

Acton High celebrates Achievers



ACTON ACHIEVERS: For their hard work, dedication and initiative, a number of Acton High School students received Acton Achiever Awards at a breakfast ceremony on Friday at the school. – Frances Learment photo

Ace Acton students honoured by their teachers

Semester awards for 'very impressive' group of students

The great attitudes, initiative and exceptional leadership of some Acton District High School students this semester were honoured at the Acton Achievers Breakfast early Friday morning. A stand-

ing-room only crowd of proud parents, teachers and friends cheered as Principal Darlene White hosted what she called a "reality/variety show" – a peoples' choice program with awards to students

who deserve recognition for many varied reasons.

Quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson – "The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be" – White reminded the "very impressive" group of award recipients that "you get to decide your destiny." She said Emerson failed to note that the destinies of young people are intricately bound to the adults that support them, White said thanking parents, teachers, school boosters,

and community supporters.

Seven students who helped stage the successful *Sherlock Holmes* play – technical crew, make-up, stage crew, props, and costumes – were honoured for making the production happen, despite union-induced school sanctions that cancelled most extracurricular activities from sports to chess clubs.

Six received behind-the-scenes leadership awards, and Director

Megan Parr was honoured for getting the play to the stage. "For a student to be a leader amongst her peers and gain their respect is an incredible feat and she did it well," teacher Amanda Smith said, adding Parr was organized, committed and put on an amazing show.

Landry Shewfelt was honoured for a video she produced on the damaging effects of bullying, and Zack Ross, who produced a video on education, was honoured for his fantastic critical thinking.

Also among the awardees were 19 students who belong to a Focus Group that organized events so

students in all grades could voice their questions and concerns about how to improve the community and school. Although their season was winless, the 22 members of the school's rugby team received Acton Achiever Awards for working hard to start the school's first team in 17 years.

Also among the awardees were students who worked hard to improve marks, did the morning announcements, organized the school's Inside Ride event – raising \$35,000 over three years – for cancer, embraced entrepreneurship, and also members of the semi-formal and prom committees.

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