

# High school stages 'killer' murder mystery

By Frances Niblock

First the handyman did it. Then, the nurse did the dastardly deed, and in the third and final performance of the *Murder's in the Heir* on Saturday, the audience

at Acton High School chose the maid as the "killer" in the murder/mystery.

Staging an ensemble cast performance of a murder mystery where the audience could choose from among

eight potential villains was a formidable task, but one that director (and math teacher) Jenn Ross knew the students were up for.

"They are so talented and although there were times I was concerned, I knew when it mattered, they would shine, and they did," Ross said after Saturday's performance that drew a standing ovation from the crowd.

"After the opening night (Thursday) they found their stride, and tonight they were just having fun on the stage. They were playing with the lines and playing with the characterizations," Ross said.

The murder of a rich patriarch takes place in his mansion and during intermission, the audience is asked to select the "killer."

"The first night when we



**MULTIPLE MURDERERS:** The Acton High School cast of *Murder's in the Heir* got a standing ovation following Saturday's third and final performance of the murder/mystery. — Frances Niblock photo

counted the ballots it was like waiting to see who won the lottery. We went from everyone being a little ner-

vous about being the killer to everyone wanting to be the killer — they all had their own thing planned," Ross

said, adding she was proud of the "extraordinarily talented" cast and crew that made it happen.

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## Students compete in third annual mock trial competition

They're too young to remember *Twelve Angry Men*, the Hollywood classic about the secret work of juries. But they've surely caught a few episodes of *CSI*.

And today, students across Halton will get a taste of just how forensic evidence and other kinds of testimony can really play out in court — in a "murder trial."

Four student teams will compete at the Milton courthouse in the third annual mock trial competition, organized by the Halton Legal Public Education Committee, which includes

representatives of the region's school boards and its legal community.

One student team will present the case for the Crown; the second team will defend the accused, who is charged with second-degree murder. Points are awarded for presentation of evidence and the winner will be determined by a panel of judges.

Presiding over this year's competition are Justices Lesley Baldwin, Alan Cooper, Frederick Forsyth and Richard LeDressay of the Ontario Court of Justice.

The events' organizers

are working as part of the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN), an initiative pioneered by Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry to educate students about the justice system.

OJEN also runs a "Courtrooms and Classrooms" project, which brings students to courthouses to watch real trials. Often, they also meet with a judge.

Forsyth, who chairs the Halton Legal Education Committee, says the work has been "an honour."

"OJEN has been instrumental in developing the Halton Legal Public Education Committee, and consequently in providing a variety of learning opportunities for Halton students," he said in a statement.

The Halton Bar Association is also sponsoring the competition.

So you think after death HEAVEN IS YOUR DESTINY? Well friend THINK AGAIN...

And Jesus (Yahshua) said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you (,) today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43 (N.K.J.V.)

"And Jesus (Yahshua) said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you today (,) you will be with me in Paradise." Notice where the comma is rightly put. How can this claim be made? "and they observed the TOMB and how HIS BODY was lain." Do these words sound as though He entered in Paradise? If of course the TOMB is Paradise."

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