

Acton High graduates celebrate commencement

By Charles Tysoe

Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon; Christopher Columbus the 'Ocean Blue'. Archimedes found the fulcrum and King Solomon the beginning of Wisdom - and a packed, standing-room audience found its way to the Acton High School Cafetorium for Friday's Annual Commencement ceremonies and as usual, the school community put together a very congenial affair. Valedictorian Taylor Grist broke up the house and some pretty serious jaws on the platform, finishing his whirligig reminiscences with a rap - an art form which like nuclear fallout and other hazardous airborne substances respects neither town lines, nor borders, nor traditional propriety. Judging by the few coherent lyrics, young Mr. Grist is perhaps fortunate that few in the stunned audience got the Gist.

"Citius, Altius, Fortius!" Swifter, Higher, Stronger! Olympic motto or reminder? Small schools and small towns are different. The Class of 2009 may need to be all of these things, and more. After the prizes, the smiles, the applause, Mrs. Jenn Ross, introducing Grist, let slip that the world into which these grads are headed is, well, "...a bit of a train wreck!"

Just how up to that daunting challenge is this group? Here are some of the numbers: of the 110 grads, a "stunning" 36 were named Province of Ontario Scholars, a further 14 Graduates with Honours. Five earned French Immersion Certificates, six were named Grand Prize Winners in the "Be a Hero" Affordable Housing Design Contest. Forty-four different graduates received among them 57 scholarships, awards and bursaries from the school, local businesses, service groups and educational associations. Twenty-eight grads divvied up 49 Top Mark Awards donated by 14 businesses and professionals in Acton and Georgetown. A further 18 shared in 28 post-secondary awards, bursaries and scholarships from ten schools across Canada, from Simon Fraser in B.C. (athletic scholarship to Matthew Hartnagle) to Dalhousie University in Halifax (entrance scholarship to Alannah Bowes).

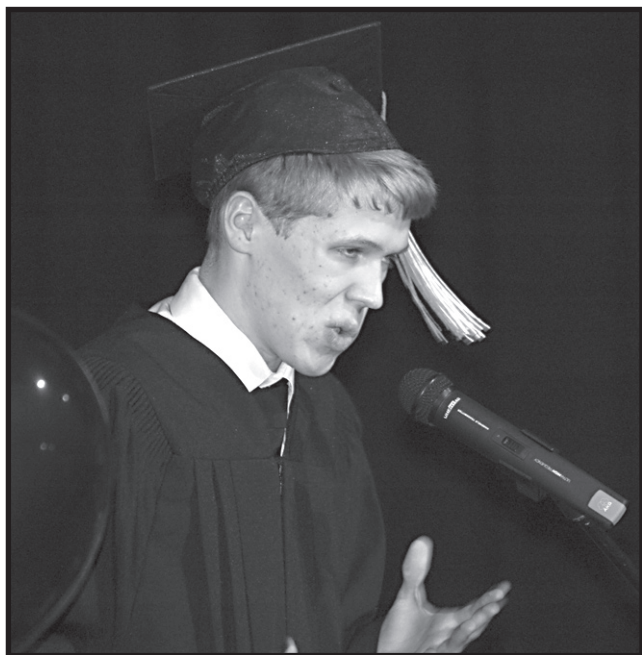
For the ladies, Lexi Hunter, Veronika Gorlova, Amy Poirier and Ashley Macpherson were noteworthy: Macpherson added a Humber College and QEII scholarship to three subject awards; Poirier received, from Waterloo University both a Merit Scholarship and Entrance Bursary and added a QEII scholarship; three post-secondary

awards included a Carleton and a Millennium Scholarship. Hunter received a University of Waterloo President's Scholarship and a Millennium Scholarship with multiple other awards.

Leading the men were Hartnagle, (four subject and school awards); Steven Grant (school, subject awards, QEII Scholarship, Guelph University Entrance Scholarship and Bursary); and Michael Kovacevic. The latter earned the Governor Gen-

eral's Academic Medal, Outstanding Graduating Scholar, four school and academic awards, and a University of Waterloo President's Scholarship.

While space does not permit the naming of many other worthy achievers on this night, nor the dozens of award sponsors, special thanks to Sandy Medland for another tasty and attractive refreshment table and to Mr. Clark and the Concert Band for the Pomp and Circumstance marches.



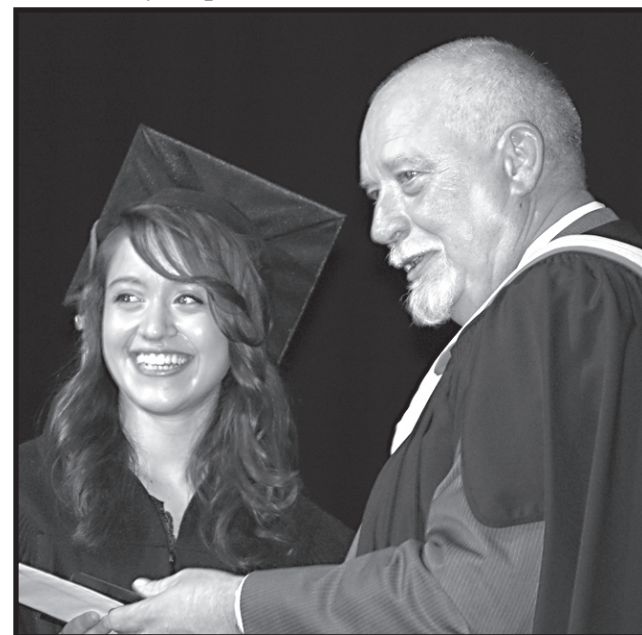
"AS I WAS SAYING": Reflecting on uh...something...Valedictorian Taylor Grist entertains Commencement audience. - Charles Tysoe Photo



SIZING UP A HERO: Devin Hunter, one of six "Be a Hero" affordable housing design Grand Prize Winners, receives Diploma from Don Evoy - Charles Tysoe Photo



BOARD OF EDUCATION: A sea of mitre boards fronts the stage at commencement last Friday night. - Charles Tysoe photo



PLENTY TO SMILE ABOUT: Lexi Hunter received the Principal's Award for Student Leadership and several valuable scholarships. - Charles Tysoe Photo



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO EVENTS

The following community events will be held within The Town Of Halton Hills as follows:

Santa Claus Parade – Acton

Saturday, November 21, 2009
Approximately 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Parade forms on Acton Blvd. - proceeds down Acton Blvd to Queen St. West on Queen St. to Young St. to Mill St. to Main St. North to Knox Ave. ending at Prospect Park.

Organized by: Acton Fire Fighters Association

Santa Claus Parade – Georgetown

Saturday, November 21, 2009
Approximately 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Parade forms on Sinclair Ave. at Todd Rd. - proceeds down Sinclair Ave. to Guelph St. West on Guelph St. to Mill St. to Charles St. ending at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Organized by: Georgetown Lions Club

If you require any additional information regarding this temporary road closure please contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 905-873-2601 ext 2269.

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2

ACTON 2009 CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

Applications for Christmas Hampers will be accepted at:

The Salvation Army Church
114 Mill Street East, Acton

On the following Dates and Times:

Tues. - Thurs., Nov. 24 - 26. 9am to Noon

Saturday, Nov. 28. 9am to Noon

Tues. - Thurs., Dec. 1 - 3. 2pm to 4pm

Applications must be completed in person.

Applicants are requested to bring Identification.

Acton Christmas Hamper Committee

The Salvation Army Family Services, Acton

Acton Rotary Club

Knights of Columbus, Acton Council 8050

St. Vincent Charities of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada.

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