



Times

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Wayne Central Teacher and Son Return from Exchange Program in Canada

In a unique exchange program, Freewill Elementary School teacher Linda Sykut experienced life in Kelowna, British Columbia first-hand. Linda exchanged jobs last year with Miss Marianne Schmidt who came here on the Fulbright Exchange program from the Canadian province located about 80 miles north of the Washington State border.

"One of the first things they talked about at the meeting I attended before going, was the 'culture shock.' The first mistake I made was thinking there wouldn't be any 'culture shock.' After all, I was only going over the border to Canada. I was wrong. There is a world of difference in the two countries," stated Linda.

Although teacher wages are much higher (almost 1/3 higher), the cost of living is also much higher, according to Linda. "Gas is very expensive at \$2.50 per gallon (Canadian money). Dairy products were very expensive. Milk was \$4.28 per gallon. With eggs, we didn't know whether to eat them or paint them gold. We like chicken, but it is very expensive, so we definitely had to change our eating habits," she added.

When Linda said "we", she was referring to herself and her son, David, who was 11 and in the fifth grade when the exchange began. David accompanied his mother on the year long program.

Linda said the first hurdle David had to overcome in their new home was that there were only two television stations. She opted to save the money and not hook into cable, which was available. "The two stations were really not into children's programming and as a result, he read about 200 books. Mother was thrilled," said Linda.

While in Kelowna, a town of about 70,000 people, David participated in Canadian scouts, camping, and learned how to downhill ski. "He got to see a lot of things travelling. He stood on glaciers and visited many capitals. I think he got a good sense of politics," Ms. Sykut stated. She said that David had a wonderful teacher and made several good friends, who David hopes will be able to visit him next summer. David is a sixth grader at Martha Brown School in Fairport this year. His mother stated that he really enjoyed the year but that he was thrilled to be home.

Linda described Kelowna as a beautiful town surrounded by mountains covered with 'logpole' pines. Lumbering is one of the prime industries in the area.

One of the biggest differences, Linda recalls, about Canada is choices. "We have so many choices in our country. Where we might have 6 different choices of French salad dressing for instance, they have only one. The grocery ads come out on Sunday. The fresh produce is put out on Sundays. They keep it there until it's sold, you learn to do your shopping on Sunday," said Linda wistfully.

The country is bi-lingual, so every-

thing is written in English and French. French is a mandated course in sixth grade. "They also have French Immersion schools, where they teach and speak only in French," explained Linda.

Although David did not speak French, Linda studied the language for three years in college and had lived in Paris for six months.

Asked about teaching, Linda reported that the teachers in Kelowna were wonderful and very dedicated. "The expectations for student behavior and respect was very high in Canada. A teacher is expected to be a professional. There was perhaps more flexibility. The provincial guides to curriculum assumed you were professional enough to carry out the curriculum. Both styles of teaching have their strengths and their weaknesses. There is more integration of



Linda Sykut, Freewill Elementary fourth grade teacher and son David return after year in Kalowna, British Columbia

subject areas. There (in Kelowna) you are everything: art, phys. ed. teacher, etc. You have a lot more hats to don there. I was very confident in my core subjects, but was apprehensive about teaching others," Linda stated.

She soon discovered that she loved teaching gymnastics, something she never would have realized until this exchange. "It helps in understanding students when you teach them a wider range of subjects. You see more pieces of a child's personality," said the fourth grade teacher.

What did she miss most while she was away? Linda said she made a list before she left, "I missed Wegmans because of the convenience foods. They make everything from 'scratch' there. I missed music. It seemed that they had two choices, hard rock or Lawrence Welk stuff. I missed the U.S. mail. You really don't appreciate it until you have to deal with another country's system," said Linda.

Linda reflected that she didn't know if the opportunity to become an exchange teacher would ever arise again, but stated that she would definitely hope to take part in another exchange sometime.

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Two parades are part of the festivities in Canaltown Days this weekend. Saturday's features floats and marching bands, while on Sunday it's a horse-drawn parade.

Palmyra Canaltown Days Arrive!

The Town of Palmyra celebrates Canaltown Days on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16.

Activities include Breakfast in the Park (Palmyra Village Park - Route 31), which begins at 8:00 a.m. each day. Crafters begin to open their booths about 8:00 with all two hundred fifty of them open by 10:00. Each of the booths contain only hand-made crafts. Across the street, in the bank parking lot, there is a flea market offering a wide variety of items. In the Palmyra Elementary School, there is an antique show and sale with over fifty dealers and appraisals are available. Horse-drawn wagon rides are available to enjoy the local sights of this community as they celebrate their heritage stemming from the building of the Erie Canal.

Parking is available for both days FREE at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Jackson Street with a FREE shuttle to the main activity area.

Other activities include a quilt show, art show and sale, Civil War skirmish, and airplane rides over the Palmyra area. At 4:00 the Grand Canaltown Days Parade brings over 200 units marching down Main Street. This parade will be emceed by WHAM's Chet Walker

and will include marching units, bands, drum and bugle corps, and this year, a float category with cash prizes. Other highlights of the parade will be the MUMMERS STRING BAND, the EMPIRE STATESMEN, and the CANADIAN PIPE BAND. After the parade, you can enjoy a delicious roast beef dinner at the Western Presbyterian Church as part of the annual OX ROAST prepared over an open pit in the back of the park throughout the day.

On Sunday morning, the activity begins early and will be in full swing by 10:00. Noontime activity in the park features a farewell concert by the MUMMERS and a Chicken BBQ put on by St. Anne's church. A horse-drawn parade begins at 2:00 and will include riders, buggies, machinery and other vehicles. After enjoying the horse-drawn parade, you might enjoy a leisurely tour of some beautiful sights in this canalside village.

This community wide celebration has been planned for the past 24 years and is operated by volunteers from all parts of Palmyra. Everyone near and far is welcomed by the residents of CANALTOWN to celebrate their heritage.



Embarking on their first day of school is this busload of Gananda's Richard Mann Elementary students. More first-day-of-school pictures on Page 7.