

a word from the editor...



This was a very interesting issue of Canadian Spirit to put together. It was a hard decision trying to figure out what the best thing to focus this issue on should be. Traditionally the November issue of Canadian Spirit is the full of ideas and stories about fundraising. While I wanted to keep the general focus on this topic, it was very hard not to open up discussion on the major events that have shaped a new world since the last issue. Of course, I am talking about the events of September 11, 2001.

As I watched the events unfold on television, it affected me as I'm sure it did most of you; watching or listening from your schools. Horror, confusion, fear... and the list goes on. At first I decided that I would avoid the subject altogether in this issue, because I felt that by November we should have all moved on. Unfortunately, it quickly became a realization that that was not possible. Whether we like it or not, the threat of "Terrorism" has become an everyday reality for us. Now, to be honest, millions of people across the world have been dealing with this threat on an everyday basis for a very long time. But never before has it hit so close to home. It was always distant, far enough away that we could know about it, but it didn't seem close enough to really worry about. As citizens of North America, as "The West", we always felt safe from such things.

Normally when discussing assignments with the writers of Canadian Spirit, I give the columnists, those you see routinely, a free hand with a basic concept to work from. As I started receiving articles from the columnists, I realized that I was not alone in this battle of whether to write about the tragedy or not. I then spoke to students at different schools across the country. Many of them were actively raising money, on their own, or with the help of Sights and Sounds, for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. I saw an opportunity to shine a light on a positive situation emerging from this tragedy. Students were coming together, not helping themselves, not helping people that they knew directly, but helping people that they had never met. Even more touching was a theme that ran from

British Columbia, through Ontario, to small communities on Prince Edward Island. Whether raising money for the Red Cross or United Way, gathering food or other items for victims, or abandoning schools so that thousands of stranded passengers would have a place to take shelter in, Canadian students were there. Many of these actions were lead by you, the Student Leaders. This is something to be very proud of. I wanted to share some of those stories and experiences with you, told through different angles.

So in the end, I came to a compromise. I would focus this issue on fundraising, however not the traditional in-school effort. The theme for this issue would be "fundraising for your community and beyond". You will find some general fundraising tips inside, but hopefully in the future, this will inspire you to reach out, and raise money for charities outside of your school or community. Some great examples are the Red Cross, United Way, and Kids Help Phone. If you would like help getting your fundraiser going for one of these causes, feel free to contact me, and I would be happy to supply you with even more resources to get you on your way... info@sightsandsounds.ca

On a different note; in September, I was able to attend the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Sackville. What a great conference! I really enjoyed having the opportunity to talk to some of you, and discuss Student Leadership and the magazine. If you weren't at CSLC, feel free to contact me any time, or maybe I will see you at a conference in your province soon! This magazine is about you, the Student Leaders of Canada. Be proud of your accomplishments, and help others who may be struggling with difficulties that you have conquered.

Finally one last note, look for a new and fresh Canadian Spirit Web Site coming December, 2001. This site will be full of articles, resources, pictures, and a message board where students from across the country can meet and share ideas and opinions.

Until next time,

SCOTT