



Photo by GRAHAM PAINÉ

## Let's go fly a kite . . .

Kathy MacDonald of the Halton Region Conservation Authority tries her hand at kite flying in conjunction with the upcoming kite festival at Crawford Lake Conservation Area Sunday, May 3. The event, called the Spirit Soars, will see participants design, fly, buy, or simply watch kites from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Advances to Canadian fair

# E.C. Drury student wins top award at science fair

While many students were relaxing during March Break, E.C. Drury High School's Patricia Pearce was working steadily putting the finishing touches on her entry in the Hamilton and District Science and Engineering Fair April 8-11.

Her efforts all paid off. She won the gold medal in the senior physical sciences and engineering category, and will advance to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Sudbury May 10-17.

By the end of the competition, the Grade 12 student was named as the winner of the Science Teacher's Association Award, the McMaster Faculty of Engineering Award, and the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario (Hamilton Chapter) Award.



Patricia Pearce

Patricia's entry this year was a culmination of three years' research. It involved biological denitrification — taking nitrates out of water using a biological process rather than a

chemical one.

She said she became interested in this area of science as the result of working on a school project in Grade 10.

Last year, the project — a combination water filter which is an improvement over the standard water filtration system — won a bronze medal at the National Science Fair in British Columbia.

"Competition was fierce this year," said Patricia who had competed against some of the entrants last year, "but I gave them a good run for their money."

Judging was done by university students, professors, and engineers from different fields of expertise and consisted of a two-fold evaluation.

First, in the preview, without the

competitors present, the judges viewed the notebooks based on experiments and research summary notes. Patricia also kept a detailed logbook and photo albums depicting the development of her project.

The second part of the judging

consisted of an interview to find out how much each entrant really knew. Her interview lasted almost two hours.

Patricia plans to study environmental engineering after one more year at Drury.

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