

help with a park development that seven different people came at seven different times to instruct them in seven different, and initially confusing, construction methods.

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...While Katimavik's young people were struggling with new work patterns they were also trying to cope with new living requirements. Most came from homes where things had been done for them. Now they had to do their own cooking, cleaning, laundry, shopping and budgeting, and, for the first month or so, make their new homes habitable.

At Prescott, Ontario, they renovated three abandoned houses with lumber, arborite, panelling and roofing salvaged from a fourth derelict. At Fort McMurray, they fixed up an old motor inn called, appropriately, Heartbreak Motel. At Clare, Nova Scotia, they built all their own furniture. At other sites they refurbished a railway station, a hermit's house, a ranger's bunkhouse, park cabins and a hockey dormitory.

In Newfoundland, ten volunteers took over a big hilltop house while another ten had to subdivide one small windowless basement. In other regions some boarded with trappers, some with farmers. Others roughed it in tents and tepees. At 100 Mile House, British Columbia, some lived in a cabin where the temperature, even with the wood stove, dropped at night to ten below, and they had to keep hacking a hole in the lake ice for water.

Test of adjustment

They had to try to adjust, to share, to cooperate and communicate with young people from all parts of Canada, from farms as well as cities, factories as well as schools, from unilingual French homes as well as unilingual English. They had to learn to handle frustration, express their feelings, resolve their conflicts, and live within the Katimavik rules of no drugs, no hitch-hiking and no cohabitation. And with only one van for every group, many had to learn to walk.

Faced with the reality of hard work and restrictions, some dropped out. In the first few months, three or four groups lost as many as half their participants, and only the pressure of group opinion kept others from leaving. But most put up with aching backs and slowly developed skills with hammers, chisels, wrenches, axes and chain saws.

They laboured to make a canyon in

southern Quebec a tourist area. They readied the ground to plant 10,000 trees on the prairies. They worked long days at Wasaga Beach to remove beaver dams that were flooding basements — and the beavers worked long nights to replace them.

They cleaned up beaches, woods and river banks for parkland, built shelters, picnic tables and safety railings. They counted ducks and collected seeds, cut trails for skiing and hiking. It was often just hard work to be endured, but when park officials at Flin Flon took the time to explain how such things as a jog in the trail protected the natural habitat of geese, their interest in the project came alive and they gave it their best.

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Primarily, they've had to prove themselves by hard physical work and some who complained about it at first are now talking up their achievements: helping build four apartments for senior citizens at Saint John; renovating a manor house for a museum at Coaticook, Quebec; reconstructing historic sites at Atlin, Whitehorse and Dawson; repairing churches, handicapped centres, boys' camps and orphanages; slashing brush and cutting trees and hauling logs for park development. "Sure, we're cheap labour," they say, "but we're doing something worthwhile."

The variety of their accomplishments is remarkable. They've made a complete winter wilderness survey for the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, charting tree diseases and growth patterns and identifying animals and birds, including a night count of owls. They're supplying the muscle for Prince Edward Island's Institute of Man and Resources to restore an old water mill to supply electricity for a small community and provide local farmers with a grist mill. In the North, where garbage is a growing problem, they're surveying dump sites. And in Yellowknife they're helping resident Bill Carpenter breed huskies, feeding, weighing, inoculating and keeping track of blood lines in a program to save Eskimo dogs.

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Positive results

About half the volunteers can now converse in a second language. Kids who couldn't learn French in school have made friends with French Canadians and have picked up more French in three months than in three years of high

school....

Some who joined the program because they didn't know what came next have found what they want to do with their lives. Two volunteers in Newfoundland want to get into wildlife management. Another wants to work on a Nova Scotia fishing boat. A group from Vancouver Island will pool their resources to start a farm; others have been offered jobs by their project supervisors. One young man with a degree in forest conservation, who had been unable to find work because of lack of experience, is now getting vital on-the-job training.

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But for most, the major benefits are intangible. They're getting the feel of Canada, learning how other people live: French and English, northerners, Newfoundlanders, Indians, miners, farmers. With whatever the volunteers save from their \$3-a-day food allowance they take occasional trips in the region, staying with families of fellow participants, or visiting other projects to see how they're coming along. They're forming lasting friendships from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, and it links the country for them, a country that now seems real.

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Second year coming up

Year One of the program will end this September, and Treasury Board will do an evaluation. There's lots of room for improvement, but that was to be expected; just getting it off the ground was quite an achievement. In Year Two, we'll know the pitfalls, and we'll streamline selection and training so that the same amount of money will give us another 200 participants.

Katimavik in Year One had a military option which 68 young persons are now completing. This was a nine months' program, divided equally between basic training, trades training, and trades practice with a regular force unit. I've talked with many in this group and there's general agreement that in individual trades training they lost their Katimavik identity. But all were proud of completing basic training. All, without exception, called it a great experience, one that every Katimavicker should have.

Accordingly, in Year Two, we'll limit the military option to three months, enabling the volunteers to broaden their community experience to include such

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