

Teen begins job as Page in Ontario Legislature next week

Grade 7 student, Samantha McPherson, will be serving as a Legislative Page at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto, from May 2-19.

The Stewarttown Middle School student said, I have always been interested in the how laws are made. I first learned about being a Legislative Page when I attended Queen's Park with my school. I realized being a Page would be a great opportunity for me to be a part of my government.

The 12-year-old will serve as a messenger on the floor of the Legislative Chamber, meet key parliamentary figures and learn about Ontario's parliamentary system of government.

Each Page earned their spot in the program by submitting an application that included an essay outlining their achievements, involvements and suitability for the program. Each Page must study and learn the faces, names and locations of the 107 MPPs before arriving at Queen's Park for their first day.

When my mom told (me) I had been accepted to the Page Program I was absolutely shocked, said McPherson. I could not believe that I was actually chosen from so many other great candidates. I was extremely happy that I was going to get to go to Queen's Park and work in the Legislature. Soon I will be taking my first steps into politics!

During a typical day in the program, Pages arrive at Queen's Park at approximately 8 a.m., dress in their uniforms and then prepare the Legislative Chamber for the morning debates. As the day progresses, Pages are involved in a number of activities including: delivering messages and water for the MPPs in the Chamber, taking classes in legislative process and mathematics, and meeting with key legislative players such as the party leaders and the Speaker of the House.

The thing that I am most looking forward



SAMANTHA MCPHERSON

to is definitely meeting new people especially the famous politicians, said McPherson. I will be surrounded by the people who make my province's laws. It is going to be amazing to be part of the inner workings of Ontario's government.

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 their peers and adults. Applications for the program are accepted for two deadlines each year: Nov. 15 and June 15. Grade 7 students are eligible for both of these deadlines, while Grade 8 students may apply for the Nov. 15 deadline only.

For more information regarding this program, call 416-324-7457 or pageprogram@ola.org.

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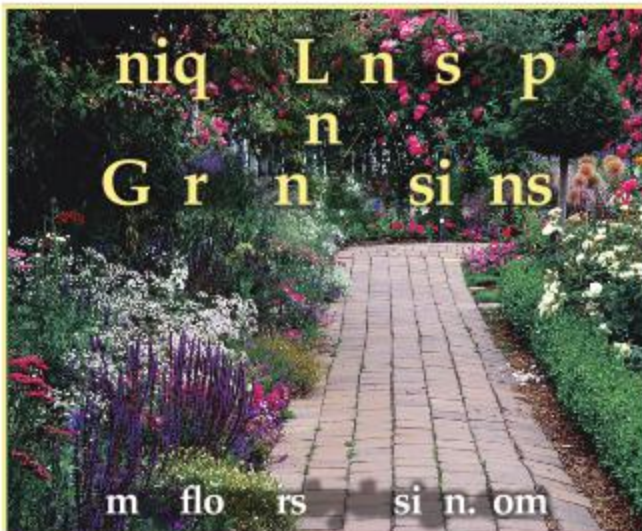
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