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56 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"

Pot grower sentenced to two years probation

Justice also orders former Milton man to make \$1,000 charitable donation, perform community service work

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

A former Milton resident pleaded guilty Wednesday to growing marijuana in his Baverstock Crescent home last year and was sentenced to two years probation.

Darcy Alan Bedard, 35, who now resides in Mississauga, appeared at Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington before Justice Richard LeDressay.

Halton Regional Police arrested Mr. Bedard in March of last year

after responding to an anonymous tip.

They discovered 113 marijuana plants in various stages of growth as well as \$4,000 worth of hydroponic growing equipment. The marijuana plants had a street value of \$28,500.

Mr. Bedard was charged with production of a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking. The second charge was withdrawn earlier in the court proceedings.

Sporting a crew cut and a goatee, Mr. Bedard declined saying anything to the judge when given the

opportunity.

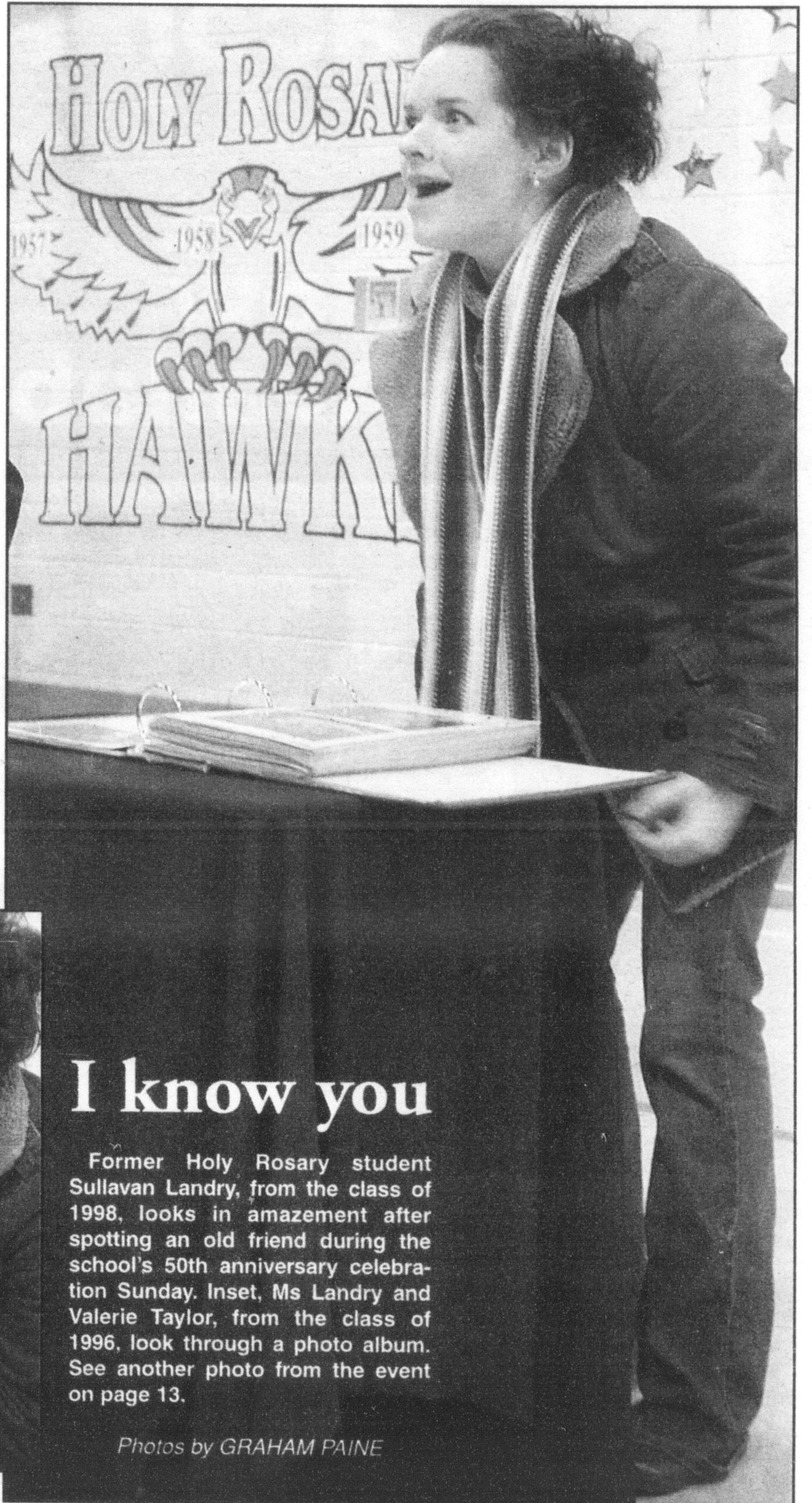
Mr. Bedard, who was released from custody after his bail hearing last year, was ordered to pay a \$1,000 charitable donation. He must keep the peace and be of good behaviour while on probation, and can't purchase, possess or consume drugs.

He must also perform 75 hours of community service at a minimum of eight hours each month.

Both Crown Attorney Ted Graham and defence lawyer Sharon Ingle had requested the conditional discharge.

Justice LeDressay said a number of pre-trials — which took place behind closed doors — brought to light some "extenuating circumstances," which he said justified the imposed sentence.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



I know you

Former Holy Rosary student Sullivan Landry, from the class of 1998, looks in amazement after spotting an old friend during the school's 50th anniversary celebration Sunday. Inset, Ms Landry and Valerie Taylor, from the class of 1996, look through a photo album. See another photo from the event on page 13.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

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