

Christ the King students Joseph Querques and his sister Marianne brought home lots of hardware from the BASEF Science Fair which was recently held in Hamilton. The duo now are heading to the national science fair in St. John's. Photo by Ted Brown

Brother, sister in national science fair

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"People don't realize there are so many aspects to science," said Marianne, who won four awards at the BASEF in Hamilton, including the Dr. M. Doyle Award for the best biology project and the McMaster University Faculties of Science and Engineering Award—both for the second year in a row.

Last year Marianne's project focused on whether garlic helped in thinning blood. She had to get special permission to use people—mainly her family—as test subjects before she could start. The additional paperwork got her thinking about another topic.

"I had to go through the ethical considerations of using test subjects. I started to wonder, what if I could find a way, if you were doing a pilot, to take away some of the ethical considerations and get the ball rolling."

The answer was testing on plants. The Grade 11 student used cress and radish as her test subjects and found patterns did emerge with the cress plants.

Joseph earned 11 awards, among them a third place for best in fair, the NACE International Award for best exhibit in environmental science or engineering and the Canadian Institute.

His project was a continuation of last year's project on corrosion prevention. He had previously tested how material around metal rebar either inhibited or promoted corrosion. This time he tested the rebar itself, experimenting with nickel, iron and stainless steel rebar.

"There were a lot of unanswered questions from last year. I had talked to a lot of the

judges about what was going on in the industry so I decided to test different rebar instead of altering its environment."

Although Marianne and Joseph have both been there before, it has hardly dampened their enthusiasm.

"One of the reasons I want to go back is because it's so awesome," Marianne said. "You meet so many people, there are sight-seeing tours. It's just a lot of fun."

Besides enjoying themselves, having been to the Canada-wide event before also helped with their projects. Among the lessons they learned last year: how you present your project can be the difference between a good project and a great project.

"You have to interact with the judges and engage them with your presentation," Joseph said. "By the end you want them to know everything about your project."

Both said they also got a lot of support from their teachers.

"They're brilliant kids but there's also a lot of hard work and determination. These projects are a year-long commitment for them," said Christ the King principal Nijole Vaitonis.

Next year, they'll have to face competition from their brother and cousin, though. The Grade 7 students at St. Joseph's in Acton focused on solving problems using geographical information systems. Their project earned them three awards, including the Mohawk College Civil Engineering, Building and Construction Award and the Defasco Hot Mill Award.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Delia Carreiro

Adriano and Jacob Carreiro would like to thank... all those who extended their generosity and compassion to our family.

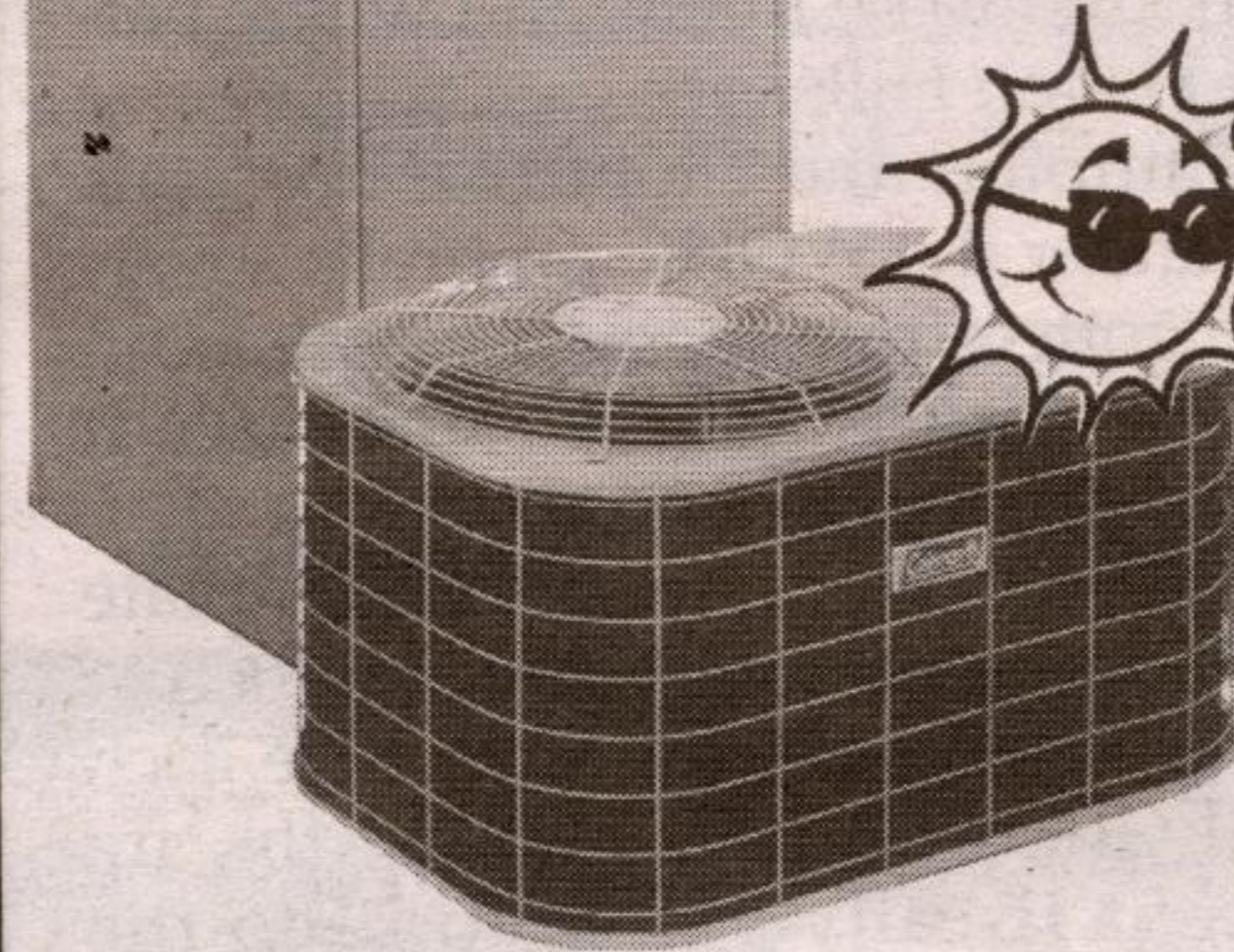


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