

SDSS graduate off to England

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Melissa Mellor-Muir enjoyed her time spent as a member of the Stouffville Ducks swim team along with playing intramural volleyball and dodge ball at Stouffville District Secondary School.

But with graduation looming, the Grade 12 student feels the time is right to move on to bigger and better things.

"I love Stouffville District Secondary School, it's been good to me," the 17-year-old said.

"Melissa's been good to SDSS as well," physical education instructor Sharon Macfarlane said.

"She's given so much of herself for the betterment of others."

These involvements, in addition to sports, include president of the 2005-2006 student council, member of the spring prom committee and chairperson of the Canadian Cancer head shave committee.

MONEY FOR CHARITY

The latter project has raised more than \$8,000.

Ms. Mellor-Muir and Kate Devine share the school council presidency. Both are graduates of Ballantrae Public School.

She expresses regret that her high school's days are winding down.

"I like my school the way it is," she says. "It's a personal feel to



MELISSA MELLOR-MUIR: SDSS graduate will present award in honour of her late aunt.

walk down the halls and know everyone."

A new school is scheduled for completion in 2007.

Her council leadership role has taught her much about the school and herself, she said.

"I've come to appreciate what this school has to offer," she said. "I hope other students now realize this building is more than a learning centre."

She credits teachers Rob Edmondson and Ms Macfarlane for making her a better person.

Also her mother.

"My mother's made me who I am. Years ago she advised me not to sit back, not to complain

and not to continually rely on others, but to do things for myself.

"She was so right. I know it now."

In September, Ms Mellor-Muir heads to England to participate as a volunteer in a You Lead program, a venture supported by the York Region District School Board and based out of the University of British Columbia.

Eventually, she hopes to associate herself with the National School for the Blind.

As in so many things beneficial, this project comes at a price. She is attempting to raise \$4,000 plus airfare.

To date, she's topped \$2,500. Assistance has come from the Lions Club, Rotary Club and Anderson Haulage. She's holding a fundraising car wash Saturday at Houston Ford.

YEAR OVERSEAS

Ms Mellor-Muir will remain in the British Isles up to a year.

"I'll learn so much about other cultures," she said, "and about myself."

In saying farewell to Stouffville Secondary, the Saturday commencement will have more impact for her than just receiving a diploma.

She will present the Laura Goulbourne award in memory of her late aunt, killed in a motor vehicle accident several years ago.



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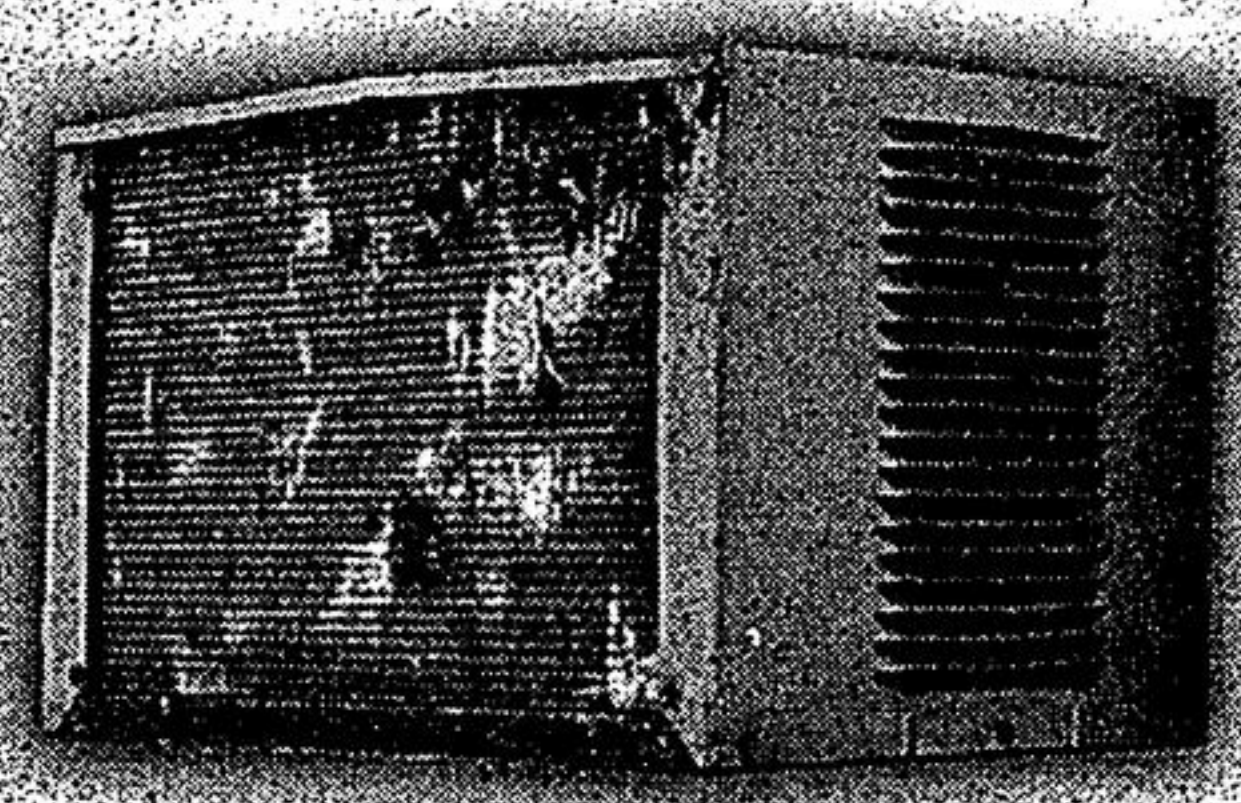
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