

Silver for Acton High School students

By: Vivien Fleisher

Jacob Dolimont and Luke Vuyk have both been on a roll lately. Jacob specializes in 'Small Power Equipment' in the technology department at Acton District High School, and went on to win gold at the Halton Skills Competition in March. Jacob says he deals specifically with small engines, lawn mowers, weed whackers, and diagnostic technologies. Competitors were required to rebuild a small engine pull start, gap a spark plug, use a micrometer and so on.

Luke's skills are in 'Auto Service Technology', and he too placed gold in March—the first for ADHS in the Auto Technician Compe-

titition. Competitors had to measure brake rotors using a micrometer, reinstall timing belts, lift a car safely on a hoist, etc.

Both went on to the Skills Ontario Competition on May 3, and placed silver. A highly competitive arena for secondary school students, the provincial competition is in its 28th year. Skills Ontario partners with school boards, colleges and businesses to empower youth across the spectrum in Ontario to consider the trades, especially reaching out to women and First Nations. Despite the impact of many manufacturing jobs going overseas, competitions are here to remind students that there are plenty of trades in Ontario that always need



Jacob Dolimont and Luke Vuyk

skilled workers, and automotive is up there, along with hospitality services and construction.

The event was held at the Toronto Congress Centre this year. Last year, the two grade 12 students placed 7th and 8th in small engines.

This year they entered in separate categories—and with another year of experience and knowledge under their belts—were well positioned for success. Of course, teacher Mike Zimmerman can also take some of that credit.

Limehouse student inspires others to feel gratitude



By: Vivien Fleisher

Olivia Bechtel, Limehouse resident and grade-eight student at Stewarttown Middle school, knows a thing or two about gratitude. It's something she's been exploring for

several years now, after a prolonged bout of kidney problems in grade two necessitated numerous trips to Sick Kids. The whole experience caused her a lot of anxiety, and her mother, Wendy, would try to find ways to help her cope with

her feelings. Last summer, as Wendy read aloud a section of Rhonda Byrne's bestseller "The Secret", Olivia had a light bulb moment: she suddenly understood the benefits of gratitude in one's life. She says that by acknowledg-

ing everything there is to be thankful for in life instead of focusing on sorrow, she has achieved a sense of peace. But she's taken it a step further, expressing this through art. Olivia paints mandalas—circular symbols of unity that are delicate, intricate, and almost limitless in design possibilities—onto small rocks, which she's always loved. Both the rock idea and the mandala came from the book, but it was her idea to combine them, which she then sells, donating all proceeds to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. She calls them 'Gratitude Rocks.' The rock is literally a touchstone that serves to remind one to stay centred and present. Learning the process takes time, hence the small, humble and highly portable rock. In her statement she writes, "small things can make a big impact on bringing your awareness to positive thoughts."

Olivia's art teacher entered her into Halton's Youth Art competition where she earned a recognition award, and her work is currently on display in the foyer. Her school held a 'BusyBee' event last December where students hone their entrepreneurial skills, and she sold many gratitude rocks. To date, she's raised over \$100 for Sick Kids, and she and Wendy say the idea has really taken off. Her great Grandpa and uncle are artists, and Olivia would like to go to Art College after high school. But until then, she happily paints and shares her gratitude with everyone.



Separating fact from fiction: Tom Thomson

By: Vivien Fleisher



Author Gregory Klages

While 2017 marks Canada's 150th birthday, another somewhat less joyous anniversary occurs one week later: the one-hundred year anniversary of the disappearance of one of Canada's most iconic and beloved artists. Tom Thomson, who actually preceded the Group of Seven, moved to Algonquin Park in 1917 for what was to be a whole summer of painting. Out on Canoe Lake on July 8, his boat overturned and he is presumed to have drowned, though his body did not turn up for eight days. By the time it did, and in the absence of a proper autopsy, any clues to his death were muddled forever. In the years to follow, layers of misinformation piled up with all kinds of people weighing in on what could have happened; perhaps understandable given the dearth of facts. But it's a testament to the huge impact his work had on all familiar with him. The range of possible endings runs the gamut from murder, to lethal wounds from a brawl, to suicide, all based on partial facts and outright untruths.

Enter Gregory Klages. The Harriston native and historian who is currently a sessional instructor at Guelph-Humber campus, has long been fascinated with Thomson. With a

background in fine art, and a keen interest in all things Thomson, he is research director for an archival website, "Death on a Painted Lake: The Tom Thomson Tragedy," one of twelve in a project series known as 'Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canada'. Recently, he wrote a book on Thomson, appropriately titled, "The Many Deaths of Tom Thomson; Separating Fact from Fiction" which he presented at the Rockwood Library last Thursday as part of a library book tour throughout Ontario. The only stop not in a library is the church in Leith, Thomson's boyhood home. The book is a National Post bestseller.

The late Canadian artist Harold Town referred disparagingly to the theorists as "club-footed ghouls who muddy the memories of Thomson." Klages takes a lighter view on the matter, noting the poetic nature of the tragedy, and that despite his pursuit of the truth, Thomson is to be remembered for his passion regardless of how or why he died.

Halton District School Board

Public invited to provide feedback on Long-Term Accommodation Plan


Parents and community members are invited to review and provide feedback on the Halton District School Board's 2016-2017 Long-Term Accommodation Plan. This plan addresses the existing and projected accommodation needs of students in all schools and identifies new capital projects, such as the need for new schools.

The Long-Term Accommodation Plan along with presentations outlining the key points for Burlington, Oakville, Milton, and Halton Hills are available at <https://www.hdsb.ca/our-board/Pages/Publications/Long-Term-Accommodation-Plan.aspx>

Please provide your input by 9:00 am on May 24, 2017

The online feedback form can be completed here: <http://bit.ly/2pyrQ8X>

Once the feedback is collected, staff will report back to Trustees at the May 31, 2017 Board Meeting.



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