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Uxbridge students to tour in Europe



Alisa Whittaker and Amy Peck will soon be packing their bags for the trip of a lifetime — a European tour with a U.S. band. Students for the tour band were picked from schools across North America. Only

three Canadians were chosen to take part. The first step is a trip to New York for rehearsals prior to going on tour.

—Jim Thomas

By JIM THOMAS

The thrill of a lifetime. That's the excitement awaiting Alisa Whittaker, 17, of Young Street, Uxbridge and Amy Peck, 16, of R.R. 1, Uxbridge.

On July 3, Alisa and Amy will leave on a three-week European tour with the United States Collegiate Wind Band, returning July 28.

Alisa, a student in Grade 12 at Uxbridge Secondary School, plays the French horn. Amy, in Grade 10, plays the alto sax. Both are members of the USS Concert Band.

Ants Sulev, the band director, submitted their names for consideration. They are two of only three Canadians to be accepted. The other is from Lindsay. The remaining 94 students come from

all across the U.S.A.

The tour will include concerts in eight countries — United States, France, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy.

Alisa began playing the French horn in Grade 7 at Joseph Gould Sr. Public School. She's reached the Grade 10 level in piano. Both Alisa and Amy also play in the USS Stage Band.

In addition to the alto sax, Amy plays the piano and clarinet.

She describes it as "a really great experience."

Both call it "the most thrilling thing ever — something we'll remember the rest of their lives."

Amy's mother is driving them to New York where they'll participate in several rehearsals and a concert before heading overseas.

Olean band awaited

STOUFFVILLE — Welcome, Olean, New York. Staff and students will roll out the red carpet, May 24, when the 60-member band comes to Stouffville High.

The arrival of Olean instrumentalists marks the second half of an exchange that saw Stouffville visit Olean April 17 to 21.

Both the schools and the bands are comparable in size, Music Director Peter Samuelson told The Tribune.

"They looked terrific," Mr. Samuelson said of the members' new uniforms.

While in Olean, the students visited St. Bonaventure University and toured the University library.

"They were excellent hosts," Annika Hannan said. Annika and Pam Powell are band co-presidents. "They seem interested in learning about us."

On May 25, both the Olean and Stouffville bands will perform at a free public concert in the High School gymnasium. Olean leaves for home May 26.

Adult student says it's never too late

BY BRUCE STAPLEY

For Robin Haines, life began at 30.

The Stouffville area mother of three, a self admitted "poor" student who dropped out of Thornlea Secondary School, Thornhill, before finishing Grade 10, decided it's never too late to go after a high school diploma.

Spurred on by Stouffville District Secondary School Guidance Head Doug McCammon, Robin enrolled full time at SDSS last fall and seems likely to walk away with her Grade 12 papers this spring.

"I always wanted to get my Grade 12," she says "both for my sake, and for the sake of my kids. I had known Doug McCammon from back in my days at Thornlea, and after talking to him last spring I thought I should take two courses towards my Grade 12. But then I decided to go for the whole thing."

It's been a tough grind. For, unlike most high school students, Robin must combine the demands of caring for children ranging in age from 4 to 10 years with her studies. Then there's the matter of generating an income, which she does by driving school bus for Travelways.

It's a dizzying schedule — but Robin insists she's having the time of her life. "It's been an enjoyable time," she says.

"I'm here to learn, but I don't want it to go too fast. It will be a whole new ballgame out there after the year is finished."

The main reason Robin's return to high school has worked so well, she says, is that students and staff at SDSS have both been totally supportive and helpful. "I would

definitely encourage anyone thinking about going back to high school to enroll at SDSS," she says.

"There are a lot of people willing to help you." Her workload consists of six courses and she finds it an effort to stay ahead of her studies because of her other activities.

But she has brought a different attitude to school this time and it makes all the difference. "The pressure is there, keeping up with the kids."

"But the students and staff have all been fantastic. There has been a great support system from within the school."

Robin has found that her alliance with fellow adult student Grace Buttar helped her adjust to mature student status. "One student thought Grace and I were student teachers," she says, with a laugh.

In fact, it was Grace who hopes to pursue a career in electronics — who gave Robin a push similar to the one administered by Doug McCammon.

"I've always been interested in law enforcement as a career," says Robin. "But after I got married and had children, I figured I couldn't do it. Grace told me to go for it so I'm going to."

Robin has applied to several police forces and would like to click with the Ontario Provincial Police, working with dogs, with children or in a public relations capacity.

She plans to attend Aylmer Policy College next year, and to follow that up with whatever other courses are necessary to get her on a police force.

Robin appreciates the efforts of

her fellow students in helping her feel comfortable, but also likes to think she has had an effect on those experiencing difficulties or even considering dropping out.

"If I have swayed somebody, and helped them to decide to stay, then that's great," she says.

"I think I've been able to stabilize some of the kids. Even the trouble makers are often good kids really. I try to relate to them."

She credits an open mind and an easy going attitude with helping her fit in so well with the younger students. "If you went back to high school with an old fashioned attitude, you wouldn't get along with the kids. But I've always had an easy going attitude."

Even so, she admits to some trepidation over her first term examinations. "I was worried over the exams, it was a stressful period."

But, with the exception of biology, she is maintaining high marks, and a keen interest level. "In one of my English classes, I sometimes have trouble getting away from the class because I enjoy it so much."

Robin schedules her classes around a school bus driving routine that sees her drive mornings and afternoons for Dickson's Hill School, with an 11:30 a.m. kindergarten run for Orchard Park Public School. Her school day and driving end at about 5 p.m. each day, after which she arrives home for household duties.

Her acceptance as 'one of the kids' at SDSS pleases her. "I used to be known as Robin the school bus driver," she says "But now I'm just known as Robin."

Chiropractor's dream

Health care centre

BALANTRAE — A Health Care Centre is the dream of Balantrae chiropractor Dr. John Bate.

Dr. Bate told a Town Planning Committee meeting April 19 the site extremely excited over the idea.

The selected site is the south-east corner of Hwy 48

and the Autoroute Sideroad in Balantrae.

Dr. Bate proposes a building that will include offices for a medical doctor, a chiropractor and a dentist on the ground floor, medical and x-ray labs, physio and massage therapy rooms and a lecture hall in the basement.

Dr. Bate says he's not afraid of putting a drill down and later cover the cost of hooking into the communal water system once that's established.

Dr. Bate admits it's an expensive personal commitment but one he's certain will serve the community well as the area continues to grow.

Lineman injured in fall

STOUFFVILLE — A 32-year-old employee with the Stouffville Hydro Commission suffered a broken left wrist, Friday, when he fell from a pole near the corner of Blake and Burkholder Streets.

Glen Taylor was taken by ambulance to Scarborough Centenary Hospital and later released.

Brian Carter, Commission superintendent, attributed the accident to a spur cut-out. The lineman fell about 14 feet, he said, landing on grass at the edge of the road.

Taylor is now convalescing at home. "He'll be back on the job in no time," Carter concluded.

Bruce Stapley
 .../C-3

Paulie
 .../C-18

Hubcap heaven
 .../C-18

Active Oscar
 .../C-18



Juggling jobs and school

Robin Haines leads a hectic life. She's a full-time housewife. The Stouffville woman hopes to make Grade 12 students at Stouffville District Secondary School, drives a school bus and is a busy mother and June.