

**FROM: RIDEAU DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, CANADA - U.S.S.R. SCHOOL TWINNING COMMITTEE**

**A Canadian First.  
RE: RETURN VISIT OF OUR PEN-FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL 124 DONETSK, UKRAINE, U.S.S.R. MAY 6 - 19, 1989**

Background 1985-1988

In the spring of 1985, a committee at Rideau District High School began to work toward the goal of improving cultural understanding between our students and students in a "sister" Soviet School. The first year the committee gathered community, school board and political support for its goal. In year two the committee sought and gained the support of Soviet Embassy personnel. That same year a short documentary of R.D.H.S. was shown on Soviet National Television and pen-pals began writing. Last May a delegation of 9 students, 2 teachers, Principal, Ken Robinson, and journalist Michael Lea travelled to the Soviet Union to visit our pen-pals in two Soviet cities. The warm welcome received in both Donetsk and Leningrad was sincere and beyond any of the delegates' expectations.

This School Year

Last October the Rideau District High School Twinning Committee forwarded an official invitation to visit Canada to School 124 in Donetsk; that invitation was received in November by our pen-friends in the Ukraine who have received the necessary support to finance their air fare to Montreal.

Letters have been received from Mrs. Tamara Zhivova, chairperson of the Club of International Friendship, School 124, Donetsk. A delegation of 15 students and staff plans to arrive at Montreal on May 6 for a two-week visit with their Canadian pen-friends at R.D.H.S. where plans are being made for a warm Canadian welcome.

Current Activities

The Rideau District High School Twinning Committee is currently working on the successful implementation of the attached itinerary for the Soviet visit in May. We hope to provide the same warm, enthusiastic welcome and interesting program for our visitors that they provided for the Rideau students who visited the Ukraine last May. The estimated budget for the proposed itinerary is \$10,000.00; the school's twinning committee has requested the assistance and financial support of community organizations and corporations to ensure that Canada's first exchange visit with Soviet high school students is a success. At the time of this press release, approximately two thirds of the amount needed has been raised in donations of cash, goods and services from the local community, as well as Brockville, Kingston and Smiths Falls. The committee has received offers to billet the Soviet students; host luncheon and dinner receptions; supervise classes; and provide facilities such as community halls, tour boats, and bus transportation. As well as the activities on

the itinerary, the Rideau students and twinning committee are hoping to provide some additional spending money for our Soviet guests because they may bring with them the equivalent of only fifty dollars. Any individual or organization wishing to help welcome the visiting students might consider sponsoring a student for one or more of the following events on the itinerary:

the "Cats" musical in Toronto - \$40.00 per ticket  
Marineland in Niagara Falls - \$25.00

Studio 801 in Kingston - \$10.00

Related School Events

-Twinning Committee: meets every Wednesday

-Student twinning club: meets Fridays at noon

-Soviet Embassy personnel visit school: April 12

-Third annual Soviet week: May 8-12, 1989

-Delegation from School 124, Donetsk, visits R.D.H.S. May 6-19, 1989

Committee Members

- Doug Bond
- Donna Dean - Chairperson
- Ron Dobson
- Anne Landon
- Elaine Laxton
- Dwight Purdy
- Ken Robinson
- Mark Timpany

Note: Please phone Donna Dean for further information: 359-5391

Soviet Students' Tentative Itinerary

May 6 Welcome Soviet students to Canada at Montreal and return to Elgin.

May 7 Time with host families. Dinner at school for Soviet students and their Canadian host families.

May 8 Welcoming assembly at school

Visit to Black and Decker in Brockville

Reception at school board meeting in Brockville.

May 9 Visit to Kingston - Queen's University - tour and seminar

-tour: Royal Military College -social evening at Studio 801 for students (skating, dancing, bowling).

May 10 Visit to Ottawa

-Soviet Embassy

-Ministry of External Affairs

-Parliament Buildings: welcome and tour

-shopping - Rideau Centre

May 11 At school.

May 12 Travel to Toronto In Toronto, visit: CN Tower

Science Centre Planetarium

"Cats" musical production Overnight in Toronto

May 13 Travel to Niagara Falls - scenic tour of the falls - visit Marineland

Return to Elgin

May 14 Day with host families

May 15 Canoeing on Rideau Canal

Picnic at conservation area Nature expedition at Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

May 16 In school, morning Tour of 1000 Islands, afternoon

May 17 Tour of local dairy farm and Forfar Dairy

Tour of Hersheys in Smiths Falls

Dinner at Gallagher House, Portland

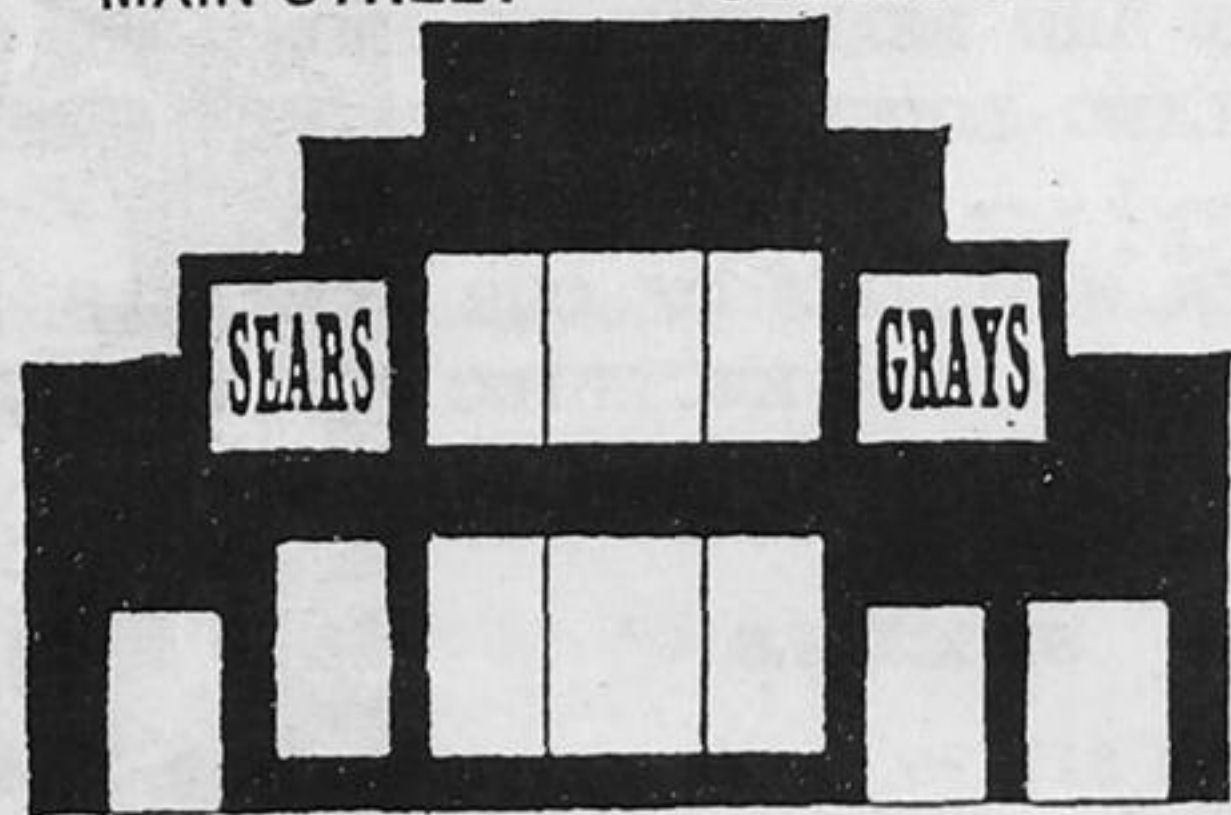
May 18 Spring fiesta day at school, sports activities.

May 19 Return to Montreal for Soviet students' departure.

Tour of Montreal, if time permits.

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