

# Club hosts elementary school robotics competition

Continued from page 36

"That definitely helped," said Khan, whose team qualified for provincials based on a two-event round highlighted by an especially strong showing at the University of Windsor.

Added Manocha, "I think we were fairly successful."

Still on board to lead the team with new teaching instructor Chris Brooks-Prenger, Druiven said the students' overall robotics game - their engineering, programming and communication skills - was quite high in competition this spring.

"There's also better collaboration now between the older members and newcomers."

Among the team's newcomers this year was someone who's not exactly a stranger to the technology realm.

Longtime Miltonian Peter Hummel - who recently

retired after 43 years in the IT business, 35 with his own company installing enterprise resource planning software systems - was recently introduced to the world of FIRST Robotics through a client who writes code for robots.

"I visited their office for their Robot Week and it blew me away what these young people were capable of," recalled Hummel who volunteered to assist Druiven soon after and was welcomed with open arms. "I thought I've got to get involved in this. It's been a great learning experience for me too."

Along with excelling in competition, the local robotics club also hosted a 51-team competition for elementary schools in December and has been a regular supporter of the junior ranks like VEX.

"That's part of FIRST Robotics - giving back," noted Druiven, who was the first Milton teacher to receive the Halton District



Steve LeBlanc /Metroland

The Craig Kielburger Secondary School Robotics Team.

School Board's Trustees Inspire Award in the fall of 2016 after being nominated by his students. "Even at our competitions, you see

teams helping each other out. It's a pretty tight community."

With Ontario widely regarded as one of the lead-

ing regions in FIRST Robotics and certainly one of its most competitive, expectations are that CKSS will be making a jump to

the world stage in the not-too-distant future.

"Yeah, I'd in a couple of years it's definitely possible," said Druiven.

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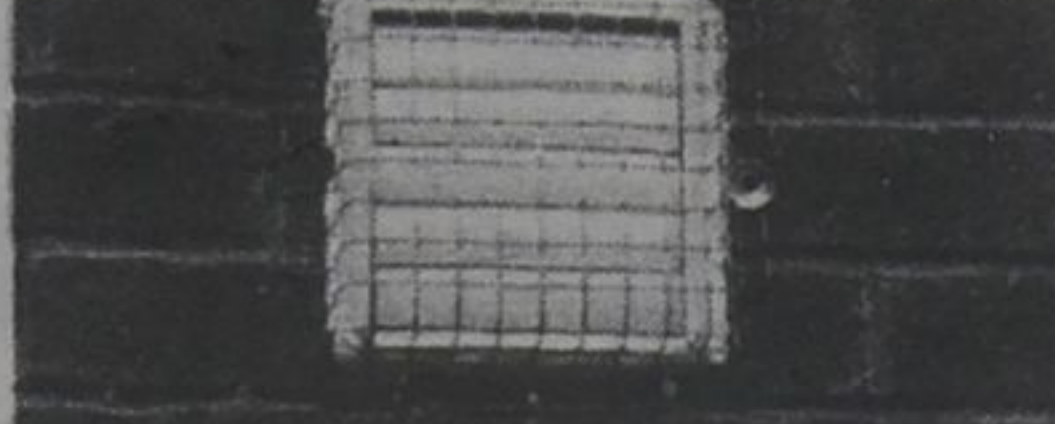
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