

# Graduates advised to 'embrace life-long learning'

Hard work, perseverance and a sense of humour are hallmarks of the 2011 graduating class of Acton High School whose spectacular achievements were celebrated at the recent Commencement Exercises at the school.

As proud parents, family, friends and teachers cheered them on; the grads strode across the stage to accept their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas, along with various scholarships, subject awards and bursaries, graciously donated by 31 local businesses.

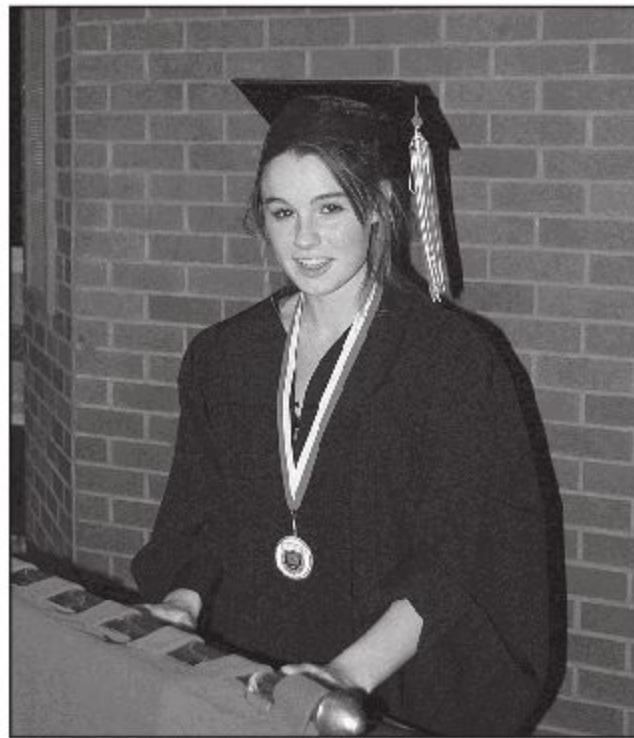
Offering congratulations from the Halton District School Board, Halton Hills Trustee Gillian Tuck Kumara urged the grads to continue to make good choices daily in their lives. Mark Zonneveld, the Board's Superintendent of Education, thanked the

teachers and staff, noting that success increases for kids with significant adults in their lives.

"Staff in Acton are those significant adults. (They) give from their heart, their talents, and their time to help these students be successful," Zonneveld said as he quoted a Chinese gardening proverb: "If you're planning for a year, plant shrubs. If you're planning for a decade, plant trees. If you're planning for a lifetime, educate a child," Zonneveld said, thanking Acton staff for being "such good gardeners."

A 97 per cent average earned Andrei Letavin a slew of awards, including the Governor General's Academic Medal, the Outstanding Graduating Scholar Award and nine other scholarships, awards and bursaries.

In offering her



**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS:** The graduating class of 2010, special guests and parents were treated to a heartfelt and moving valedictory address by Chelsea Benham. — Iain Brennan photo

congratulations to the class of 2011, Principal

Darlene White urged the grads to think of others and

share their many talents. "Give of your time as you settle into the community which will become your own. Embrace life-long learning and bend to change as it presents itself," White said, adding that change, challenge and the unexpected are all opportunities for growth.

Along with the academic achievements, White said members of the graduating class helped raise \$1,500 for the Terry Fox Run, \$8,500 for a Me2We African school and water project, and the most per capital of any Ontario school for an Inside Ride cancer fundraiser. Members of the graduating class also contributed 9,220 community honours — more than double the amount required by each student who must donate 40 hours of volunteer time to graduate.

In her valedictory address, Chelsea Benham, who earned the Principal's Award for Student Leadership, the Emyrs Jenkins Ministerial Bursary, and was named an Ontario Scholar, praised their "incredible" teachers. Benham challenged her fellow grads to remember the teacher, or teachers, who made an impact on their education. "This is a rare gift that we graduates must recognize and remember," Benham said, adding they were taught to never forget that people matter.

"We graduate tonight, not only with an education that we have earned, but also received. I hope above all else, you leave here tonight knowing that you are not alone in this journey," Benham said, adding, "it only gets better from here."

BRANCH No. 197 **LEGION NEWS** By Sharon Graham P.R.O.

On October 21, Peg Graham and Cathy Munday attended Acton High School's Commencement exercise to present two bursaries to two graduates. Principal Darlene White expressed appreciation to all donors. This will assist the students entering their post-secondary education.

A special thank you goes out to Jen Shaw for her donation of all the ingredients in the sauce used for our spaghetti dinner. All agreed it was delicious. Also, thank you to Superior Glove for donating the gloves for our Colour party.

Our Poppy Blitz is off to a great start. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will be going to help our veterans.

Don't forget our Remembrance Day parade is on November 5, stepping off from The Old Hyde House at 10:45 a.m. and then proceeding to the Cenotaph for the service.

Our Remembrance Day service is held on November 11, at the Cenotaph at 11 a.m. We will be marching from behind Trinity United. We hope to have a great turn out in honour of our veterans.

It was nice to see so many people out on Saturday afternoon enjoying their day at the Branch.

Please remember to change your clocks back an hour on Saturday, November 5.

Ladies Auxiliary Branch 197, Acton

Ladies tonight is our General Meeting with a visit from our Zone Commander Sheila Hicks. Please bring \$20 so that you can pay Susan Poulsen for the LA Christmas Dinner to be held Thursday, December 1 in the Ladies Lounge. This must be paid to Susan by November 18, if you are attending. Dues must be paid to the Secretary Helen VanOpstal by December 31, in order to be a member in good standing.

This Saturday is the Remembrance Day dinner. Please volunteer if you can help. We will be parading to the Cenotaph for the service to honour those who fought to give us our freedom and enjoy this great country please participate.

Yours in Comradeship  
Peggy Harris  
President to Branch  
197, Ladies Auxiliary

## Light up the Halton Hills

Preparations for the Light up the Hills are now in full gear, dozens of volunteers are preparing the Dominion Garden Park and the Acton Sports Park for the fourth annual lighting festival. Over 50,000 LED high efficiency lights are being put on the 200 trees and many displays which will delight visitors both young and old.

At the centre of both displays are the Trees of Hope which have over 2,000 lights on each. Acton's tree is located at the Acton Sports Park near the arena/community centre and the soccer fields. The Georgetown tree is at the west entrance of the park and leads to the many walkways that can be enjoyed each evening during the month of

December.

President of Light up the Hills, Gerry Kentner said, "We are so pleased to be able to provide these seasonal light displays for the residents of Halton Hills and I would like to thank our many sponsors and volunteers for helping make this dream a reality each year."

Ignition of the lights in both Acton and Georgetown will take place on Thursday December 1, when Santa Claus will "throw the switch" and illuminate the Dominion Garden Park at 5:30 p.m. and the Acton Sports Park at 7 p.m. Have a visit with Santa and don't forget to

bring your camera.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available at both locations, all evening long courtesy of Tim Hortons. Light up the Hills Ignition Night is a great way to start the holiday season. If you have any photos of the Acton Light up the Hills festivities from last year, please send them to gerrykentner@lightupthehills.com.

For more information go to www.lighupthehills.com or call Gerry Kentner at 905-877-6710.

Light up the Hills is a seasonal light display sponsored by Light up the Hills Inc. a non-profit organization located in Halton Hills.

Jim & Marie Cosulich along with Julio & Soraya Mana are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Victoria Grace Rose to Frederico Adrian  
Wedding to take place 2013

Melissa and Ben's Stag-&-Doeberfest!  
Saturday November 5, 7:00pm  
Rockmosa Community Centre  
Tickets \$10 (519)853-1189  
Put on your lederhosen and celebrate this amazing couple in Octoberfest-style!!

**INDIAN RIVER DIRECT**  
**CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE!**  
**ACTON**  
WED. NOV 16<sup>TH</sup>, 12:30PM - 2:30PM  
THE HIDE HOUSE PARKING LOT (Eastern & Mill)  
20 LB BOX OF FLORIDA Seedless Navel Oranges or Ruby Red Grapefruit **\$25.00 PER BOX**