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Northern youth come to spend summer in Saugeen Shores

Posted By Patrick Bales

Posted 8 days ago

With the influx of tourists in Saugeen Shores this summer, it may be difficult to pick out any one visitor in particular. However, two young men are in southern Ontario, experiencing a different way of life for the first time.

Steve Nande, 16, and Donovan Simpson, 15, are in Port Elgin as part of the Northern Youth Abroad program. The youth arrived from the Northwest Territories July 3 and will be in the area until Aug. 8.

"It's great," Steve said of the area. He and Donovan have already been taken to the attractions around the area, and really enjoyed themselves at the beach.

They are staying with Marie Millette and her family. Millette heard about the program through an advertisement in Shoreline Beacon. She jumped at the opportunity to help the two young men discover what it is like living in the south.

"They get to experience how we live day-to-day," Millette said. "They also pick up skills during work placements."

The placements are the biggest part of the pair's time in Saugeen Shores. However Millette said the response from local business and associations so far has been slow.

Last week Steve and Donovan were out with members of the Saugeen Rail Trail Association, helping with general maintenance. Tuesday and Wednesday they were painting the pavilion at the River Street entrance, and later in the week they were helping install wayfinding signs along the trail.

Before they leave the area, they are responsible for two presentations each on related subjects.

During the spare moments they have, Millette and her family, husband Ross, and son Jesse, will take the two youth around southern Ontario, including Toronto and Niagara Falls.

Millette said 10-year-old Jesse is thrilled to have Steve and Donovan around this summer, as he has someone new to play with.

Any business interested in putting the two to work this summer can call 1-866-212-2307 for more information.

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