

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exploring Our Canadian Identity

QMS student named by Rotary as Cowichan Valley Delegate

April 10, 2017 - Duncan, BC, Canada – For one Queen Margaret's School student, exploring what it means to be Canadian and engaging in our political system from the heart of Ottawa is about to become a reality. Grade 11 student *Arrington Bricker* has been selected to represent the Cowichan Valley in the *2017 Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program* in Ontario.

Arrington's adventure began in October 2016 when she learned about the national Rotary program. "I was really interested in political science and this trip intrigued me. It seemed like an exciting way to learn more about, and engage with, our government," explains Bricker. She was informed shortly after applying that all positions had been filled, but then the eager student got a lucky break. "A space opened up, so I was invited by the Rotary to a panel interview with other local students. The questions were really hard, and I felt I hadn't performed well. So when I received the call saying I was selected, I was happily surprised."

Nick Woywitka, Program Chair for the Rotary Club of Duncan, shares that he and his fellow panelists were impressed by Arrington's essay on "What does being a Canadian citizen mean to you?" and her ability to answer the panel members' questions. "We assessed the candidates' academic standing, leadership skills, and community service activities outside of school hours," explains Woywitka. "Arrington came out on top in all of these categories."

In partnership with Daybreak Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Duncan is sending Arrington to Ottawa **April 30-May 3**. She will attend the conference with 220 other students from across Canada for a unique opportunity to come together and gain a better understanding of our country. Through meetings with political leaders, senior officials and others, students will learn about the workings of Canadian democratic institutions. Through meeting one another in this type of event, participants learn to appreciate the diversity of Canada, as well as the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

Though Arrington confesses that while the anticipation has been stressful, she is incredibly excited and honoured to have been chosen. "I'm looking forward to meeting students from across the country and discovering what their personal perspectives are on national identity. This whole experience will be invaluable as I move toward my future career goal of working in public relations."

About Queen Margaret's School

Established in 1921, **Queen Margaret's School (QMS)** is located on 27 country-like acres in Duncan, BC. QMS offers a co-ed Early Childhood Education program, co-ed Junior School (Kindergarten-Grade 7), University-Preparatory High School for girls (Grades 8-12) and all girls Boarding School (Grades 6-12). Queen Margaret's School is home to Canada's *only* on-campus school English riding and academic Equestrian Program. The school's comprehensive scholastic and extra-curricular program provide opportunities for achievement and personal growth through academics, sports, visual and performing arts, riding and community service. We prepare students for university, for higher education, for life.

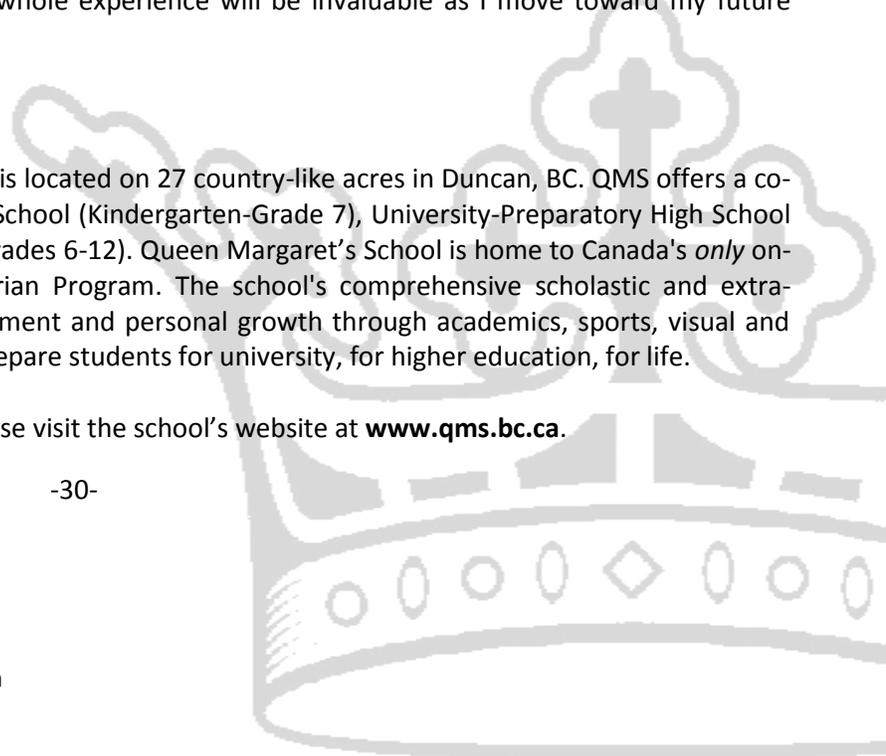
For more details about Queen Margaret's School, please visit the school's website at www.qms.bc.ca.

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Photo: QMS Grade 11 student *Arrington Bricker* has been selected to travel to Ottawa as the Cowichan Valley delegate for the *2017 Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program*.

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