



**FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO NATIONS TWO COUNTRIES TWO SCHOOLS**

The adventure began on May 10, 1991, as we travelled to Mirabel Airport to pick up the people we had left behind in the airport in Donetsk, the capital of the Ukraine. There were a total of twenty-four people including students, parents, and teachers, including the principal of school 124 where we attended classes during our visit. Tension built as we stood outside the doors awaiting their arrival. I'll never forget the moment I saw Lena. It was as if I had never left the Ukraine. After the initial tearful greetings, we were on our way back to Elgin, Ontario which would be their home for the next two weeks. The two weeks went by so quickly but we managed to show them everything! When I say everything I mean everything. They travelled to Toronto to see Phantom of the Opera, to Smith's Falls to visit the Hersey's Chocolate Factory, Sand Lake on the Rideau Canal system where they went canoeing, to Ottawa where they visited the Parliament Buildings, Museum of Civilization, and many other sites, and to Kingston where they had a tour of the Whig-Standard building. Not all of the fun was in other towns though. Other than travelling around, our Soviet guest enjoyed swimming parties, barbecues, boat rides, and a community smorgasbord. During the second week of their visit, Rideau District High School in Elgin held their annual Fiesta Week. This involves a different activity for each day of the week such

as twin day. On the Thursday before they had to depart, they received a treat of a lifetime; MOGA, Most Outrageous Group Activity, which is held each year. This year we had a tug-of-war in jello! Other than acting completely childish, Rideau held two wonderful assemblies for our Soviet guests. The first assembly was on May 13. The agenda was packed. We heard our band play, our choir sing, Anne Landon (music teacher) sang a solo, and there were many presentations made to the Soviets from different organizations throughout the community. The official welcomes were given by all staff and students at Rideau. The second assembly was the farewell assembly and of course there were more gifts given. There were gifts exchanged by the schools as well as individual gifts, but I'll never forget the looks on their faces when they were each presented with Panasonic cassette recorders. John and Susan Duncan (my parents) presented the cassette recorders on behalf of Panasonic. Mr. Duncan's speech was tear jerking as he expressed his deep regret that the two weeks had ended so quickly. Many thanks were extended to Panasonic for donating the wonderful gifts. On May 24 there was yet another tearful parting. Just as we had left them in Donetsk to return home, they too were returning to their home with a message of peace and understanding between two nations, two countries, and two schools. Jennifer Duncan

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The students and teachers of Rideau District High School wish to thank the following individuals, groups and businesses for their support of the recent visit of our twin school from the Soviet City of Donetsk.

- Kingston-Whig Standard
- Fort Henry
- Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Kingston
- Howard Bus Service
- Linda Carr
- North Leeds Bus Lines
- Elgin Lions Club
- Westport Lions Club
- Bell Canada
- Xi Zeta Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
- Althorpe and Bilingbroke Community Club
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- Home Video Service
- Forfar Dairy
- Dave and Arthur Chant
- Leeds & Grenville County Board of Education
- Garnet Baker

**SEA CRUISE LOVERS TOOK TO DANCE**

Six hundred people packed the Gananoque Secondary School gymnasium on Friday night, May 31, to see "Dreamin' On A Sea Cruise". The event was the 6th annual dance recital by Debbie's Dance Academy. For two hours the audience was entertained by Jazz, Ballet, and Tap dancers. There were groups as well as soloists. Music ranged from Raggai to modern to Hawaiian. Each group was dressed in a spectacular costume which was appropriate to their song. For example, La Bamba dancers wore bright colours and ruffles; Kokomo dancers wore the "Caribbean - Look"; the snake unitard definitely gave you the right impression with Cold Hearted Snake. Debbie's Dance Academy is located at the intersection of highway 15 and 32. Debbie Donaldson is the owner, manager, teacher and choreographer. During the past three years, she has had two part-time assistants, who are also students, Brenda Tye and Tanya Watson. Mrs. Donaldson has 135 students enrolled in 25 classes. As if this wasn't enough excitement, four dance classes auditioned for the Home Grown Cafe on Saturday at G.S.S. The gala event ended with all 135 students on stage swaying to "Aloha Oe"; meaning farewell until we meet again. An impressive show for all! Peggy Sweet-McCumber

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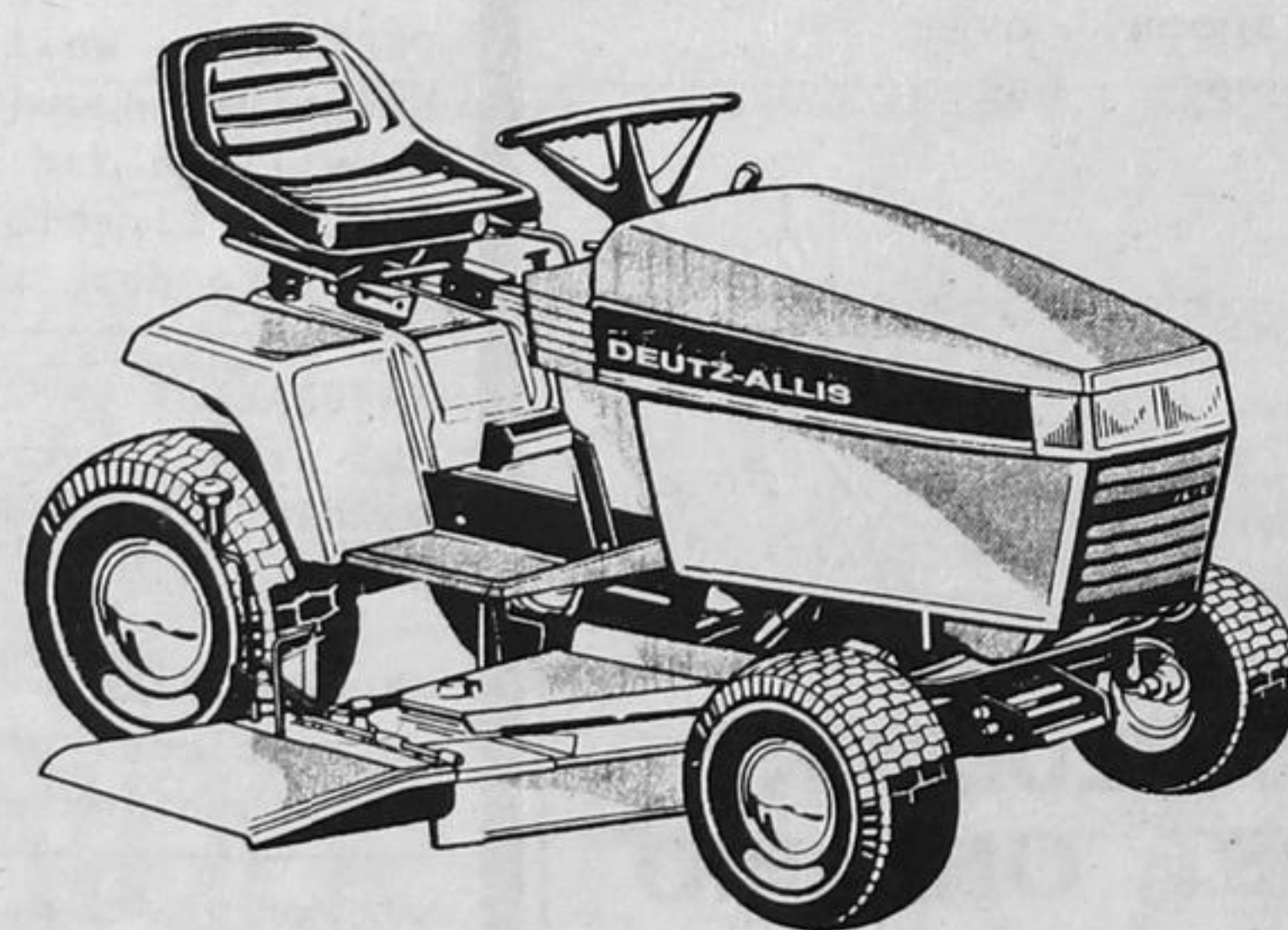


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