

**St. Robert Report**

*John MacBride*



**School enters science event**

On Saturday, October 29, a small team of St. Robert students headed off to York University's annual science olympics. The olympics are designed to teach high school students more about York University's science department, through a series of competitive events. This year, 45 schools entered the games and St. Robert placed fifth overall.

Our team was composed of four students: Catherine Beck, Frank Cifelli, Reinhard Langos and Shaun Quinn. Mr. Fagan, a science teacher, went along as an advisor. The group competed in three of six categories.

The first category, called the fermi division, dealt with physics problems. The students were given 15 questions to work on for 20 minutes. While this may seem relatively easy, some of the questions included were "How many ping pong balls would it take to fill the universe?" and "How many drops of water are there in Lake Ontario?" The group finished first in this event.

The second category, called manual labour, consisted of a male and female team. Frank Cifelli and Cathy Beck (our competitors in this event) were required to pull on a hand ergometer, a device which takes fifty newtons of force to move.

This may seem simple enough but there were two restrictions: they were allowed to use only one finger on the ergometer and there was a five minute time limit in which to pull it as frequently as possible. The team placed fourth in this division but felt that the exercise was not a true test of their scientific ability.

The third and final category was called Canadarm. It was sponsored by Canadarm, the company that manufactured the Canadian arm for the U.S. space shuttle. The idea behind this contest was to build as large a crane as possible, using only straws and pins. The crane had to be functional and capable of suspending a 100 gram mass.

In between competitions, a barbecued luncheon was held for the students (at a cost of \$2.50 per person). There were also brief tours conducted along the way to other events. After the games, awards were given out, the contestants saw a documentary film and Mr. Chris Trump, a guest speaker from SPAR Aerospace gave an address to the participants. When asked what the students got out of the day, they replied that it was a good chance to really see York University, and an occasion to have a lot of fun!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The St. Robert High School Band will be coming out full force on Saturday, November 26. The bands will be performing at Seneca College's Minkler Auditorium to raise funds for a trip to Shrewsbury, England next July.

The performance, which starts at 8 p.m., will involve every music student from grade nine up.

**Flower makes home more attractive**

For disguising an unattractive view, or adding visual excitement to a window, the exotic Wax Plant or Porcelain Flower (Hoya Carnosa) can be used advantageously. Our grandmothers no doubt used this plant as a focal point, and this vigorous climber has been ever popular.

The succulent, glossy and often silver-flecked, deep green leaves of this attractive flowering vine are effectively displayed as a living curtain, just by suspending their container in a window.

Or, to add more interior privacy, the twining stems can be easily trained to climb on hidden wires and softly frame the window from within. Either way, it's accented with the restfulness of natural greenery.

In summer, this moderately easy-to-grow native of Southern China and Australia produces waxy, pinkish-white, dark centred flowers that hang in round clusters on short stalks. On each sweetly fragrant cluster there's a dozen or more of the half-inch, delicate, star-shaped flowers. (And colorful flowers do add to a room).

**Green 'n' Growing**

*Elaine Gordon*



In order to bloom well, keep the Hoyas potbound, for they're definitely at their best when roots fill the container. Give very bright light to promote buds — an east, west, or filtered south window is ideal. But as with many other plants, it's helpful to relocate them to a direct southern exposure in winter.

They hate wet feet, so good drainage is essential. Provide moderate moisture from spring to fall and as growth slows down in the cold months, allow the soil to dry out a little between waterings.

It's important to note that the faded flowers should be allowed to fall off naturally. The spur (old flower stem) where blossoms

have grown should never be removed, as it's the source for the following year's flowers. I've learned from experience that they're also a trifle finicky, and will often drop their buds in displeasure if they're rotated or moved when flowering.

I keep ours as a permanent resident hanging about two feet back from an unfiltered southern bay window (to avoid injury from baking-hot sun) in the kitchen where it flourishes in the warmth and humidity. For the first time and much to my delight, it treated us to a continuous display of flower clusters from last June through September.

Hoyas are slow to flower and more often than not only do so when mature. Don't be too disappointed if yours doesn't bloom as quickly as desired — your patience will eventually be rewarded and the wait is indeed worthwhile!

**NOW IS THE TIME:**

To protect columnar, young and unestablished evergreens from winter sun, and breakage from ice and snow accumulations by spiralling and wrapping

them from bottom to top with burlap or mesh evergreen wrap. If Dwarf Alberta Spruce are in a sunny spot, they're susceptible to sunburn and wrapping in burlap provides shade. Never use plastic as all plants have to breathe.

To put up tree guards and prevent damage in areas where rabbits are found.

To place fertilizer bags in a dry spot, and put chemical sprays and gasoline out of harm's way from youngsters. Liquid fertilizers and sprays could freeze if left in the garage.

**HELPFUL HINTS:**

Place tree-like plants about the area and give the illusion of height to a low-ceilinged room.

Spray indoor container Mums daily to not only keep the leaves fresh, but also make it unwelcome for spider mites. They thrive in hot, dry air but hate water.

Instead of throwing the old bird cage away just spruce it up and place a cascading plant or two inside. Or, purchase a wicker one for the same unusual decorative purpose.

**Hi Folks!**

Come see the newest store in town! Bring in a roll of film for developing and get a:

**FREE 5x7 PRINT & FREE ALBUM!**

Your film is developed and printed on the premises, for a (FASTER, MORE PERSONALIZED SERVICE and YOU CAN SEE IT HAPPEN!)

WE STOCK CAMERAS, BATTERIES, PICTURE FRAMES, ALBUMS, ETC.

---

**RUSH PHOTO**

143 Main St. W.  
STOUFFVILLE  
42 Brock St. E.  
UXBRIDGE

---

**For Senior Citizens**

\* **FREE PICK UP & DELIVERY**  
\* **20% OFF ALL PROCESSING**

Still take advantage of Nov. Specials!  
**CALL ANY DAY**  
**640-1369 or 852-7695**

You are cordially invited  
to a Concert of Organ Music  
Introducing the WURLITZER Omni Keyboards  
featuring  
**CRAIG KNUDSEN**

DATE and LOCATION: NOVEMBER 18th, 1983  
THE PARKWAY INN  
LESLIE and HWY. 7 (West of Hwy. 404)  
MARKHAM, ONTARIO

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS: \$4 IN ADVANCE  
\$2 FOR SENIORS and CHILDREN (12 and under)  
\$5 AT THE DOOR

FOR INFORMATION CALL (416) 294-4603 or (416) 291-2662

REFRESHMENTS SERVED CONCERT PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC STAND

**The Music Stand**  
WHERE QUALITY MEETS VALUE

**BUYING OR SELLING CLASSIFIEDS FOR FAST RESULTS**  
TURN TO THE

You used to have to go downtown to shop for the unusual... now you only have to go to 123 Main St. N., Markham... you'll be pleasantly surprised.

**Greenstreet's North**

123 Main St. N., Markham... In the Tremont House 294-8903

KITES • MUSIC BOXES • LAUREL BURCH EARINGS • MOBILES • MUGS • UNCOMMON JEWELLERY • STUFFED ANIMALS • PENS • BRASS • EDUCATIONAL BABY TOYS • PENCILS • POP-UP CARDS • PAPER • UNIQUE WRITING SETS • CANDLES



**Santa Arrives...**  
**Sat. Nov. 12th**  
**11AM**

Santa's Hours: Monday to Saturday  
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Nov. 14-Dec. 23

**Hillcrest mall**  
JUST MINUTES NORTH OF STEELES AVE. ON YONGE ST.

**BLIZZARD PLOW BOOTS**

Popular lace-up boot with plush pile lining for superb comfort and warmth!

Unless sizes fit Ladies' 5-10 & Boys 4-8 Child's 11-13

**29.90 pair 28.90 pair**

SALE ENDS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1983 WHILE QUANTITIES LAST.

**COUGAR 'DRIFTERS' - GOOD LOOKS & COMFORT COMBINED!**

'Drifters' were created with Canadian winters in mind! Soft, supple leather upper with lightweight sole for better traction. Sanitized lining ensures freshness and warmth. Ladies 5-10.

**39.90 pair**

**Gallenkamp duet**

Dufferin Mall TORONTO 532-8907  
Marvite Shopping Centre MARKHAM 477-4416  
Westwood Mall MISSISSAUGA 678-2168

Jane & Finch Mall DOWNSVIEW 633-9948  
Brantford City Centre BRANTFORD 753-4433  
Burlington Mall BURLINGTON 639-8301

Shoppers World Alders Mall REXDALE 741-3143  
Shoppers World BRANTFORD 753-4433  
Lima Ridge Mall HAMILTON 389-9713

Thornhill Square THORNHILL 884-2761  
Square One Shopping Centre MISSISSAUGA 275-2181

VISA MasterCard