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After the quake — Canada helps rebuild Friuli

In May 1976, the Friuli region of Italy northeast of Venice, was devastated by an earthquake, in which over 1,000 people were killed and 150,000 made homeless. In addition, much art was obliterated, especially in historical centres like Gemona and Venzone.

Canada, home of many Friuli emigrants, has provided 181 permanent houses in three towns, as well as two old age homes in two other communities.

Free lance writer Thérèse Rickman lived for four years in Italy. She has visited Friuli twice, and wrote the following report, which is reprinted from Action, 1978-1979, on a unique venture between the National Congress of Italian Canadians, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the local Italian municipal authorities.

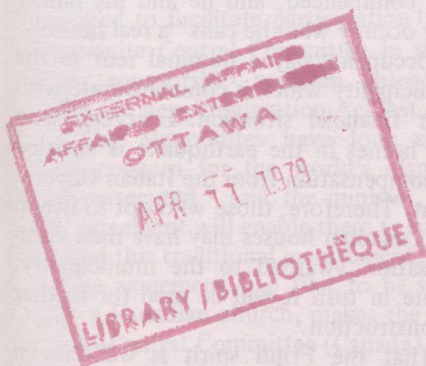
On April 29 and 30, 1978, a Canadian delegation was present to witness the official openings of five Canadian financed housing projects in five towns in the Friuli area.

One of these, Pinzano, is in the foothills of the Dolomites. It is a beautiful place in spring time. As the buses carrying the Canadian visitors inched their way around the last hairpin bend leading up to the town, the *case Canadese* (Canadian houses) were clearly visible from the road, bedecked with Canadian flags and red and white ribbons. What a contrast to

my first visit here in January, when only two foundations were laid, and Pinzano looked depressing in the rain.

At Taipana, high up in the mountains close to the Yugoslav border, we were touched to see tiny girls waving home-made Canadian flags attached to twigs. All of us were moved by the outpouring of gratitude and friendship extended to us at each stop.

The leader of the Canadian delegation, Multiculturalism Minister Norman Cafik, was visibly emotional in his speeches; Minister of Health and Welfare Monique



In Taipana, villagers thank Minister of State for Multiculturalism Norman Cafik.

Thirty years ago today...

Canada was one of 12 countries to sign the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington. One year later, it helped found the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (which now has 15 member countries).

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