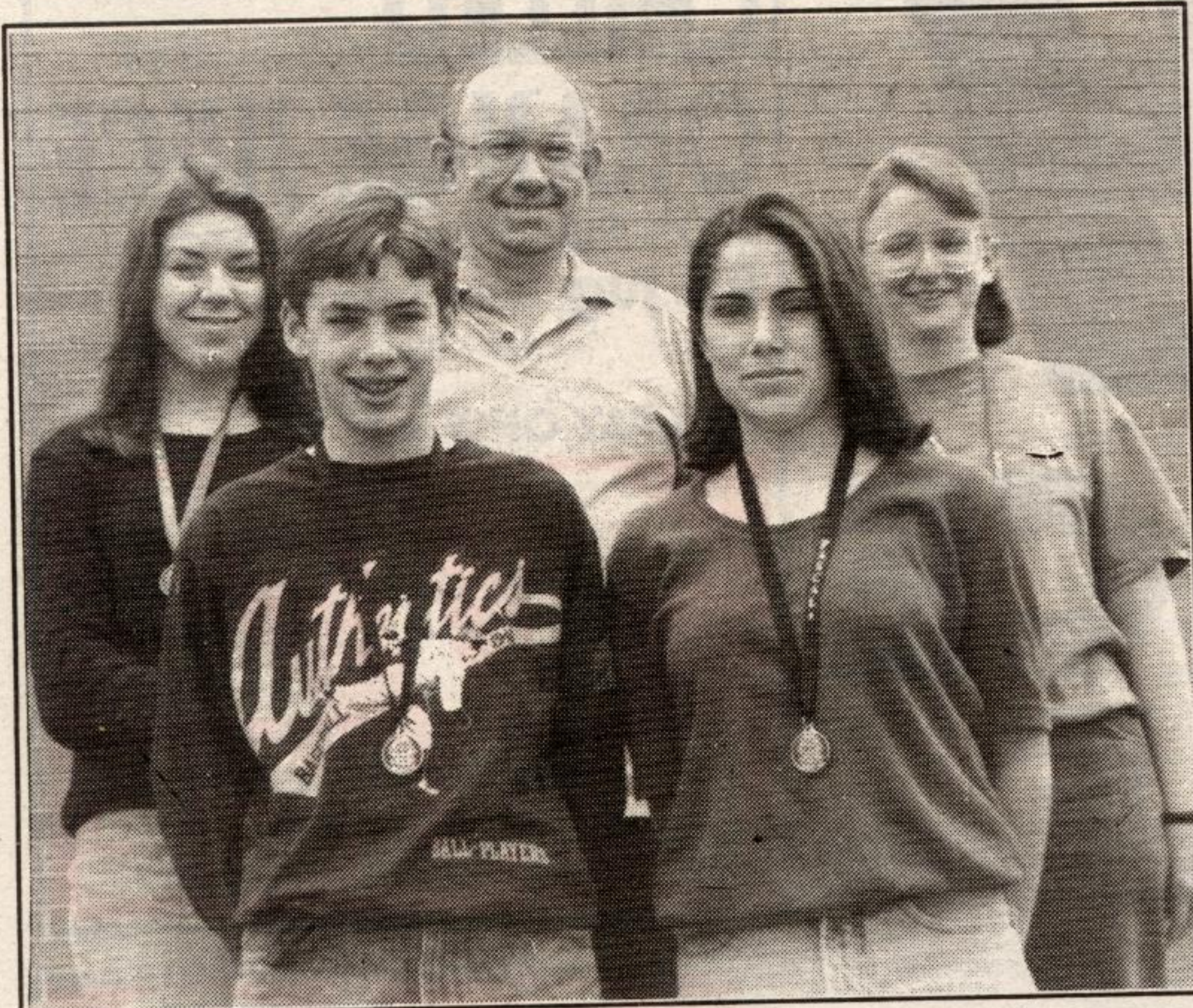


Acton High math students ace nation-wide exam



MATH SCHOLARS: Acton High excelled in a recent Canadian competition at the University of Waterloo. Back row: Lisa Forbes, teacher Brian Downes and Sarah Austin. Front row: Chris Kilmer and Lauren Furness. (Doug Harrison photo)

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Acton High School's small student population may serve as a disadvantage in the athletic department, but the same can't be said of mathematics.

Four of the school's finest mathematicians who participated in a Canadian high school math competition organized by the University of Waterloo, exceeded the average mark in the contest's three categories.

Lisa Forbes's score of 113 in the Cayley contest far surpassed the average of 78; Sarah Austin attained a 102, 23 points above the average in the Fermat contest; and Grade 9 students Lauren Furness and Chris Kilmer both achieved a 77 in the Pascal bracket.

The students, who wrote the test from their respective high schools, faced questions from their school curriculum and general

math concepts to test their problem solving skills.

Forbes, 16, correctly answered 18 of 21 questions in the three-part exam that attracted 21,107 competitors. That success rate put the Grade 10 student in the top two per cent in Canada and third in Group 1 of the Zone 82 honour roll listings in Ontario.

"They're all hard workers and put forth an effort, but I was especially surprised with Lisa's performance," says Brian Downes, head of Mathematics at the Cedar Road school. "I'm looking forward to good things from her next year in the Grade 11 contest."

The 16-year-old Austin, who was stacked against 16,305 Grade 11 opponents, squeaked into the

top 10 per cent in Canada after correctly responding to 16 of 18 questions.

Furness was right on 13 of the 21 questions she tackled, while Kilmer had a 63 per cent success rate (12 of 19) among the field of 29,644. The two 14-year-olds finished three points above the average score of 74.

The local foursome practiced weekly since the fall and have quashed the idea that small schools can't produce top scholars.

"Students view mathematics as more important today than say, 10 or 15 years ago," Downes reveals. "They can see its value in today's changing technology and realize it could lead to jobs after they attend college or university."

Carnation sale a success

BY PAUL NOLAN
The Acton Tanner

The Acton unit of the Halton's Multiple Sclerosis Society held its annual carnation sale on the weekend, to raise funds for research and services.

There was \$1,225 raised this year, down a bit from last year's \$1,400. Sale organizer Marlene Kempton attributes the drop to unseasonably cold temperatures, which kept a lot of people inside Friday night.

There were some 20 volunteers who helped out, selling flowers at the Acton IGA, the beer store and

the liquor store.

"I've been involved for three years now, and people are becoming more and more aware of MS, and of the carnation sale," Marlene reported Monday.

"We've always had terrific support from local volunteers; people we can always count on, every year."

The Acton unit offers a support group for those residents affected with MS. The group meets once a month at the Salvation Army on Mill Street. All are welcome at the meetings; call Marlene at 853-2129 for details.

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