

Science Fair winners named

By June Abbott

MARKHAM — If you've ever wondered what makes electricity, how to cook popcorn in your own backyard, when to take cuttings from geraniums, and why volcanoes erupt, the place to have been last Friday was the Science Fair at St. Joseph's Separate School in Markham.

All these fascinating questions, and many more, were the subjects of winning exhibits.

Co-ordinated by Charles J. McCarthy, a teacher at St. Patrick's Separate School, the Area Five Science Fair included separate schools in Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Woodbridge, Stouffville, Markham and Unionville.

There were 160 exhibits packed into the gym of St. Joseph's School for the one-day fair.

The 21 judges consisted of teachers, interested parents, and members of the business community, each entry being evaluated by two judges.

The projects were assessed by category for level of accomplishment, visual presentation, oral presentation and the actual model or experiment.

Unionville winner
An especially delighted winner was Darius Nargolwalla, a Grade 5 student at John XXIII School in Unionville.

The day of the fair was his 11th birthday, and he won first prize in his category for a display on 'How water produces electricity'. Darius had

worked for three weeks on his presentation.

Second prize winners for their work with geraniums were Jamie Bell and Chris Harrington, also of John XXIII.

These Grade 6 students co-operated to produce a display of geranium cuttings at various stages of maturation, along with neatly drawn diagrams and explanations.

Twelve-year-old Chris Kovacs of St. Mary Immaculate, Richmond Hill, won a first for his school on his work with microbes, with the aid of a very smart microscope he has been using for three years.

"I am trying to prove that all around us, in food, etc., microbes are present," stated Chris.

On display were the slides he had made of milk, hay, zucchini and bread bacillus.

An Honourable Mention was awarded to Kirk Cormier, a Grade 7 student from St. Patrick's, the hosting school.

His entry was a model in plaster and clay of a volcano, which he had caused to erupt. Kirk has exhibited three times before but this was his first win of any kind, and he seemed delighted by it.

He said he would like to have done an entry on his pet pigeons, but live exhibits had not been permitted. Kirk owns a couple of barn pigeons, which he trains, and spoke with enthusiasm of the Kings and Roller pigeons he has owned in the past.



(Photo by Hogg)

Darius Nargolwalla
.... First prize winner

However, his chief interest is modelling. His proud mother said, "He loves to work with clay and modelling, even ahead of pigeons."

Sophisticated
A fairly sophisticated entry was that of Mike

Ford from St. Anthony's, Thornhill.

Mike won a third prize for his entry entitled 'Solar Energy'.

His interest in the subject stems from a visit to the Science Centre where he saw a model of a solar cooker. He obtained

instructions and made his own model to see if it would work. His exhibit demonstrated how popcorn could be cooked with the aid of the 'silver saucer' and the sun. He spoke extremely knowledgeably of the different aspects of solar energy and how it can be used to heat houses and even provide energy for whole areas in the future.

Another winner from St. Anthony's was Ian Sutherland, a Grade 8 student who won a second for his project on 'Streamlining the auto.'

He had built a model wind tunnel in which were suspended two blocks of balsa wood, representing

cars, one of which had not been streamlined. He got the idea for building the wind tunnel from a film he had seen on the Winter Olympics where four men on a bobsled used a wind tunnel in order to find out how to cut down wind resistance.

Fungus grown
'Growing fungus' was the topic of Mary Ellen Bailey's exhibit. Mary Ellen is in Grade 7 at St. Mary Immaculate, Richmond Hill and was proud of her first prize for growing her own fungus on bread, jelly and cheese.

She said she noticed when walking through a wood that there was no fungus in winter "so I decided to grow my own".

This is her third entry in the Science Fair and first win.

'Oil spills will kill plants in our environment' was the result of the work done by Michael Rosettis, 13, of St. Anthony's.

Michael won a first for this display.

"If an oil tanker hap-

pened to crash and spill its oil, it would flow into small river systems", explained Michael, "and the plants would then take it up and die."

To prove this theory, he had tried to grow a plant with oil in the soil, and it had died.

For his experiment, he used four plant cuttings in various types of growing medium. All the plants thrived until the introduction of oil to the fourth plant, which died, proving Michael's point.

Crowded
The crowds of people attending the Science Fair made it difficult to see all the exhibits which were, of necessity, placed fairly close together.

The 47 winners represented all the schools which participated, and will now go on to the County Fair to be held at Bayview Secondary School April 1, 2 and 3.

Winners at the County Fair progress to the Canada Wide Fair in British Columbia in May.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

YORK CENTRE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE RIDING ASSOCIATION

WED., FEB. 25th - 8:00 P.M.
THORNLEA HIGH SCHOOL

BAYVIEW AVE. — South of Hwy. No. 7

- Election of Officers
- Adoption of Constitution
- Discussion of Future Activities

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Library has heating problem

BUTTONVILLE — Inability to heat the technical services area of the Thornhill Community Centre Library above 65 degrees Fahrenheit brought comments from Councillor Carole Bell at a meeting of Markham planning committee.

"The design of the building is wrong if a complex at the cost of this complex can't be heated over 65 degrees," she said.

Mayor Anthony Roman said that "certain members of the library board were strongly opposed to an outer and inner door (only one exists) so you can't criticize the architect."

"It is a case of lay people becoming involved in something they don't know about," Roman said.

"It is a shame we are in a situation to admit our

mistake," Mrs. Bell said. "I was on that committee and I never heard that explanation."

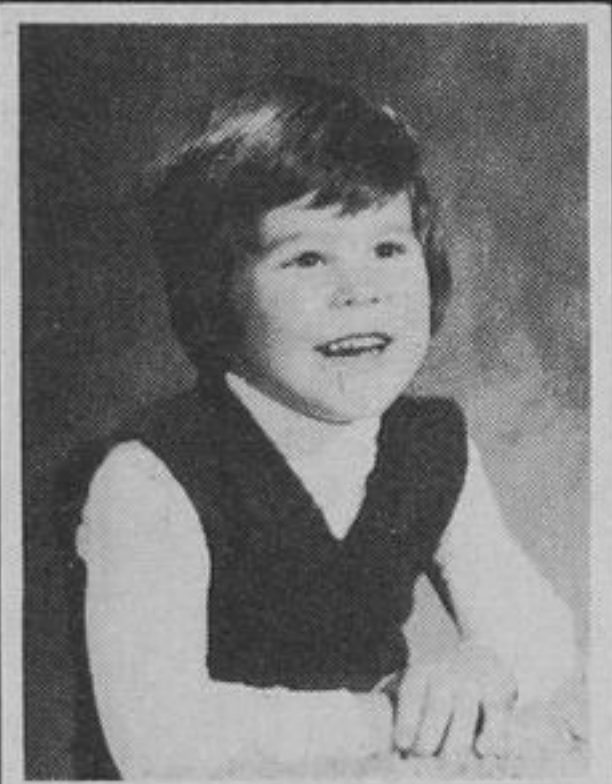
Councillor Stan Daurio said it is difficult to heat properly because of the outside wall.

Regional Councillor Bob Adams said there are 25 different heat or cooling sources in the building. "Unit heaters are the only way of correcting the problem," he said.

Council endorsed an expenditure of \$650, to be taken out of the 1976 capital budget, for installation of the necessary heaters as requested by the library board.



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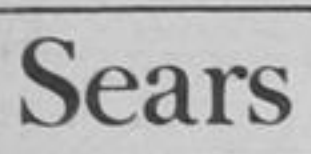
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