

els throughout Southern africa during her stint with Cross Roads International

# African Village: *perspective*

large village called Mochudi among the tribe called the BaKgatla. These people were driven up into Botswana from South Africa during the Boer War. Therefore, they still have strong ties with the Bantu population of South Africa.

While in Botswana I worked at a small museum as an assistant to the curator doing collection, preservation, and conservation of the artifact. In addition to this, I became very involved with other aspects of the community.



*Botswana is rich in beauty and culture and above all, it is populated with the most genuine people you will ever find.*

I worked in a local daycare centre and a rehabilitation centre for blind adults. At first I was given a very private compound to live in. I had two ronavels (mud huts with thatched roofs), a pit latrine, and an outside tap to myself. However, after a short while I chose to move in with a local family who unofficially adopted me as their fourth daughter. This was the best move I could have made because I had an instant family with comfort and a great source for learning. Actually, after a lot of laughter from the small children and old men, I managed to get quite a handle on the language. By the end of my placement I had made numerous friends who are still very dear to me, and I learned or had done at least one (often times many) new and exciting things everyday.

I was fortunate enough to get to travel extensively throughout Botswana, and quickly throughout neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe. My travels were a never-ending source of new information, great experiences, and true friendships. I now have a new outlook on what the developing world really is about - it is a long a difficult struggle. For some it is harder than for others, and Botswana is managing to climb that ladder very successfully while still maintaining its sense of culture and tradition.

Despite all the turmoil going on in Botswana's neighbour South Africa, Southern Africa is still a part of the world where people of all colours manage to live happy and productive lives. I was met with smiles no matter where I went, and I felt at home. It is a home that will remain as warm and welcoming as the day I got there; a warmth and welcome that will greet me when I return.

Canadian Crossroads International sends approximately 250 Canadian volunteers to Africa, Asia, South and Central America, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific each year. If you are interested in applying to work overseas or in becoming involved with the Fredericton local committee, please contact Luanne at 457-9385. The application deadline for 1991 departures is October 1.

