

Community

# York Region 4-H hosts visitors from British Columbia

By KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

"4-H rocks! It's the best. You make friends for life." That's the view of Angela Muirhead, one of 10 young people who have been visiting the community this month as part of an exchange program between the Chilliwack 4-H District in British Columbia and the York Region 4-H Association. From July 4 to 13, delegates from York Region visited their B.C. counterparts to learn about the history, geography, culture, economy and 4-H program in the province. On July 22, the B.C. exchange contingent arrived in York Region for a 10-day visit, during which they toured the Risebrough Farm on Durham Rd. 30, north of Davis Drive. Chris Archer, who lives on a dairy farm in Chilliwack, shares Angela's enthusiasm for 4-H. Among the projects he enjoys most are dairy and field work. "I try to get involved with exchanges and I really like the social part

of it as well," he said. "I love it here. We've been to the CN Tower, SkyDome and Niagara Falls."

Five-year 4-H veteran Haley Lucas said the organization has given her the opportunity to make new friends and to visit places she might never otherwise have seen. "It's great," she said of Ontario. "I really like Niagara Falls and we're going to Canada's Wonderland."

Nicole Gilliland, a member of the York Region Association, noted that the group would also be visiting the Keeler Valley dump and learning about the fight local farmers put up against its proposed expansion, which would have involved the loss of 500 acres of farmland.

As several delegates pointed out, membership in 4-H is not confined to people living on farms. Many different skills are taught in the organization's clubs, among them sewing, photography, baking, crafts and outdoor recreation projects. "I've had so much fun with this exchange," said

Nicole, who is involved in sewing projects.

"I'm not going to be a farmer personally, but this is the best summer I've had in a long time. You meet so many cool people."

Kelly Stickwood has been a York Region 4-H member for five years. "I'm in the rabbit club and the dairy club," she said. "I like the things we do as groups, the exchanges and the conferences."

"I live in town, so I don't get to experience agricultural life," explained Stouffville resident Jaimie VanderHenne. "4-H gave me the chance to see a different part of the country. I'm in the rabbit club right now and I do a lot of homemaking clubs."

The opportunity to participate in an exchange program is one of the best things about 4-H, according to many of the delegates.

"You have to have at least two years of 4-H and you're only allowed on this exchange once, but there are other ones that you can go on," explained Cheryl Baker, a York Region 4-H member.

Each member paid about \$100 towards the trip to cover insurance, and the organizations in B.C. and Ontario were involved in fundraising activities to help defray costs. Members were matched with partners with families in the host

province providing accommodation for the visiting partner.

York Region 4-H held a draw July 1 to raise funds for the exchange. Diane Forde of Keswick won a side of pork and Laura Douglas of Schomberg and Paul Shaw of Stouf-

ville each won 25 pounds of pork in the draw. Government funding was supplied by the Open House Canada Youth Exchange Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage and was organized and administered by the Canadian 4-H Council.

Letters

## What Stouffville needs is a 'good chair bylaw'

Dear Editor,  
It is finally time for our town fathers to wake up and stop wasting their time on Musselman's Lake water systems, swimming pools, hockey rinks, capital budgets and tax cutting when there are much more urgent matters at hand.

When our bylaw enforcement officers hit the streets to protect the citizenry, they should at least not be embarrassed by having to rely on a complement of obviously inadequate municipal bylaws.

Confiscation of the "big chair" is a case in point. Imagine Stouffville's building director, Bob Bennett, being forced to conclude that a chair is a sign because it is used to sell a product or indicate the sale of a product.

Everyone knows that a "chair" is not

a sign. What we need is a good chair bylaw so that Mr. Bennett no longer has to pretend otherwise in the interest of good government and prevention of crime and other misdemeanors.

Unless our town fathers take to heart this good advice and immediately begin drafting a good chair bylaw, our town sign bylaw will be open to all manner of abuses. Who knows, next thing Mr. Bennett may be confiscating those Schell lumber trucks parked on its premises because the lettering on the doors promotes, God forbid, lumber from Schell, thereby constituting the vehicles not as trucks, but as signs used to sell a product or indicate the sale of a product.

Wesley Brown  
Stouffville

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