

## Acton student wins science bronze

By BEN DUMMETT  
Herald Staff

"Solving environmental problems start with you," was the self-proclaimed motto inspiring Grade 13 Acton High School student Jennifer Pearce, 17, to build an award winning working model of a sewage treatment plant.

Ms. Pearce won a bronze medal for her project entitled "What happens after you flush," in the Senior Engineering category at the recent Canada-wide Science Fair in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Toronto's garbage problems and an interest in attaining a better understanding of the viable ways society can deal with its pollution problems were two reasons Ms. Pearce came up with the idea of the model plant. The project initially started off as Ms. Pearce's Grade 11 science independent research project.

The miniature sewage plant is modelled after Acton's plant, Ms. Pearce said. It is an elaborate contraction of copper pipes, an aquarium and plexiglass. A 4,000 word report explaining the work-

ings of the model and a VCR tape recording of how sewage at the Acton plant is treated accompany the model.

Ms. Pearce said the tape recording was used so that people would be able to compare the workings of her model with the Acton plant's.

Ms. Pearce said water treated by her sewage plant came within one milligram per litre of meeting the government's standards by which actual sewage treatment plants have to abide.

Ms. Pearce spent approximately three months building the model, having had to go back to the drawing board three times before coming up with a working model. Except for the transport case that her father helped build, Ms. Pearce constructed the miniature plant herself.

Ironically her success hasn't inspired Ms. Pearce to pursue a career in the physical science, rather she wants to study sports medicine. But she said "a lot of people can't understand this."

To get to the Canada-Wide Science Fair, Ms. Pearce's project placed first in the senior division of the Hamilton District Science and Engineering Fair held during the first week of April.

Other winners in the Canada-Wide Science Fair coming from schools in Halton include Jonathan Moncrieff, a Grade 8 student at Kilbride Public School, who won a bronze medal in the Junior Life Sciences category for his project, In the Mind's Eye, and Menisha Ghai, a student at Lester B. Pearson High School in Burlington, who was awarded a silver medal in the Senior Life Sciences category for her project, Inhibiting the Gut Reaction.

## Halton to consider cardboard ban for residential garbage

A Region-wide cardboard ban for residences, could increase the amount of recycled waste in Halton from 16 to 20 per cent if passed by Regional council next week.

Although Halton Hills already collects corrugated cardboard as part of its recycling program, the remainder of the Region could join in collection beginning January, 1990.

Previous bans on cardboard collection in the Region were restricted to commercial and industrial facilities. The new ban would also affect residences.

The Region will tell municipalities not to accept corrugated cardboard at local transfer stations, if the cardboard ban is passed.

The cardboard must be clean before it is collected. Cardboard containing garbage will be left at the residence with a note attached, asking the resident to dispose of it separately.

Since the industrial cardboard ban was imposed in December, Halton's waste collection has been reduced 15 per cent, says a Regional report.

The four municipalities in Halton have programs in place to pick up commercial and industrial cardboard. Halton Hills and Milton have agreements with Leferink

Disposal Limited to pick up corrugated cardboard.

The Region says three to five per cent of garbage, by weight, would include corrugated cardboard. A compactor-type truck would be needed to compress the cardboard, but the Region will not want to buy a third truck to process the material. They will separate the waste in recycling trucks.

"The most feasible ways of collecting cardboard with these vehicles is to mix cardboard in the same compartment with newspapers," says Regional staff.

The staff says the price of collecting the estimated 2,500 to 3,000 tonnes of cardboard annually could be offset by the sale of the cardboard material.

Corrugated cardboard is presently worth \$65 a tonne on the market, but the Region says the cardboard market can be "volatile," and prices can fluctuate.

But "we will realize savings in our waste disposal expenditures," said Regional commissioner of public works, Bob Moore.

The Region pays \$85 a tonne for transfer, haulage and tipping fees to an energy from waste plant in New York. "However, these savings will be offset by lower tipping fee revenues," said Mr. Moore.



Grade 13 Acton High School student Jennifer Pearce, built this working model sewage treatment plant that recently won a bronze medal in the Senior Engineering category of the Canada-wide Science Fair held recently in St. John's, Newfoundland. (Herald photo)

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