



Nineteen of Georgetown high school's 21 Ontario scholars posed for a group shot at Saturday's commencement. Receiving the awards, indicating average marks of 80 per cent or better in six grade 13 courses were: James Allan, Charles Babic, Richard Fisher, Carrie Gibbs, Brian Grady, Paul Howard, Mary Kentner, Helen Kristensen, Brenda Lawrence, Leanne Mackie,

Kenneth Marchant, David Medler, Toni Mills, Andrew Norris, Gordon Payne, Thomas Plucinsky, Margaret Schubert, Kevin Searle, Cydney Sherry, Sherry Smeaton, Anthony Smith, Robert Turner, Yvonne Wygergangs, Christine Zauder.

# School's enhanced status evidence of grads' success

Georgetown District High School bid congratulations and farewell Saturday to a graduating class that, by all accounts, deserves most of the credit for giving GDHS regional, provincial and even national prominence among Canadian schools that have recorded high academic and athletic achievements.

More than 450 of last year's Grades 12 and 13 students returned to their alma mater for a three-hour afternoon commencement ceremony witnessed by relatives, friends and faculty who jammed the school's cafeteria.

Highlighting the exercise were complimentary addresses from principal Michael Furlong and Grade 13 valedictorian Helen Kristensen, both of whom offered humorous anecdotes from the past five years involving teachers and students, while at the same time firmly testifying to the school's increasingly important status among other Ontario high schools.



"Tomorrow" from the musical Annie.

As well as speaking on her former classmates' behalf, Miss Kristensen was among the many students who received special Honor Graduation Awards for outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments.

She was one of 21 Ontario Scholars presented with special diplomas indicating average grades of 80 per cent or better and shared the Hyman Silver Memorial Award with Charles Babic for "general proficiency". Standard Products, a Georgetown firm which annually presents many awards to GDHS grads, gave Helen its Communications award for proficiency in two languages. The school's English department recognized her as top Grade 13 English student and additional tributes came in the form of the Principal's Award and the Mrs. Jessie Glynn Award for valedictorians.

The Halton Hills Herald Award for the Grade 12 graduate of a commercial program who is now employed went to Geraldine Emmett. Miss Emmett also won Standard Products' Commercial Award for proficiency in business education.

Other special awards included: Halton Board of Education Proficiency Award for the highest Grade 13 standing: Paul Howard; GDHS Faculty Scholarship: Robert Turner; J.L. Lambert Proficiency Award named for the former GDHS principal and presented for high marks and good school citizenship: Harold Porter; Anya Pearce Award for general proficiency: Antony Smith; Kinette Club of Georgetown (Margaret Higham Memorial) Award for a female graduate with high marks and good school citizenship: Sherry Smeaton; IODE, Countess of Strathmore Chapter Award for the most outstanding progress: John Barnes; University Women's Club Awards for female leadership in school and community activities: Leanne Mackie, for the female student most deserving on the basis of performance: Kim Hallburton; Verdun Rebekah Lodge Awards to two grads continuing education elsewhere: Thomas Plucinsky and Kevin Searle; Knights of Columbus Award for highest standing in sociology: Carrie Gibbs; A.M. Baxter Award for top science student: Michael East; Edward P. Hasselt Award for top English student: Brian Grady; Standard Products Awards for art: Laura Taras; social science: Kenneth Marchant; technical credits: George Lock; music: Peter Welsh; business education: (three-year program) Sara Bedirian; for highest averages: Jennifer Pepper, Stephen Lucas (year one); Sandra Lovegrove, Richard Helshaw (year two); and Suzanne Abray, Kevin Fitzgerald (year three); Maurice Charles Hillcock Award for top French student in Grade 12: Shelley Farrar; United Auto Workers: Local 1421 Awards in English: Paul Howard, in math and science: Robert Turner; physical education: Jonathan Lancaster; in communications (Grade 12): Barbara Major, in math and science (Grade 12): Douglas Fisher, in social science (Grade 12): Hillary McMullin; John R. McDonald Plaque for proficiency in Canadian social studies: Laura Cannon; Rotary Club Achievement Award for outstanding perseverance in gaining significant scholastic achievement: Nicola Biggs; Oscar Robb Plaque for highest overall standing in technical program: George Lock; Catholic Women's League Award for combining proficiency and citizenship in Grade 12: Barbara Trevisanus; Business Department Award: Karen Wickens.

The school's student council recognized outstanding achievements by four students: Melitta Gassner received the Citizenship Award of Merit, Alison Hitchell the gold medalion, Kim Hallburton the silver and Leanne Mackie the bronze.

Special recognition also went to graduates who have received scholarships: Entrance scholarships for the University of Western Ontario went to Helen Kristensen and Meredith McLaren; for Wilfrid Laurier University to Sherry Smeaton; and for the University of Toronto to Carrie Gibbs and Paul Howard; Robert Turner received the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft of Canada Ltd. Scholarship; Jan Lancaster received an athletic scholarship to Georgia Tech.

Students receiving Grade 13 graduation diplomas were: James Allen, Catherine Arbuckle, Ruth Arrington, Julie Armstrong, Charles Babic, John Baker, Patricia Barber, John Barnes, Fergus Barnes, Bonnie Berkeff, Catherine Beckert, Russell Bennett, Nicola Biggs, Arnold Brakel, Carolyn Brett, Kevin Brown, Laura Cannon, Michael Cannon, William Carson, Ian Clark, Andra Clever, Susan Coomber, Keith Davies, Wayne Daell, Eric Douglas, Michael East, Annaliese Edwards, Christine Edwards, Michael Enan, Mark Euleneier, Richard Fisher, John Fortney, Pamela Evans, George Garrard, Melitta Gassner, Carrie Gibbs, Jane Gilmour, Brian Grady, Christopher Haid, Scott Haines, Kim Hallburton, Melanie Harris, Mark Harrison, David Heller, William Henderson, Karen Herbert, Jocelyn Hewson, Paul Howard, Jeffrey Hubert, Joe Huki, Brenda Jamer, Don Johnson, Lee Johnston, Steven Johnston, Deborah Jones, Pradeep Kalsi, John Karolidis, Judith Kennedy, Mary Kentner, Jane Kirby, Helen Kristensen, Kathy Kuchmasch, Brenda Lawrence, Michel Leblanc, Nicole Lemay, Nancy Lieder, Randall Lighterkin, Laurie MacDonald, Leanne Mackie, Elizabeth Mackinnon, Teresa Mackinnon, Brian Macleod, Teresa McCall, Catherine Mandarino, Kenneth Marchant, Susan McHale, Meredith McLaren, David Medler, Alfred Miraloff, Kelly Mieczanec, Toni

Mills, Monica Moeschler, Robin Montgomery, Kim Moody.

(Continued on page A6)

## Valedictory address

# Teacher's help appreciated 'now, more than ever'

Following is a condensed version of Helen Kristensen's valedictory address delivered Saturday afternoon at the Georgetown District High School annual commencement:

"Already it seems like years since we were here together; so much has happened during the summer and fall. We've reached the end of one bend in the winding road of life. Here at school, we shared a common road, but now we are parting, each taking different paths leading to jobs, colleges and university. It is here, though, that the directions toward the next bend in the road were found.

When people ask me where I'm from, I'm proud to say I'm from Georgetown and that I went to GDHS. Anyone involved in athletics has heard of the Rebels because in the five years we were here, this school accomplished a lot of things.

Having been on the cross-country team, I can say we've been the top school in Ontario for the last five years. The wrestling team, swim team and gymnastics team all posed major threats at OFSSA and all our other teams showed well in the county, except, of course, the

football team, but at least they gave it their best. Georgetown is known throughout the province and we are part of the reason.

We can never go back, but we have our memories, and

onus. There have been many times this fall that I've wished I was back here, that university was still a year away, but you just can't go back. I wish I had thought of that every time I complained

On behalf of all the graduates, I'd like to thank the GDHS teaching staff for helping us make it through. You are competent, devoted and the best group of people we could possibly call our friends. Our success in the future will be due in part to you. We appreciate everything you've done - now, more than ever.

And thank you parents. You can be proud of us. We've got our high school diploma. Someday in today's world that doesn't mean much; it doesn't guarantee us a job; but to us it means a lot. It means we have the ability to work hard and achieve our goals in life.

And fellow graduates: Congratulations. Together we've made it through the triumphs and the traumas, the laughter and the tears. We've not only got an education in school, but an education in life. Not only can we integrate, differentiate, read and analyze, but we can work and co-operate with each other. I thank all of you for being a part of the most memorable years of my life.

GDHS made a mark on our lives; now it's time for us to go out into the world and make a mark of our own. We're ready for it!"

## 'GDHS made a mark on our lives. Now it's time for us to go out into the world and make a mark of our own. We're ready!'

even the bad memories seem good just because they're there. Years from now, will someone walk down these halls and feel our presence? It seems we left no mark on this place, but it left a mark

about having to go to school. If only I'd taken it for what it was and enjoyed it to the fullest. In the future, I'll try to think that way, because now I know how fast five years can fly.

Don't Walk... RUN to our Home Furnishings

# STORE-WIDE CLEARANCE SALE

**HURRY! Now's**  
Your chance to save on  
Quality Furniture...

**SAVE UP TO 50% on**

- DINING ROOM SUITES
- LIVING ROOM SUITES
- KITCHEN SUITES
- SEALY BOX SPRING & MATTRESS SETS
- WALL UNITS
- COFFEE TABLES
- LAMPS
- PICTURES

and much, much more...

**SHOP EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION**

Every item in stock reduced to clear at prices you won't believe...

**IMMEDIATE DELIVERY**

PERSONAL SHOPPING ONLY

**robert Gougeon**

**HOUSEHOLD FURNISHING**

**95 MAIN ST. S. GEORGETOWN**



Georgetown District High School's valedictorian for 1980, Helen Kristensen, was among graduates rewarded for scholastic achievements during the school's annual commencement Saturday afternoon. Among Helen's prizes was the Principal's Award, presented by GDHS' Michael Furlong, seen here congratulating Miss Kristensen following the ceremony. (Herald photo)

Mr. Furlong cited a lengthy list of recent achievements by GDHS students in both scholastic and athletic programs to urge the graduates to maintain pride in their old school. All too often, he complained in impassioned and emotional terms, the public outside the school over-reacts to negative and media reports on problems within the school.

Despite their general ignorance of the school's workings, he said, detractors seize upon isolated evidence of drug abuse, vandalism and other problems to criticize its administration and teaching methods.

The principal's purposefully ad-libbed speech gave further credence to the exemplary school spirit nurtured by students and faculty over the past five years. The greatly-enhanced rapport bonding graduates and their former teachers was evident Saturday to all outsiders.

"This school's got a lot of heart," John Bradley of the Halton Board of Education acknowledged, joining Mr. Furlong and Miss Kristensen in applauding numerous school achievements, including most recently the GDHS Terry Fox Day, during which a majority of school staff, faculty and student body members took to the outdoor track to raise more funds for the Marathon of Hope cancer fighter.

Miss Kristensen's valedictory address (see excerpts this page) alternated between humorous reminders of former teachers' habits - Miss Harrison's impulsive shaking of front row desks in response to wrong answers from the back of her French class or Miss Gooding's portrayal of the sugarplum fairy in a teacher's Christmas play - and sincere respect paid the faculty which gave her and her classmates "an education in life".

Georgetown artist and historian Dorothy Stone shared her own witty recollections of school days when she presented the original GDHS handbook in a re-enactment of the presentation made to the Halton school board earlier this year.

Purchased for the newly-built Georgetown high school in 1887, the large handbell was salvaged by Col. Gordon Brown when the structure was demolished in 1939 to make way for the existing school. Col. Brown, then secretary-treasurer of the old Georgetown school board, gave the bell to Miss Stone for safekeeping.

The invocation for the commencement was offered by Pastor A.J. Nicholson. GDHS music teacher Harry Hamilton earned a special round of applause after leading the school band through several pieces, including a medley arrangement from Jesus Christ, Superstar and the song