

SUMMER VISIT OF THE CHENGDU YOUTH IN EDMONTON

成都青少年愛城之旅

Thank you to the wonderful planning and support of City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association, and the support of the Mandarin Bilingual Schools, 18 youths and 2 chaperons from Chengdu China arrived in Edmonton for a 9 days visit on August 13th, 2009. These youths were earthquake survivors and are orphaned by the "5.12.08" Sichuan earthquake in China. This trip was not only meant to help them rehabilitate through a wondering trip, but also to give them the assurance that across the oceans on the other side of the world, there were many people that care about them.

Throughout the 9 days, 65 adult and youth volunteers spend their time to ensure that the Chengdu youths felt at home. Friendships were made and bonds were created. On the last day of the visit, when Peter Wong, the president of the ECBEA, addressed the crowd at the Fort Edmonton Park farewell barbeque, he said, "Now, we will no longer address our visitors as orphans from China, indeed, we now call them our friends from Chengdu, with friendships that are built in love." Not a dry eye was amongst over 100 people in attendance.

We have included a couple of articles written by one of the Chengdu youth, and the other by one of the Meadowlark student volunteers. These articles captured some of the feeling from both sides of the visit. It was evident that our Edmonton youths enjoyed and learned from this experience as much as their new friends from Chengdu.

A project of compassion grew into lessons of acceptance, friendship, and faith in the human kind. If you would like to know more about this wonderful experience, you can visit a blog that was written by one of the Mandarin Program student who volunteered to be with the Chengdu youths during the entire time of their visit.

感謝愛德蒙頓市政府，愛城中英雙語教育協會和各中英雙語學校的計劃和支持，十八名青少年和兩位監護人於二零零九年八月十三日從中國成都抵達愛城，進行為期九天的訪問旅程。該批青少年都是「五·一·二·零八」四川大地震倖存的孤兒。這個訪問旅程的目不單是讓他們從一個愉快的旅程中重建生命，也是要讓他們知道在大洋的彼岸加拿大的土地上也有一群關愛他們的人。

在這九天裡，六十五名成年和年輕的志願者，每天陪伴著成都來的朋友，務使他們賓至如歸。從這訪問中也建立了不少的友誼。訪問的最後一天，在愛德蒙頓城堡公園裡的送別燒烤會上，愛城中英雙語教育協會的會長黃先生說得好：「我們再不會稱呼我們的訪客為中國來的孤兒，從今以後，我們會改稱他們為“成都的朋友”。他們永遠都是我們的朋友，有著從友愛和博愛中建立的友誼。」當時參加送別會超過一百人裡，都眼淚盈眶，依依不捨。

我們現在刊登兩份關於這次訪問旅程的作品，一篇來自一名成都青年，另一篇的作者是一位美德樂的學生志願者。這兩篇文章都能捕捉到訪問旅程加中雙方的感受，也可以知道愛城的青少年從這次的經歷裡所學習到的，絕不會少於他們新交的成都朋友們。

一個愛心的項目，演變成爲學習互相接納、建立友誼、和對人類更有信心的學堂。如果您願意知道更多關於這次訪問的細節，您可以參閱一位由始至終陪伴著整個旅程的中英雙語學制的年青志願者的博客。

Blog Address/博客網址：<http://treasures-of-chengdu.blogspot.com/>

愛德蒙頓市訪問回憶錄

周彧

雖然很累，似乎現在還在顛簸。住在Edmonton的四星級酒店：the Sutton Place Hotel。房間很舒服乾淨，洗了澡，还是很昏。下飛機時受到了熱情的接待。真的太出乎意料了。經過了那麼長時間的冷落與靜默。看到裝扮得十分漂亮的公交，制作精良的橫幅，那麼多與自己同樣皮膚同樣眼睛的人舉着相機熱烈歡迎。十分的溫暖。似乎瞬間可以忘卻旅行的疲憊。若是七天時間都尽可能用英文交談。喜歡這樣的環境。

早上九點鐘左右起床，參觀了Edmonton。下午便去了Valley Zoo。的确是漂亮的地方。总算对这个城市有了直观的认识。按兔子的性格，应该很适合在这儿住着吧。不是太大的城市，文明程度很高，绿化很棒。特别是自己如此热爱植物，看着各种色样的树，各式各样的花，轻易的爱上。今天看到的某些东西，加重了我对家庭的渴望吧。有一个很乖的妹妹叫做Carol。她爸爸妈妈今天都来了，当志愿者。也看到她一个妹妹一个弟弟。整家人其乐融融的样子，令人生羨。

今天心情一直不错，认识了新的buddy。她是“黄美娜”。因为她不太会讲中文，于是我们就有大量时间practice our English（其实大多时间都是中英混杂）.. Anyhow，值得鼓励。毕竟今天更勇敢的去讲话了。拍了很多照片。去了那个什么Farmers' Market。与中国农贸市场不同的是，里面什么都有。比如水果蔬菜木制品洗浴用品布艺品甚至蛋糕房咖啡店。下午去了植物园。欸呀。我爱的地方！刚开始，我们参观了Greenhouse，里面都是一些热带植物，还有蝴蝶噢。很漂亮的。当时的感觉是：以后我就要在新加坡适应这样的天气啦。潮湿的。闷热的。至于晚上，去Royal Alberta Museum听了音乐会。第一首就有些震撼。合奏。〈金蛇狂舞〉。是每年春节听得最多的背景音乐。于是瞬间想念中国，甚至眼睛都已模糊。或者那一刻，可以体会身在异乡的人的悲伤。对祖国。亲人。朋友。这一切，都是自己今后得面对的吧。

结束在 Edmonton 的美妙旅程。

真的很无奈, 人生必有这么多的悲欢离合. 自己的成长也在这样一步一步之中. 做得到眼睛红两下, 流泪一分钟.

然后拉着 Heather 远离现场, 和她讲笑话. 也做得到轻轻和 John 握手, 听他告诉我: Good night. 做得到和 Ken 拥抱一下, 和 Maggie 拍一些照, 和 Megan 交换礼物, 轻轻巧的再见了.

心里有多么不舍呢. 只怕唯有自己最清楚.

其实一直在思考这次旅行的意义. 绝不是因为”出国”这个名号.

加拿大的文化, 西方的民俗特色, 进步的思想. 等等等等. 这一切, 就算是记忆无法如初般生动, 也不会被磨灭.

在 Edmonton 最后的一些日子.

我想我会回来. 一定会.

今天的阳光分明这样明媚. 早上从宾馆出来的时候, 看到玫瑰红的朝霞. 却是离别的日子.

在机场对 John 说: “I am not as sad as I thought to be.” 他又是憨厚的笑起来.

“Leaving gives us an opportunity to get together again.” 我接着说, 也是微笑的表情.

想起抱着 Jessica 与她告别时, 仍然忍不住的眼泪. “It’s OK. You are always strong.” 她说. Rabbit, you are always strong... 这应该作为我长久坚持的信念.

只是当时看着他们, 离得这样近的看着, 怎么也难以接受踏上飞机之后, 与时间成正比增长的距离. 半球.

没关系. 我们会再见的.

这一群可爱的人. I love you all.

Never say goodbye. 我想我会回来. 一定会.

*以上的稿件是節錄自中國四川省成都市周彧*同學訪問愛德蒙頓期間的日記中。以原稿的簡體版刊登, 英文版由林校長翻譯。周彧同學品學兼優, 並考取到新加坡政府的全費獎學金, 將於二零一零年開始到新加坡攻讀大學課程。*

**「彧」音為“yu/ㄩ”, 意為有文采。*

A Memorable Journey to Edmonton

By Catherine Zhou

I was very tired, even a little shaky. We stayed in the Sutton Place Hotel, a four star hotel in Edmonton.

The room was clean and comfortable. I took a shower, but still feeling dizzy.

After a long period of travelling in silence, I was extremely surprised by the passionate welcome when we got off the plane. There was a beautifully decorated ETS bus, an exquisitely created banner. There were many people with familiar skin and eye colours welcomed us with cameras in their hands.

There was a warm feeling. I could almost forget the weary of travelling.

Only if I could spend the next seven days to speak as much English as I would like to.

I liked this surrounding.

Got up at nine this morning and visited many places in Edmonton. We went to the Valley Zoo in the afternoon. It was a really beautiful place.

At last I had some first hand knowledge about this city.

According to Rabbit's personality, I could live in this city, it suites me well. The city was not too big, highly civilized, and extremely green. Especially for someone like me who loves plants.

Looking at the different species of trees and colourful flowers, it was easy to love this place.

I saw something today that increased my longing for my family...A young girl named Carol came to volunteer with her mom and dad. I also saw her younger sister and brother. It was envious to see joy overflowing from this family.

I was feeling great today. I found a new buddy, her name was Heather. Since her Mandarin was limited, we spent a lot of time practising our English (actually, it was a mix of Mandarin and English most of the time). Anyhow, I was encouraged. At last I was brave enough to chat with others today. I took a lot of pictures.

We went to the Farmers' Market. It was much different from the ones in China. They had everything there. There were fruits and vegetables, crafts, bathing products, even bakeries and coffee shops.

Then we went to the Devonian Botanic Garden in the afternoon, a place that I loved!

In the beginning, we visited the greenhouse. There were different tropical plants and butterflies also. Oh, so beautiful. I felt that I have to get used to this sticky and humid weather when I move to Singapore later.

In the evening, we went to a concert at the Royal Alberta Museum. The first number was an overwhelming selection, "Dance of the Golden Snake". It was often heard during the Spring Festival. All of a sudden I miss China, even my eyes grew teary. For a moment, I could understand those who lived in a foreign land, and their sadness towards their homelands, families, and friends.

All of these are things that I must face in the future.

The wonderful journey in Edmonton was coming to the end.

There were no ways around it. Life is full of happy gatherings and sad separations. I grew up slowly this way. I was able to control my feelings and shed few tears. I was able to take Heather far away from the crowd and joked with her. I was able to shake John's hand, and listened to him saying "good night". I was able to hug Ken, took more pictures with Maggie, exchanged presents with Megan, and skilfully bid farewell.

May be I was the only one who knew that deep down in my heart, I was reluctant to leave.

I pondered much about the meaning of this trip. It was never because of the chance to "go abroad".

Canadian culture, characteristics of western people, and their progressive ways of thinking...all of these, eventually might no longer be as vivid as I first encountered them, but they will never be erased from my memory.

This was the last day in Edmonton.

The morning sun was especially bright and beautiful today. When I walked out of the hotel, I saw the rosy morning clouds. Sadly, this was the day of departure.

In the airport I told John, "I am not as sad as I thought to be." He smiled.
"Leaving gives us an opportunity to get together again." I continued. I smiled back.
I remembered hugging Jessica and said goodbye, I couldn't control my tears.
"It's okay. You are always strong." She said.
Rabbit, you are always strong...This shall be my steadfast belief forever.
But as I was looking at them, looking so closely, no matter what, it was difficult to accept that once I stepped on the plane, the distance between us would increase with time. We will be half a world apart.

It doesn't matter. We will meet again.
What a lovely group of people. I love you all.
I'll never say goodbye. I know I will come back, most definitely, I will.

The article above is a collection from the diary of Catherine Zhou during her visit to Edmonton. She is one of the 18 young earthquake survivors from Chengdu, China. Catherine is a well rounded student and will be attending university in Singapore starting in 2010 on a full scholarship. This article was originally written in simplified Chinese and was translated into English by Mr. Lam.

THE CHENGDU VISIT

by Ashley C.

In the summer of 2009, 18 Sichuan Chengdu youths came to visit Edmonton for 9 days. I volunteered to be one of the buddies and I was scheduled to accompany them for 3 days. Throughout the 3 days, my friendship with the Chengdu youths grew and grew; especially with Fu Ailing, Fu Kaining, Liu Yu, and Chang Xinyi.

When the Chengdu youths arrived in Edmonton, there was a welcoming dinner. It was nerve wracking as I reluctantly made my way to sit amongst them. I was thinking of so many different things at once! Would they like me? Was my Chinese good enough? Would they be mean? It turned out that they were all very nice and friendly, and really funny too! I thought they were exhausted from their flight though!

Throughout the 3 days that I volunteered, my buddies and I had explored the Fringe Festival and the Strathcona Farmer's Market, and pondered the Devonian Garden. We dined at MacDonald's for lunch and the Old Spaghetti Factory for dinner. We also spent some time shopping! My buddies and I received a free toy from this shop owner just across from the Dollarama! We also had a chance to relax at the Hawrelak Park where all of us ran around, played ball, blew bubbles, and had a barbeque.

When the Chengdu youths had to leave, everyone was sad and tears swelled up in our eyes. In just 3 days, my friendship with the Chengdu youths had already become so strong! It was terribly lonely when they left but I still communicate with them through letters and phone calls.

If the City and ECBEA can invite the other 18 Chengdu youths to come next year, I would recommend anyone who reads this to volunteer. I guarantee that it will be an unforgettable experience!

**Ashley C. is a bright and cheerful student at Meadowlark School, she was one of the many student volunteers who was involved in the Chengdu Youth Visit experience.*

成都青少年愛成之旅

鍾欣好

夏天時，從成都來了十八位四川地震災區的孤兒，一共有七位男生和十一位女生。和他們一起來的還有兩位領隊。愛德蒙頓市安排了讓他們來到我們的城市交流八天。在這之前，愛城中英雙語協會和十二間中英雙語學校都很落力地為他們來回中國和加拿大的飛機票籌款。

在這八天裡，愛城中英雙語協會安排了好幾位家長義工和很多中英雙語學生做他們的夥伴。在這八天裡，我們去了好多地方觀光。動物園、Devonian 植物園、阿爾伯特大學、農貿市場和 Hawrelak 公園都是其中幾個我們去過的地方。我們也去了 West Edmonton Mall 遊樂場玩，大家都玩得很開心。我們也花了一個下午在 West Edmonton Mall 逛街買東西。

在他們要離開的前一天，所有的人都聚在 Fort Edmonton Park 燒烤吃東西。因為第二天一早，他們就要離開 Edmonton，所以大家都很傷心的哭了。我們都很捨不得這些成都的少年們。在這短短的八天裡，我們已經成為了很要好的朋友了！我希望以後有機會能去中國成都市探望他們。

**鍾欣好同學是美德樂學校的一位勤奮活潑的學生，她是眾多參與成都青少年訪問的中英雙語學生志願者夥伴之一。*