



Air Cadet Regional Speaking Contestants: Back row: Isaac Daleman (left), Alex Pumphrey, Owen Short, Diptanshu Chaudhari. Front row: Purvi Jaswal (left), Richell Furtado, Vismay Sanghavi, Jennifer Bechard, David Saldanha

Acton hosts regional speaking competition

By: Alex Hilson

Acton's Royal Canadian Air Cadet 197 Typhoon Squadron hosted the third Annual Regional Effective Speaking Competition on March 24 at the Action Legion. This year's competition had cadets competing from Brampton's Sqn 132 and 758, Acton's Sqn 197, Georgetown's Sqn 756 and Mississauga's Sqn 800.

In a tight race to secure a spot in the Provincial Competition being held on April 28 at Mohawk Race-

track, LAC Furtado from Brampton Sqn 758 won first place, WO2 Alexander Philip Pumphrey from Acton's own Sqn 197 came second, and F/Cpl. Sanghavi from Brampton Sqn 132 came third. A total of nine cadets participated in the competition, two from Acton—WO2 Pumphrey and Sgt. Isaac Daleman.

Each cadet presented a five-minute prepared speech on a variety of topics ranging from "The Importance of Community Service" to "How Space Exploration Can Lead to Scientific Advances on Earth". After finishing their prepared speeches and having a short break, the cadets then delivered an impromptu speech.

Karen Foley, the regional coordinator for the event, stressed that events such as effective speaking provide the Air Cadets with the opportunity to increase their confidence, ability to reason, organize and express ideas while developing leadership skills. "All of the cadets did an excellent job at the competition and I wish the first-place winner well as she moves on to the Provincial Level."

This year's judges were Lisa Hunziger, Children Service's Librarian at the Halton Hills Public Library; Linda Olsen, Broker at Royal Le Page Escarpment Realty Brokerage; and Lauren Boyce, the VP, Membership, for Halton Hills' Toastmasters.

Halton Skills Competition and Career Showcase

By: Alex Hilson

The Halton District School Board (HDSB) and Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) hosted their 29th annual "Halton Skills Competition" at Georgetown District High School on Wednesday, March 28. Approximately 1,000 elementary and secondary students from across the Halton boards competed in a wide variety of skills ranging from robotics to wood working. An additional estimated three to four thousand students, parents, teachers, corporate sponsors, and industry representatives visited the event.

A "Career Showcase" took place during the day with representatives from the community, business, industry and education sectors. Over 40 companies partnered in holding this year's event with the HDSB and HCDSB.

Bryan Robinson, the Secondary Regional Lead for OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program), Pathways and Technological Education with the HDSB, who participated in the organization of the event and an Acton local, explained, "Engaging students in technological education programs is one of the most important factors in creating tomorrow's workforce."

Also pleased with the event was Stuart Miller, Director of Education for the HDSB, who said, "The pace of technical innovation and change in this 21st century is blistering. By attending, judging, coaching and participating, attendees witnessed the remarkable skills these young people have been honing over several years. In doing so, they are well placed to eventually make a significant contribution to the Canadian economy and the fabric of our country."



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