

# Organized conference She's working for peace

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

Markham's Celine Poirier wishes someone, somewhere, could achieve world peace without her.

While waiting, she determined 15-year-old took steps in that direction on her own.

With help from staff at North York's Etienne Brule francophone secondary school where she attends Grade 11, Celine organized a recent conference trumpeting the peace message.

For her it was the culmination of a peace seed planted in her mind over a year ago at a similar conference in the U.S. This day, peace literature surrounds a small hardbound Baha'i prayer book — a peace-seeking religion Celine follows.

The spirit of peace, said Celine, is something that can be achieved.

"It was a very electric conference that lasted five days," she recalled. "During talks and workshops I felt this energy — I felt so confident that I could do something for peace."

When she returned to school in the fall last year she took those first steps that evolved into late April's Youth At The Heart of Peace conference.

Over 100 students from french language schools across



Markham's Celine Poirier works for peace

Southern Ontario attended. Celine abandoned lunch hours and after-school activities to bring together an equal cross-

section of speakers. Participants included officials from the the Ministry of Culture and Citizenship, Jew-

ish Christian Association, Amnesty International and Direction Jeunesse.

The University of Toronto and Association des Enseignants Francophones de L'Ontario helped fund the event.

"What I wanted to do was share the hope that I found at the (U.S.) conference," explained Celine. "It started out as a project but quickly turned into something bigger."

With support from teachers Anne-Marie Caron-Reaume and principal Ed De-Meulemeester, Celine began contacting dignitaries and guest speakers and trying to receive funding for the event.

Her attempts met with enthusiastic responses and the success of the endeavour left her with plans to expand the peace initiative.

She has already discussed plans with a friend who attends Unionville High School and together the pair hope to bring off a conference larger in scale next year.

Their goal is to make peace — not nuclear disarmament — a school activity.

"It was terrific to see all the work pay off," she said. "My friends stood up and participated. Some people really benefitted from the conference."

# Historic regiment needs you

The 78th Fraser Highlanders are looking for recruits to help re-enact the regiment's past glory.

Committed to the preservation of Canada's history, the regiment came to Canada from Scotland in 1757 and fought in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.

Modern members of the Frasers are involved in bloodless pursuits like parades, tattoos and reenactments of the regiment's most famous Canadian battle.

The Highlanders are looking to boost their ranks with new members. The Frasers raise money by making public appearances. Funds go toward the training, equipment and salaries for high school and university students who work at historic sites across Canada.

Other projects financed by the regiment include university-level research in Canadian history and the restoration and acquisition of historic artifacts and buildings.

Regiment volunteers should have an interest in Canadian history and be extroverted enough to go out in public in 18th century costumes.

The Frasers travel throughout Ontario, Quebec and the northern United States. The three units include the Honourable Guard, the Musket Team, and the Pipes and Drums who are ranked third in the world.

In 1984 the regiment acted as the honor guard for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip for three days.

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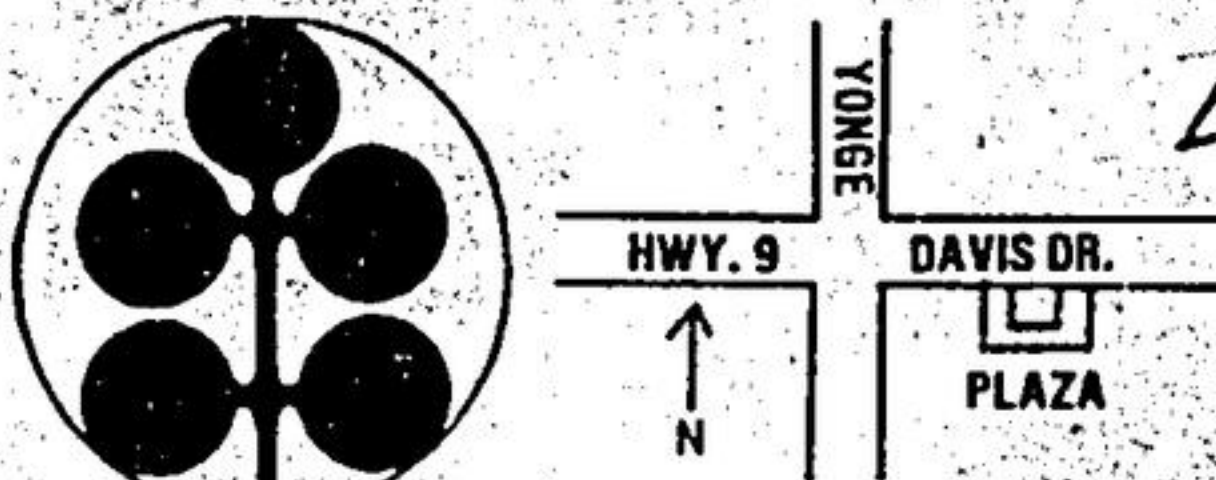
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