

NEWS RELEASE

Six Gabriola residents among high school grads receiving \$474,500 towards post-secondary education

Nanaimo, 22 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.”

This year’s award recipients from **Gabriola Island** graduating from NDSS are:

Casey Burroughs, Mid Island Consumer Services Co-Operative Bursary \$500; Gabriola Lions and Joe Brake Memorial Awards \$1,000.

Fairyn Bye, Gabriola Ambulance Society Scholarship \$2,000.

Christopher Deggan, Liz Matthews Gabriola Memorial Award \$1,000; Gabriola Island Lions’ Club “Bill & Donna Hardstaff” Memorial Award \$500.

Isabella Dominelli, Gabriola Island Lions’s Club Award \$2,000.

Winter Morningstar, Gabriola Island Lions’s Club Award \$2,000.

James Whelan, Gabriola Lions and Joe Brake Memorial Awards \$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.

- 30 -

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