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Students to get a look inside federal politics in Ottawa

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to *The Champion*

TWO OF MILTON'S TOP STUDENTS will have the opportunity to meet Canada's top politicians in the coming weeks — as participants in the federal government's annual Forum for Young Canadians.

Glen Perry and Adam Scott are among 2,000 students from across the country invited to attend the national program, which has provided a forum for Canada's youth for the past 20 years.

Students will be divided into four groups of 500 for one-week sessions in Ottawa.

Included in this year's second session is 18-year-old Glen, an OAC student at Bishop Reding Secondary School. He said he was excited to be selected for the trip in mid-December, and that his enthusiasm hasn't diminished one bit since.

"I was honored to be chosen. A very limited number of students are picked to attend and I feel quite lucky to be among them," said Glen, who is the first Reding student to take part in the program in three years.

During the one-week session, Glen will attend Question Period at the House of Commons, meet with Canada's leading politicians, be part of a mock election run by Elections Canada and perhaps even meet Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

He will also attend a special MPs dinner, where he will have a chance to get to know local representative Bonnie Brown (Oakville-Milton), whom he said supported his bid for the program.

"Something I'm really looking forward to is meeting with different students from across the country. Living in suburban Ontario, you get somewhat of a limited viewpoint on issues and ideas. I'm very interested in hearing other people's take on things," Glen said.

An honour student, Glen is active in athletics at Bishop Reding, is a member of the local community theatre company and has been a volunteer at Allendale. An impressive classroom biology project also resulted in work at Toronto's Western General Hospital.

"I'm very interested in politics and biology. I know it sounds a little over the top, but I'd like to go for a double degree in biology and political science next year at (Wilfrid) Laurier, Western or McMaster."

While still over a year away from graduating, 16-year-old Adam Scott of Campbellville has no shortage of accolades to his credit either. Making his trip to Ottawa next month, the grade 12 MacLachlan College

student attended the national unity rally last fall in Montreal, has had letters to the editor on the issue published in both the Toronto Sun and Toronto Star, and has also voiced his opinions on many issues in written form to political leaders in Canada, the United States and England.

In only his first year at the Oakville private school he was elected student body president this past fall and is on the honor roll. He is also an accomplished debater for the school's team, having placed sixth out of 125 participants at a recent competition for Halton-Hamilton area students.

"I'm very interested in politics. I'm hoping to meet the prime minister, Reform Party Leader Preston Manning and maybe even voice my opinions to Quebec's Bloc party leader," said Adam. He will be part of the final session April 20-27.

Adam says he's excited about learning how the government really works and meeting Canada's key decision makers.

About the only thing he may not get during the week-long session is adequate sleep, as his days will begin at 7 a.m. and run as late as 11 p.m.

Having started his own lawn mowing business last summer, Adam said he is interested in pursuing a double degree as well — in business and political science. "I'm really happy to be representing my community next month in Ottawa. It should be a great experience," he said.



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— Glen Perry



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— Adam Scott

Fewer to go

• from FUNDING on page 1

board's \$280 million annual budget.

Much of the savings that the Halton board needs to achieve by this fall were expected to come from the recently announced layoff of 1,501 employees — 572 of them teachers — but the chair of the board of trustees has backed off from that number.

"We won't be laying off as many (teachers) as we anticipated," said Linda Glover, acknowledging that the "tool box" handed out to school boards by the Ministry of Education and Training did not change the relationship between boards and teachers' unions.

Ms Glover said status quo arrangements for collective bargaining agreements means fewer teachers than the nearly 600 targeted will actually lose their jobs, although she added the exact number of teachers to be affected won't be known until precise grant information is received.



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