

Jennifer May saved two lives

Town 'very proud of this young lady'

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Jennifer May of Stouffville got a well-deserved hero's welcome Tuesday evening.

Accompanied by family, friends, her employer and work colleagues, the 20-year-old took to the stage at the Whitchurch-Stouffville council chambers to receive an award for heroism for saving the life of two children in separate incidents.

May, who's formally trained in first aid, was called into action in late October when a 10-year-old Ajax boy suffered an asthma attack while riding on a hay wagon at Magic Hill Farm, south of Musselman's Lake.

The asthma attack was life threatening. Within a few minutes, Shane Featherstone stopped breathing. Soon after, the 10-year-old boy's heart stopped beating.

His mother put the puffer into her son's mouth and hit the release valve. It didn't help.

The driver, alerted to the crisis, called for May, a nine-year employee. May had just completed a first aid refresher's course through St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross.

May took stock of the situ-

ation. It was obvious: This child was in serious trouble. Something had to be done. And, it had to be done fast.

"We pulled him off the wagon," said May. "He was having great difficulty. He quickly lost consciousness. He came in and out of consciousness two or three times and then he went into unconsciousness and he wouldn't come back. Seconds passed and he stopped breathing."

A 911 call had already been made. An ambulance was on its way. A few minutes passed and May determined that the boy was out of time.

Shane was quickly loaded into the back of a pickup truck along with his mother and another Magic Hill worker. May climbed into the back while reassuring the truck driver that he could make the trip.

At this time, Shane was not breathing. The other employee, also skilled in first aid, started rescue breathing (mouth to mouth).

"As we approached the front gate, we lost his pulse. It was then that I started full blown CPR," said May. "Then I lost a heart beat."

The pickup truck met the ambulance just south of



STAFF PHOTO/JOAN RANSBERRY

Jennifer May of Stouffville received a plaque from Mayor Wayne Emmerson at a meeting of town council Tuesday. May saved the life of a boy at Magic Hill Farm this fall.

Timber Creek (golf putting range). The paramedics assessed the situation.

"Because Shane's airway was so restricted, he needed resuscitation tubing placed down his throat. This was done in the ambulance."

Once at Markham Stouffville Hospital, Shane received additional emergency care.

He was then admitted for observation and has since made a full recovery.

When making the presentation, Mayor Wayne Emmerson told the audience that four years ago, May was walking along Main Street in when she came across a four-year old boy.

He was choking on a candy. May administered first aid.

"She saved him from choking to death," said Emmerson. "Everyone is very proud of this young lady," said Emmerson.

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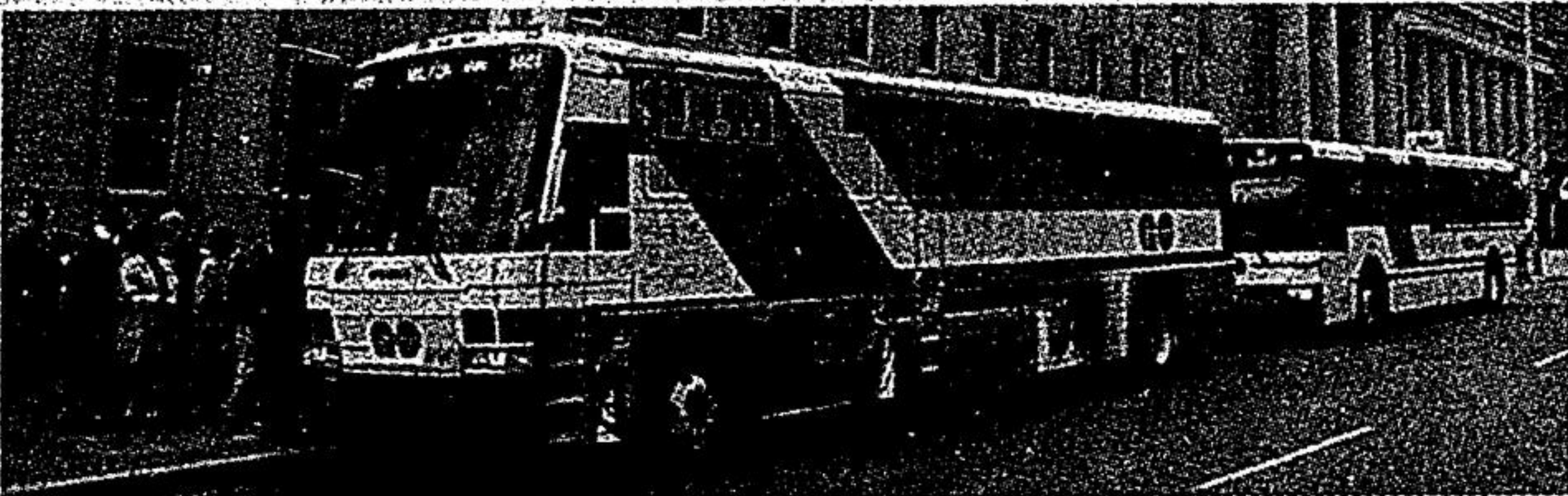
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By David Onodera, Special Correspondent

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