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WINNERS: Winners in the Acton BIA's photo contest received their prizes. From the left, Jun Gee Lim received binoculars for his shot of downtown Acton. Cathy Waterhouse received a camera for her seasonal shot of Fairy Lake. Doug Fread received a BIA cheque for his scene from the 1998 Leathertown Festival.

# Halton 3rd graders above average in 3R's

While Halton Grade 3 students rank above-average in math, reading and writing, just over half met provincial standards in province-wide testing done last spring.

Tests results released last week by the Education Quality and Accountability Office show both public and separate schools students in Halton achieved up to 12 per cent higher than provincial average scores in each of the three categories tested last May. Students in both boards had lower-than-hoped-for scores when it came to assessing their understanding of skills as laid out in the new Ontario curriculum.

School-by-school results won't be available for a couple more weeks but both boards were initially pleased with how their students fared.

Students were graded on a scale of one to four with four being the highest level of achievement. Students in level one have a limited understanding of reading, writing and math skills. In level two students have some knowledge, application and understanding of the three skills tested and by level three the students understand more complex reading and are ready for the highest level

RANKINGS: Levels 3 and 4 are the provincial standard.

Level two shows approaching the standard.

Reading: 45 per cent at levels 4 and 4, 79 per cent at levels 2,3, and 4.

Writing: 49 per cent at levels 3 and 4, 7 per cent at levels 2, 3, and 4.

Math: 43 per cent at levels 3 and 4, 0 per cent at levels 2,3, and 4.

Halton District School Board

Reading: 57 per cent in levels 3 and 4, 85 per cent in levels 2, 3 and 4.

Writing: 58 per cent at levels 3 and 4, 92 per cent at levels 2, 3 and 4.

Math: 53 per cent at levels 3 and 4, 89 per cent at levels 2, 3 and 4.

Catholic District School Board

Reading: 53 per cent in levels 3 and 4, 85 per cent in levels 2, 3 and 4.

Writing: 60 per cent in levels 3 and 4, 92 per cent in levels 2, 3 and 4.

Math: 44 per cent in levels 3 and 4, 84 per cent in levels 2, 3 and 4.

## Refreshing new business

By: Angela Tyler The New Tanner

Refreshing, young entrepreneur Emma Tynan is ready to take Acton by storm.

Tynan's new business, On The Window Ledge Designs, specializes in preserved flower arrangements and classes on the craft. It is one of three new businesses occupying the store beside the Acton Denture Clinic. The other two are a graphic design business and one that remanufacture ink jet cartridges for computers and photocopiers.

Tynan, who is originally from Buckinghamshire in the British Midlands, has had a long background with the arts and worked with fresh flowers in a shop in England for, as she says, "about a month and a half." Four years ago she immigrated to Canada and although she now resides in Brampton, she is quickly falling for the Acton and Wellington/Waterloo area.

When she first came to Canada, she worked with fresh flowers then did custom work in Toronto, but found the Toronto lifestyle was not



NEW BUSINESS WOMAN: Emma Tynan shows some of her arrangements at her newly opened store "On the Window Ledge". - Angela Tyler Photo

what she was looking for.

"It (Acton) seemed like a crafty place, especially with shops like the Doll Emporium," Tynan said. "There are a lot of people here who like crafts and taking classes."

Her shop expresses her creativity with bold colour schemes and textures. She even does her own photography for her cards. The flowers Emma works with are all real and preserved to be made into arrangements, swags or topiaries. She uses her customer's fabric or paint chips and works to their needs. She also has many

new and traditional style arrangements for sale in her shop.

Although she was slightly discouraged by some of the loitering and littering in the town, Tynan is energetic with ideas for Acton. "It would be a great place to have a jazz festival, especially with Sweet Dreams Café here," Tynan continued.

Emma is already supporting local people. The boxes that some of her arrangements are in are made by a local man and Denise Kastilleris is creating poetry for her.