

Scholarships, awards and bursaries at Acton High Commencement

Some of the best and brightest 2011/2012 graduates from Acton High School reunited recently at the annual Commencement exercises – a night to remember the past, revel in the right now and anticipate the future.

In all, 44 scholarships,

awards and bursaries were presented to deserving graduates, along with certificates and cash awards to students who achieved top marks in each subject. Fifteen students were received awards for graduating with Honours (over 80) and eight students re-

ceived French Immersion Certificates.

The overall top Grade 12 students from last school year were Kyle Dykxhoorn – who received the top mark awards for University Chemistry and Communications Technology – and Ashely Kenny, who

also received the Andreas Thiel Award, the top mark awards for University Philosophy and Music, the Emrys Jenkins Ministerial Bursary, the Governor General's Academic Medal, and the Outstanding Graduating Scholar Award.

The valedictorian,

chosen by her classmates, was Lucinda Kollenhoven, who also received the Acton Rotary Club Bursary, the RALM Industrial Millwrights French Award and the Ted Hansen Memorial Award.

Kollenhoven is currently working at a Milton golf course, and in Janu-

ary will head to Zambia for two years where she'll be a teaching intern with the Every Orphan's Hope charity. After that, Kollenhoven plans to go to go back to school for International Studies. She said as a procrastinator, she didn't write her valedictorian speech until the last minute.

Here is an excerpt of Lucinda Kollenhoven's Valedictory address

I am honoured to have the opportunity to spend a few moments to talk with you all about the past four years we have shared at Acton High School. While preparing my speech, I thought, what words could possibly describe us all? Unique? Exceptional? Magnificent? Irreplaceable? Then I thought, there is no one word that can describe us all. How about a quote? Something that we will always remember to represent the graduating class of 2012. So this is what I came up with... "Good judgement comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgement." We have all experienced a lot in the last four years. Whether we've been here since the first day of Grade nine or we joined the class along the way, Acton High School has shaped us into who we are. Yes we are unique, exceptional, magnificent and irreplaceable, but we can't take all the credit. We have had some help along the way. That's right. We've had our wonderful teachers. A wise woman once said, "The best of all things is to learn. Mooney can be lost or stolen, health

and strength may fail, but what you have committed to your mind is yours forever." Our teachers have taught us so much. Not just academically, but also personally. They have moulded us to be who we are today. The staff here at Acton High School is simply the best. They have challenged us, inspired us, and supported us through the years. They've made us laugh (a lot) and have shown an immense amount of patience. As graduates, we must recognize their impact on us and be grateful for everything we have shared with them.

We are here tonight to remember our time at Acton High School and to celebrate what is to come. What will we remember? Most students come into Grade nine being very shy and timid. But not us. We believed we ruled the school from day one and our strong attitude didn't stop there. Our grade has sent multiple teams to OFSAA including several solo athletes. Our girl's volleyball team won two consecutive championships, and Jade Kovacevic made it into the paper every other week for yet another accomplishment. Many of our graduates attended the very first We Day which inspired us to bring change to

our annual Halloween for Hunger. Many participated in our first ever Pink Shirt Day to raise awareness for bullying, and the Vow of Silence to show not everyone has a voice. We also took part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative for the chance to win a \$5,000 grant for the charity of our choice.

As we go on to, college, university, work or Africa, here is one thing we should remember: What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. We all know what it takes to be sitting here today. We have all shared in this journey together. We all sit with the same

readiness and potential to go out and change something. Will Rogers once said, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." So thank you fellow classmates for your determination and motivation to make everyone around you work harder. Thank you parents for all your years of unconditional love and support. I hope you all leave here tonight knowing we're not alone in this, and our journey is far from over. As Dr. Seuss once said, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." So smile.

Congratulations Class of 2012. We did it.



Lucinda Kollenhoven

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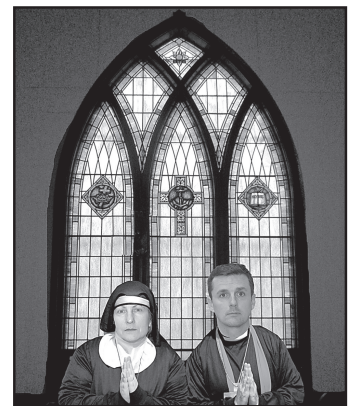
Georgetown Little Theatre to open with the thought-provoking drama *Doubt: A Parable*

by Roxanne Thornton

Georgetown Little Theatre's remarkable season opener is John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer prize-winning play, "Doubt: A Parable". This controversial work was inspired by the concept of doubt itself and about the choices one makes, and the aftermath one must live with, when faced with questions that shake one's very foundation when required to act upon them. Everyone faces doubt in their lives. To err is only human. But how many times is one required to face such truths that will warp your own system of faith and make you wonder about your vary beliefs?

It is set within the 1960's, a time of social change both for the Catholic Church and for society as a whole. Sister Aloysius (Ro Palumbo-Coates) has cast ambiguous suspicions against an idealistic young priest, Father Flynn (Scott Carmichael) and his relationship with their school's first black student. Director David Cairns and cast have effectively embraced this doubt that rocks the young teacher, Sister James' (Cecily Restivo) world and that of the mother (Maxine Marcellin) as they too, along with the audience, are thrust within this web of unknown truth forced to decide the real truth within the perceived reality.

You will not want to miss "Doubt: A Parable" to be presented at the Acton Town Hall Centre at 19 Willow St. Acton. The show runs November 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 evenings at 8 pm with 2 pm matinees on November 4 and 11. Tickets are \$17.00 (Thursdays/Sunday) and \$20.00 (Friday/Saturday). You may also purchase the three show subscription package for under \$50. For tickets please phone the Box Office 905-877-3700; or order on-line at <http://www.haltonhills.ca/theatre/>; or pick up (cash/cheque) at Acton Home Hardware or at Sports Unlimited in Georgetown. For additional information see our website www.georgetownlittletheatre.ca.



Sister Aloysius (Ro Palumbo-Coates) and Father Flynn (Scott Carmichael)

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