



June 3, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Stoney Creek Student is Builder for a Day
Dream Home Includes a Carnival Playroom, Lake and Go-Kart Track**

HAMILTON - A nine-year-old from Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Stoney Creek is Hamilton's youngest home builder, beating out 400 entries to become the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association's "Builder for a Day."

Alicia Armacinski will spend today on the job site with fourth-generation builder Brandon Campbell of Starward Homes, learning first-hand how a house is built. She also wins a prize pack with tools, work boots, gift certificates and more.

In response to the contest invitation to draw and describe her dream home, Alicia provided a two-page description explaining its "wonderful features." She also did a detailed front elevation and aerial view drawing, noting "there are not enough hours in a day to enjoy all the variety that my dream home has to offer."

"Alicia took a very imaginative approach to describing her dream home," says Steve Spicer, president of the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association (HHHBA). "Her description of the home's features was interesting, well thought out and designed to entice people to 'come on over' and play, although she warned that visitors should first make sure their homework was done! In addition, her drawing was excellent and provided a virtual map of the property."

Alicia's dream home included a waterfall, rainforest, carnival playroom, a separate bedroom for her pet dogs and hamster, and a lake in the backyard with a water plane that can fly up to 10 people 1,000 miles away.

Nevan Alexanian from Dundana Public School in Dundas won First Runner Up for his environmentally-friendly dream home which included solar panels and a greenhouse to grow his own fruits and vegetables.

-more-

Erica Pierce from St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School in Stoney Creek placed Second Runner Up with her dream home that included a “foods of the world” station in the kitchen and McMaster Children’s Hospital on the second floor.

Honourable Mentions were given to Alexandra Rocci, from St. Clare of Assisi, for her dream home located above a shopping mall; and Kiera Wassink from Dundas Calvin Christian School for her log cabin dream home, including detailed wood features and bedrooms for everyone in her family.

“We know many children are fascinated by building and of course we want to encourage young people to consider a career in the building industry,” Mr. Spicer says. “This is a fun way for us to promote construction and design to the ‘next generation’ of builders, engineers, architects and skilled tradespeople.”

The HHHBA worked with local school boards to distribute the entry forms in grade 4 classrooms across the city. “This contest would not be possible without the enthusiastic involvement of Hamilton’s school boards,” says Doug Duke, executive officer of HHHBA.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and The Hamilton Spectator are sponsors of the event, which is the only one of its kind in Ontario.

-30-

Backgrounders attached: More details on Alicia’s entry, runners’ up and honourable mentions, judges and unusual dream home features included by contest entrants.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Janzen, Hellingman Communications,
905-527-2985, ext. 16, or 905-516-7788 (cell).

BACKGROUNDER 1

About Alicia's Entry:

- Took her two weekends to draw it
- Special features included:
 - A "wine seller" with 500 bottles, including "a bottle from most countries"
 - A 25-acre property with a lake, go-kart track, tennis court, soccer field, driving range, and three golf courses
 - A garage to fit 10 cars and 5 golf carts
 - A theatre room with a 150 inch TV
 - A five and ten pin bowling alley (she noted this will "help you stretch those muscles after you have finished watching either a movie or TV show in the home theatre")

Judge's comment for Alicia's entry: "I would like to live here!"

First Runner Up

Nevan Alexanian, age 10, Dundana Public School, Dundas

Judges' comments: "Excellent job. Well-written, well-researched and beautifully laid out."

Second Runner Up

Erica Pierce, age 10, St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School, Stoney Creek

Judges' comments: "Wonderful blend of glitz and humanitarian ideas. The description and drawing are top-notch. I like the carrot cake tree, chocolate fountain and 'the softest couch known to man.' Well done!"

Honourable Mentions

Alexandra Rocci, age 10, St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School, Stoney Creek

Judges' comments: "Lots of colour and detail. Social conscience and entrepreneurial."

Kiera Wassink, age 10, Dundas Calvin Christian School, Dundas

Judges' comments: "Very detailed, clear drawing. Social conscience – simple needs, family-oriented. Neat, tidy and easy to read."

All runners' up and honourable mentions received certificates and gift certificates.

Judges:

Steve Spicer, president, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association

Doug Duke, executive officer, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association

John Spolnik, director, Building Department, City of Hamilton

Jeff Mahoney, columnist, Hamilton Spectator

Frank Giannone, president, Ontario Home Builders' Association

Boris Shapas, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Brandon Campbell, Starward Homes (host builder)

Cynthia Janzen, Hellingman Communications

BACKGROUNDER 2

A selection of “features” kids identified for their dream homes:

“A house made of marshmallows and trees of cotton candy, so I could eat my house”

“I would have a money tree and a doorbell that says ‘cha-ching’ (sign drawn on house: ‘Home of Mrs. Millionier’)”

“Maids who will make me breakfast and dinner, but I will make my own snacks”

“Rockets so it can go up into space”

“A carrot cake tree”

“A money tree with \$10, \$25, even \$100 bills on it and the wind would come and blow it for anyone to catch”

“The outside would be made of pretzels”

“An ice cream robot that serves guests”

“I would only let Jesus in my house”

“My house will have an addict”

“200 little brothers and giving \$1 billion to cancer research”

“An elevator that talks. I could be friends with an elevator if it talked!”

“The softest couch known to man”

“A room filled with genies and genie outfits”

“It will be a place where everyone is accepted no matter if your Chinas or Dutch or even Japain”

“An on sweet bathroom”

“A magic library: you press a button and a book pops out”

“A hot tube (tub) on every floor”

“A concert hall for when I become famous”

“A cookie room where you have to eat the door to get in”

“It will be a manchin”

“I’ll have 62 servants”

“A diamond doorbell”

“A canapé bed”