



Nicholaus Schafhauser, of Milton, delivers water to MPPs as part of his role as a legislative page at Queen's Park. *Riziero Vertolli / Metroland West Media Group*

## Milton student reflects on experiences at Queen's Park

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A local student with political aspirations got up close and personal with Ontario's MPPs during his recent venture as a legislative page at Queen's Park.

Nicholaus Schafhauser, a Grade 7 pupil at Irma Coulson Public School, was selected to partake in the page program and spent nearly three weeks this month and last in Ontario's Legislative Chamber.

"It was so cool because I got to meet all the MPPs, the clerks and the speaker as well," he told the *Champion*. "You can watch it (the legislature) on TV, but then I actually got to be there and the environment was so cool."

The Milton youth has an enthusiasm that many his age may not for the inner workings of Queen's Park. It may come as no surprise, then, that the 12-year-old has already decided he would love to be an MPP one day.

During his tenure as a page, Schafhauser had to arrive at Queen's Park by 8 a.m. to start his day, get dressed in a uniform, have a briefing and then prepare the legislative chamber for the morning's debates.

Pages are involved in a number of activities during the day, such as delivering messages and water for the MPPs in the chamber, taking classes in legislative process and math, and meeting with key legislative players like party leaders and the Speaker of the House.

Schafhauser also got to meet Premier Kathleen Wynne, who he described as "very nice," and go out for lunch with Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris — an experience he rated among his favourites.

"It was crazy to learn about how you can be a minister and an MPP. It's really hard," he said.

Meeting everyone at Queen's Park and making friends with other pages from across the province also topped Schafhauser's list of pros about the program — something he said he would recommend highly to other youth.



Nicholaus Schafhauser, a Grade 7 student at Irma Coulson Public School, is one of roughly 140 students from across the province selected to participate in the legislative page program. *Riziero Vertolli / Metroland West Media Group*

"It's an amazing experience and you make lots of friends," he said.

The legislative page program is open to students in grades 7 and 8 who have an interest in current affairs, have an academic average of 80 per cent or higher, and get along well with peers and adults.

Applications are accepted for two deadlines each year — Nov. 15 (grades 7 and 8) and June 15 (Grade 7 only).

For more information, call (416) 325-7457 or email [pageprogram@ola.org](mailto:pageprogram@ola.org).

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