

2002
School
Literary
Competition

Views of the future

By **EILEEN BRYDGES**
Special to the Mercury

Your view of the future may differ vastly from your neighbour's.

Could you put your view of the future into 250 words on paper, in good handwriting, with correct grammar, paragraphing and punctuation?

Unless you were challenged you probably would not try.

Burnstown Women's Institute felt that a child's ability to do this was a step in the right direction of a successful future.

They challenged the 218 pupils at the Grade four level in 10 local schools to write an essay on this topic, because part of the mission of the Women's Institute is to provide educational opportunities for people in the community and to assist students in pursuing higher education.

The essay was not a school assignment, the writing was optional but 54 Grade fours rose to the challenge and submitted 54 excellent essays. Four judges – Tim Gordon, Rosemary Kenopic, Carolyn Polk

and Cari Forteath spent an afternoon reading and grading these writings and were amazed at the literary talent displayed. Their imaginative efforts, active imaginations and creative stylings made it difficult to come up with seven winners.

Each entrant received an admission pass to the Renfrew Fair where their essays will be displayed for all to read. The seven winners are invited to supper as guests of the Burnstown WI in June where they will read their prize-winning submissions to those present.

The future of our land belongs to the children and it will be in good hands.

The seven money prize-winners were: 1st Malcolm Cairnie, Central Public School; 2nd Sarah Dougherty, Horton Public School; 3rd Caitlin Dougherty, Horton Public School; 4th Amy Bell, Queen Elizabeth Public School; 5th Nathan Scott, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Most Original Stacey Bates, St. Thomas the Apostle; Best Presentation Amber Stufko, Queen Elizabeth Public School.



Marie Ingram poses with the winners of the Burnstown Women's Institute Literary Competition. The winners were invited to a WI dinner meeting at the Burnstown Church last Thursday night, where the students read their winning compositions. The first-place prize of \$35 went to Malcolm Cairnie of Central Public School, pictured in front. Left of him is best presentation prize winner Amber Stufko of Queen Elizabeth School; and back row left to right are most original story author Stacey Bates of St. Thomas the Apostle School, third-place winner Caitlyn Dougherty of Horton Public School and second-place winner Sarah Dougherty of Horton Public School.

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