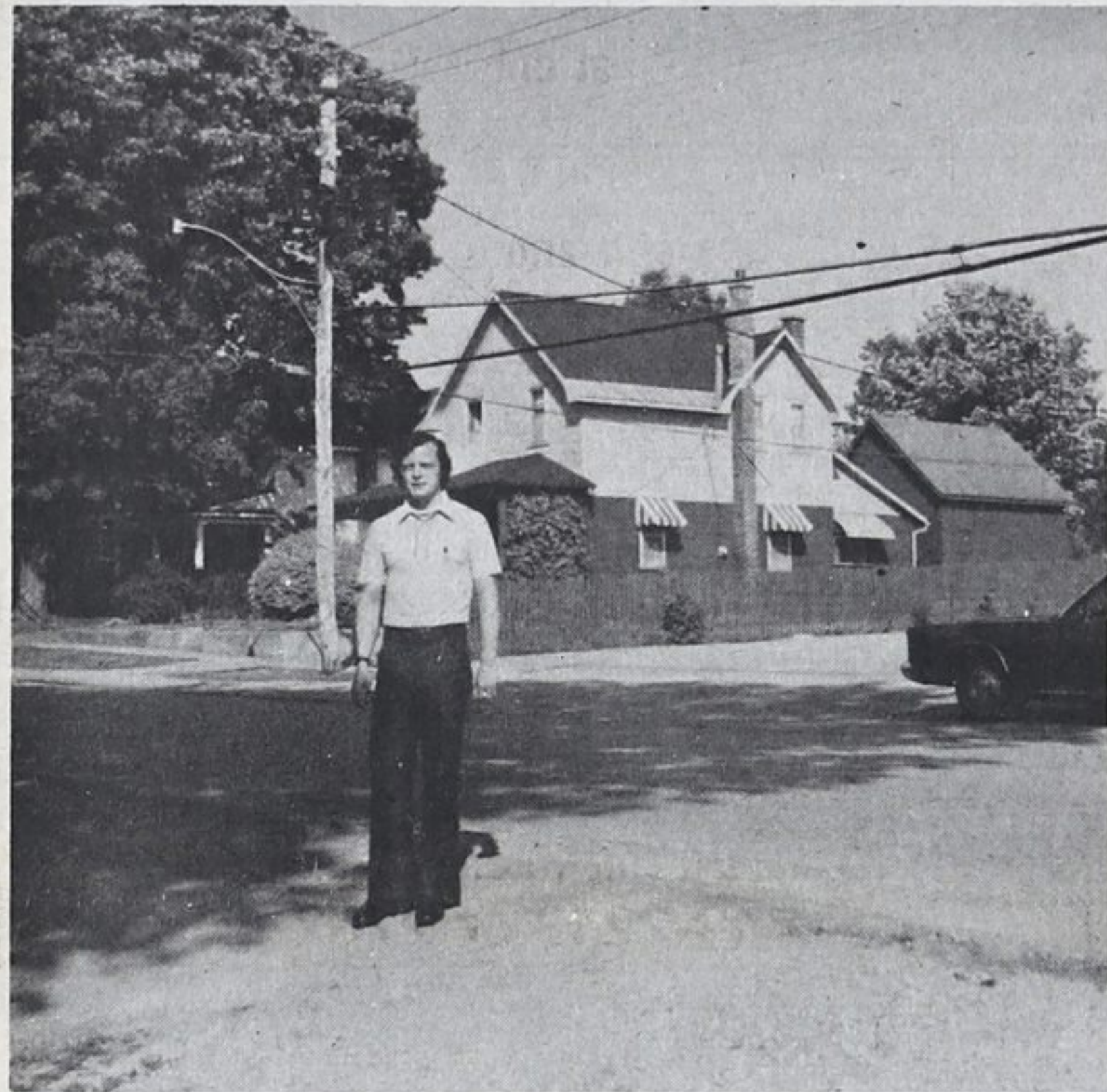
program itself, he said, "Either it's going to grow or it's going to die. If it grows, it can grow to the point where it's going to change Canadians on more than a superficial basis."

He said Canada World Youth was one of the most exciting educational

experiences he had had in his life, after spending years at various schools, and he expects KATIMAVIK to provide the same type of experience for participants in it.

He added that the success of the program, in terms of its con-

tinuation beyond this year, would depend on how useful it was not only to the participants, but to the communities which will host the teams. "We know that we have to do a good job. We have to render a true service to the communities we are going into."



On his way out West



Asselin on bike excursion

## Manpower placements top July forecasts

July was a very successful month for the Midland-Penetanguishene Manpower Centre as it filled more vacancies than had been forecast for that month and topped its totals for the same month last year.

The Canada Manpower and Student Offices together filled 220 regular and 72 casual vacancies during July, due largely to employment opportunities generated by Young Canada Works, Canada Works and the

Ontario Youth Employment Program. Manpower manager Don McKnee also indicated that a number of local manufacturing firms had taken on students for maintenance during summer plant shutdowns.

Employers listed 224 orders with the manpower centres last month and as of July 31, 84 were still unfilled. Positions now open are for an upholsterer, tool maker,

motor vehicle painter, machinist, registered nurse, dental assistant, stationary engineer, 3rd class, babysitters, cooks and hairdressers.

Despite a depleted staff because of summer vacations, Manpower officials made 120 visits to area employers in July. The employer visits are primarily geared towards soliciting vacancies, discussing an employer's order, marketing a qualified client, or promoting the industrial training program.

Although the student manpower offices in Penetanguishene have been closed, the Midland offices will be open to the end of August. Students are still available to work prior to starting school in the fall.

## Students still available

July proved to be a busy month for the CMCS as we placed 120 students in jobs that lasted for more than 5 days and 69 students in jobs of 1 to 5 days. It would be nice to say that we've run out of students but with 119 new registrations during July that isn't the case. We still have unemployed students in our files that are eager to work and who, at this stage, are getting frustrated at not being able to find even one day's work. Many of these people are from the small villages around Midland and Penetanguishene and don't have transportation into the larger centres. Some of these students are younger but they are eager to prove to an employer that they would be a good worker.

So, if you're thinking about winterizing your cottage for the fall or working on that roof that the ice brought down last winter, think about hiring a student to help. They

really are good workers and we will do our best to help you find the right person. All you have to do is call 526-3746.

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