

Marathon effort pays off for Gillian

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

When Gillian Flanagan of Stouffville entered the Burlington Half Marathon in May for the first time, her goal was to run it in under two hours.

To her surprise and delight, she completed the course in just one hour, 41 minutes and 50 seconds. What's more, she achieved a very impressive placement of 126th out of 1,214 competitors. "I've been training for the marathon since February," said Ms. Flanagan, who has been a cross country runner since Grade 9.

"That's the extent of my competitive side. I've always just done (runs) on my own in the morning. (Stouffville resident) Sarah Chewins inspired me last

year when she did the full marathon in the fall, and I thought I'd give it a try," she explained.

The 19-year-old, who will study art history at the University of Waterloo this fall, plans to offset the cost of her post-secondary education by offering summer swimming lessons to local clients in partnership with fellow student Lise Gott. Both work at the town pool and have all the necessary qualifications to teach private and semi-private lessons. Their new venture, Tadpoles, is also fully insured, stressed Ms. Flanagan.

Because of the slow start to spring, enrollment has not been as brisk as they had hoped, but things are beginning to pick up now and new inquiries are welcome. For more information, or to reserve lessons, call 905-642-5559.



Gillian Flanagan placed an impressive 126th out of 1,214 contestants in her first attempt at the Burlington Half Marathon in May.

Unique opportunity for youth at Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

This year's Summer Children's Program at Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum offers 8 to 14 year olds a unique opportunity to participate in a variety of heritage craft and cooking activities.

Projects include creating a travel tray and a 3-D fan; working on wool production, and making rhubarb cordial and cheese daisies in the historic Brown House kitchen. The program runs July 23 to 25, and participants can choose between morning or afternoon sessions. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$30, or \$24 for museum members.

On July 26, the museum is hosting a Health & Health Tour for Seniors in partnership with York Region Forest. The event starts at 9 a.m. and a bus service from Stouffville will take participants to the museum, where they will visit the historic buildings and enjoy a buffet lunch before joining a leisurely hike, led by forest education coordinator Lorie Parrott, through the forest's Hollidge Tract.

A logging demonstration and refreshments will round out the day. For more information call 1-888-290-0337. Museum visitors can also enjoy the 2003 exhibit, *A Day on the Farm*, which explores technological advances in farming through the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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