



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Anita Wiebe is a student from Heidelberg, Germany, volunteering at the Care and Share Thrift Shop in Stouffville. She is one of 55 young people from around the world who have come to North America under an exchange program.

Climate, language no problem for German exchange student

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Anita Wiebe travelled across an ocean to volunteer at the Care and Share Thrift Store in Stouffville.

The German exchange student knew what to pack: the winter snows nestle around the vineyards and forests of her small village of Laumersheim (population 1,000) in southwest Germany, just as they do in Stouffville.

Her sense of adventure needed no prompting. Before finishing high school in March, the 18-year-old decided she needed to see the world before settling down to university and a possible career as a teacher of English and social studies. Before hitting the books, she hopes to travel around Europe or spend a few years in France studying the language.

English is no problem for Ms Wiebe, who studied it for eight years in her native land.

She put her trust in the Mennonite Central Committee's International Visitors Exchange program to find her a one-year adventure. After applying to the program and being interviewed, she

FAITH, hope & charity

was placed in her country of choice — Canada.

Her first stop was a one-week orientation with other exchange students from countries as far away as Taiwan, South America and Africa.

"I really feel at home here," the bright young woman said. "I have not been homesick here."

Working with older people has taken her by surprise. She enjoys their company and they enjoy hers.

"Now I have a lot of grandmothers and grandfathers who all look after me," she said.

The thrift store was something new for Anita. There aren't many such stores in Germany, she said. She likes the idea of helping local residents, both those donating clothing and goods and those

buying, while helping people around the world at the same time.

The IVEP program takes care of participants' expenses, as well as giving them a small allowance. In return, the young people work in a variety of settings: stores, farms and stores.

Her host family, Ron and Sonja De Roo and their children, Jacob and Hanneke, include Anita on family outings. Just how much she has become a part of her host family, her new community and the people she has met in the Care and Share Thrift Store since she arrived in August was brought home one night when they were at a concert.

"I knew more people than they did," she said, with some amazement.

Anita is one of 55 young people between 18 and 35 year of age from around the world who have a chance to volunteer in North America. The majority of the program's participants are between 20 and 25 of age, she noted.

After another eight months here, she will leave Canada with a lot of fond memories, terrific English and the hope of becoming a true citizen of the world.

In partnership with York Region Newspaper Group's Celebration of the Arts

York Region's Professional Opera Company Presents...

Opera York

A Holiday Classic for the whole family

Hansel & Gretel



Featuring Mary Lou Fallis as the nasty witch

by: Engelbert Humperdinck based on the story by the Brothers Grimm



Dec. 28 - 2:30 pm • Dec. 30 - 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth Performing Arts Centre

525 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill (at Clark Ave., behind Promenade Mall)

TICKETS: \$30 - Adults; \$25 Children (12 & under) \$20 each additional child.

For Tickets call Opera York at 905-763-7853 www.operayork.com

From our Family to Yours, Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

HOUSTON FORD LTD.
5786 Main St., Stouffville
905-640-4541
www.billhoustonford.com

OUR CUSTOMERS ARE THE FOCUS OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION REMINDER!

There will be no garbage, blue box or green bin collection on Monday, December 26, 2005 - Boxing Day. Collection services will move ahead by one day for all areas.

If your regular collection day is:	Your materials will be collected on:
Monday (Areas 3 & 4)	Tuesday, December 27, 2005
Tuesday (Areas 5 & 6)	Wednesday, December 28, 2005
Wednesday (Areas 7 & 8)	Thursday, December 29, 2005
Thursday (Areas 9 & 10)	Friday, December 30, 2005
Friday (Areas 1 & 2)	Saturday, December 31, 2005

Christmas trees will be collected the week of January 9 - 13.

There will be no changes to your collection schedule the week of January 2 - 6, 2006

Please follow your Waste Collection Schedule.

2006 Waste Collection Schedules will be delivered to homes in January.

The Waste Management Department wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.



Contact Centre 905-415-7535

Email: wastemgt@markham.ca Website: www.markham.ca

MISSION Green

MARKHAM

When You can't BREATHE Nothing Else Matters

THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

We can help. For more information about Asthma call The Lung Association.

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun

Boxing Day Sale! UP TO 60% off

Plus NO Interest NO Down Payment NO Fees FOR 6 MONTHS*

CYBEX TRUE VISION FITNESS BOWFLEX NAUTILUS Inc SCHWINN Octane StairMaster

Treadmills FROM \$799

Elliptical Trainers FROM \$199

Benches FROM \$99

Home Gyms FROM \$499

Stationary Bikes FROM \$299

Pro Fixed Dumbbells With Rubber Ends 10-50 lbs. Just like the gym! SALE PRICE \$499 REG. \$799

Ab Trainer SAVE UP TO 60%

Weight Scales

Yoga & Pilates Accessories

PRICES NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

UNBELIEVABLE BOYS

BOWFLEX EXTREME 1 GYM \$1999 Includes FREE Bike \$300 Value

IRONMAN 600G GYM \$1199 Includes FREE Leg Press REG. \$1999

PRODUCT REG PRICE SALE PRICE

POWER RACK 3X3 \$399 \$299

CHIN DIP STATION \$299 \$199

FLAT INCLINE \$299 \$199

DECLINE BENCH \$299 \$199

INVERSION TABLE \$299 \$199

KEYS 502T TREADMILL \$299 \$199

MINI STEPPER \$299 \$199

AB ROLLER \$299 \$199

WE HAVE IT ALL!

• Non-Commission Sales Staff • Canada's Largest Selection • Guaranteed Lowest Prices! • All The Best Brands • 1000's of Fitness Accessories • Complete Delivery and Set-Up • In-House Service Centre

THORNHILL 109 Doncaster Rd. (905) 747-0802
MARKHAM 5261 Hwy. #7 East, Ste. #1 (905) 471-4116
TORONTO 2760 Yonge St. (416) 440-0244
VAUGHAN 3240 Langstaff Rd. (905) 660-4888
HAMILTON Meadowlands Power Centre 1015 Golf Links Rd. (905) 304-5919
NEWMARKET 17480 Yonge St. (905) 836-7618
MISSISSAUGA 600 Matheson Blvd. W. (905) 755-9000
OAKVILLE 166 South Service Rd. E. (905) 815-0123
PICKERING 1755 Pickering Pkwy. (905) 426-5700

Holiday Hours: Saturday Open at 9:00 a.m. • Sunday CLOSED • Monday Open at 9:00 a.m.

FITNESS SOURCE

FOR ALL THINGS FITNESS www.fitnesssource.ca

*All in selected merchandise. 60% off on all items. Some items may be sold out. Some items may be sold out. Some items may be sold out. Some items may be sold out. Some items may be sold out.