

Terrace Bay - Schreiber

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SERVING TERRACE BAY, SCHREIBER, ROSSPORT & JACKFISH LAKE

Two Terrace Baynians travel to Taipei, Taiwan

By Dave Chmara

Jamie Pollard and Tammy Trach were half of the Canadian delegation to partake in a 16 day tour of Taiwan this past August.

The tour, which saw over 200 people aged between 20 and 40 from 42 countries, is part of the International Youth and Study Tour - a yearly program which helps promote Taiwan to the rest of the world.

Pollard and Trach left Thunder Bay on August 12 and from there travelled to Toronto, Detroit, Seattle, Seoul (South Korea) and then finally arrived in Taipei, Taiwan following the 12-hour flight.

Pollard and Trach said they were impressed with the tour. "We were treated like V.I.P.s. We had a police escort everywhere we went," said Trach.

Taiwan is a small island off the coast of China. Although a republic of China, it retains its independence from the mainland and its residents are strong believers in democracy.

During their stay, Pollard and Trach travelled throughout most of the country, which is about 600 km wide.

One site which they both enjoyed seeing was the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial. This memorial bears the name of the man who started democracy in Taiwan. Other memorable sites included the Kenting National Park on the south of the island, and the Torako Gorge located on the east coast.

During their stay in Taiwan, Trach and Pollard met some of the 200 other delegates from around the world. As English is the official international language, all 200 delegates spoke the language.

Trach found it interesting that many of the delegates didn't realize how large a country Canada is.

"They'd say 'I'll be in Vancouver later this year, why

don't you drop by'" said Trach.

Pollard said during their visit they even had the opportunity to meet with the Premier of Taiwan, Huan Lee.

"The country is Westernized to a point - they have McDonalds and stores like that. But they also have rice fields in the middle of the city too," said Pollard.

Because of the lack of space in Taiwan - it has the second highest population density in the world - the buildings generally go up. Trach said she ate on the 8th floor of a McDonalds while there.

While in Taiwan, Trach roomed with two people from Germany and France and Pollard roomed with three people from Japan.

"Westerners don't realize there's a difference between Japanese and Chinese. The Japanese I roomed with didn't eat very much because they like eating most of their food raw while the Chinese overcook almost everything," Pollard said.

Trach said crime generally is not a problem in Taiwan. During their stay, none of the 200 delegates had anything stolen.

"You're more of a novelty in Taiwan. The people there either wanted to try their English skills out on you and the youngsters would pull the hair on your arms and legs because they don't have any," said Trach.

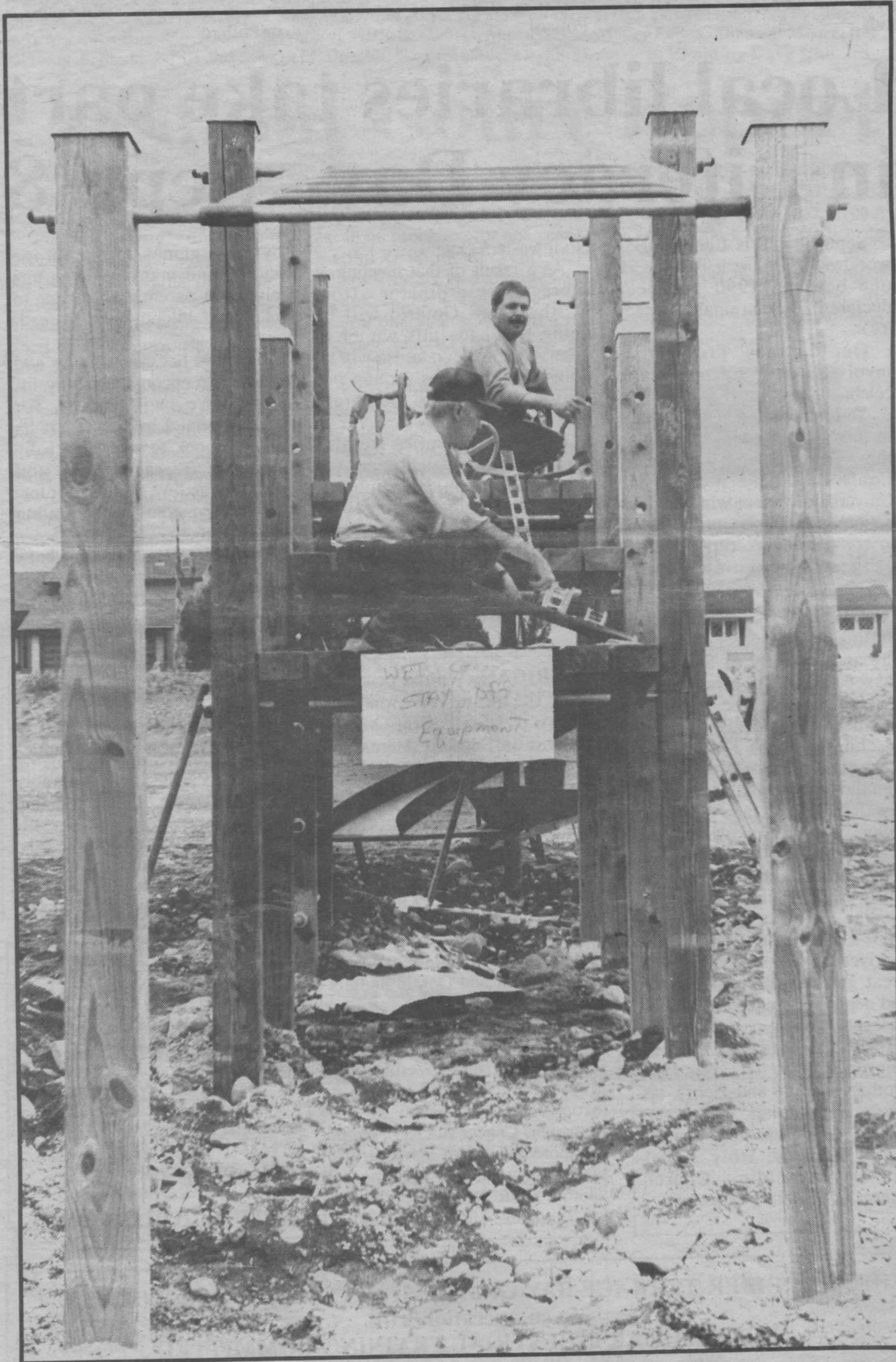
During their stay, the temperature hovered around the 40 degrees Celsius mark everyday. To add to this, the weather was extremely humid and because of the amount of humidity, it rained everyday.

"Without warning it would just suddenly start pouring for about ten minutes and then it would stop," said Pollard.

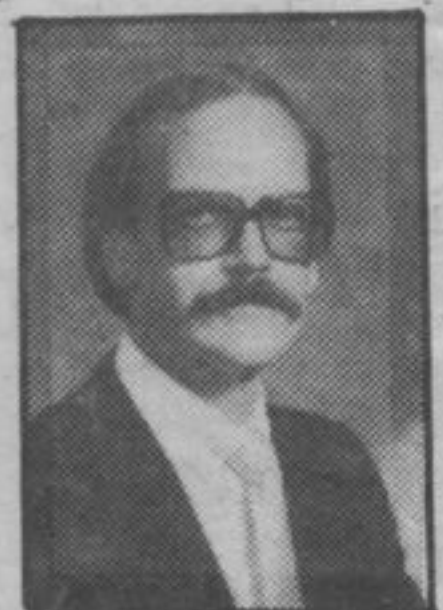
Trach said, "swimming in the Ocean didn't even cool us off."

Both Pollard and Trach said it was interesting to see the different people from around the world.

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Workers piece together the new playground equipment being constructed at Holy Angels school in Schreiber. Along with the new playground equipment, a \$1.3 million addition is being built at the school which will house a new gymnasium, library, special education room and two class rooms.
Photo by Dave Chmara



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