



Wild slide ride

Katie Harthen takes part in the water slide during the recent YMCA Kids Water Day held at Holy Cross School while Theresa Ball supervises. The YMCA hosted a variety of water-oriented games for the children.

Photo by Ted Brown

Christ the King student posts best grade average

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

The smartest high school student in the Halton District Catholic School Board admits there's a subject she actually struggles with.

Melanie Bechard recently completed her Grade 12 studies at Georgetown's Christ the King with a 96.98 per cent average, tops among the seven Catholic high schools in Halton region, earning her the Governor General Bronze Medal for 2007.

The 18-year-old Stewart's Mill resident has earned the best average in her school every year since Grade 8 at St. Catherine of Alexandria and received a \$30,000 scholarship to attend the University of Western Ontario to study chemistry this fall.

When asked what course has presented the most difficulty for her, Bechard almost winced when recalling the lowest mark she's received in high school, which was a 90 in Grade 10 music.

"I find that with subjects like math and English, you can have a talent born into you by working hard at it, but with music, you either have it or you don't," laughed the trumpet player, the oldest of three children. "It can be super frustrating and most challenging to me, but I

love it. I'm in all the school bands. I can't sing, but if I did I'd be in the choir too."

The list of awards, bursaries and scholarships Bechard has received is lengthy, as is her accomplishments outside the classroom. She has won Christ the King's R.J. McCarthy Award the past two years for her extensive extra-curricular involvement and high academic standing, which includes serving as the editor for the school newspaper and sitting in with CtK's debating team.

Her love of music began as a member of the Air Cadets' band and she has gone on to partake in many activities with Georgetown's 756 Wild Goose Squadron over the past six years, from the drill team to rope-skipping to earning her Power Pilot's licence last year. Bechard has

earned several honours with the Cadets and is currently in France as part of a Cadets' exchange program.

"Basically I sold my soul to the Air Cadets when I was in Grade 7 and it's been a huge part of my life. It's taught me the discipline that I really needed to get those marks in school," she added.

"Yes I like music and writing but science I have a specific liking for just because you have so many opportunities to help people. I'm hoping to eventually go to medical school and be a psychiatrist one day."



MELANIE BECHARD

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