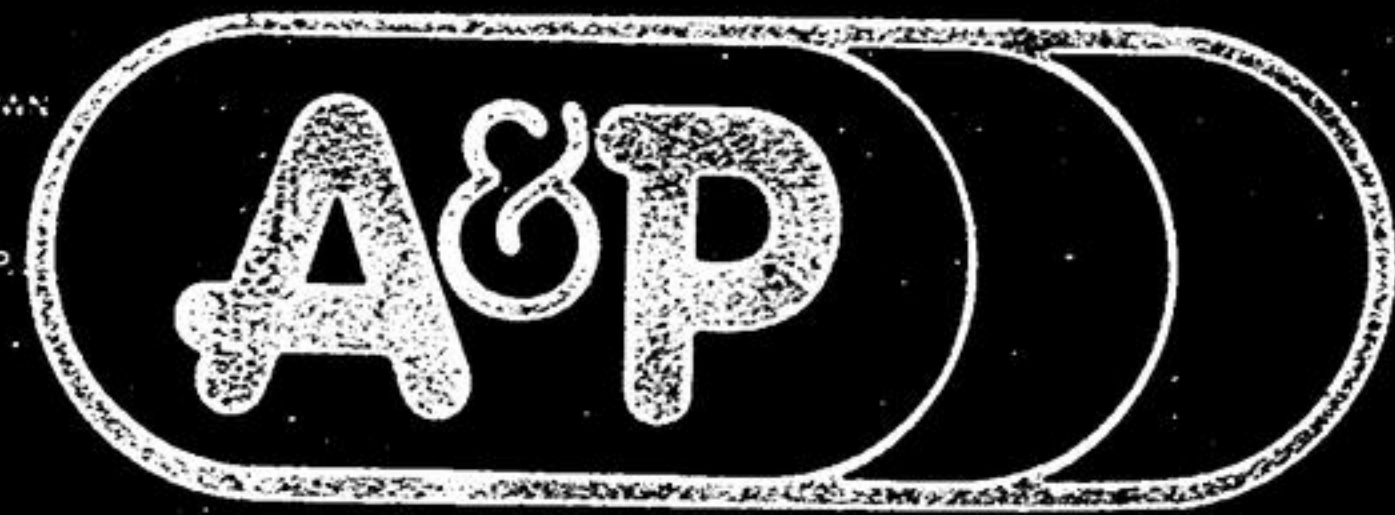


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Jennifer Smith, one of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School's most prolific Phys. Ed. students is now teaching the very same subject subject at Thornlea High, Thornhill. Jennifer credits Bill Duxbury, former principal at Stouffville and later Markham, with giving her the break she needed. She's never looked back. Although now living in Toronto, Jennifer still looks on Stouffville as 'home'.

— Jim Thomas

Stouffville's Jennifer Smith  
SDSS grad teaching what she does best

By JIM THOMAS

Jennifer Smith's name is emblazoned on bars and plaques across the Sports Wall of Fame at Stouffville High.

Little did Jennifer know then she'd one day be putting 16 and 17-year-olds through their paces in much the same way, a few aches and pains down the road.

"Or did she?"

"I think I was in about Grade 10 when I decided on teaching as a career," says the soft-spoken Phys. Ed. instructor at Thornlea High. She credits Jim Rehill of the S.D.S.S. staff with helping make up her mind.

"I was keen on gym," she recalls. "Often I'd stay after school until five o'clock (usually on the boys' side) and then go (figure) skating after that."

With sports, she says, students could socialize and exercise all at the same time.

Jennifer loved it, and her enjoyment showed. She excelled in almost every field—the long jump, the high jump, the hurdles, relays, cross-country, wherever the challenge.

Not to mention the parallel bars where she thrilled students and staff alike with her skills.

While in Grade 12, Jennifer advanced to the All-Ontario's in both the long jump and hurdles.

A graduate of York University, Jennifer holds an Honors B.A., a Bachelor of Education and Honors Phys. Ed. Specialist degrees. She's one of eight Phys. Ed. teachers on the Thornlea staff.

She describes facilities there as "phenomenal."

"I really like this school," she enthuses. "I'm fully aware of all the advantages."

It was Bill Duxbury, her principal at S.D.S.S., who later hired her at Markham. That was the "break" she needed. In addition to Phys. Ed., she also taught Grade 13 Sociology.

She's now in her third year at Thornlea.

Many of the programs are co-ed, she says. This presents no problems. "Whenever they get out of

hand, I make them run," she laughs.

Jennifer is so completely sold on the benefits of Physical Education, she advises activities apart from established programs. And she joins in.

"I'd never ask a student to do anything I wouldn't do myself," she says. There are few activities she doesn't do, squash, for example. Her team won the Provincial Championships at York and later, competed in England. She now plays squash up to five times a week in Ladles. A class competition. She's also an avid downhill skier.

An indoor pool adjoining Thornlea School is a tremendous asset, Jennifer claims. After hours, it's utilized by the Markham Parks and Recreation Department.

Here, bus loads of trainable mentally retarded children are bussed in from all across York Region. Jennifer assists with this program also.

The former Stouffville student admits she's fitness conscious, but not to the extreme. "The more energy you expend, the more energy you have," she explains.

Jennifer doesn't confine her activities to a school gymnasium. She's travelled extensively to Europe, twice and England, across much of the United States and Canada. A holiday in Africa's also in her vacation plans, and maybe Europe again next summer.

But she hasn't forgotten Stouffville. She keeps in touch with family members here and a close group of high school friends.

What lies ahead?

Jennifer's completely happy with her job in life. However, she readily admits keeping pace with 16-year-olds could be strenuous at fifty. So she'd like to turn her teaching talents towards something more academic, like English or History. But that's in the future. Right now, keeping pace is no problem.

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**Lions anniversary pin award to Ryerson student**

Nineteen-year-old Sarah Hill, Sciberras Road, Unionville, is the grand prize winner of the Stouffville Lions Club's 50th Anniversary Pin Design Contest. The Ryerson student's entry was one of 59 received. For her work, Sarah will receive a cheque in the amount of \$150. She's pictured here with Club president Mike Grinnell, (left), and director Ivan Harris. The Stouffville Lions Club will celebrate its golden anniversary in June, 1988.

— Jim Thomas

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