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COMMUNITY

Students get early jump on career exploration

Information fair held at W.I. Dick

By **Stephanie Hounsell**
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Days spent engaged in shoot-outs, car chases and undercover sting operations. That's the normal life of a police officer, right?

Wrong. But to a grade 8 student who may have little access to police officers and lots of access to the remote control, perceptions can be warped.

A career fair held Wednesday at W.I. Dick Public School was designed to help combat those misconceptions and give students clear information about various careers.

Halton Regional Police Const. Drew Scott, who participated, said events like this are definitely worth his time.

"It's important to try to (give) an accurate portrayal of policing," Scott told the Champion, adding much of what students learn is from shows like CSI.

With Scott already a familiar sight around the school — as a regular visitor with the education services unit — he was the natural pick for the task.

"It's never too early to start thinking about a career," he said.

Parents were invited to take part in the fair, with students splitting into small groups and asking questions.

Wide array of options

The list of professions represented was varied. Besides Scott, there were a nurse, artist, accountant, real estate agent, engineer and more.

One of the topics touched on during the afternoon was the importance of volunteering and the edge it can give job or university/college applicants.

It's something the grade 8 students will soon be thinking about, since when they hit high school they'll be required to amass community service hours.

Volunteering and careers are two topics that go hand in hand, explained vice-principal Kevin Waldbillig.

"Parents will be talking (at this event) about their careers and the types of educational experiences (students) might need. Volunteering might be part of that," he noted.

Two speakers discussed the many aspects of volunteering at the opening assembly — Halton school board trustee Donna Danielli and volunteer and social worker Sandy Ma.

"Volunteering is something I do a great



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EXPLORING CAREERS — UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: Above, W.I. Dick School's Madi Brew takes the blood pressure of fellow eighth grader Amanda MacFarlane as registered nurse Deborah Skalinder offers some assistance during Wednesday's career fair. At right, social worker Sandy Ma spoke to the students about volunteering.



deal of," Danielli told her young audience, explaining one of her recent volunteer jobs was to co-ordinate the entertainment lineup at the recent Downtown Street Party.

Volunteering time, energy and talent is extremely rewarding, she said, and she encouraged the students to start thinking about where they'd like to volunteer in high school.

"You'll have the opportunity to make a difference in your schools and your community," she said.

Ma started by telling the students a bit about her job, and then explained how volunteering can actually help students get an idea of which career to pursue.

"Volunteering offers an opportunity to sample jobs you might not think you're interested in," she explained.

Among those attending the career fair was 13-year-old Halle Wadden, who's already gotten her feet wet volunteering by helping out with a kindergarten class. When it comes to her required community service

hours, Halle didn't have to think hard — she's going to continue to work with younger kids in schools.

"I like kids. They're cute," she said.

Wadden said career fairs are important because they get students thinking about the future.

As for her desired career, Wadden might end up following Danielli's example, since she hopes to organize events for a living.

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Programming Schedule — Tuesday, June 19 - Monday, June 25, 2007

Tuesday, June 19	Wednesday, June 20	Thursday, June 21	Friday, June 22	Saturday, June 23	Sunday, June 24	Monday, June 25
8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 10:00am 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)	1:00pm Halton Hills Library - Georgetown Branch Public Meeting	1:00pm Halton Region Council (cc)	10:00am TVCogeco Sports: CFL Football - Winnipeg at Hamilton (Replay)	6:00pm Halton Hills Council (cc)	1:00pm Halton Hills Council (cc)
5:00am - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm - 7:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm - 7:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	1:00pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm - 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
8:00pm Auto Experts (Live)	7:00pm Simply Halton	6:00pm The War Amps Present...	7:00pm TVCogeco Sports: CFL Football - Winnipeg at Hamilton (Live)	6:00pm TVCogeco Sports: CFL Football - Winnipeg at Hamilton (Replay)		6:00pm Halton Hills Library - Georgetown Branch Public Meeting
9:00pm Halton Hills Council (cc)	7:30pm Plugged In! EXTRA	7:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	10:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	9:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA		8:00pm SportsZONE Live
	8:00pm Halton Hills Library - Georgetown Branch Public Meeting	8:00pm Living Healthy				9:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA
	10:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	9:00pm Halton Region Council (cc)				
		11:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA				