

Couple's search for happiness

Posted By RACHEL PUNCH THE SUDBURY STAR – 4 août 2010

Quebec City resident Arielle De Garie says she has frequent nightmares from being constantly bombarded with bad news from around the world in the media.

The nightmares prompted De Garie and her partner, Stephane Demers, to embark on a two-year trip around the globe in search of good news. The couple is spending four days in Sudbury this week to shoot film that may be included in the documentary about happiness. The project is called 20,000 lieues sur la Terre-- or 20,000 miles on Earth.



Rachel Punch The Sudbury Star Arielle De Garie and Stephane Demers are travelling across the globe over the next two years to make a documentary about happiness. The Quebec City couple are spending a few days in Sudbury this week as part of their trip

The couple left Quebec City on July 1. The plan is to travel around North, South and Central America this year. Next year, the couple will head to Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia.

The couple lives in their car if they don't have a place to stay, said De Garie, who is in a wheelchair.

"The bad news affected me a lot," De Garie said, as she took a break from a visit to Science North on Tuesday. "I thought, 'we have some happiness around the world and I have to bring it back to Canada.' "

De Garie studied film and creative writing. Her partner has worked as a cameraman in Quebec City.

De Garie said it's too early to tell if any of the footage taken in Sudbury will be used in the documentary.

"When we have all of the film we will decide what is going to go in it," De Garie said.

Sudburian Lise Dugas is hosting the couple while they are in Sudbury. She saw two interviews with the couple on television and decided to contact them.

"I was just smitten with their project," Dugas said. "I just sent them an e-mail and one thing led to another. The next thing I knew I had invited them to come to Sudbury.

"They just had this presence during the interview," Dugas said. "I said 'I want to meet these people. I could use a bit of happiness right now in my life.' "

Dugas took the couple to Science North and she is holding a fundraising wine and cheese for them.

"Hopefully, that will generate interest and get other people to go along with the project," Dugas said.

Those who sponsor the couple can sign up to get updates about the trip online.

For more information about the project, www.surlaterre.ca.