

Exchange program for high school students enhances language skills

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

Local high school students aged 16 and 17 are invited to apply for the Summer Work/Student Exchange program offered by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Lindsay Sherban, who is taking Administrative Studies at

Centennial College, is coordinating the program for young people in the Oak Ridges riding. "It's open to students that either speak French or are learning to speak French, and they exchange with another student from Quebec or New Brunswick for six weeks, from early July to mid-August," explained Ms. Sherban.

"Expenses are fully covered by the government and the only thing they have to contribute is their personal spending money." Weekend activities, such as mini-golf and visiting local attractions, are part of the exchange experience.

This spring, Ms. Sherban will visit area high schools to give a 15-minute presentation explaining how the program works and outlining the qualifications that are needed to apply. "The presentation includes a five-minute video, a talk and a question and answer session."

Part of her job is to assess applications, meet applicants and their families, and select between five and 10 students who are best qualified to participate in the program. Those who are accepted "also get a summer job out of it, which pays minimum wage or more. It really is a good opportunity and an incredible learning experience," said Ms. Sherban.

"If you're looking at using French in the future, this is the best way to get into it, and bilingualism is a requirement for government jobs." For more information, e-mail lsherban@sympatico.ca, call 905-640-4584, or visit www.summer-work.com.



Lindsay Sherban, the Oak Ridges coordinator for the Summer Work/Student Exchange program, offered by the Department of Canadian Heritage, displays a poster for the program, which is open to French-speaking students aged 16 to 17 in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Time to celebrate spring at Goodwood Gardens

The first of Goodwood Gardens' free seminar series takes place March 1 at 2 p.m. in the greenhouse at 378 Highway 47, east of Goodwood.



Denis Flanagan

Garden designer and Stouffville resident Denis Flanagan will present *What's New in the World of Gardening*. A graduate of horticulture from Surrey, England, Mr. Flanagan has over 25 years of design experience and is the host of Home and Garden Television's *The Indoor Gardener* and *One Garden Two Looks*.

The seminar provides an informative and entertaining review of new plants, products and gardening ideas. Following Mr. Flanagan's presentation, guests are invited to attend the annual Goodwood Gardens' Tropical Tastes reception in anticipation of the return of spring.

For more details call (905)640-4852.

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