

Local graduate to teach English in China

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

Stouffville resident Laura Rochacewich is leaving for China in August, where she will spend a year teaching English to

primary school students.

Ms. Rochacewich, who graduated from university this spring, has been interested in working in Asia for several years. "I knew throughout university that I wanted to go there and I know a girl who's in Japan right now," she noted. "I was also taking a lot of Chinese history (at university). My brother's old roommate went to South Korea and that's where I was looking originally, but when I came across the position in China, it seemed to be a better fit."

She sent her resume and was contacted in March for a telephone interview from China. As a result, she was hired to teach at a primary school in Jingsu Province, which is about four hours north of Shanghai by car. Her contract runs from August 15 to July 25 and if things work out well, she might consider staying on for another year. "I'll be at what they call a foreign language school, where they really encourage a lot of English speaking," she said.

Some of the classrooms have translators and all

teachers at the school speak English. "We work a regular school day and also get involved with extracurricular activities like coaching teams." Meanwhile, to prepare for her trip, she has researched teaching techniques and talked to

one of her aunts, who is a school principal. "She got me some aids for teaching English. I've also been reading up more on the culture and what's acceptable there."

Special trips will be arranged for the visiting

teachers on weekends, and part of her job will be to go out and promote the school. While she is away, she will be sharing some of her experiences in China with *Stouffville This Month* readers.



Stouffville resident Laura Rochacewich is preparing to leave for China in August to take up a position teaching English to primary school students in Jingsu Province. She will be sharing some of her impressions during her visit with *Stouffville This Month* readers.

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