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# COMMUNITY

## Teacher of the Month

# Farrell draws on experience to inspire students

Well-traveled teacher back at alma mater

By Stephanie Thiessen  
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Stacey Farrell has eaten croissants while studying in the South of France and confiscated knives while teaching in a rough neighbourhood in England.

To say the French teacher has experienced a lot in the past decade or so is an understatement, and her travels have taken her far and wide.

But when it was time to settle down, Farrell came full circle and returned to her hometown of Milton, teaching in the very school she attended. It's a testament to the fact that sometimes absence really does make the heart grow fonder.

"I appreciate it more because I left and have seen other things," said the Milton District High School (MDHS) teacher.

Farrell said she draws from her own experiences and encourages each of her students to explore the world so the place they end up is a choice, not a sentence.

"I say to the grade 12s that it's really important to get out there and see (as much as they can), and then if they come back, they know this is where they want to be," said the popular teacher.

### Farrell role model: nominator

With such wisdom under her belt, it's no wonder Farrell was nominated for the Champion's Teacher of the Month by her entire grade 12 class, led by 17-year-old Courtney Coulombe.

Farrell has been selected as May's Teacher of the Month.

"Mme. (mademoiselle) Farrell is a role model for all the students that she teaches," Courtney wrote in her nomination letter.

Courtney met Farrell when she was in grade 9 and joined the cross-country team, which was coached by Farrell, a competitive marathon runner.

Courtney has had Farrell as a teacher in the French immersion program for the past two years. After a year's maternity leave, the class was glad to welcome Farrell back last November.

"We really respect Mme. Farrell for all her accomplishments and her ability

to teach French," Courtney said.

Farrell is very involved in the school, including through coaching and joining this year's student parliament as a teacher advisor.

Farrell said she believed as a student that school involvement was important, and she continues to believe it now.

"You're here for four years. If you don't get involved, you miss out on great formative experiences," she said, adding extra-curricular activities teach important life skills.

As a student at MDHS, Farrell was the student council president and helped start the cheerleading team. She was also a prefect and on the cross-country team, among other activities.

Farrell has been a teacher for eight years, and has been at MDHS since 2002.

Her experiences outside Milton have been both exciting and harrowing, she said.

### Junior year abroad

Spending her third year of university in France was a thrill, of course.

In 1999, she taught in Mississauga, which opened her eyes to some of the issues she thinks Milton schools will face as the population grows, she said.

Next, she found herself teaching in London, England.

"It's very different from here," she said, explaining, "There's no value of education there."

The school she taught at was violent, and "the racism is palpable," she said, explaining she had to be ready for anything that came her way.

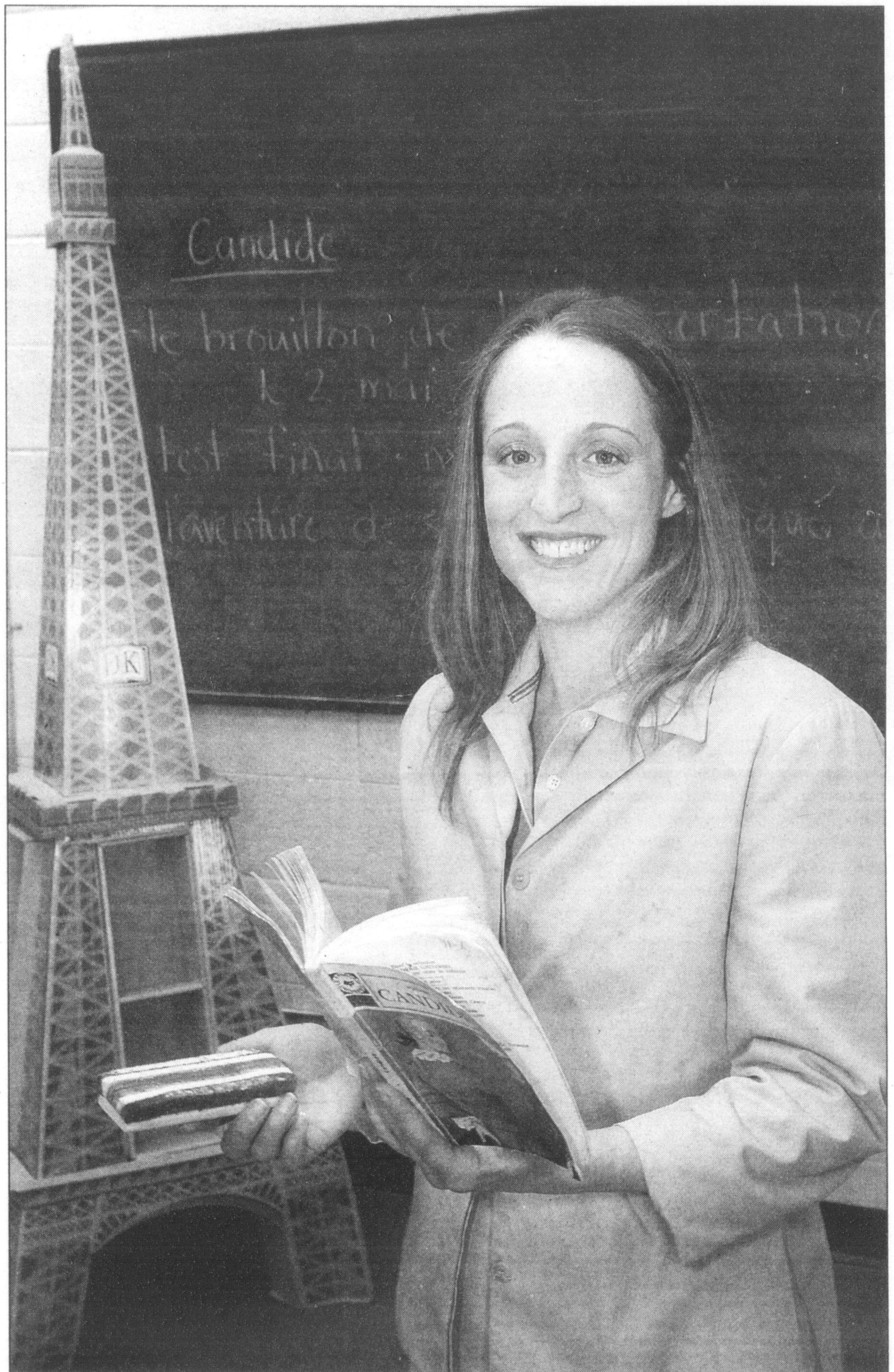
Returning to Canada was a relief, she said, but the experiences elsewhere gave her a broader perspective to teaching.

Teaching French immersion has been a great experience, because it means she has most of the students in at least one class each year and can really get to know them, Farrell said.

She added she's extremely grateful to her grade 12 class for recognizing her in this way.

"It's moments like this that keep you going in teaching."

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**IMMERSED IN FRENCH:** Milton District High School teacher Stacey Farrell stands in front of a model of the Eiffel Tower in her French immersion class.

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## Cogeco Cable Channel 14

## Programming Schedule - Tuesday, May 1 - Monday, May 7, 2007

Tuesday, May 1	Wednesday, May 2	Thursday, May 3	Friday, May 4	Saturday, May 5	Sunday, May 6	Monday, May 7
8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 12:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
1:00pm SportsZONE Live	1:00pm Halton Hills Council (cc)	12:00pm Swap Talk (Replay)	1:00pm New Life's 2007 Easter Cantata: "Eyes of Faith"	1:00pm Acton Skating Club's 2007 Carnival: "Who Are You"	1:00pm Naturally Green	1:00pm Milton Council
2:00pm - 6:30pm Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm - 7:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	1:00pm Milton Council	2:30pm Plugged In! EXTRA	2:30pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	2:30pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
6:30pm Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	7:00pm Simply Halton	3:00pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	5:00pm - 6:30pm Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm Milton Council	6:00pm SportsZONE Live
7:30pm Plugged In!	7:30pm Halton Physician Appreciation Week	6:00pm The War Amps Present...	6:30pm HCDSB's "Sharing The Spirit" Awards	6:00pm Acton Skating Club's 2007 Carnival: "Who Are You"	8:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA
8:00pm Auto Experts (Live)	8:00pm Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	7:00pm New Life's 2007 Easter Cantata: "Eyes of Faith"	8:00pm Halton Physician Appreciation Week		
9:00pm Halton Physician Appreciation Week	9:00pm Milton Council	8:00pm Living Healthy	8:30pm Halton Physician Appreciation Week	8:30pm New Life's 2007 Easter Cantata: "Eyes of Faith"		
9:30pm HCDSB's "Sharing The Spirit" Awards	11:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	9:00pm Halton Physician Appreciation Week	9:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	10:00pm Halton Physician Appreciation Week		
10:00pm Halton Hills Council (cc)		9:30pm New Life's 2007 Easter Cantata: "Eyes of Faith"		10:30pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA		
Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA		11:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA				