

Young people from Malaysia to spend 10 weeks in Midland

This October, November, and December a group of young people from Malaysia and Canada will be spending a 10 week period in Midland.

The group will be composed of seven young Malaysians and seven young Canadians. This group is part of the 1980 Canada World Youth exchange.

Canada World Youth (CWY) is a private, non-governmental organization funded by CIDA (The Canadian International Development Agency) which conducts youth exchanges between Canada and various developing nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The programme is seven months in duration; half in Canada and half in the exchange country. All costs of the programme in Canada are paid for by CWY with the exchange country carrying the costs overseas. CWY also pays for all international airfare.

The project in Midland will be with a variety of Social Services. During their stay the young people will be working as volunteers with a number of organizations in the Social Service field in Midland. They meet once a week with the rest of the group in a structured educational activity. On weekends they will participate in community activities or spend time with their billeting families.

The Canadians involved in the exchange will be chosen from across Canada and will roughly represent a cross-section of the Canadian population, i.e. rural/urban, male/female, anglophone/francophone, student/worker etc.

The Malaysian participants will be chosen by the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports of Malaysia from some of the many different youth clubs in Malaysia. Many of these clubs are familiar to us in Canada, such as Boy Scouts, 4H Club, YMCA etc. These participants will be from all over Malaysia from both rural and urban areas and will represent the three major cultural groups: Malay, Chinese, and Indian.

Midland was chosen as one of four communities in Ontario to host the Malaysian exchange. The other projects are in Owen Sound, Sault Ste. Marie, and Manitoulin Island.

The group in Midland will be composed of 14 people varying in age from 17 to 25 plus 2 Group Leaders (permanent staff). One Group Leader is hired and trained by CWY, the other would be from Malaysia and a youth officer with the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports. The group will arrive in Midland on

Oct. 4.

The two and a half weeks prior to the arrival is spent at a formation camp, where the participants learn language, culture, and begin their educational programme.

The first week in

Midland will be spent living together as a group and being introduced to the various work placements. After that first week they will be billeted in pairs (one Canadian and one Malaysian) with families in the com-

munity.

Host families will be required from early October until mid December. Families will be paid \$70.00 per week to cover the costs of billeting two participants. The duration of their stay will be

approximately 10 weeks, and the group would be leaving the area on Dec. 15.


At this time they will travel to Malaysia and spend three months working on similar projects. Billeting families are asked to

spend time with the participants and treat them as part of the family. Anyone interested in learning more about the project should contact Mrs. Mary Gibson at the Contact Centre.

A CWY Group Leader

who will organize and supervise the project will arrive in mid August. He/she will be finalizing work placements, looking for billeting families, and finding people who are interested in helping out on the project.

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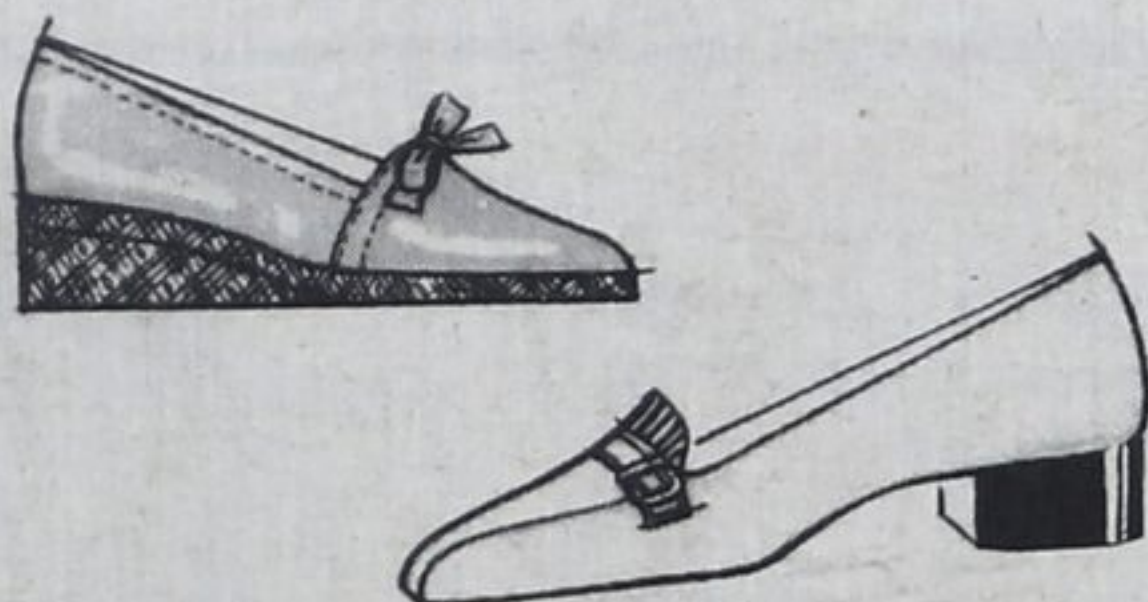
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