

Friendship Force visitors enjoy SE Alberta hospitality

Medicine Hat News

Forty-one visitors from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, several U.S. states and eastern Canada visited Medicine Hat during the final week of June as part of a Friendship Force program.

The various international ambassadors had a busy itinerary and came to southeastern Alberta on a 'themed exchange' titled "Southern Alberta Heritage Exchange" with Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Calgary on their itinerary. It was to culminate in a trip to the Calgary Stampede and they will depart July 12.

The visitors arrived in Medicine Hat at noon on June 27 and were treated to lunch on the Terrace at the Esplanade. After lunch they toured the Esplanade museum and galleries, after which they went to a wiener roast at Police Point Park. The evening ended with a musical event at the curling club.

The next two days were also filled



SUBMITTED PHOTO EARL MORRIS

Bruce Shepard of the Esplanade Museum provides information to Friendship Force visitors.

with a lot of events including the viewing of the artistic talents of Jim Marshall at the Stations of the Cross, greetings from Mayor Clugston at City Hall, tours of Medalta and I-XL, Prairie Gleaners, Erna's Berry Farm and Schippers Farm near Bow Island. Their last evening was a farewell supper at Holy Family Parish.

The visitors departed early in the morning of June 30, with the first stop expected to be a visit to a Hutterite farm on the way to Lethbridge.

These ambassadors certainly got a taste of both the urban and rural life in this area.

Friendship Force is an international cultural exchange organization attributed to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter with his vision of enhancing world peace by way of this organization.

More information can be found at: http://friendship-force.org/index.php/who_we_are and the local organization has a website at: <http://friendshipforcemedicine-hat.org/>

Organizers are grateful to the hosting families in Medicine Hat and Redcliff who opened up their homes to the visitors. Joyce Nelson, the



SUBMITTED PHOTO EARL MORRIS

Judith Powell (centre) from Perth, Australia, poses in front of a teepee at Police Point Park with her hosts Tom and Kathy Peter.

exchange director from Calgary, started organizing this 18 months ago. The Medicine Hat portion was organized by Judy Morris.