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FOR CHRISTMAS SHOWCRAFT

fair at St. Paul's United Church, Milton, Saturday November 5, 8:30am - 2:30pm. \$50 for 8' space, \$70 for 16' space. Call 905-878-5862 (06/24)

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VOLUNTEERING

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION in Acton is looking for Volunteer Drivers to provide clients transportation to and from social recreational activities in the Acton and Milton areas. Drivers are used both for regular activities (generally daytime) and for special events. For more info, please call 519-853-9793. (TFN)

THE MUSEUMS OF BURLINGTON are looking for volunteer assistance in the following positions: Exhibits Installers, Education Program Assistants, Museum Tour Guides and Research Assistant. Training is provided. Contact the Volunteer Program Administrator, (905) 332-9888 or e-mail: volunteers@on.aibn.com. (TFN)

LITERACY NORTH HALTON ADULT READ *SPELL* Write Program registration for Spring. Volunteer training now underway: Tutors, Board Members and General Volunteers. For an application form and more information call 905-873-2200. Support literacy in your community.

IDOL CONTESTANTS

Calling all rising stars aged 11-18 to audition for the new "Acton Idol" contest at the Concert in the Park, Prospect Park, Acton on Canada Day, July 1st. All applicants must also commit to performing at the Acton Leathertown Festival Sunday, August 7, should they be picked as a finalist. The winner will perform with Alysha Brooke or Jennalynn Flesch at the Festival. For more information and to apply call 519-853-9555, leaving your name, age, address and a number where you can be reached. (06/24)

Acton High School students garner top awards at design competition

STORY AND PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Once again Acton High School students have outshone their competitors at the annual Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association Student Design Competition. For four years in a row, technological design students from the school have won all the top awards at the competition.

This year at the awards dinner held on June 8 in Hamilton, first place in the small house design category (for houses up to 125 square metres in size) was awarded to Craig Kirkwood and second place in the same category to Dylan McPhail. In the custom house design category (for houses up to 366 square metres in size), first place went to Brenda Brophy and second place to Angela Henderson. Many Acton students also received honourable mentions or school submission awards.

Each year the competition gives students the opportunity to explore opportunities in the construction industry, but students also receive valuable feedback from people actually working in the industry, according to Norbert Axtmann, who teaches technological design at Acton High School. Axtmann says the industry recognition is also useful to him as a teacher because he knows that he's doing something right in the classroom.

Acton students competed with students from four other high schools from

southern Ontario, but they were the only students that submitted three-dimensional renderings and that's something that clearly impressed the judges, says Axtmann.

This year 21 senior students produced a full set of presentation and working drawings and each submission was judged by builders, plans examiners from the cities of Hamilton and Burlington, and engineers.

The work was challenging, but also time-consuming. Axtmann says it takes one full semester to complete a submission. First students start off with free hand sketching, then they refine their sketches and finally develop formal plans for both the exterior and interior, all of which meet requirements as set out by the Ontario Building Code. "They could all get a building permit. Essentially these are legal construction documents once they've been

approved by a municipality," says Axtmann.

Axtmann says the competition is a worthwhile educational experience for students. "It provides them with a neat portfolio item that looks good to programs that have a design-related element."



Acton High School students Angela Henderson and Craig Kirkwood show off some of the winning designs produced by technological design students at their school. The school's technological design teacher, Norbert Axtmann (right), says the work is challenging, but particularly for those students designing smaller homes. "They need to get all the requirements in within that confined space."