

Humberview's top scholar will pursue engineering

By Bill Rea



Humberview Secondary School graduate Matthew Niedoba is a pretty busy guy.

At school, he was an active athlete, played clarinet and was concert master for the senior band, was busy with robotics and was on the executive on the Students' Activity Council and the Music Activity Council. He also applied himself to his studies, and has the 97 per cent average to prove it.

That also made him the top scholar in Humberview's Class of '15.

His Grade 12 course load included calculus, physics, chemistry, advanced functions, computer science and English, and he was well above the 90 per cent mark in all of them.

"There are some really bright people at my school," he said, adding he was a little surprised to be heading the class. "I think I came third last year."

Niedoba's athletic pursuits have included alpine skiing. He won at ROPSSAA in Grade 11.

"I was close this year," he recalled. "I hit a patch of ice on my second run and wiped out."

Niedoba is planning to attend the University of Waterloo next year to study mechatronics engineering.

"It's a weird field," he said, adding it combines mechanical and electrical engineering, with some software added. He said it will have applications in areas like robotics. As a member of the Alpha Dogs Robotics Club at Humberview, he helped with the design of robots.

"That's really interesting to me," he said, "how different things can work together to make a different system."

"I've always liked mechanics," he added. "It's just an interest of mine."

In terms of career prospects, he doesn't know for sure what he might be doing after he graduates, but he sees lots of opportunities, including working for a company, or meeting some bright people and starting his own.

Niedoba said persistence is the key to academic success.

"You've got to be persistent at it," he declared, adding some Grade 12 students slack off after their mid-terms because those results are all the universities look at.

"You've got to like what you learn," he added, commenting that was the secret for him in computer science.

He commented that Waterloo, along with the University of Toronto, is one of the best engineering schools in the country, with a great co-op program and an impressive record of successful graduates. He also said the co-op component will allow him to do some travelling, since placements in the Kitchener area might be limited. "I'd like to see different places," he said.

Niedoba admitted he's excited at the prospect of university, observing Frosh Week is not that far off in the future.

"It's going to be fun," he said.