

# Spartans honour top student athletes

McElroy, Burkholder, Heremanson and McGrath have outstanding year

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

They celebrated a stellar year of athletic achievement and school spirit Wednesday at the Sleepy Hollow Golf Club.

Amy McElroy and Mark Burkholder were named outstanding senior female and male athletes respectively, with the junior top athlete awards going to Lindsay Hermanson and Kevin McGrath.

The moral and physical improvement award was given to Jess Flemming. Steph Jull and Shane Timms shared the Jim Rehill Sportsmanship Award. Carolyn Tubb was presented with the initial Dave Connell Cross-Country Award.

The Homestead Award for overall contribution to the school's athletic program went to athletic council co-presidents Chris Henry and Amy McElroy.

For the second straight year it was Josh Sheriff netting the John Turner Memorial Award for shot and discus.

McElroy, who was also named MVP for senior girls volleyball and senior badminton, was cited for her athletic abilities as well as her leadership.

Veteran SDSS teacher and coach Heather Henrick noted how McElroy led the field hockey and girls rugby teams in scoring while making a strong contribution to the senior SDSS girls volleyball and badminton teams.

"Amy was a team leader in four sports," said Henricks. "It's not so much that success follows her as she is able to create success."

SDSS physical education head Jamie Hewitt said he was impressed by Burkholder's combination of athletic prowess and overall character.

"His strong ethics, morals and values you don't usually find in a kid his age," he said.



Stouffville District Secondary School held its annual athletic awards banquet last Wednesday. This year's outstanding athlete awards went to (front row, from left): Mark Burkholder, senior boys and Amy McElroy, senior girls. In the back row are (from left): Kevin McGrath, junior boys and Lindsay Hermanson, junior girls.

Coaching the first-year senior Spartans boys rugby team, Hewitt said Burkholder showed a natural ability for a game he had never played previously.

"He was one of the best backs I've ever had the privilege of coaching."

Burkholder also copped the senior boys volleyball and rugby MVPs.

SDSS teacher and volleyball coach Sharon McFarlane pointed to Hermanson's sparkling 88-per-cent plus academic average as evidence of her well-balanced approach to life.

"Lindsay's not only a tremendous athlete but she's also a wonderful person," said McFarlane.

Hermanson won the York Region high school golf title to earn the SDSS golf MVP award.

*"The enthusiasm at this school is second to none. Your tremendous dedication and commitment to your sports rejuvenated my love of coaching."*

SDSS physical education teacher and veteran coach Jim Fletcher credited McGrath with broadening his athletic horizons over the past year.

"Kevin has always been good at track and field but this year he earned a position on the Ontario Regional volleyball team and he was the junior badminton MVP," said Fletcher.

In his closing remarks, first-year SDSS teacher Kevin Julyan noted how the spirit he saw displayed by student athletes had restored his desire to coach.

"The enthusiasm at this school is second to none," said Julyan.

"Your tremendous dedication and commitment to your sports rejuvenated my love of coaching."

A co-coach of the two SDSS boys rugby teams with Hewitt, Julyan said he was proud to be associated with the players.

"You wouldn't believe the number of compliments we got about how well these boys handled themselves on and off the field."

Other MVP awards went to the following athletes: cross country Ryan Tabone, Lisa Felepchuk; boys volleyball midget Dan Clarke; junior Derek Konga; girls basketball midget Kaitlyn Buck; junior Hannah Flemming; field hockey Mandy Vandenberg; golf Tyler Markle; boys basketball midget Kevin Hayward; junior Shane Timms; girls volleyball midget Julie Bagshaw; Joanne Crymble; hockey girls Candice Miller; junior boys Travis McMaster; senior boys Tyler Armstrong; badminton junior Megan Sealy; Kevin McGrath; senior Steve Cox; girls fastball Michelle Dulude; rugby girls Erin Peroff, Michelle Klugman; junior boys Mike McManus; track and field girls track Tracy Hoher; girls field Michelle Gray; boys track Carlo Laduca; boys field Mark Sutcliffe.

# Asphalt projects will not be re-negotiated

BY PATRICK CASEY  
Staff Writer

Despite the dramatic price increase of crude oil, York Region will not re-negotiate existing contracts for asphalt projects carried over from last year.

Mike O'Connor, executive director of the Ontario Hot Mix Producers Association, approached the region's transportation and works committee last week, seeking financial assistance with the sudden and unprecedented price hikes of crude oil products.

O'Connor, who represents the majority of the province's asphalt companies, requested compensation for the difference in price for work bid in 1999 and delivered this year, an amount estimated at more than 50,000 tonnes of asphalt.

He told councillors the cost of hot mix asphalt has plagued the industry for the last six months, jumping between 35 and 45 per cent. And with price margins as narrow as 2 or 3 per cent, firms stand to lose \$300,000 after crude oil reached \$34 a barrel compared to its low of \$11 a difference of more than 300 per cent.

"Just from visiting the gas pumps, everyone has seen how the price has gone up dramatically. The increases have been disastrous for us," said O'Connor during Wednesday's committee meeting. "No one could have anticipated this because we have never seen anything like this before."

"It's very difficult to go back and open up contracts that have been bid... the jobs we bid last year should have been paid last year. And for circumstances where the contractor wasn't at fault for extending it into this year, they are paying additional costs for the product. We are a relatively small fish and, quite frankly, nobody had the foresight to anticipate this."

According to O'Connor, asphalt plants using natural gas to dry and heat their products are facing at least a 20-per-cent increase, while the cost for firms relying on heating oil have jumped 100 per cent. In addition, transporting the raw materials and finished products has increased by 10 per cent.

The hot mix industry is working with the Ministry of Transportation to develop a new liquid asphalt cost index to help address the current volatility of prices and contract language is being developed to incorporate fluctuating prices in new deals.

"We will use the Ministry of Transportation index so we don't have this problem in the future. But we have a contract in place that should be honoured by both parties," pointed out transportation commissioner Kees Schipper.

"With any contract, there is risks on both sides. If there is a delay, or reason for delay that is the fault of the region and there are extra costs, we will entertain any requests for additional claims. But that is a little different than a blanket policy."

Meanwhile, O'Connor made reference to the recent actions by the trucking industry over the increase in gasoline prices, a protest that included blocking traffic across Ontario's highways.

However, he quickly added his industry has no plans to stage a similar demonstration.

"All we can do is ask. We are not going to go out and park our trucks around this building and disrupt everybody," he said.

"But it was effective for the truckers."

# Catholic school to open in Whitchurch-Stouffville

A second Catholic elementary school is about to be built in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The 360-student school will be open in September 2001, confirmed Daniel Delbianco, a planner with the York District School Board.

While the new school was originally slated to be built at Mallard Street and Greenwood Road north of Main Street, the school board is now looking at a second location, east of the 10th Line, south of Main Street near Lori Avenue, Delbianco said.

The school property will measure five acres. The Catholic community is growing in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

There are 650 students at the town's only separate school, St. Mark Catholic School on Gladpark Avenue.

— Joan Ransberry

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