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LEARNING

YouTube tutored SDSS' top graduate

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Ellin Park has YouTube to thank, in part, for her 95.3-per-cent average, which made her the top Ontario Scholar at Stouffville District Secondary School this year.

"I've never been the top student," Ms Park, 18, said.

There were three keys to Ms Park's high marks. First, she's a perfectionist. "I was never satisfied when I got 90. I wanted perfect."

Secondly, she studied, a lot - during her two spares and even through her lunch periods.

And thirdly, Ms Park realized she was a visual learner. So when she didn't understand something, she'd look it up on YouTube.

Biology, chemistry and calculus were her most often searched for web videos.

Her toughest subject this year was physics. She got 94 per cent.

Come September, Ms Park, a Glad Park Public School graduate, will head to the University of Waterloo to study computer science. She wants to become a software engineer.

Also heading off to Waterloo is Steven Chan, who ended his school year with a 94.3-per-cent average.

Like Ms Park, Mr. Chan spent the year solely focused on academia.

"Whenever I do something, I have to do it right ... at a high level," the 18-



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Ellin Park and Steven Chan graduated 1-2 from Stouffville District Secondary School this year, with averages of 95.3 and 94.3 per cent, respectively.

year-old said. "You always try 100 per cent or a little bit more if you can. ... I'm really competitive."

Mr. Chan, who will be in the university's accounting co-op program, has his sights set on being a CMA.

Despite having the second highest average for the year, Mr. Chan has one regret about high school.

"I didn't get involved in enough extra-curricular activities," he said.

Although Mr. Park loves working with numbers, his favourite course last year was law because it dealt with real-life issues.

Nelumi Manikku Wadumesthri rounded

out Stouffville District's top three Ontario Scholars with a 93.6 average. She is spending the summer in Sri Lanka with her family before heading to the University of Toronto to take health sciences, according to her father.

The York Region District School Board's top scholar for 2011 is Jason Cousins of Alexander Mackenzie High School in Richmond Hill, who achieved an overall average of 99 per cent.

Thomas Pearson, an adult learner in the continuing education program - also from Richmond Hill - achieved an overall average of 99 per cent, as well.

Library funding in question

Councillors, staff take exception to math used in petition

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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"We've put the hockey players in charge of the (Whitchurch-Stouffville Public) library budget," according to resident Arnold Neufeldt-Fast who is spearheading a petition to have council develop and approve a plan that would increase per person library funding to the provincial average by 2015 and to immediately begin developing plans for a library expansion.

"It's not to create some super-based library, although we're moving into a knowledge-based society and a super library would serve us well," Mr. Neufeldt-Fast said. "The library is a critical pillar of a community and it's seriously underfunded and has been for a long time and I think it needs attention."

At the core of Mr. Neufeldt-Fast's argument is his claim that library funding, from the municipality, has declined annually since 2006. In 2009, the library was 43-per-cent below the provincial average in per-person library expenditures for communities of the same size, according to Mr. Neufeldt-Fast.

That is not the case, said Mayor Wayne Emmerson who added council has increased library funding annually.

"I suppose this resident thinks there are many more programs and books than the library needs," Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune.

In the 2011 municipal budget, the library

See LIBRARY, page 10

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