

# Cobden student shines in provincial French public speaking contest *Apr 30/86*

Two students from Cobden & District Elementary School competed in the Provincial French public speaking contest (Concours d'Art Oratoire) finals held April 19th at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

The two students, Rebecca Langstaff and Nicolas Petermann, both made their school very proud of them.

Rebecca placed third in the provincial competition and received a medallion for her efforts. She was entered in the junior division (grades four to six) in category B with 2500 hours or less of French instruction. Although the ten-year-old native of Cobden had only 411 hours of French instruction, she competed, with students who received up to 2500 hours of French.

The speech that earned Rebecca her third place finish was on the Crossroads Community Club. The club makes trails for cross country skiing, in addition to working in other areas concerning the community. Rebecca is a member of the girl guides and is currently taking music lessons. The excitement of going to Toronto was her favourite part of the contest.

Nicolas Petermann, a native of Switzerland, who has been living in Cobden for six years, also made the finals in the C francophone category. His speech was about an adventure to Algonquin Park, and an experience with a bear he encountered.

Although Nicolas didn't receive a medallion for the outstanding delivery of his topic, his spirit and determination have not suffered. The 13-year-old, who competed in the grade seven to eight category, will enter the competition again next year. Nicolas says his favourite part of the Toronto trip was ascending the famous C.N. Tower.

Diane Matthieu, French teacher at Cobden Elementary School, worked with

the students on their topics, but stresses that they wrote the speeches on their own. She says the students conducted themselves exceptionally well, and that they brought pride to the

Renfrew County Board of Education. All who participated in the contest received a T-shirt with a contest logo, and a certificate.

The provincial public

speaking competition was sponsored by the C.P.R. (Canadian Parents for French) and the O.M.L.T.A. (Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association).



Rebecca Langstaff and Nicolas Petermann from Cobden Elementary School, competed in the all Ontario French Public Speaking Contest. The contest was held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. They are seen here with Diane Matthieu, teacher at Cobden Elementary. Diane assisted the students with their speeches.