



Bill Marchant, a 12-year-old student at Stewarttown public school is one of 22 pages at Queen's Park. Here, he delivers a message to Legislative Speaker Jack Stokes. (HERALD TORONTO BUREAU PHOTO)

Georgetown legislature page learns some believe him to be Queen's son

By STEVERHODES
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Of The Herald

TORONTO — Bill Marchant, a 12-year-old student at Stewarttown public school, was surprised to learn that some students don't know the leader of the opposition at the Ontario legislature.

Even more surprising to Marchant, who is a page at Queen's Park, is that some think he is related to the Queen.

"Some students touring the legislature asked me if I was a son of the Queen."

The Georgetown student is one of 22 pages at Queen's Park, who have been here since the current session opened in October.

A page is a servant of the House who's job includes running messages and generally to assist the speaker and members in performing their duties.

Experience and challenge attracted Marchant to the job and it is a job paying \$7.50 during the day and \$3.50 a night (usually once a week).

While most students would be attracted by the wage packet it's not that simple. Students must be in Grade 7 or 8 and

have at least an 80 per cent average. In addition, they must have a place to stay in Toronto.

Marchant said it's a honor to be selected, when you consider 500 youngsters apply for the job.

It's not all work in the

GDHS Grads Day

At Georgetown district high school, even graduates have their day.

Last Wednesday was Grads Day at GDHS, with a record number of former students returning to talk to their former teachers and fellow students. Sixty students, some from as far away as Calgary and Halifax, talked over university life with GDHS students past and present.

The graduates are asked to complete a questionnaire about their adjustments to university after high school. Some of the answers, on past questionnaires have resulted in changes in courses at GDHS, such as more exams and more stress on grammar.

The students are also asked to make written recommendations to GDHS students about

legislature though. Students are required to spend five hours a week in school while at the Park. The basics, math, english and history are taught and the pages are tested at the end of the session. In addition home schools provide assignments for the students.

university life. Some of this year's suggestions included careful budgeting, self-discipline, organizing time, positive attitudes and getting involved in activities. The most frequent recommendation was to live in residence, at least for the first year.

"The graduates used to drop in at Christmas," Mrs. Patterson, head of student services, said. "Most of the universities are out by now, so the school set up this day for graduates to come back." Grads Day has been running for four years. It was initially established by the student services department and the administration.

"It gives our senior students a chance to ask questions of somebody their own age," Mrs. Patterson said. "It's very helpful for all concerned."

END OF MONTH SALE

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