

Young scientists' project charts traffic in school hallways



Scientific minds

North Dundas' Kevin McCargar,

The Winchester Press Wed., April 11, 1990

McCargar, 17, of Mountain teamed up with Chesterville's Ivan Bowman, also 17, last year for a project they entered in the SD&G Science Fair held recently at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall. They placed in the top four projects overall and are now preparing their display for the Canada-wide Science Fair in Windsor May 13 to 19. They also received the gold research award and were best in the Math or Computer Science Category.

The pair's project is aimed at determining the movement of students throughout the school. By calculating the density of students in different areas of the school and the length of time they stay there, certain observations can be made which may be useful for expansion or the construction of a new school.

Where to locate fire exits, water fountains and lockers are among the considerations which could be added to school planning, the duo explained of the data's usefulness.

The numbers were gathered by McCargar, who spent day after day sitting in locations throughout the school trying not to be noticed in case curious students, seeing him collect data, might change their natural patterns.

Mountain Twp. girl to receive Youth Award



Department of Secretary of State, Multiculturalism and Citizenship grants this award to young people who have been nominated by their school or local community group for their contribution to Canada. She is being recognized for involvement in community organizations and activities which have contributed to the betterment of the community.

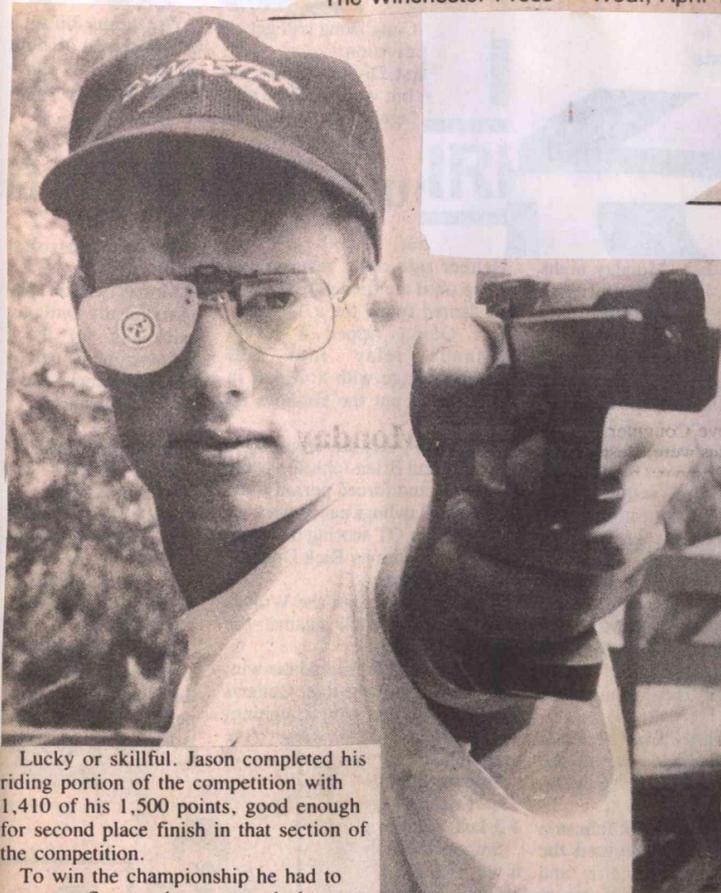
O'Connor has just completed Grade 12 at North Dundas District High School. She has been active in student council and has maintained honor standings throughout her high school years. She is also involved in a peer-help group at school and tutors other students in math.

She is a junior director in the Mountain Township Agricultural Society and has helped out with the family fun nights on Canada Day in the past. O'Connor is also active in various church organizations including a youth group and the choir.

"The Canada Day Award for Excellence is a way of showing these young people how much we truly appreciate their spirit and belief in Canada," said Multiculturalism and Citizenship Minister Gerry Weiner. "They exhibit the qualities of participation and patriotism that exemplify truly great Canadians, of any age."

O'Connor said she was happy when she heard the news, but was also surprised. Earlier in the year she was approached by a teacher at the school who thought she should fill out an application for the award.

The Winchester Press Wed., July 4, 1990



Jason Cull, son of David and Wendy Cull, is the 1990 Junior Canadian Pony Club Tetrathlon Champion.

Cull's hobby, now job (riding and working with horses and ponies) led him to this demanding sport.

Tetrathlon involves horseback riding, air pistol target shooting, swimming and cross-country running.

This summer's trip to Victoria B.C. and the 1990 Canadian Pony Club Tetrathlon is the third national championship for Jason.

"I've competed in Toronto, Ottawa - last year and now Victoria," he explained.

"This is my last year of junior competition and I qualified for the nationals by winning the St. Lawrence - Ottawa Valley Region."

While competing regionally, Cull rode his own trusty steed, "Catch 22" to victory, a 10-year-old horse he has had for two years.

Lucky or skillful. Jason completed his riding portion of the competition with 1,410 of his 1,500 points, good enough for second place finish in that section of the competition.

To win the championship he had to earn two firsts and two second place finishes.

Day one of the competition put Cull in the swimming pool against 20 other junior competitors. The idea is to complete as many lengths of a 25m pool as possible - in four minutes.

Jason recorded over 11 lengths. He was second best.

Day two for Cull was spent on the shooting range. It would be the most frustrating, yet most rewarding of the first two.

In this discipline the shooter stands and fires his air pistol at a stationary target 10m away.

When it was his turn to shoot, Cull's gun, a second-hand target special originally worth around \$1,000, wouldn't shoot.

Jason explained that he, as most do, began with a \$70 Canadian Tire special, gradually upgrading to the top of the line models.

His weapon wouldn't shoot on the first attempt. After some hurried work, a second trip to the line was made but with the same results.

"I aimed and pulled the trigger, nothing. So I cocked it again and shot. Bullseye!"

In spite of having to recock the gun on three attempts, Cull finished as the best shooter, scoring - 950 of a possible 1,000 points.

"I was very lucky it even fired because the valves had worn out."

Day three was the riding event and it included stadium and outdoor - cross-country portions.

"In the stadium the course is much like the grand prix events you see on television, scaled down, with fences and jumps. Cross-country is 13 obstacles like stopping at a gate, opening it, riding through and closing it, jumping logs and water hazards."

The only penalty points deducted from Jason's score, 90, came from completing the course too quickly. He guided his unfamiliar mount through a clean ride but arrived 45 seconds early and received 1,410 of 1,500 points.

The same afternoon Cull ran his two kilometer cross-country course in 7.24. That was a first place time.

Results, a gold medal for Jason Cull.

After first becoming interested in riding ponies on his family's farm two sessions south of Mountain seven years ago, Jason Cull has taken part in three junior tetrathlons at the national level and is now looking forward to competing as a senior (16 years - 21).

At that level he can compete on an international circuit, taking part in events in England, Ireland as well as other parts of Canada, something he says will be both interesting and exciting.

Cull also is looking past his first senior year to the 1996 Olympics as a competitor in the triathlon or pentathlon.



The Weekly Advance, Wednesday, June 20, 1990