

# GSS robotics team takes national gold

*International competition in Japan in 2007  
next stop for Grimsby students*

By Scott Rosts  
The News

The Grimsby Secondary School Robotics team extended its winning streak, this time at the national level.

The four GSS students representing Niagara and Ontario, at the Skills Canada Technology competition last week in Halifax, won gold and will now move on to competitions at the international level next year. Beamsville District Secondary School students Megan Beaumont and Karl Juhlke also performed well at the nationals, winning a silver medal in the 3D Character Animation competition.

GSS technology teacher Scott Miller said the entire school community is proud of the Robotics Team's effort. Students participating on the team are Andrew Kramer, Chris Rintjema, Stuart Haws and Peter Mullen.

"It's incredible. They are the best in Canada," said Mr. Miller, adding the win means they will move on to compete in an international competition in

Japan in the fall of 2007.

"The Tank", as the robot is called, was completely put together by the students at GSS, including design, electronics, engines and more. The project was student driven.

The challenge at the national level was the same as the regional and provincial competitions, which GSS had won gold at.

The robot had to lift a football five feet into the air and dunk it into a net as many times as possible.

Representatives from the provinces squared off to see which robot could dunk it the most. In the finals it came down to Team Ontario, represented by GSS, against Team Manitoba.

While the competition wasn't as close as the provincials, says Andrew, there was still a little bit of an obstacle to overcome in the finals.

"The arm had got caught on the net and it flipped it right over," he recalls. "I drove it some more and managed to

See GOLD, Page 3

## GOLD

From Page 1

flip it back over."

Not only did GSS proceed to still defeat the Team Manitoba that round, but they won the contest by a score of 32-26.

Mr. Miller said it was performances like Andrew's driving skills that helped GSS win the gold medal.

"They kept their composure. It had you sitting on the edge of your seat, but

they really showed some heart despite something like that happening to them and they just kept going," he said.

He added the students have "come a long way" since starting "The Tank" back in September.

After three golden performances the robot is nearly retired. Chris says it will be travelling with its sponsor, Parker Hannifin, to a trade show in Edmonton next month. After that, the students will focus their efforts on a new robot for the international competition.

"That robot is all done with," said Mr. Miller.

He said the students will focus on a new robot, but what the project will entail is still in the works. Eventually, however, they will be provided with a \$6,000 kit with all the materials needed to construct a robot to compete in Japan.

While all of the students will have graduated by next fall, when the competition is expected to be held, they will all be eligible to compete, said Mr. Miller.

Chris and Andrew say they will use their experiences from the Robotics competition in their post-secondary education. "Now we are looking to see if we can get some type of scholarships," said Andrew.

Win or lose, said Chris, it was an overall great experience.

"It was a really great opportunity and we got to meet other people from across Canada," he said.

At BDSS, Technology Department head Mike Doyle says he is proud of Megan and Karl's accomplishments.

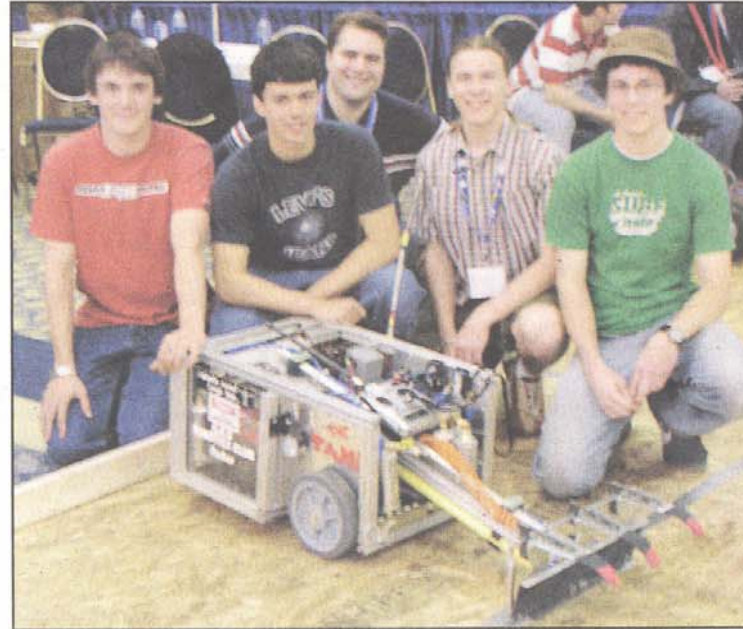
"To win silver is just a wonderful thing for these kids to do," he said.

The students had a challenge of pitching a cartoon show to a TV channel.

"They had very good characterization and their characters were able to convey many emotional qualities," said Mr. Doyle of the students' success, adding they were "very creative".

Like the GSS students, Mr. Doyle said Megan and Karl will both be going into post-secondary programs where they can utilize the skills they've performed.

"The skills they've picked up have a real-world application," he said.



The Grimsby Secondary School Robotics team is the Skills Canada Technology competition champion. (L to R) Andrew Kramer, Chris Rintjema, staff advisor Chad Whittington, Stuart Haws and Peter Mullen.

Submitted Photo