

Yahk youngsters wowed by trip to Capital

A trip to the Capital was a journey of firsts for seven Yahk Elementary School students. For the Grade 3 and 4 youngsters, it was their first time to ride a train, board a ferry or swim in an indoor pool. And most memorably, it was their first time to see ocean waves crashing onto a beach.

The seven students represent more than one-third of the school's total population. "It's a two-room school with a total of 19 students," explained Carolyn Ziefflie, one of the school's two teachers.

The field trip to Vancouver Island was an eye-opener for the children, most of whom were raised in an isolated and secluded environment. A visit to the Royal BC Museum was a smorgasbord of new sights as was a tour of the Parliament Buildings. "It was a bit overwhelming for them," Ziefflie said. "There was so much for them to see and almost all of it was new to them."

"I just really wanted to take them to Victoria," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to do it without the funding we received from the Provincial Capital Commission."

"We were particularly pleased to help this group of students make the journey to Victoria," said Ray Parks, CEO for the



East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett met with Yahk Elementary School students on the steps of the Legislature.

Provincial Capital Commission. "Not only are these field trips fun and educational, but the students take home a better connection with their provincial capital as well as a host of memories that will last a life time."

Cameron Palmer, 10, and Bianca Quinton, 8, agreed. In addition to a pocketful of seashells and pictures in their cameras, the students left Victoria with a kaleidoscope of images to talk about and remember for years to come.