

Ctk student's story captures national creative writing award

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer



Cassandra Hendry's fictional story of a Filipino family emigrating to Canada won the Ctk student a nation-wide contest.

A Grade 11 Christ the King Secondary School student has won a nation-wide creative writing contest that challenges youths to show how ethnic diversity has played a role in Canada's history.

Cassandra Hendry, 16, wrote a story about a Filipino family whose grandmother emigrated to Canada and how they settled into our multicultural society.

Hendry's page-and-a-half submission was judged to be the best out of several hundred entries in the writing-in-English category for 16- to 18-year-olds in the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge, which celebrates the contributions to the building of Canada made by Canadians of Aboriginal, African or other ethnocultural background.

For her efforts, Hendry and her mother Ramona went on an all-expenses-paid weekend trip to Ottawa to receive her award from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, who unfortunately wasn't able to attend the ceremony.

"The story is about her grandmother's garden and how it is her sanctuary, just like Canada was her sanctuary when she emigrated here from the Phillipines,"

Hendry said.

"Theresa learns what her grandmother teaches her and when the grandmother passes away, she has to carry on with the life lessons taught to her, like accepting everyone, no matter what they look like."

Hendry, an aspiring journalism student, plans to enter the contest again next year.

Mathieu Da Costa was a navigator and interpreter of African descent who likely travelled extensively throughout the Atlantic world in the late 1500s and early 1600s.

Submitted photo

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Budget Meeting
Education Funding in Halton

The Halton District School Board invites members of the public to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the Board's 2010-2011 budget.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information regarding education funding in Halton. Members of the public are welcome to attend one of the following meetings. All meetings will be held from **7-9 p.m.**

Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Silver Creek Public School
170 Eaton Street
Georgetown, Ontario (Gymnasium)

Thursday, June 3, 2010
M.M. Robinson High School
2425 Upper Middle Road
Burlington, Ontario (Theatre)

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