

NEWS RELEASE

High school grads receive \$474,500 towards post-secondary education

Nanaimo, 18 June 2015 – This month, hundreds of local graduating high school students from Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools (SD 68) received a total of \$474,500 in scholarships, bursaries and awards from the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation to pursue post-secondary education.

Overall, 373 students were awarded amounts ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 each.

Crystal Dennison, executive director of the foundation, said that local service clubs, community organizations and private donors provided \$323,500, while the Ministry of Education funded 151 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Last year, the foundation distributed \$462,000 to local graduates toward the cost of post-secondary education.

“Thanks to the generosity of our community partners, many graduating high school students now have the opportunity to continue their education,” said Dennison. “Our donors understand the importance of helping young people succeed and see their support as an investment in their community’s future. Without our donors’ financial support, many students may not have the opportunity to go to college or university.”

Dennison credits the \$12,500 increase in funding to new community donors and an additional \$11,000 from the Ministry of Education.

This year’s top recipients, from **Nanaimo Secondary schools**, receiving \$3,000 or more are:

- **Samantha Paule**, Wellington: Kinsmen Club of Nanaimo-Trevor Thompson Award \$2,000; Rotary Club of Nanaimo-Oceanside Awards \$1,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Morgan Brimacombe**, Wellington: Hitchcock Memorial Award \$2,000; Rotary Club of Nanaimo - Oceanside Award \$1,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Gregory Sorensen**, Dover Bay: Linda McCourt Memorial Award \$1,000; Women of the Moose #197 (Nanaimo) Award \$1,000; Hospital Employees’ Union (Nanaimo Local) Award \$500; Dr. Leo Margolis Memorial Award \$500; Knights of Columbus #9990 Award \$750.
- **Kevin Choi**, Dover Bay: Justin Smith Scholarship \$2,500; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Taylor Daneluk**, Barsby: Cedar Prom Legacy Award \$500; Erin van Steen Animal Health Care Award \$2,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Zachary Apland**, Wellington: Gyro Club of Nanaimo Elmer Bradshaw/Jack Ryan Award \$2,000; Wellington Student Council Award \$250; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Madeline Brooks**, Dover Bay: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 257 Award \$1,000; Canadian Federation of University Women Nanaimo Scholarship \$1,100; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Mark Rudston-Brown**, Dover Bay: The Barkerson Award-Trades \$2,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.

- **Rayshell Doyle**, Barsby: Ferns Bursary-Junior Leadership \$750; Thrifty Foods Citizen Award \$750; J.B.C.S. Band Parents' Association Music Award \$500; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Gagandeep Saroya**, Barsby: Gyro Club of Nanaimo Elmer Bradshaw/Jack Ryan Award \$2,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Lina Dinh**, Woodlands: N.R.G.H. Auxiliary Bursaries \$2,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Cameron Rogers**, NDSS: Canadian Union of Public Employees Union Local 606 (Nanaimo Unit) Award \$500; Mid Island Truck & Equipment Association Award \$500; Rotary Club of Nanaimo Vocational Award \$1,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.

Top recipients from **Ladysmith Secondary school**, receiving \$3,000 or more are:

- **Olivia Aarsen**: Cedar Canadian Girls in Training \$1,000; Ladysmith Health Care Auxiliary Scholarship \$4,000.
- **Alexis Bouma**: Grad 2011 Award \$500; Ladysmith and District Credit Union-John Ulinder Memorial Scholarship \$5,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Anastasia Cooper**: Ladysmith and District Credit Union Bursary (Vocational) \$3,000.
- **Chanel Dwinnell**: Woodbank Primary/North Cedar Intermediate Bursary \$250; Cedar Lions' Gary Lawrence Memorial Bursary \$750; Cedar Community Secondary Prom Legacy Award \$500; Wayne Grouhel/Rob Fawdry Memorial Kinsmen Award \$500; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Mia Frier**: Language Scholarship \$500; Lucy Lytton Memorial Scholarship \$2,500; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Nathaniel Green**: Helen Helmkey Memorial Award \$1,000; Ladysmith Lions' Pete Seaton Bursary \$1,000; Ministry Dogwood Award \$1,000.
- **Katrina Hjort**: Ladysmith Health Care Youth Volunteer Scholarship \$4,000.
- **Melissa Mrus**: Ladysmith Health Care Youth Volunteer Scholarship \$4,000; Ladysmith Health Care Youth Volunteer Scholarship \$300.
- **Madeline Shred**: Ladysmith Health Care Auxiliary Scholarship \$4,000; Retired Teachers Association Awards \$750.
- **Sam Street**: Ladysmith and District Credit Union Bursary (Academic) \$3,000.
- **Emily Weeks**: Ladies Auxiliary FOE Aerie 2101 Bursary \$1,000; Ladysmith Lions' Pete Seaton Memorial Award \$1,000; Cory Bailey Memorial Award \$1,000.

Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation is a community based, non-profit organization that raises funds to help support unmet basic needs of students in School District 68, which has a high child poverty rate.

While the original purpose was to raise money for scholarships and bursaries, the foundation's mission has expanded over the years to helping provide food programs, school supplies and other needs of students attending Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools.

For more information about Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, or to donate, please contact Dennison at 250-753-4074 or visit www.NLSF.ca.

For more information:

Crystal Dennison, Executive Director
Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation
250.753.4074

Marianne van Toor
Communications Officer
m-van-toor@shaw.ca
250.753.2669