

Commencement Exercises at Acton High

'May you find wisdom, where ever you go': Principal Darlene White

The class of 2013 was lauded for leadership in philanthropy and social justice at the 36th annual Commencement Exercises at Acton District High School on Friday evening. In front of a packed house of proud parents, families and friends, the graduates trooped across the stage to accept their Ontario Secondary School diplomas, along with a host of scholarships, awards and bursaries generously donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals who donated cash awards.

"Graduates, please remember to savour each

of life's gifts, to appreciate all you have been given and all that you will receive," said Principal Darlene White in her address that urged the students to use their knowledge, skills and penchant for active leadership to make a difference.

White assured the graduates that, with time, they'd see that wisdom isn't a certificate hanging on a wall, but a "mysterious interweaving" of their education, personal experience, and interactions with the world and self-knowledge. "May you find wisdom where ever

you go," White said.

She detailed a impressive list of graduate accomplishments which showed their caring and compassion, including

then nothing can stop you," Ewing exclaimed to loud hoots, claps and cheers from his fellow, sitting together in their robes and tasselled mor-



VALEDICTORY HONOUR: Acton High School graduate Damian Ewing accepted his diploma from teacher Jen Ross – Frances Learment photo



TOP STUDNETS: Julia Field (top photo) and Morgan Christmann shared honours as the top overall Grade 12 graduating students at the Acton High School Commencement Exercises on Friday. Both accepted their awards from Principal Darlene White. – Frances Learment photos



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HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Love from; Christine, Emily & Aaron

\$20,000 raised by civics students for local service agencies, \$13,000 raised in last year's Inside Ride for cancer, the prom, the student-run play, and the 13,185 volunteer hours – almost three times expected at 40 hours per student – logged by the graduates.

In her introduction of Valedictorian Damian Ewing, teacher Jen Ross remembered his "unusual seriousness," in Grade nine, and as a student who surprised her by joining improv, in addition to the swim team, student council, volleyball team, key roles in school plays, Big Brothers and studying Material Arts.

An admittedly nervous Ewing opened his address extolling his fellow graduates that they can do anything. "If you can somehow survive four years of Combo A at Double Happiness (a popular Chinese restaurant) and still live long enough to see graduation,

tar-board hats in the front rows.

"It is not the curriculum that's important, it's the people around us"

Damian Ewing, Class of 2013 Valedictorian

Ewing, an Ontario Scholar currently studying Science at the University of Western and the Ivey School of Business, where he received a Scholarship of Excellence, said their time at Acton High was "the best anyone will ever have."

He joked that while Acton teachers gave him a stellar education, he could have learned what was required in half the time on YouTube, but in a quickly transforming world, the real reason they were there was each other. "It is not the curriculum that's important, it's the people around us," Ewing said, thanking his fellow graduates for their "quirks and

mishaps, weirdness and shenanigans...and for keeping it interesting."

Ewing urged his fellow grads to set their own course and be true. He said he learned the power of the word no as a little kid studying Martial Arts. "What matters, is when some one tells you can't, you won't, or you shouldn't do what you love, then you look them straight in the eyes and say 'no,'" he said, adding "congratulations and best of luck to all of you."

Julia Field received the Governor General's Academic Medal – awarded to the student with the highest average. Field, who also earned 10 top mark subject awards and

is an Ontario Scholar, is studying Physical and Mathematical Science at the University of Toronto, where she already has received an award and became a University of Toronto Scholar.

Field shared the overall top Grade 12 student award with Morgan Christmann who also received a French Immersion Certificate, and was named an Ontario Scholar.

To earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma students must get 18 required credits, including 440 hours of English, 12 elective credits, at least 40 hours of community service, and they must pass literacy and mathematics tests.

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO PRODUCTION COMPANY REQUEST

Date: **Monday October 28, 2013** Rain date October 29-31, 2013
Time: **Between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.**
Location: **8th Line and 27 Side Road, Halton Hills**

This information is presented as a courtesy notice to motorists, pedestrians and area residents. If you require any additional information regarding this temporary road closure, please contact Valerie Petryniak, Licensing & Business Relations Officer at 905-873-2601 ext. 2350.

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Tel: 905-873-2600 • Fax: 905-873-2347 • www.haltonhills.ca

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2003-0032 regarding the following temporary road closure for the purpose of the following community event:

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO EVENT

Trick or Treat	Mill Street to John Street
Saturday, October 26 th , 2013 12:00PM - 3:00PM	
Organized by: Acton BIA	

If you require any additional information regarding this road closure, please contact the Recreation and Parks Department 905-873-2601 ext. 2269.

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