

Russian youths adapt to life in E. Bloomfield

EAST BLOOMFIELD — For many residents of this Ontario County village, *glasnost* has become much more than an expression used in newspaper and television reports.

A group of 21 Russians — 18 students (aged 12-17) and three teachers — arrived in East Bloomfield on March 21 for a visit that was scheduled to end this week.

During their visit, the group stayed with area residents — some of whom had gone on a tour to Moscow and Leningrad five months ago.

Nearly every moment of every day was filled with activities for the Russian visitors: pot luck suppers, a school dance, ice skating, horseback riding, skiing, a Rochester Americans hockey game, milking cows, trips to Eastview Mall, attendance at various church services, and sightseeing in Rochester, Canandaigua and Niagara Falls.

Sarah Olney, a senior at Bloomfield Central High School and member of the youth group at St. Bridget-St. Joseph Church in East Bloomfield, was among the village youths who traveled to Russia.

The biggest difference between American and Russian lifestyles, she noted, was the availability of food.

"We take a lot for granted here — over there you have to eat a lot of cabbage and potatoes," said Olney. "I know I appreciate everything I have a lot more than before I went (to Russia)."

Shannon Crowley, another Bloomfield Central senior who also belongs



Erik Kunkel/Photo Intern
Russian exchange-student Oksana Gorban (left) stayed with Bloomfield Central High School senior Sarah Olney and her family for one week.

to the St. Bridget's youth group, echoed Olney's comparison.

"They talk about the fact that we have so much over here and they don't have a surplus of food and supplies," said Crowley, who did not travel to Russia last fall but did host one of the students, Katie Prossvivkina.

The 15-year-old Prossvivkina came to East Bloomfield with her mother, Larissa Vladimirova, who teaches English back in Moscow.

"I like America very much. I like the people," said Prossvivkina.

This exchange of visits has come in

the aftermath of one of the largest developments in recent world history. After the collapse of communism in what was formerly known as the Soviet Union, Boris Yeltsin has replaced Mikhail Gorbachev as president in what is now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"It's like being a part of history. This was probably the most opportune time (to travel to Russia)," said Olney.

Although many of the changes have provided positive results for citizens of the former Soviet Union, not all have guaranteed a better life for citizens.

Economic reforms, designed to bring the Russian economy closer to a free market, have driven the cost of living very high. In fact, the visitors almost had to cancel their trip to East Bloomfield because plane ticket prices in Moscow had risen so high.

"It's harder to get food now. The change is difficult for me," Prossvivkina acknowledged.

— Mike Latona

Nazareth Academy plans May banquet, garage sale

ROCHESTER — Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., is planning an alumnae banquet to honor all graduating classes ending in two or seven.

The event is scheduled for Friday evening, May 1, at the Diplomat Party House, 1956 Lyell Ave.

Any alumna from one of these classes who is not already receiving regular mailings from Nazareth, or with information about missing alumnae, should contact the Nazareth Alumnae Office at 716/647-8720.

In addition, the Nazareth Academy Parents Association is sponsoring its annual garage sale on Saturday, May 2. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school.

Donations such as books, baby items, jewelry, clothing, kitchen utensils, toys, furniture and tools are requested.

Those wishing to make donations may call the school at 716/458-8583 or Jackie Iekel at 663-2006.



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