

Peel Bog.

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Bush, Brenda



Brenda Bush shows medal she won for achieving top marks in Grade 7 piano.

Almost totally blind; she tops Conservatory

A 17-year-old music lover, who is almost totally blind, has been awarded a silver medal by the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Brenda Bush of Muir Dr. in Mississauga achieved top marks from across Ontario in Grade 7 piano and received honors in singing. The award is presented twice a year to the student with the highest standing in each music grade.

Brenda can barely decipher sheet music. Her eyesight has been deteriorating since she was eight years old and now she has two per cent vision in one eye and tunnel vision in the other.

"I really like music so my eyes don't get in the way," she says. "I'll memorize or play by ear."

The Grade 12 student at Gordon Graydon secondary school is part of a group of students who sing "for

charity." Members have staged concerts at the school, Extencare Nursing Home and at W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind in Brantford.

Brenda was a student there from September to November but will return to Gordon Graydon in January.

With some extra help, special textbooks and her knowledge of Braille, Brenda says she'll continue on at the school closer to home.

She would like a career in music, "perhaps piano or singing." She has studied music for six years and doesn't ever intend to let it go.

"It's getting harder to read sheet music but I still can a bit. I guess I'll soon have to learn it in Braille, which is more difficult. "But no way will I give it up."