

"Girl Next Door"

Courtney praises reach-out program

By JIM THOMAS
CLAREMONT — At age seventeen, Courtney Graham has already accomplished more than most people will in a lifetime.

She has reached out to influence not only her peers, but persons much younger than herself.

Her involvement is amazing. She's our "Girl Next Door." A senior at Pickering High School, Courtney was one of 20 Prefects selected to discuss drug use and abuse with Grade 8 students at several elementary schools in Durham Region.

The organization, called "Students Against Drugs," under the direction vice-principal Wilson, accomplished much, Courtney says, so much, she hopes it can continue through 1986-87 and beyond.

Sincerity on both sides prompted their hosts to open up, Courtney explains. She says that apart from the drug scene, the rapport tended to dissolve many apprehensions related to their moving into Grade 9 this fall.

"We received a lot of positive feedback," she says, "they looked on us as friends rather than people in authority."

There were no teachers in the rooms when these discussions took place, Courtney stated. "I was pleased to be chosen," she says, "and I was pleased with the result."

"We'll be seeing many of these same boys and girls in September," she notes.

While an important part of Courtney's itinerary, this is only a start. The participation list is endless.

In addition to serving as a Prefect, she's a member of the Student Activity Council. Now in Grade 12 but taking several Grade 13 subjects, Courtney has maintained a 1st class honors standing through her past three years at P.H.S.

"Pickering's a wonderful school," she says, "with a wonderful group of teachers." Staff members, she explains, give willingly of their time when extra help is needed. She notes too, that no matter how personal the problem, they're always willing to listen.

She describes Mrs. Hawley of Stouffville, Head of the English Department as "a remarkable lady."

English, French, History and Music are favorite subjects.

Courtney doesn't hide her love for drama, an interest that goes back to the years spent at Claremont Public School. Last summer, she enrolled in a course at the Young People's Theatre in Toronto and also participated in a production by the Jester's Theatre at the C.N.E.

Dancing's another skill that provides Courtney much enjoyment. Her instructor in jazz and ballet is Denise Lester of Port Union.

In a recent examination, she received high honors. Courtney hopes soon to reach a level where she can teach on her own if that is her wish.

Courtney plays the piano, the flute and the guitar.



Seventeen-year-old Courtney Graham of Claremont will be taking some Grade 12 and some Grade 13 subjects when she returns to Pickering High School in September. She was a member of a select Prefect team that visited elementary schools in Durham Region as part of a new drug awareness program. Courtney considered the project very successful and hopes it will continue. — Jim Thomas

Her hobby is collecting character Teddy Bears.

Always anxious to broaden her knowledge of French, Courtney took advantage last winter of a five-day immersion week in the Province of Quebec. She was accompanied by her 15-year-old sister, Kristin. In addition to improving her French language skills, she learned something of French Canadian culture.

This month, Courtney's employed on the staff of Public Affairs-Kerr Graphics at 179 John Street, Toronto. She takes the dayliner from Claremont Station every morning.

"The people there have been fantastic," she says, "I'll be sorry to leave."

(She also works part-time at Herongate Barn Theatre, Altona Road, Pickering.)

"Courtney says she'll never lose her appreciation of her community. She retains fond memories of her public school years and the opportunities provided there for singing, dancing, public speaking and drama. She attends at Claremont United Church and assisted this

summer with a co-operative Vacation Bible School. The children ranged in age from five to twelve.

"A part of myself will always remain in Claremont," Courtney says.

Recently, she and Jason Yoshida participated in a Blue Jays commercial along with Lloyd Moseby, George Bell and Rance Mulliniks. She describes it as "a great experience."

It's not all work and no play for this outstanding Claremont student. She enjoys downhill and cross-country skiing, tennis, badminton, windsurfing and waterskiing.

"Who has exerted the greatest influence on your life?" Courtney was asked.

"Many people have helped and encouraged me," she replies, "but my parents are the greatest!"

In addition to Kristin, Courtney has a kid sister, Lindsay, age nine.

Courtney appreciates the fact she now has her driver's licence. This removes some of the transportation responsibilities from Mom and Dad.

Fine dining in Stouffville

Blue Orchid restaurant open to public Aug. 19

By CATHY CARTER
STOUFFVILLE — A new restaurant with an emphasis on class and fine dining will open in Stouffville August 19.

The Blue Orchid specializes in "nouvelle" and continental cuisine with a wine list professionally designed to compliment the meals.

The restaurant will display original artwork and will be "like a gallery," said Leslie Anne Feller,

General Manager and Hostess of the Blue Orchid.

"Our by word is quality," said Ms Feller, "everything will be fresh and where possible from local producers."

There will be a small printed menu and a daily menu to choose from.

The capacity of the Blue Orchid is 42 seats and it is fully licensed by the L.L.B.O.

Restaurant hours, to start, will be Tuesday to Saturday from 6 to

10 p.m. for dinner. In mid September, the doors will open for lunch Tuesday to Friday and for Sunday brunch featuring a buffet.

Although the restaurant is opening August 19, the official opening will be delayed until September.

"We want to make sure we have everything running smoothly," Ms Feller said.

The Blue Orchid is located at 124 Main Street West, Stouffville. Reservations are requested.



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