

People

SDSS student flourishes in placement at gallery

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Eighteen year old Chris Gagnon is a student at Stouffville District Secondary School who has been working at Latcham Gallery since last fall as part of the school's co-op program.

Although the program itself is well established, it's the first time the gallery has been involved, said director Vanessa Perry. "Chris is usually here from 12:30 to 3:30 every other afternoon, depending on what's needed."

"Because of the nature of our gallery and the special events we have, which can be held on weekends or evenings, he has been able to come in and get involved in those functions."

Gagnon, a life-long resident, has participated in many gallery activities, ranging from Beyond Crafts to the art auction, said Perry.

"He's been coming in on Saturday mornings to assist and observe at the children's art classes."

"He has also had the opportunity to experience installing exhibits," she added. "He's responsible for researching sources of videos and films for potential future film series."

As well, he is in the process of sorting out and cross-referencing slides of past exhibits. "I wish we'd done something like this a long time ago," said Perry, referring to the co-op program.

"We were a bit unsure to begin with, wondering what we would do with Chris, and whether we'd have time to teach him things, but in the long run I think it's been tremendously beneficial for both sides."

Gagnon is equally enthusiastic about the program. "I've been into painting and drawing ever since I was in Kindergarten," he said.

"I'm also interested in things like music, writing and philosophy. I'm hoping to go to the Ontario College of Art and

hopefully after that to finish a Masters in art at university."

One of the benefits of his experience at Latcham Gallery has been "just talking to people, to the artists, and finding out how the gallery works and how they accept work for shows," he said.

"I think this is where most of my knowledge has come from." While he enjoys a wide variety of art forms, he has an affinity for modern works, "things that

convey different feelings and beliefs."

Catherine Chartrand teaches music and English at SDSS and is also a supervisor of the co-op program, and it was she who approached the gallery initially. "At the moment we have about 100 students out through the program," she explained.

Students are gaining on-the-job experience in a wide variety of placements including veterinarian clinics, law offices and

parks and recreation. "Co-op demands that you get a total of 240 hours over the year, which will give you two credits," Chartrand advised.

"Overall, the program is going to grow a bit next year." Because SDSS is a small high school in an area without adequate public transit, placements can be a problem, she noted.

As a result, "Stouffville has been allowed to have co-op stu-

dents within the school, helping teachers, because students can't get to Markham unless they have their own transportation."

Matching up students with appropriate placements can be a challenge, but the practical experience it offers is invaluable.

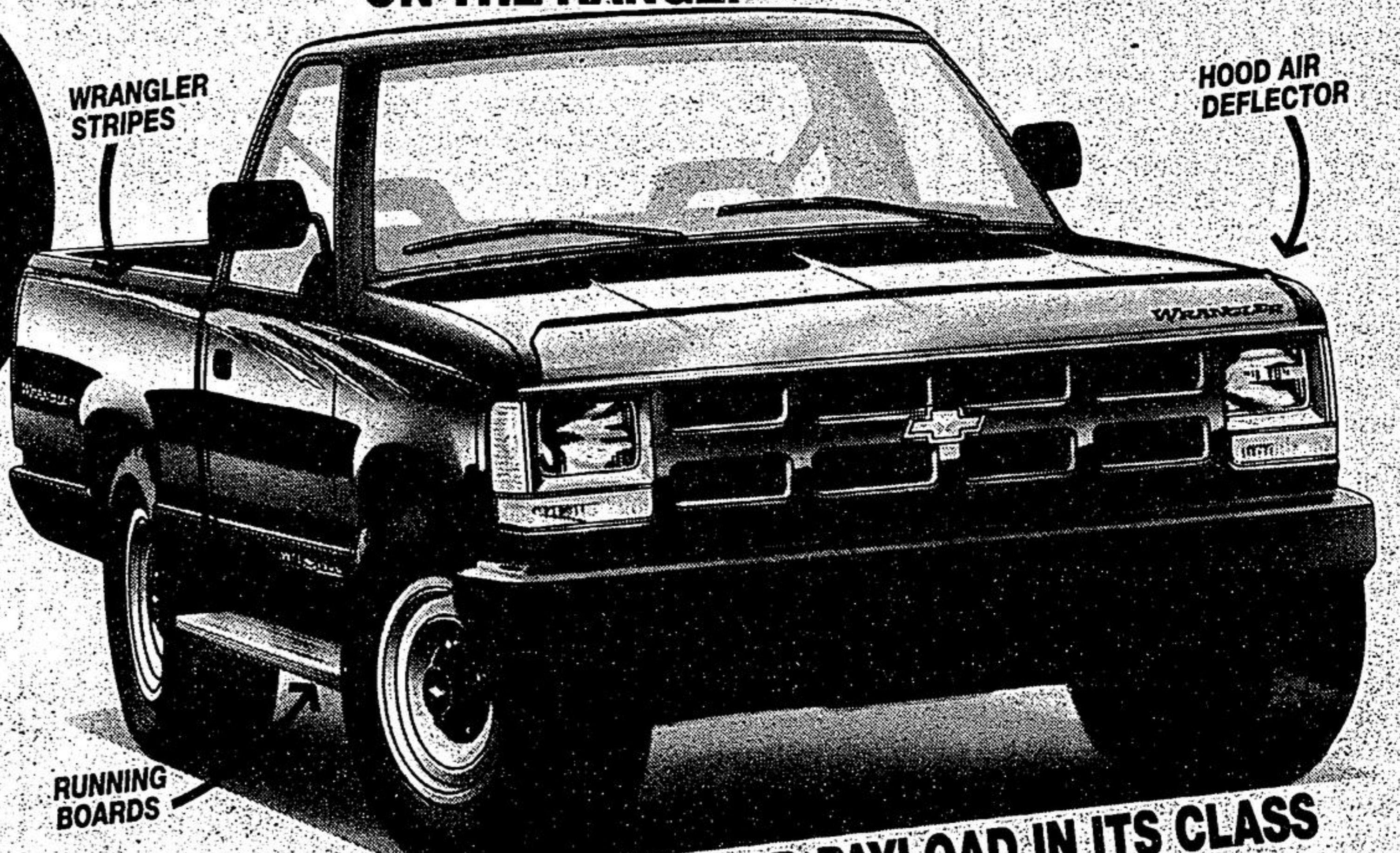
"And the Latcham Gallery placement has worked out really well for them and for Chris," Chartrand concluded.

YOUR CHEVY TRUCK DEALERS PRESENT

CHEVY SHOWDOWN

ROPE A DEAL ON THE HARDEST WORKIN' PICKUPS ON THE RANGE.

LIMITED TIME OFFER
\$750 CASH BACK*
ON ALL FULL-SIZE PICKUPS



Chevy W/T 1500 Pickup

CHEVY FULL-SIZE PICKUPS FEATURE:

- anti-lock brakes
- 24-hour Roadside Assistance¹
- 4.3 litre engine

MORE STANDARD POWER THAN FORD • MOST STANDARD PAYLOAD IN ITS CLASS

LIMITED EDITION
NO COST WRANGLER PACKAGE

• HOOD AIR DEFLECTOR • RUNNING BOARDS • WRANGLER STRIPING

COME ON IN AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE SPIRITED TAHOE COMPACT PICKUP!

- ABS brakes
- double wall box construction
- 24 hour Roadside Assistance

Chevy S/T Compact Pickup



HURRY IN TO YOUR PARTICIPATING CHEVY DEALER BEFORE THE SUN SETS ON THE CHEVY SHOWDOWN!

YOUR LOCAL CHEVY TRUCK DEALERS

Got a little extra time?



Become a volunteer!

*This offer may not be combined or used in combination with any other offer except the College Graduate Program. Offer applies to 1993 new, unused or demonstrator models purchased from dealer inventory. Offer valid for a limited time starting from April 29, 1993 while quantities last and applies to retail deliveries only. GST is included in the Cash Back offer. Some conditions apply. See Dealer for complete details. ¹Some charges may apply. See Dealer for details.