

# Grafton student turns a new page



PEG McCARTHY/NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

Lindsay Dunn, a Grade 8 student at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Grafton, will spend a lot of her time at Queen's Park in May when she takes up her duties as a provincial page.

Lindsay Dunn will get to see MPP Lou Rinaldi in his work environment

BY VINCE VERSACE  
Staff Writer

GRAFTON — Grafton's Lindsay Dunn will have a front row seat for all the provincial political action in Queen's Park after recently being selected to be a provincial page.

"I was really excited when my mom got the phone call," says Lindsay, a Grade 8 St. Mary's Catholic Elementary student. "I am interested in politics and becoming a lawyer. I now have to memorize the names and faces of the 103 members of the assembly and where they sit."

Lindsay applied to be a provincial page in October 2004 and her mother Glenda received the acceptance phone call last week. Lindsay is one of 60 students chosen from 1,000 applications from across Ontario to be a page. All page applicants must have an over 80 per cent average and be in Grade 7 or 8.

"She is a very well-rounded student and is well above average in every

subject," says Susan Ferguson, Lindsay's Grade 8 teacher. "Lindsay actually has about a 95 average in most of her subjects, so it's tough to say which is her best."

Lindsay's page experience will run from April 20 to May 25. Besides memorizing all the names, faces and assembly seating plan, the next current challenge for her is finding a place to stay in Toronto.

The page program does not pay for accommodations and Lindsay is on a billeting list or could stay with another page.

While in Toronto, Lindsay will be provided a math tutor who will be in contact with Mrs. Ferguson so the St. Mary's student does not fall behind in her math work.

The pages will also be taught social sciences and about the Legislative Assembly. A page's responsibilities can vary from

delivering newspapers or collecting member bills to sitting beside the Speaker of the House. Lindsay currently has mixed feelings about witnessing some of the heated political debates which can erupt at Queen's Park.

"Most of them (politicians) can talk forever on subjects no one wants to hear about," notes Lindsay with a smile.

Mrs. Ferguson says the last page to be selected from St. Mary's was 10 years ago so the entire school community is proud of Lindsay's accomplishment. Provincial politics may not be a part of the Grade 8 curriculum, it was covered in Grade 5, but Mrs. Ferguson says she plans to incorporate Lindsay's experience into the classroom.

"We will tape a session, watch it and find a way to discuss what we see," explains Mrs. Ferguson.

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## DEATH NOTICES

ROLFE, GORDON JOHN

Peacefully at the Golden Plough Lodge, Cobourg on Thursday February 24th, 2005 in his 86th year. Loving brother of Gwen Ventress of Colborne, Fred Rolfe of Cobourg and the late Freda, Charlie, Alfred and Florence. Gordon is fondly remembered by his nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 30 King St., E., Cobourg (905) 372-5132.