

**CITIZEN ON ASSIGNMENT: Teens spend summer immersed in French culture**

# Quebec student exchange a 'trip of a lifetime'

BY HELEN KWAN  
Citizen on Assignment

Five students from Markham had a chance to enhance their knowledge of their second language, French, by immersing in a francophonic town through living and working in Quebec. The teens participated in the Summer Work-Student Exchange program funded by the federal government

and supported by various regional organizations. These students recently returned from an exchange with five teens from the federal riding of Saint-Bruno in Quebec.

During the six weeks, they stayed with the families of their exchange students and adapted well to the environment.

Stephanie Cheung, a Grade 12 stu-

dent at Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy, worked at a provincial conservation park called Parc du Mont St-Bruno.

"I loved Nature Action and everyone in it. Every person was so kind to me and helped me to speak French. I enjoyed working there and I would love to go back there to work."

Christy Flint, a Grade 11 student at Brother Andre Catholic High School, worked in a day camp in Saint-Bruno with a group of handicapped children. "I was responsible for keeping the children active and made sure that they were having a good time. They were the most loving and caring children I've ever met and I loved it."

Helen Kwan, a Grade 12 student at McGivney, worked in a volunteering organization in a neighbouring town of Saint-Bruno. "My main responsibility was to organize things around the office. But I had also done other types of work such as cleaning the refrigerator and watering plants."

Julia Wong, who will go into Grade 12 at Middlefield Collegiate Institute, worked in the Saint-Bruno Chamber de Commerce. "I worked in an office as a clerk. My job included working with the computer to do various assigned tasks."

Janet Yip, a Grade 11 student at Milliken Mills High School, worked in the community centre in Saint-Bruno. She had worked in an office as well, using computer data bases to record and organize information.

The students also participated in activities dur-



From left: Stephanie Cheung, Christy Flint, Jaya Suri, Janet Yip, Helen Kwan and Juliana Wong.

ing the weeknights, and the weekends with their coordinator, Katia Robillard, and other exchange students from across Canada. They visited many attractions in downtown Montreal and spent two days in Quebec City.

Activities such as white water rafting at Saute-Mouton, camping at park Mauricie and go-karting were some of the things that the students enjoyed doing the most. They all agreed that this had been an awesome experience.

"If we could turn back time, we would do it all over again," said Stephanie and Christy. "It was a trip of a lifetime and we recommend it to anyone."

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