Halton school board recognizes Milton teacher's dedication

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Mike Druiven is an inspiration to his students. So it's fitting that he became the first Milton recipient of the Halton District School Board (HDSB) Trustees' Inspire award.

The Craig Kielburger Secondary School (CKSS) teacher was presented the award last week by HDSB Milton trustee Kim Graves.

Druiven, who quietly works behind the scenes, invited his entire Robotics team to the presentation in the school's cafeteria, where they clapped loudly and congratulated him on his achievement.

Halton District School Board trustee Kim Graves presents Craig Kielburger Secondary School teacher Mike Druiven with the board's Inspire Award. *Julie Slack / Canadian Champion*

Inspire awards are given to an individual who goes above and beyond to support students and their achievements through exemplary, caring, initiative, innovation and creativity.

Members of CKSS Spartans Robotics team nominated Druiven for the award.

Students have always come first to Druiven, who's led his school to many victories in the competitive robotics scene. The long-time Milton teacher first introduced the club to CKSS in 2013. At the time, 20 students came out. Today, the club's popularity has grown to include more than 45 members — in part because of the popularity of robotics, but most likely because of the enthusiasm with which the technological studies teacher has approached it.

Students meet twice a week. In January, as they prepare for their biggest competition — building their robot — they meet three times a week until 10 p.m., and all-day Saturday to ensure everything runs to perfection.

As inspiring as he may be, Druiven said it's the students who are the real inspiration.

"It's amazing to see what the kids learn in an unstructured environment with no bells, and no curriculum," he said. "The personal growth they gain from working with others and learning team skills is great."

Druiven is retiring from teaching in the spring, but will continue to make the drive from his future home near Woodstock to run the club.

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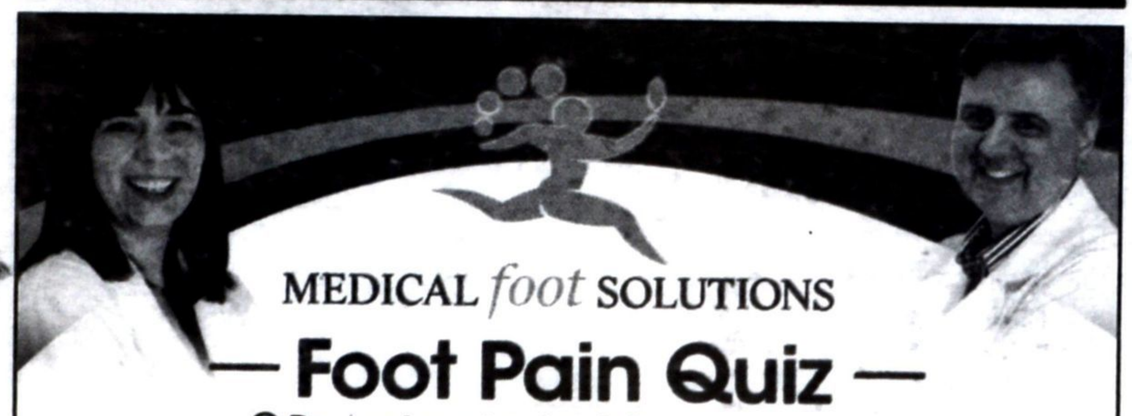

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