

2004 grads celebrate at Acton High

Acton's 2004 graduates, their parents, friends and family members were treated to some time travel, thanks to valedictorian Geoff Webster, at commencement ceremonies on Friday at the school.

In a clever 30-minute video - borrowing heavily from Spielberg, Fellini and Wells - Webster visited the future as he prepared his commencement speech.

Despite some technical glitches, Webster's film had the crowd in laughter, and one scream, after he slipped outside unnoticed and knocked on the cafetorium window while doing the same thing on tape.

During one break while attempts were made to restart Webster's tape, he took to the podium and said his time at Acton High doesn't seem like a lifetime.

"Instead, my time at Acton went by like a flash, but what happened here will last forever with unique teachers and friendships that left their mark on us all and I'm going to miss Acton High," Webster said, adding that in a sense they are all time travellers because their post-secondary journeys have just begun.

"I wish you all the luck on your journeys. Acton High will always be there for - a moment in time that will last forever."

Besides being named valedictorian, Webster earned the Lakeside IODE Bursary, the Royal Canadian

Legion Poppy Fund Bursary, a Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top scholarship and a biology scholarship. He is also a Province of Ontario Scholar.

Al Grayson delivered greetings from the Halton District School Board, a job usually done by Trustee Ethel Gardiner, who was attending her mother's funeral.

Grayson said the graduates' diplomas mark important milestones and are a launching pad for the future and reminded the grads to thank their parents and teachers for their help.

Grayson told the graduates that potential employers are placing greater emphasis on their ability to learn, grow, handle change and get along with others.

"Looks like, of all the years you spent in school, Kindergarten may have been the one that best prepared you for the future," he said, adding employers believe they can provide specific on-the-job training, but need people with emotional intelligence.

Principal Bert O'Hearn told the grads to savour their success after spending 3,300 hours in high school.

"Along the way, you learned how to learn, and that is why, as a group, I believe you are the very best prepared graduates that we have ever sprung upon a largely unsuspecting society," O'Hearn said.

By the numbers, O'Hearn



MOVING ON: Acton District High School celebrated commencement for the 2003-04 graduating class on Friday at the school. On hand were top students, from left: Matt Locke, Kasimir Kosakowski, Nicole Dawkins and Jennifer Landsborough. - Frances Niblock photo

YOU DID IT!

TOP MARK AWARDS

- Kate Banks**
The New Tanner Award—Canadian and World Issues
- Sarah Berry**
Acton Sobeys Award—Healthy Active Living
- Brenda Bowman**
Gary Dawkins Memorial Scholarship—Workplace English
- Kelly Bowman**
Acton Sobeys Award—Environment and Resource Management
- Sarah Cabana**
Chudleigh's Award—Peer Tutoring
Acton Sobeys Award—Canadian and World Issues
Station Hotel Award—Managing Personal and Family Resources
- Elizabeth Clayton**
Acton Rotary Club Award—Dramatic Arts
Godfather's Pizza Award—World Religions
- Adam Cripps**
Dr. Peter Lemiski Award—Workplace Mathematics
- Nicole Dawkins**
Acton High School Award—Fr. Immersion Introduction to Social Sciences
Acton Rotary Club Award—Visual Arts
Purity Life Award—Functions and Calculus
Dr. G. A. McWilliam and Dr. N. Alshakarji Scholarship—Physics
Gary Dawkins Memorial Scholarship—University English
Gary Dawkins Memorial Scholarship—Writer's Craft
- Troy Ethier**
Acton Sobeys Award—Mathematics for College Technology
- Michael Handley**
Acton Home Hardware Award—Organizational Studies
- Tia Hess**
Speyside Media Services Award—College English
- Kasimir Kosakowski**
Bev Gray & Associates Award—Technological Design
Cooper Standard Award—Technological Design
- Jay Lalonde**
Nellis Construction Award—Construction Technology
- Kayleigh LeBlanc**
Acton Sobeys Award—University/College Music
- Elizabeth Lewis**
MacKinnon Family Funeral Home Award—World Religions
- Matthew Locke**
Cooper Standard Award—Technological Design
- Derek Mandy**
Dr. G. A. McWilliam and Dr. N. Alshakarji Scholarship—Chemistry
- Brett Manes**
Purity Life Award—Data Management
Dolliver Surveying Award—Physics
- Rebecca Parker**
Acton Sobeys Award—Canadian and World Issues
- Laura Peacock**
Acton Home Hardware Award—Entrepreneurial Studies
- Mark Rauwerda**
Cooper Standard Award—Communications Technology
- Matthew Reid**
Tuitman's Garden Centre Award—Peer Tutoring
- Leah Somerville**
Acton Home Hardware Award—Managing a Small Business
- Matthew Vanderleest**
Acton High School Award—Transportation Technology
- Geoffrey Webster**
Dr. G. A. McWilliam and Dr. N. Alshakarji Scholarship—Biology
- Shannon Williamson**
Acton Sobeys Award—Challenge and Change in Society
- Douglas Wintemute**
Dolliver Surveying Award—World History
Acton Sobeys Award—Computer and Information Science



said the 87 graduates are an impressive group - 21 Ontario scholars, eight graduates with honours, seven certificates of French studies and half the grads completed more than the required 30 secondary school credits.

"More importantly, behind these numbers lie your unique personalities, your individual accomplishments, your hard work and determination, your frustrations, your confidence and your belief in yourself," he said, adding the school is extremely proud of the grads.

O'Hearn said the best is yet to come and issued a challenge to the students.

"That you will take all that you have learned at this school, combine it with all the best your parents and families have given you, and using your talents, your energy and a great deal of courage, step out into the world and make a difference."

A number of students received awards for having top marks including Nicole Dawkins who had top marks in three courses and received three scholarships, as well as a French Immersion certificate.

Jennifer Landsborough received the Halton District School Board award, the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer award, the Governor General's Academic award and a scholarship.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO SCHOLARS

- Katie Ann Banks
- Kelly Rebecca Beardall
- Elizabeth Dianne Clayton
- Nicole Marilyn Dawkins
- Jacinda Lee Duque
- Michael Leighton James Handley
- Reid McArthur Hendry
- Tia Anastasia Hess
- Kylie Marie Kruk
- Jennifer Kathleen Landsborough
- Elizabeth Mary Lewis
- Matthew Murray Locke
- Derek James Mandy
- Brett Thomas Henry Manes
- Jeremy Matthew Mersereau
- Rebecca Clare Parker
- Timothy Martin Pembleton
- Matthew Harold Reid
- Steven Terry
- Geoffrey Alexander Webster
- Douglas Earl Wintemute

O.S.S.D. GRADUATES (WITH HONOURS)

- Ashley Lynn-ann Burnett
- Sarah Melissa Cabana
- Jennifer Sandra Hummitzsch
- Catherine Michelle Hynds
- Mark William Rauwerda
- Jennifer Lynn Stennull
- Benjamin Richard Thomas
- Matthew Steven Vanderleest

FRENCH IMMERSION CERTIFICATES

- Meagan Lynne Brown
- Amanda Sarah Campbell
- Nicole Marilyn Dawkins
- Kristina Stacey Galvin
- Cassandra Anne Hunter
- Mason Westlake McCluskey
- Jeremy Matthew Mersereau

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Eric Bruce Banfield | Sarah Ashleigh Kobsa |
| Katie Anne Banks | Kylie Marie Kruk |
| Kelly Rebecca Beardall | Jay Paul Lalonde |
| Jason Maxwell Beatty | Jennifer Kathleen Landsborough |
| Andrew Charles Bell | Kayleigh Nicole LeBlanc |
| Sarah Maria Berry | Elizabeth Mary Lewis |
| Ian Benjamin Boileau | Ryan Eddison Lindo |
| Joshua Stanley Bowen | Matthew Murray Locke |
| Nathaniel Richard Bowen | Derek James Mandy |
| Brenda Lea Bowman | Brett Thomas Henry Manes |
| Kelly Lynn Bowman | Michael Andrew Meade |
| Mark William Boycott | Mason Westlake McCluskey |
| Andrea Michelle Break | Jeremy Matthew Mersereau |
| Sean Michael Brophy | Samantha Ann Mills |
| Meagan Lynne Brown | Amy Krystine Osborne |
| Ashley Lynn-ann Burnett | Tina Lynn Parent |
| Sarah Melissa Cabana | Rebecca Clare Parker |
| Amanda Sarah Campbell | Daniel Albert Payne |
| Stephanie Jeannine Censur | Laura Kathleen Peacock |
| Aaron Matthew Chiasson | Jessica Louise Mary Peever |
| Elizabeth Dianne Clayton | Timothy Martin Pembleton |
| Adam Bradley Cripps | Anthony Benjamin Price |
| Nicole Marilyn Dawkins | Mark William Rauwerda |
| Amber Sarah Duque | Matthew Harold Reid |
| Jacinda Lee Duque | Shawn Joseph Richard |
| Chagne Monique Dutoit | Judy Kathleen Robinson |
| Michael Douglas English | Natasha Rostom |
| Troy David Ethier | Bryce William Sidor |
| Peter Andrew Finnie | Tamara Adrianna Singels |
| Caleb John Fleisher | Mark Adam Sinkgraven |
| Kristina Stacey Galvin | Leah Rae Somerville |
| Emma Josephine Goddard | Jennifer Lynn Stennull |
| Kristen Charles Haig-Brown | Laura Anne Stevenson |
| Michael Leighton James Handley | Richard Reginald Stroud |
| Reid McArthur Hendry | Steven Terry |
| Tia Anastasia Hess | Benjamin Richard Thomas |
| Amy-lynn Ann Hilton | Matthew Steven Vanderleest |
| Johnathan Edwin Hirliehey | Geoffrey Alexander Webster |
| Jennifer Sandra Hummitzsch | Kyle Gordon Williams |
| Cassandra Anne Hunter | Shannon Caitlin Williamson |
| Catherine Michelle Hynds | Corey Lloyd Wilson |
| Benjamin Scott Ingles | Douglas Earl Wintemute |
| Samantha Lynn James | Matthew Alexander Lorne Youngblut |
| Kasimir Douglas Kosakowski | |