

from. Gail.

# Global lessons, practical local applications

■ **Fulton students bring lessons learned in Nicaragua home to help needy people in the Vernon community**

By Vernon Daily Courier staff

Reading, writing and concrete chicken barns? While the curriculum may be unorthodox, the Global Education program based at Clarence Fulton secondary school is proving to be an effective way to teach students about social justice.

During the semester long program, Grade 11 students are involved in structured and independent learning that revolves around topics related to wealth and poverty, sustainability, and individual and community rights.

"The basis of this course is students exploring themselves and their place in the world," said Murray Sasges, a teacher and one of the global education program's creators.

The key to the program is a hands on approach to the subject of social justice and governance, said Sasges.

"They learn by actual experiences, instead of the traditional read-listen-respond style of teaching," said Sasges.

As part of the semester, students are required to reach a consensus and choose a social issue to focus their efforts on and create positive change. The lesson on the difficulty of consensus building is not lost on students.

"There's some days that we don't agree on things and it can be incredibly frustrating but it brings us closer together in the end," said Sean Chretien, one of the students in the program.

The students eventually decided on putting their efforts towards promoting Vernon's Good Food Box program. The program is a produce buying cooperative which obtains fresh fruit and vegetables from local producers at an affordable price.

"(The program) dealt with a lot of things we were dealing with in class, like buying local produce and supporting sustainable farming," said Sasges.



Contributed photo

Grade 11 students from Clarence Fulton secondary school travelled to Nicaragua to help build a chicken barn this year. They set up a tent in Polson Park this week to promote the local Good Food Box program.