

Nothing spoiled the fun this time around

Youths confess their Dreamlift day at Disney in Florida was something they'll remember forever

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Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin, The Haunted Mansion, the Astro Orbiter and Splash Mountain among the attractions he had visited.

"I am going to remember this day for the rest of my life. You can quote me on that."

"It was good," said Milton's Jessica Lyons of the afternoon spent in the Magic Kingdom.

The 15-year-old said the rides were definitely the best part of the trip and listed Peter Pan's Flight as the most memorable of the day.

According to Corinne Marshall, national communications manager for Sunshine Dreams for Kids, volunteers play a vital role in making Dreamlifts successful.

"What we are about is giving the kids the experience, of course, but it's also about the volunteers getting to see firsthand the reward of the smiles on the children's faces," Marshall said.

Thursday's Dreamlift cost about \$90,000 and required the assistance of approximately 45 volunteers from Canada and another 45 from

the U.S.

It was made possible in large part to the fundraising efforts of veteran National Hockey League referee Don van Massenhoven.

Oakville's Karen Christie was among the dozens of medical volunteers from the region who accompanied the Dreamlift children to Florida.

Assigned as the Dreamlift "buddy" for an 18-year-old Guelph resident with muscular dystrophy, the 26-year-old acute care pediatric physiotherapist at Chedoke-

McMaster Hospitals found the day uplifting.

"I would love to go again. I'd sign up today for whenever they are going again," confessed Christie.

Seeing children she had previously encountered when their health wasn't good buzzing around Disney with

"It was such a good opportunity for children who otherwise wouldn't get a chance to do this."

• Karen Christie

smiles on their faces was all the reward she needed for her volunteer effort.

"It was such a good opportunity for children who otherwise wouldn't get a chance to do this," she said.

The trip was the 41st such journey organized by Sunshine Dreams for Kids.

For more information about the non-profit Sunshine Dreams for Kids organization, phone, toll-free, 1-800-461-7935 or visit the Web site at www.sunshine.ca.

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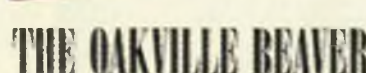
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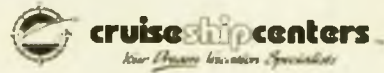
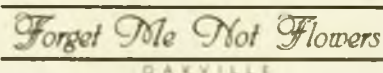
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