

# Foote has fond memories of her sporting endeavours

Former SDSS athlete of the year is happy in Singapore doing volunteer work

BY JIM THOMAS  
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It's a long way from Stouffville to Singapore.

And vice versa.

Air service takes hours and postal service takes days.

But e-mail spans the distance in seconds.

I know.

For I recently conducted my first e-mail interview over the internet. With excellent results.

During a recent visit to Stouffville District Secondary School, I took the time to survey the sports leader board outside the gymnasium. There, I noticed the name Joan Foote, voted Female Athlete of the Year 1962-63. That was 40 years ago. Her male counterpart was Ian Montgomery.

Through the process of elimination, I contacted Joan's parents, Bruce and Marie Foote in Lindsay and they put me in touch with Joan's sister, Helen, now living at Guelph. Helen forwarded me Joan's e-mail address in far away Singapore.

Thus began an interview, I asking the questions and Joan, now Mrs. Casey Chan, providing the answers.

The end result was intriguing, even amazing.

Joan (Wilson-Chan) Foote, 55, a native of Oshawa, moved to a farm on 19th Avenue in Markham at an early age. She attended Mongolia Public School and later Stouffville District Secondary School, graduating in 1967.

For two years, Joan served on the staff of Toronto Western Hospital and it was there, through a friend, she met and later married Jim Wilson, an engineering degree student attending the University of Western Ontario.

From 1974 to 1984, Joan and Jim lived and worked in Nigeria, Iran, Montreal, Alberta and Newfoundland, moving from place to place as his employment dictated.

"Africa was definitely an experience," recalls Joan, "it gave me a greater appreciation of Canada, since life in Nigeria was something less than ideal."

They escaped from Iran only a day before serious rioting broke out.

Jim died in 1985.

While employed at the Montreal General Hospital, Joan met and married Dr. Casey Chan, an orthopedic surgeon there. Before heading for Singapore, her husband's birthplace, they resided in Joplin, Missouri, and

Lubbock, Texas.

Dr. Chan presently teaches orthopedic surgery and works in the administration office at the National University Health Centre in Singapore.

Joan, now retired from nursing, concentrates on volunteer work as the same university where her husband is employed.

Joan retains fond memories of athletic involvements, both at elementary and secondary school levels. These included basketball, softball, volleyball, football, track and field and gymnastics.

"What do I remember?" she asks. "I remember smelly gyms and change rooms; fun-filled bus rides; joys and despairs of successes and failures; sore muscles; torn ligaments; pains and sprains, but most of all, team spirit and camaraderie."

Joan remembers the senior girls' basketball team winning the southern Ontario championship and being part of a relay team that set a southern Ontario record.

"I remember winning a track and field title on a badly torn left ankle after pleading with Barbara Button not to tell her father for fear he'd place my leg in a cast."

"My high school years were great years," Joan recalls, "made great by my schoolmates; by phys. ed. teachers Mr. Rehill and Miss Martinni and by my parents."

Joan says her love of sports kept her in school "and set me up for the life I now lead."

Sports, she says, taught her "the necessity of flexibility, tolerance and the need for graciousness and serenity during times of stress."

"I'll never forget Mr. Mercer," says Joan. "He gave me an appreciation of music and geometry; Mr. Smith, a love of literature; Mrs. Marlatt and Mrs. Gresham, an appreciation of languages and Mr. Marshall who I adored although I continually botched chemistry experiments."

Joan says her athletic interests decreased somewhat after school. She now concentrates on jogging and tennis.

Joan describes Singapore as "a delightful country; a clean and safe place to live."

"I can even buy Canadian tea and maple syrup here," she says.

English is the language of commerce and education.

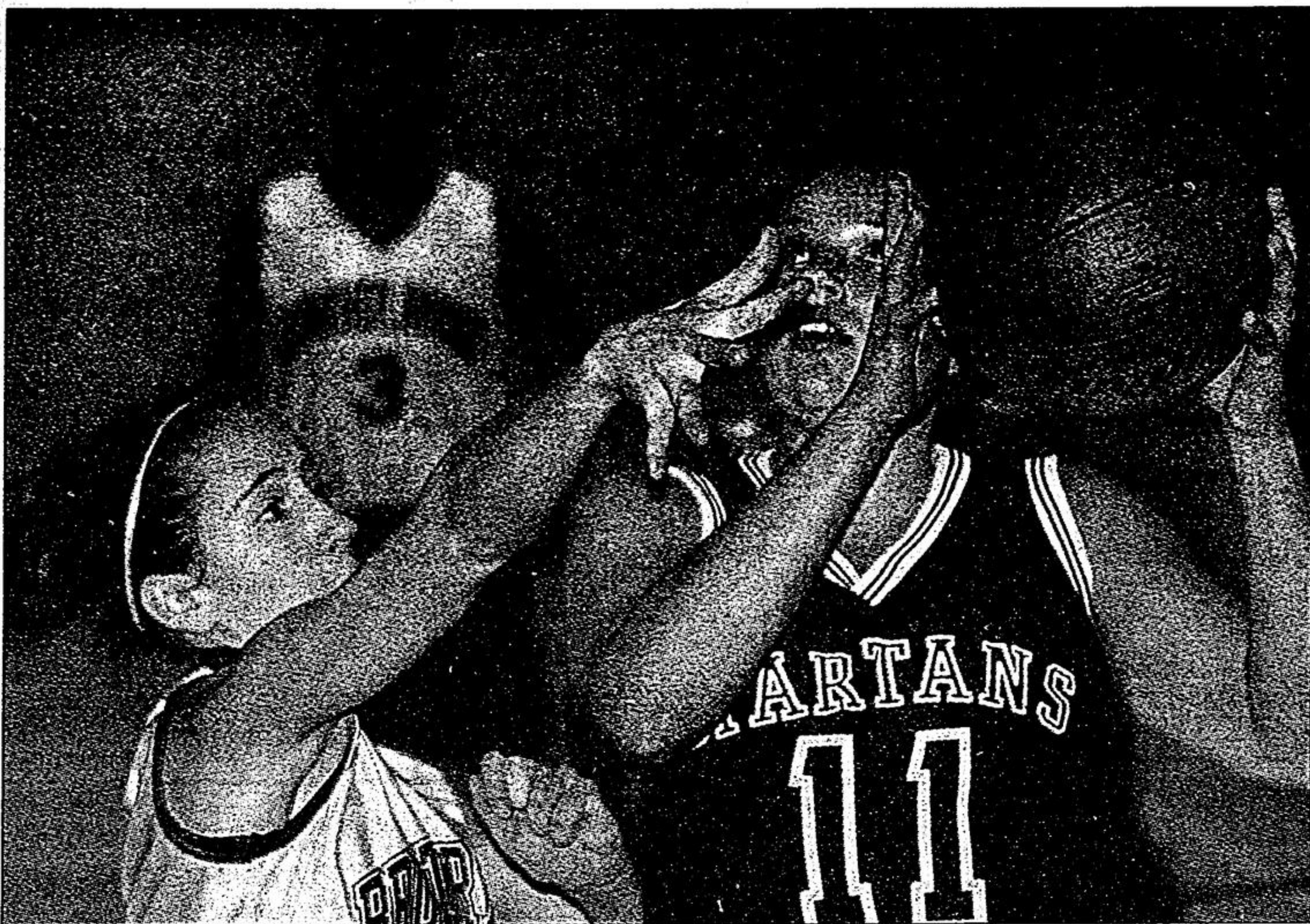
"While I don't miss shovelling snow, I do miss the changing seasons, especially spring," she says, "ripe field tomatoes and fresh sweet corn."

And Stouffville District Secondary School misses her.

While long gone, Joan (Wilson-Chan) Foote hasn't been forgotten. Her MVP accomplishment of 1962-63, etched in bronze, remains a constant reminder.



JOAN FOOTE: Former Stouffville resident was SDSS female athlete of the year in 1962-63.



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## AN EASY DRIVE TO THE BASKET

Stouffville District Secondary School's Andrea Meyer (11), drives past Brother Andre Catholic High School's Alex Laperoute to lay this ball in the basket during Monday's York Region Athletic Association senior girls' basketball contest at Stouffville. The visiting Cardinals won the game 53-21.

## SDSS' Sparks runs off with OFSAA cross-country berth

Cassie Sparks was the lone runner representing Stouffville District Secondary School that qualified for a berth at the upcoming Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships after finishing second in the York Region Athletic Association midget girls' race at Boyd Conservation Area on Wednesday.



A Grade 10 student, Sparks ran the three-kilometre event in 13:52.7. Winning the race was Kelly-Lyne Spetigue of Sir Alexander Mackenzie High School (Richmond Hill) in a time of 13:06.1.

Among other results posted by Stouffville participants, Alison Lloyd was sixth and Elana Lloyd, 12th in the junior girls' 4.2-km event.

Gillian Flanagan was eighth in the senior girls' five km run.

In the boys' field, Brian Lock finished 10th in the midget boys' five km run.

Tim Dunham was 15th in the junior boys' 6.8-km event.

Andrew Lowrie was 12th in the 7.4-km senior boys' race and Andy Gibson, 15th.

### Atom Clippers rally

Stouffville atom A Clippers overcame an early one-goal deficit to edge East Gwillimbury 6-4 last Thursday.

Tyler Barber paced the Clippers' offence with two goals while Darren Zimmerman, Peter Lebuffe, Brandon Harley and Lloyd Davis added singles.

## SPORTS DIGEST

Russell Zarzeczny, Cameron MacMurtry, Scott Miller and Ryan Brown each earned assists. Eric Lee played a solid game in goal to earn the win for the Clippers, who improved their record to 7-2-2.

### Minor bantams tie one on

Kenny Higgins scored two goals while Mitchell Raithby added one to enable the

Stouffville minor bantam Clippers to earn a 3-3 tie with the Richmond Hill Stars on Sunday.

Nick Stratas earned three assists while Cory Thomson, Michael Bigioni and Raithby added one for the Clippers, who now stand at 3-2-1 on the season.

### Minor atoms win three

The Stouffville minor atom Clippers are on a roll.

Taking to the ice for three league outings, the Clippers were victorious in each.

On Sunday, Josh Marchesney potted two goals and added one assist to ignite the Clippers to a 7-2 win over Orillia.

Steven Tait, Robbie Acton, Dalton Mayo, Michael Mingay and Matthew Miniaci added singles.

Curtis Crago and Mingay were credited with a pair of assists while Mayo, Lindsay Burrows, Jeff Leuschner, Comat

Cadaret, Tait, Miniaci, Joseph Palladino and Michael Bourgeois added one.

Last week, the Clippers took to the ice for two contests and skated off with victories over Nobleking 4-1 on Wednesday and Barrie 3-1 on Tuesday.

In its win over Nobleking, Michael Bourgeois, Acton and Cadaret each deposited a goal and an assist while Machesney added one goal. Tait and Elise Acton, Robbie's twin sister, earned one assist.

Kyle Pontone played a solid game in goal.

Against Barrie, Crago scored twice while Bourgeois was credited with the other marker.

Mayo and Robbie Acton each earned assists.

Sunday's victory came on the heels of a second-place finish the Clippers posted in a tournament at Port Perry.

After winning its first two games over Port Perry 6-2 and Cambridge 7-2, the Clippers faced Cumberland in the final before suffering a 4-2 loss.

Pontone and Travis Gibbs played well in goal for the Clippers.

### Volleyball class in session

Volleyball players who wish to improve their skills on the hardwood floor can do so on Thursday evenings at Summitview Public School.

Jim Fletcher, head instructor of Fletch's Fundamental Volleyball Camp, will teach the basic skills to boys and girls who are in Grades 6 through 10. The sessions will start at 6 p.m.

For further information, call (905) 985-1542.