

Whitby boy outfits Canadian soldiers

By Parvaneh Pessian

January 5, 2009

WHITBY -- Eamon Stocks may only be seven years old but he carries a heavy load on his back -- the weight of three hockey bags to be exact.

The Grade 2 student at John Dryden Public School in Whitby recently took on a mighty goal of collecting sports equipment to send over to Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The endeavour was part of a school project called *Who is Nobody*, designed to allow students the opportunity to help others in their community through creative initiatives.



Eamon Stocks. WHITBY -- Eamon Stocks pictured with the sports equipment he collected for Canadian soldiers thanks to donations from various local sports clubs. *Submitted photo*

"I was doing my project and it was close to Remembrance Day so I decided to help the soldiers," he said, adding his uncle had recently returned from serving overseas.

"We asked him what do they need and he told us sports equipment for when they're not working."

Eamon kicked off the initiative by contacting sports clubs from across the region and requesting that donations be made toward the cause.

Several local groups including Durham Attack, the Durham Ultimate Club, the Whitby Minor Baseball Association, the Whitby Minor Lacrosse Association and the Whitby Iroquois Soccer Club (WISC) enthusiastically joined the effort.

"When I got the original e-mail, I was shocked that a little guy would even be thinking about something like this," said Bill Sidsworth, executive director of WISC that donated soccer balls.

"It took me about two seconds to phone them and say anything you want, I'll give you . . . it's great because

it reminds (the soldiers) that everybody back home is thinking about them.”

The giant bags were stuffed with volleyballs, baseballs, footballs, frisbees and other sports equipment that Canada Post recently shipped over free of charge.

The project allowed Eamon to understand how far one can go if they truly have a deep desire to help out, his mother Sherri Stocks said.

“We were both absolutely amazed at the generosity of the community. Everyone jumped on board without hesitation and Eamon has learned that we live in a wonderful, caring, helpful community.”

This article is for personal use only courtesy of DurhamRegion.com - a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.
