

Acton Cadet is tops

Acton's Amit Mehta, 15, is one step closer to flying. The Acton Air Cadet was named as the top over-all cadet at a three-week advanced aviation course at the Trenton Air Cadet Summer Training Centre earlier this month.

Mehta, a Flight Corporal with the Acton 197 Typhoon Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, also earned the second high-

est academic mark in an Advanced Aviation course and received the Lieutenant-Colonel J.M. Donnelly trophy at the end of his course, signifying his excellence in behaviour, academics and knowledge. Very modest, Mehta said he earned the top cadet award "by chance," adding there were other cadets just as deserving.

"There were a lot of

smart kids and I made a lot of friends," Mehta said on Sunday, adding it was an honour to be selected to go to the course. Mehta, entering his fourth year as a Cadet, has been interested in engines and airplanes since he was a little boy, and hopes his Cadet training will lead him to his pilot's licence, recreational flying and maybe a career in engineering or aerospace. Along with the aviation instruction, Mehta said Cadets give him a chance to learn, and then be a leader who can teach others.

Last summer, Cadet Mehta completed an air space technology and aviation course at Trenton, concentrating on flight. While at Trenton this summer, Mehta earned his radio licence, and next summer, he hopes to return to Trenton and receive his glider's licence, followed by his powered flight licence.

Asked what the best part



TOP CADET: Acton's Amit Mehta (centre) a member of the 197 Typhoon Squadron of the Royal Canadian Legion, was named top over-all cadet at a recent Advanced Aviation course at Trenton. He received the Lieutenant-Colonel J.M. Donnelly Trophy from Captain Kristen Richards (left) and Major Doug Irish. - Submitted photo

of the camp was, Mehta said it was the first time the Advanced Aviation had been taught, so they were asked a lot of questions about the curriculum. "We maybe were taught a little more than we might have been, which can really help out on the exams. Because it was advanced aviation, we really focused on the flying and didn't mess around with marching and stuff too much," he said, adding he enjoyed the condensed and focused learning.

The Cadets flew with licensed pilots several times, and were allowed to take the controls while in the air, and they also flew remote controlled helicopters. "I didn't get to do take-offs or landings, but I did get to take the controls and that was good because it is much better than the (flight) simulators and I got a real sense of how the aircraft works," Mehta said.

A strong student in math and science at Acton High, Mehta enters Grade 10.

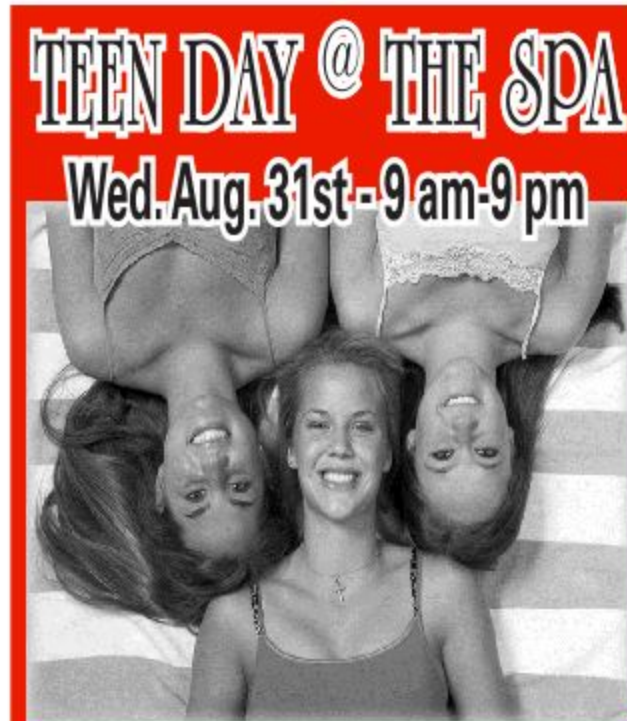
Hospital help?

If the province plans to help fund an expanded emergency room and CT scanner at the Georgetown Hospital, it will have to be before September 7 when the provincial election campaign is officially underway, ending the current government's term of office, and therefore its spending.

In a letter to Mayor Rick Bonnette last week, Health Minister Deb Matthews said the Georgetown project is currently being reviewed and she is "confident the proposal will be given due consideration." The Town asked the Minister to provide \$1.9-million for the hospital project, which will cost \$12.1-million to complete, including renovation and expansion of the hospital and to buy a CT scanner. The Town agreed to kick in \$2.6-million, which will be paid by taxpayers.

In her letter to the Town, Minister Matthews said that consideration for hospital capital funding is based on many factors, including availability of funding and provincial-level assessment of the need. "In light of the above, the hospital may wish to consider other options to manage current needs, such as pursuing a capital project as an own-funds request, or implementing interim operational changes," Matthews wrote.

Bonnette planned to raise the funding issue when he met with Matthews earlier this week in London at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario convention.



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