

February 22, 1999

Eric Buist

An Unforgettable Summer Experience

During summer, we can forget about the work and school, and rest a bit. It is also a time to live experiences, to try new things. Last summer, I participated in S.C.O.R.E., a computing summer camp organized by the C.N.I.B. This good experience allowed me to share my computing knowledge, to practice my spoken English, and to discover new things.

The camp gathered blind and visually impaired people from all over the Canada. We were asked to team up and make a web site. During two weeks, in Toronto, we worked on this project. Each person has different skills and degrees of vision. The first day we started computing, I knew I would not learn a lot of new things. However, the camp has become a good occasion to see what I am capable of doing. Sometimes, I also have had to teach people. On the other hand, English people were better than me editing the content of the site. In that teamwork, I realized that everyone completed each other.

More than that, the camp was held in English. Only three people, including me, could speak French fluently. The language remained an important obstacle to communication during the entire weeks. My five years of secondary English courses were really useful. People often have had to repeat because I didn't un-

derstand and I realize it bothered some. I think the language have been to greatest difficulty I had to face during the camp.

But there was not only computing stuff. I learned fast that some campers had accepted to come more to meet new people than to live a computing experience. Everyday, recreational activities were held. Swimming, horseback riding, go-karting, and a visit to Canada Wonderland are some example of these activities. I had tried the most of them before, but go-karting was new for me. I also got the chance to try playing pool. It seems fun but a little bit hard.

I am sure I will never forget about this event. It allowed me to realize that I went forward, since my birthday, on the long road of the life. My knowledge and experience have been useful to get the maximum pleasure from these two weeks.