

Diplomas, awards presented at commencement

Three Ontario scholars, 32 grade 13 graduates and 84 grade 12 graduates were the centre of attention at Acton high school's commencement exercises Friday evening.

The atmosphere was informal with a new setting and decorations; pleasant comments by staff members introducing the top students and a valedictory address that was unusual and very personal.

Joyous occasion

The gym floor was filled with seats arranged in a large semi-circle around a low platform, where teacher Sue Burns presided over dozens of rolled and ribboned diplomas. Streamers in school colors, red and white, were flanked by big styrofoam plaques painted in red and white graphics.

Graduations shouldn't be sombre and solemn affairs, Boris Shean told the crowd. They should be joyous. After all, it's a reunion. These students haven't all been together since June.

He introduced the program of

awards.

Top scholars

The three charming Ontario scholars were introduced, Christine Brunelle, Bonnie Garvin and Jacqueline Lemon, and received their scholarships from assistant superintendent K. Thomas assisted by teacher Keith Black.

Stephanie Merrin, winner of various grade 13 awards for high marks, was not eligible for an Ontario scholarship since she completed five years of high school in four years and one summer. Now a student at the University of Guelph with medicine her goal, Stephanie received the Franklin H. Cook prize in English, value \$200, from Ken Ellis; the Beardmore award, value \$200 from chief chemist John Griefeneder; and the Building Products award value \$50 presented by Kevin Conroy.

Chris Brunelle received the Force Electric Products award, value \$50 from the former head of moderns Mrs. Marion Reed; the Halton County Board of Education achievement award,

value \$100 from board member Tom Watson; and the Hurst Memorial award value \$25 for grade 13 history, which had been previously presented.

Early admission

Stephen Yu, who had spring admission to the University of Guelph, not completing grade 13 in Acton, accepted the H.K. Porter award, value \$25, presented by Bill Pendleton and the Canada Trust bursary for mathematics presented by teacher Bill Coats.

Other special presentations: The University Women's scholarship value \$50 to Nancy Lee presented by Mrs. Reed.

Talented grad

The high school staff scholarship value \$100 to Joe Petric presented by head of science Alan Eastwood. (Mr. Shean commented Joe must be one of Acton's most talented grads.)

The Legion scholarship value \$50 to Dianne Fisher presented by Doug Guthrie.

Halton County Board of Education achievement awards

value \$50, presented for grade 12, to Barbara Beier by Mr. Watson. The Amos Mason Rotary scholarship value \$50 for nursing presented to Donna McCabe by Ted Hansen.

Goy Cartage centennial bursary value \$75 each to Barbara Beier, Jessie Ann Davidson and Dianne Bonnette presented by commercial head Ian McGillivray.

The Dr. D. A. Garrett award value \$25 to Jackie Lemon, presented by Mr. Eastwood.

Acton Pharmacy awards in math value \$25 each to Julie Smith and Bonnie Garvin, presented by Mr. McGillivray.

Thompson Fuels awards value \$25 to Sherry Prucyk presented by Mr. Ellis.

Memorial award

Clara Grindley memorial bursary value \$50 presented to Carol Masales by Mrs. Pat Frizzell.

Dr. Ethel Chapman scholarship value \$100, the first annual award for 4-H work, to Cathy Lasby by Mrs. M. Nellis.

Halton District W. I. award value \$40 to Nancy Snow by Mrs. Nellis.

Lakeside chapter I.O.D.E. bursary, a new award, to Leo Donkersloot, a married grade 12 graduate who returned to school to continue his education, by Mrs. Marguerite Taylor.

The E. G. Tyler award value \$35 to Ray Blyth, presented by Ted Tyler Jr.

Sheila Jamieson was not present to receive her Watson Dairy Bar award value \$25 from Mr. Watson.

Separate awards

High school awards, presented privately to non-graduating students, are:

The First Line Television Award—Grade 9 English, value \$15 Janet Allan; The Beardmore and Company Award—Grade 9 Science, value \$15 Robert Vinski; The Caroline Nurseries Award, Grade 10 English, value \$15 Caroline Merrin; the Ledger's IGA Scholarship—Grade 10 Home Economics, value \$25 Dolline DeShaies.

The Family Store Award—Grade 10 Science, value \$10 Glen Lee; the Manning Electric Award—Grade 10 Mathematics, value \$10 Lynn Nielsen; the Acton Canadian Tire Corporation Award—Grade 10 Industrial Arts, value \$10 Glen Lee; the

Nielsen's Clothing Prize—Grade 10 French Andrea Broostad. The Indusmin Award—Grade 10 Environmental Science, value \$25 Roger McGillivray; the A-B Supermarket Award—Grade 11 English, value \$25 Judy Rody; the Dr. L. Embrack Award—Grade 11 Biology, value \$25 Glen Lee; Denny's Insurance Prize—Grade 11 Bookkeeping, Susan Patrick; the Beardmore and Company Award—Grade 12 Chemistry, Value \$100 Robert Ellerby.

Dreams come true

Assistant principal Joe Bray welcomed the many parents and friends of the graduates to open the program.

At its close, principal David Katz added his congratulations, expressed his hope that the grads' dreams and wishes would come true and that they would continue to be a source of pride to their community.

Specially prepared fancy sandwiches, cookies, punch and coffee were served in the school cafeteria by girls under the direction of home economics teacher Mrs. Skoropad.

Banquet at M.Z.B.

A banquet for all the grade 13 and 12 graduates was served in the M. Z. Bennett school before the graduation program.



PRINCIPAL David Katz congratulates Joe Petric on receiving his honor graduation diploma Friday at commencement.—(Staff Photo)

Time mellowers bitterness for h.s. valedictorian

Her change of feelings in five months were traced by the attractive, slim valedictorian, Chris Brunelle. The Ontario scholar, now attending the University of Guelph, doesn't feel the same now as she did the last day of school, she explained to her attentive audience at commencement Friday.

Last June I would have said "Thanks for wasting the best years of my life." She was disgusted on the last day of high school, not sad. Then, she would have found writing a valedictory address easier, she said. She felt that she had learned apathy and hate at high school.

Moved along

"Time moved on and I moved with it," Chris went on. Bitterness is no good. Time has a mellowing effect.

In her five years, there was such a potential for creative activity, yet so much seemed useless. "Must I be unhappy to have a developed mind?"

"In many respects school was good to me," she said. She

mentioned her trip to Newfoundland as a Young Voyageur; two provincial conferences, the student council, and her chance to be a "local movie star" and director in the school film.

Happiness hard

Then, there was a sense of togetherness, she felt. Even complaining together produced a "secure feeling." Being happy was hard, and I was lazy, she admitted.

"We must be honest with ourselves and others. Finally I feel sad... I must go on by myself, to find myself in the world."

Teacher's praise

Introducing the valedictorian, English department head Ken Ellis said he was proud to have worked with Chris Brunelle and she was one of the finest people he had ever met. He reviewed some personal reminiscences, referring especially to her creativity.

The valedictorian medal was presented to Miss Brunelle, after her address, by student council president Hank Wissenz.



APPEALING valedictorian, Chris Brunelle also received several awards. She was one of Acton High school's three Ontario scholars.—(Staff Photo)

Steven Garrett, Mike Gervais, Nancy Gibson, Betty Ginger, Lynda Harris, David Hodgson, Judy Howson, Sheila Jamieson, Sherry Johnston, Dolores Jordan, Susan Kidd, Linda Kirkwood, Bob Krul, Robert Lasby, John Last.

Vetma Linham, Carolyne Mackenzie, Roy Maioprize, David Manes, Robert Manning, Gertrude Maron, Donna McCabe, Nancy McCutcheon, Stephanie Merrin, Andy Miller, Gord Morris, Phil Morris.

Mark Nielsen, Norine Noble, Beverly Norton, Frank Oudesluis, Marg Papillon, Carol Patterson, Iona Piehl, Paula Prucyk, Sherry Prucyk, Laurene

Rennick, John Roszell, Ted Saitz, Bill Severinski, Karen Shortill, Marg Slaven, Cathy Smith, Bob Smith, Pam Snow, Heather Strongitharm, Leona Synnot, Anita Thibodeau, Carolyn Thompson, Ellie Toebes, Dianne Tremblay, Henry Van Stralen, Jane Watson, Ann Whatmough, Peggy Wheeler, Ellen Wissenz, Helen Woodhouse.

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Grades 12, 13 grads stars of commencement

Almost all the grade 13 graduates were present at graduation to accept their diplomas from mathematics head Brian Downes and board of education member George Pelletier.

Honor graduates are:

Diane Bonnette, Chris Brunelle, Mike Cooper, Jessie Ann Davidson, Ray Denny, Dianne Fisher, Sharon Froehlich, Bonnie Garvin, Ray Hibbard, Bonnie Jones, Dick Kuiperij, Cathy Lasby, Nancy Lee.

Lorraine Lefebvre, Jackie Lemon, Sheri Lott, Carol Masales, Stephanie Merrin, Shirley Mitchell, Linda Perry, Joe Petric, Lucienne Pratt, Shirley Sayers, Nigel Scott,

Debbie Slingerland, Julie Smith, Nancy Snow, Scott Watson.

Grade 12 grads

Grade 12 graduates filed to the platform to receive their certificates from board member Vern Connell assisted by Mr. Coats.

They were:

Nancy Abram, Marilyn Barber, Barb Beier, Doris Black, Rae Blyth, Deborah Bould, Barry Breen, Barb Browne, Judy Cameron, Anne Cavlovic, Randy Coker, Tim Coles.
Sheila Collett, Kathy Cook, Mike Cooper, Paul Cooper, Ray Denny, Leo Donkersloot, Cathy Dunn, Lynn Dunn, Robert Ellerby, Ursula Fiedler, Dianne Frank, Mary Ann Freuler.



STEPHANIE MERRIN shows her grade 13 honor graduation diploma to young brother James. She's at the U. of Guelph and hopes to study medicine.—(Staff photo)

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