

Three local teens presented with Duke of Edinburgh Awards

By Nick Fernandes

A group of Caledon teens have won silver level honours in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program.

They accepted their awards Saturday in a ceremony at Queen's Park from Lt.-Gov. David Onley. Included among the 76 recipients were Alex Court from Palgrave and Jeanette Burnside and Rebecca Dale from Bolton.

The Award program was created by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1956 to foster excellence in Britain. It was expanded to Canada in 1963. It now incorporates about 130 countries with 7 million participants worldwide.

"It makes me feel like all my work has come to something," Court commented, who participated in the program with Dale and Burnside as part of the 1st Bolton Scouts.

Part of the qualifications involved taking an adventurous journey, and the three took part in a five-day canoe trip in Algonquin Park.

The winners have done a wide range of other activities to fulfill the rest of the categories. Court worked as a Area Youth Commissioner for Scouts Canada and practiced film-making, Burnside participated in figure skating shows and curling, and Dale is a photographer who has taken on leadership duties with the Scouts.

"It took a lot of hard work and dedication," said Burnside. "It was such a big accomplishment."

The requirements involve four categories; community service, improvement of skills, physical fitness, and outdoor exploration, and each of the recipients accomplished something in each category.