

OFF THE WALL: Students at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School in Windsor raise a wall on the resource centre at Trillium Camp.

Building on faith

In a labour of love, students and staff members help erect a resource centre at a camp for teens with cancer

Students of F.J. Brennan Catholic High School in Windsor were looking for a worthy cause to take on as a project.

Those who run Trillium Camp — for children and teens with cancer — were looking for people to build a resource centre at their Waterford site.

When the two groups got together — happy ending.

Thirty-nine students and 10 staff members worked 13-hour days from Thursday to Saturday on their labour of love.

They also cleared away brush in the adjoining woods, built floors over the foundations of two buildings, and put up walls in one of them.

"I got to operate the saw — that was my favourite part," says Sister Lise Jelie, one of the school chaplains and a religion teacher. "And I still ended up with all of my fingers intact."

Back at the school, staff and students held a series of fundraising events including a special dance, a T-shirt sale, a raffle and a barbecue. They raised about $13,000 for the camp.

"There's been a real energy about this project that you don't often see," says Jelie. "The whole school got involved — that's 850 students — and everyone was very enthusiastic."

In fact, adds Frances Conway, another school chaplain and religion teacher, "a lot of students were asking when they could sign up to do this again."

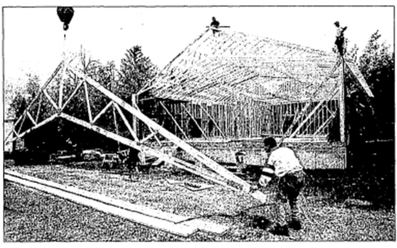


PHOTOGRAPH BY TED AYNSLEY/OC FOR THE TORONTO STAR

TAKING A BREAK: Chantelle Chalut attempts to tear off Shawn Taylor's pants with a claw hammer during a lull in construction.



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LABOUR OF LOVE: Thirty-nine students and 10 staff members worked 13-hour days. They also cleared away brush in the adjoining woods, built floors over the foundations of two buildings, and put up walls in one of them.



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Resourceful students, staff build a centre

HAMMER HEADS: Josh Dellar, above left, and Jill Aussant, right, of F.J. Brennan Catholic High School in Windsor pound nails into the floor decking of the resource centre they're building at Camp Trillium. Through a series of fundraising events, staff and students also raised about $13,000 for the camp for teens with cancer.





CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Above left, school chaplain Sister Lise trims a floor joist. Right, travelling to the camp, clockwise from bottom left, Shawn Taylor, Abby Parungao, Stephanie Pereiballi and Chantelle Chalut. Below, construction tech teacher Mike Gignac and students go over some of the plans for the centre.

