

Teen covers the world for school project

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Faced with coming up with an idea for her Grade 8 school project, Halton Hills resident Tess Coman said a recent visit to our nation's capital got her to think globally.

"We went on a family trip to Ottawa to see the House of Commons and the Parliament buildings and saw some of the foreign embassies," said the 14-year-old student at the Halton Waldorf School in Burlington.

"I was already interested in (embassies) and my mom and I talked about it and thought it would be a good idea. All the while I was thinking about what I could do for the project, so that's how it happened."

Coman drafted a letter and sent it to more than 100 Canadian embassies and High Commissions around the world, asking for a response that might include an interesting fact or information about Canada's relations with that country.

Investing about \$50 in stamps for the mass-mailing, Coman expected that she might receive a few responses, but letters kept arriving even after her project was due in March and totaled over 40 in all.

The return letters included helpful tips on what to do when someone loses a passport, is thrown in jail or would like to do business in that country.

"My favourite response was from Brazil because it was the first actual ambassador



Tess Coman shows off the responses she received from more than 40 Canadian embassies around the world. Coman wrote to more than 100 embassies as part of a school project. Photo by Eamonn Maher

who wrote back and he sent a few pictures too, so that was nice of him to do," she added.

"I wasn't expecting China. That was a bit of a surprise."

No mark was given for the project, although Coman made a presentation to her classmates. She has visited Europe and the project has sparked an interest in traveling to places such as Brazil and Kenya, where her older sister Briar will travel to in August with the Me to We organization to work with the charity Free the Children.

"In a couple of letters (the respondents) mentioned that maybe we'll see you working in our office in a few years," smiled Coman, who'll attend Christ the King Secondary School in Georgetown this fall.

Man charged in knifepoint robbery

A Georgetown man has been charged with robbery after a 16-year-old male was robbed of his skateboard at knifepoint outside Sacré Coeur School on Miller Dr. Monday.

Halton Police say about 4 p.m. the suspect and victim argued about money reportedly owed to the accused by the victim. During the robbery, police say the accused threatened to stab the victim with a knife if the skateboard wasn't relinquished.

Later Monday the suspect was arrested

by police without incident.

On Tuesday police executed a search warrant at the home of the suspect, recovering a knapsack worn by the accused during the robbery.

Charged with robbery, and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, is Mark Anthony Scott, 18.

Police report rocks, railway ties and sod were tossed into a pool on Prince Charles Dr. sometime late Sunday or early Monday.

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