

# Stolen Special Olympics medals finally recovered

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HAMILTON (CP) — A Special Olympics swimming champion is overjoyed after police recovered three gold medals stolen from her home last week.

“I’m just so happy,” Alanna Henwood, 19, said Wednesday. “I thought they were gone for good.”

Police recovered the medals after arresting a youth late Tuesday.

Henwood’s mother, Delores, said some of her faith in humanity — which faded after Friday’s break-in — was restored this week.

“People have been absolutely wonderful,” she said, referring to the outpouring of concern and sympathy from Hamiltonians over the theft.

“It hit my heart, all these people. There was one man who wanted to take one of the medals from one of the other athletes and get it copied for Alanna. Someone else had a reward set up for the medals.”

A good-luck anklet given to Henwood by her coach, which was also stolen, has not been recovered.

Henwood broke her own Canadian records this month when she competed in the 1995 Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, Conn.

She won gold in the 50-metre freestyle, 50-metre backstroke and 100-metre backstroke.

More than 7,000 athletes from 140 countries competed in 19 Olympic-style sports.



ALENNA HENWOOD