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ANIMATION ACES: At the recent all-Halton technical skills competition, McKenzie-Smith Bennett School students, from left, Andrea Ramsay, David Tysoe, Taylor Grist and Dwayne Clay earned a Bronze medal in the Grade 7/8 Character Animation competition.

– Frances Niblock photo

Acton students show off skills at Technical Olympics

By FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

When it comes to Architectural CADD (computer aided designed) Acton High School students can't be beat.

They ran the category at the recent all-Halton skills competition, taking Gold – Hazen Andrews –

Silver-Angela Henderson – and Bronze –

Rhiannon Roehrig – to continue Acton's technical dominance.

The 16th annual Halton Skills competition at White Oaks Secondary School was a day for 500 students to show off their trade and technical skills in design, filming, baking, carpentry, racing and more.

In hands-on competitions, students completed projects –

drawing blueprints for a house or making an animated video – in a specified amount of time. Area employers who need a skilled work force were the judges for the event.

Winning Gold earned Acton's Hazen Andrews advancement to the Ontario skills competition in Kitchener on May 3 and 4 when he will face the best Architectural CADD students in the province.

Andrews said at first, he wasn't nervous at the all-Halton competition, a five-hour assignment that included making major renovations to supplied drawings of a house.

"I went in there thinking that I just try my best, so I really wasn't that nervous, but during the awards ceremony I was kind of a little bit nervous, wondering how I would do," Andrews said on Sunday, adding he got a little more nervous before the ceremony when some

competitors told him how much work they had completed.

Acton High School's CADD program excellence is well known – students have competed and won at the provincial and national level.

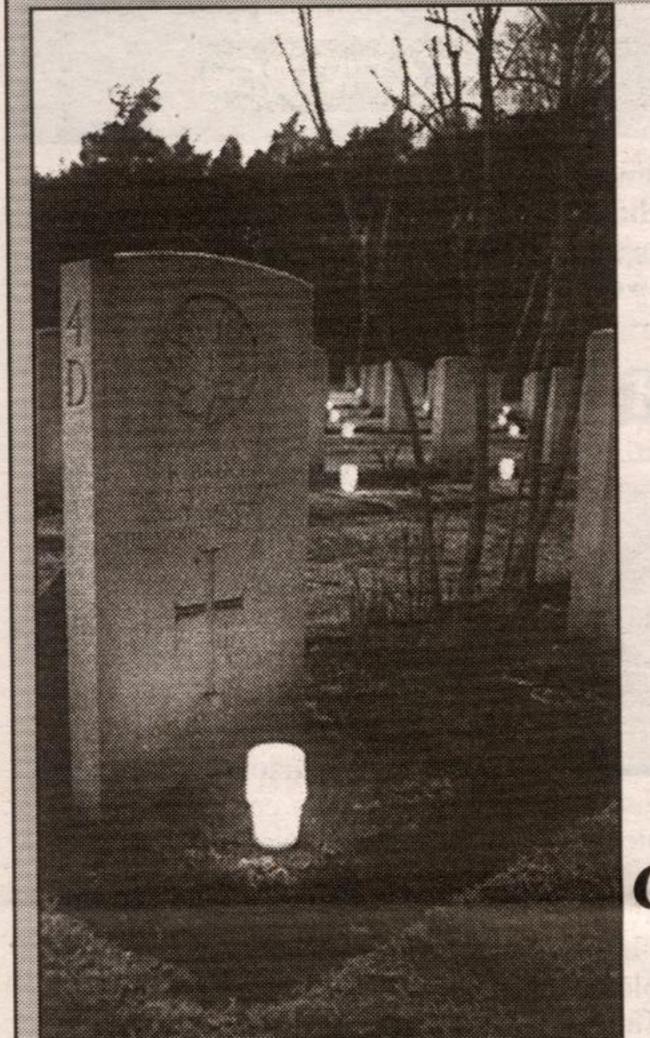
That excellence was recognized and applauded by the Halton District School Board and especially by former board administer Aldo Cianfrini who recently helped the school get \$16,000 worth of highend multi-media computers through a grant from Hewlett Packard.

With Cianfrini's help, Acton High teacher Norbert Axtmann wrote a grant request to Hewlett Packard Canada for the computers.

"Cianfrini is quite persuasive, and he looked at the Acton program, and I think he knew was going to the Ministry (of Education) and wanted to do something before he left," Axtmann said recently.

"We've had a pretty good continued on page 12

TO ALL VETERANS & CITIZENS in Acton and surrounding areas



Gather with us
at the
St. Albans Church
or at the
Old Hide House
parking lot on
Thursday, May 5
at 7 p.m. for our
Silent Walk to the
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