



Seventeen year old Sandra Ward, Glad Park Avenue, Stouffville, is a Grade 12 student at S.D.S.S. Interests include working with wood, ceramics, snowmobiling, bowling, cross-country and water skiing.

"Girl Next Door"

Jim Thomas

Works with wood

By JIM THOMAS
STOUFFVILLE — Sandra Ward enjoys working with wood and she's pretty good at it too. Proof of her skill is in several finished products. One is a useful spice rack and another a beautiful bowl. She made them both at school.

Sandra's our "Girl Next Door".

A 'native' of Stouffville, the pretty 17 year old sees nothing lacking for teenagers in town. In fact, she'd prefer to have things stay just as they are. She likes bowling and cross-country skiing. At the family's winterized cottage north-east of Peterborough, there's plenty of space for snowmobiling (when there's plenty of snow), with water-skiing a favorite sport in the summer. If she and boyfriend Jim McKean want to do something special, Toronto's only a half-hour drive away.

Sandra is one of four girls in the family of Doug and June Ward, Glad Park Avenue.

Sisters include - Lorraine, 22; Lynn, 19 and married and Sheila, fifteen. They've always been quite close, Sandra says, even more so in their teen years than when younger.

Sandra hopes to graduate from Grade 12 at S.D.S.S. this year and go on to some form of child care work. If not, she'll turn to a secretarial position having taken this course since Grade 9. At present, she's enrolled in once-a-week instruction at Ceramics 100 in the Success Plaza, Main and Stouffer Streets. Any spare time she spends helping her mother around the house.

Sandra's travelled considerably, including once to England and twice to Florida. She's planning a trip to the sunny South again this March along with girlfriends, Linda Lewis, Sandra Blizard and Marty Spaaragen. She'd also like to re-visit England some day. The old buildings, particularly the churches fascinated her, she said.

Seminars on family life

UXBRIDGE — Sal Garofalo, chairman of Uxbridge Family Life Series 1980, has announced plans to hold a series of four seminars in the cafeteria of Uxbridge Secondary School during the month of February.

The discussions, open to the public, are being sponsored by the Uxbridge Credit Union and Durham Region Family Counselling. Meeting times are 8 p.m.

The first is Thurs., Feb. 7. The topic is "How Are We Raising Our Children?". The speaker is Iris Owen, noted researcher and lecturer in both Britain and Canada.

"The Teen Years", is the subject for Thurs., Feb. 14—aimed at promoting understanding between teens and parents. The speaker on this occasion is Dr. Martin Wolfish, chief of paediatrics, North York General Hospital.

On Thurs., Feb. 21, the topic "Ups and Downs" will allow participants an opportunity to look at every-day difficulties in life and what we can do to deal with them. The speaker will be Dr. Wm. Hughes, chief of psychiatry, York County Hospital, Newmarket.

The final seminar is Thurs., Feb. 28. The subject is "To-day's Woman", a discussion related to the implications of being a woman in the 1980's. The speaker is Dr. Virginia Edwards.

Persons wishing additional information on this program should call 852-7690.

Hold telethon

MARKHAM — Last year, the "Weekend With The Stars Telethon For Cerebral Palsy" received \$40,000 in pledges from the Region of York.

This year, the Ontario Federation of the Cerebral Palsied hopes to equal or better this mark.

The Telethon will be broadcast over Global TV from 9 p.m., Sat., Jan. 12 to 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13.

The event will be held in conjunction with a similar program coming from Hollywood, Las Vegas and New York.

Here in York, Participation House at Markham will benefit from all monies pledged during this year's Telethon. The funds will assist with the ongoing operation of this facility that includes a residence, workshop and recreation centre for severely physically disabled young people.

Last year, across Ontario, more than one million dollars was raised to provide facilities such as Participation House in other areas of the province.

Bus inspection

YORK REGION — Beginning Jan. 1, school bus operators are required to keep a daily inspection log of their vehicles.

The new regulation, announced by Transport Minister James Snow, is to ensure there is a daily check of school purpose buses in addition to comprehensive semi-annual inspections.

All drivers must carry out a daily inspection of each item listed in the log book; record any defects and who those defects are reported to. The person responsible for maintenance is required to sign the log when the defect has been repaired.

The regulation applies to any vehicle used for the transportation of six or more children to and from school.

Special educator Aids 'gifted'

YORK REGION — On January 3, Bernadette Murray-Robb commenced her duties as Special Education Consultant for The York County Board of Education, with responsibility for the Gifted. She succeeds Lorne Cook, who accepted a position last May with Upper Canada College. Previous to this, Mrs. Murray-Robb was core teacher and team leader for grade eight gifted classes with The Board of Education for the City of North York. This effective date was determined because of her personal commitment to a new service as a family-of-schools resource person for gifted pupils that she began last fall in North York.

Mrs. Murray-Robb obtained her teacher training in the United Kingdom, specializing in Art and completing qualifications in the subsidiary subjects of English Literature and Science. She holds an Ontario Teacher's Certificate, Ontario Specialist's qualifications in Special Education, and is currently working toward a M.Ed. degree in Special Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She has taught eleven years in the United Kingdom and one year in Germany including teaching experience across a wide range of pupils' educational exceptionalities. In addition, she has one and a half years experience at the Thistleton Regional Centre for severely disturbed children and adolescents. She has taught five years in North York and gained valuable experience in classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities as well as in the testing, identifying, selecting, and programming for gifted pupils in the Intermediate Division.

She has taught Ministry of Education Summer Courses and conducted various in-service workshops for teachers. In May, she will present a workshop at the International Conference on the Gifted in Oakville.

During her first few weeks, Mrs. Murray-Robb will begin visiting York schools and teachers, assessing needs, and determining how those needs can be met. She comes to the Board highly recommended for her work with pupils and for her leadership qualities. It is indeed a pleasure to welcome Bernadette Murray-Robb to the professional staff of The York County Board of Education.

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