

'Girl Next Door'

HS Co-op Education set her career goal

By JIM THOMAS
Seventeen-year-old Robin Ardilla has only positive things to say about Stouffville

Dist. Secondary School; its Co-operative Education Program in particular. Through Co-op Ed Studies,

said to be the best in York Region, Robin's interests have been directed towards a challenging and rewarding career — a teacher of retarded children.

Robin's our 'Girl Next Door'.

"The Co-op Program is excellent," enthuses the pleasant Grade 12 student, "for me, it's a better way to learn than sitting in a classroom day after day."

Formerly of Stouffville, Robin moved to Markham with her parents, Gary and Betty Ardilla, and sister Tammy, while still in Grade 8 at Summitview. She continued at S.D.S.S., however, "because I enjoy the school and all my friends are there." The distance factor poses no problem, she says.

Robin's out-of-class participation took her to Walter Scott Public School, Richmond Hill. There, trainable retarded pupils are integrated into the regular school system.

"The first few days I was terrified," Robin admits. "Later, I fell in love with them and still keep in touch."

Through Co-op Education, Robin's placement has also involved her in the area of discharge planning at York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill.

Early Childhood Education and Art are favorite subjects at Stouffville High. Jane Warren and Ann Wilson are favorite teachers.

Robin's extra-curricular interests include horseback riding and ballet. She's won several dance awards.

In her early teens, she appeared on the Tiny Talent TV program from Hamilton. Her father video-taped the show, a memorable keepsake.

Robin holds her boyfriend, Phil Stringer, in high regard. They've known each other since Grade 9.

Phil's also on a Co-op placement with the Stouffville Fire Department. Following High School graduation, he hopes to become a full-time firefighter.

Robin's enjoyed several unforgettable holidays including trips to Nova Scotia and Florida. This summer, she hopes to view the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies while on vacation in British Columbia.



Seventeen-year-old Robin Ardilla, a Grade 12 student, credits the Co-operative Education Course at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School with establishing a career goal following graduation. She hopes to assist children with physical and learning disabilities. Robin describes the Co-op Ed. Program at S.D.S.S. as "excellent!" — Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail

Racing pigeons heroes of two World Wars

Dear Editor:

The Victoria Cross is the highest honor that can be awarded a British soldier for bravery. The French have their Croix De Guerre, and the Croix Militaire that also symbolize acts of heroism.

In two World Wars, there were 200,000 'feathered' soldiers, namely racing pigeons. Some received the military awards mentioned above.

I could fill your newspaper with documented exploits where someone's husband or son was rescued because a racing pigeon was able to get through enemy lines. Honored veterans in their day, they have all but been forgotten.

Some of the men who made this communications service work are still racing-pigeon fanciers today. Our pigeons are the progeny of these soldiers and will be again, if NORAD requires them.

You can be sure the recruits won't be the ones you see breaking zoning bylaws atop the Whitchurch-Stouffville Municipal Building. This vagrant breed is as old as man, and will be around as long as birds fly. But to say a responsible racing-pigeon owner will devalue his/her neighbor's property is being very uninformed.

A small well-kept accessory building, the size of a pool house, with a well-controlled colony of racing pigeons is nothing to fear. But toxic waste, heavy traffic, uncontrolled vicious dogs you can worry about. Even twenty people in town feeding wild pigeons at a lawn-feeder can be worrisome.

Lastly, when the Olympic flame reaches Calgary in February, the ceremonies will begin with the release of 1,000 racing pigeons, flying for a gold medal. Eight of these are owned by members of the Stouffville Racing Pigeon Club. Should one member win, the Town will be honored.

The pursuit of happiness is fraught with obstacles. I could

never be happy by making someone else unhappy. We're not law-breakers. We simply want more enjoyment out of life than cutting the grass and painting the house. We don't want a birdless sky

and space only for parking cars and erecting zoning signs.

Sincerely,
Karl F. Winterstein,
Vice President,
Stouffville Racing Pigeon Club

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