

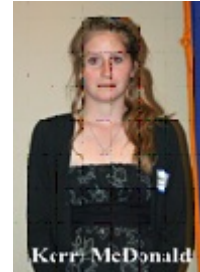
Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore

Press Release June 9, 2009

Annual Academic Awards

Kerri McDonald:

Kerri McDonald has spent her high school years at M M Robinson High School where she has been an honour student every year. This year she expects to graduate with an average of around 90%, a feat she attained in both Grade 10 and 11. Kerri has taken a number of business subjects while at M M Robinson, and will receive a Business Education Certificate as recognition when she graduates.



Kerri has decided to enroll in the McMaster University Nursing program and then hopes to proceed to take a Master of Nursing Degree.

While at M M Robinson Kerri has participated in a number of sports teams, including the basketball team since Grade 9, the soccer team last year, and hockey and rugby teams this year. She has been a key member of the school athletic council, and has helped run several activities including the Terry Fox Run, pep rallies, the annual pasta dinner and silent auctions, and athletic banquet.

Kerri has also belonged to the DECA club, where she competed in an international business competition, and in SMOSH, a group which helps to organize recreational outings for the Grade 12 class.

Outside of school, Kerri has done extensive volunteering including refereeing an annual volleyball tournament at Brant Hills school, canvassing for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, volunteering at Brantwood Long Term Care Facility and volunteering at our Ribfest in the VIP tent. Kerri also participated in the Rotary Camp Enterprise in Grade 11, a program which she says helped her with problem solving, communication and interpersonal skills.

Her community activities were on top of working each year of high school, including being a nanny for 3 young children, (2 of which had special needs) for all four years. Her family life situation is complicated by the fact that her father is on permanent disability, leaving her mother as the only breadwinner in the family.

Our own Bev Clark writes that "Kerri always has a smile on her face and makes us feel that she is happy to be there. She's always on time and won't leave until everything is completed. She tackles large and small jobs with enthusiasm and then looks for something else to do."

With her enthusiasm, maturity and sense of responsibility, as well as her proven track record at school, we know Kerri will continue to be successful as she pursues a nursing education.

Congratulation Kerri!

Matthew Oolson

Matthew Oolson will graduate this spring from Robert Bateman High School. His high school career is filled with achievements in academics, service to his school and the community and leadership positions at school and in Burlington. He plans to study microbiology at McGill University this fall with

an objective of becoming a medical doctor.

Matthew has always striven to do his best. Not content with the regular secondary school academic education, he applied for and was accepted into the International Baccalaureate Program at Bateman. He has done exceptionally well, graduating with an average in the mid 90 percent range. In addition to winning several school awards for the highest mark in specific subjects, he won the Begbie National History Contest Award for Halton.



Matt has also shown leadership and service at his school in other ways. He organized the annual Charity Auction which raised more than \$2000 for Sleeping Children Around the World, and was the CEO for the first ever Numeracy Initiative at Robert Bateman. Matt has also been the Captain of the school's Reach for the Top team for the past three years. In addition Matt has found time to tutor a Grade 7 student with a learning disability as well as participate actively in the Bateman Student Senate.

Outside of school, Matt has also been actively involved in his community. He has been a volunteer for the past three summers at the summer camp Kids 4 Kids in Halton which teaches children leadership skills and anti-bullying strategies. He has been a member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band for the past five years, and is presently a first trumpet player and soloist. He mentions the pride he felt as the Band traveled overseas to participate in the ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

This summer Matt will be working at two jobs in order to save for his first year at University.

His many accomplishments at High School makes us feel certain that he will have a very successful University experience in the years ahead.

Congratulations Matthew!

Samantha Leahy

Samantha graduates this year from Nelson High School. She has maintained an Honour Roll standing each year of high school. She plans to study Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience at the University of Windsor next fall.

In addition to her academic life at Nelson, Samantha has been very active in student government. She has been a member of Burlington Student Senate, and this year she cochaired the Nelson Student Council, which involves many hours of planning meetings setting agendas, mentoring students and organized fundraisers. Recently, Samantha also helped plan the Apeldoorn-Burlington student exchange.



Outside of school, she has been a lifeguard with the City of Burlington, where she teaches classes in leadership and first aid.

Samantha has also volunteered at the Carpenter Hospice. Since March of last year she has devoted more than 100 hours of her time in assisting with housekeeping and kitchen chores. As well, she has done extensive volunteering at the Foxcroft Equestrian Centre.

In November 2007 Samantha presented her grade 10 "Reflection of a Darker Time" history project to the Probus Club of Burlington, and received many favourable comments afterwards.

Her History Teacher, Mike Ross writes that "Samantha is a diligent, hard working and talented student." Maggie Pagotto, Co-ordinator of Volunteers at Carpenter Hospice comment that Samantha "will be an asset in whatever career path she chooses."

Having examined her impressive high school record, and had the chance to talk with her at a recent interview, we heartily concur.

Congratulations Samantha!

Kaley Ross

Kaley is this year's winner of our newest award, the Leon and Betty Laron Fine Arts Award.

She graduates from Pearson High School with honours, a record she has maintained throughout High School. She plans to make photography her vocational career. She has enrolled at Sheridan College in the Applied Photography program this fall.

Kaley has been very active in sports at Pearson and in her community in the past four years. She has been a member of nine sports teams in total over her high school career. She was Captain of her Midget Girls Volleyball team in Grade 9, Assistant Captain of the Varsity Girls Rugby team last year, and Captain of both the Senior Girls Basketball team and Varsity Girls Rugby this school year.



Kaley was also on the Athletic Council for Pearson for the past three years. As a member of this council, she volunteered her time at school tournaments, organized intramural sports for students, helped organize the annual Athletic Banquet and participated in weekly council meetings.

As well, Kaley has managed to find the time to volunteer in sports activities outside her school. She served as a basketball coach for girls and boys grade 7 and 8 teams for the Halton Waldorf school while in Grade 10. She also coached U6 girl's soccer teams for Burlington Youth Soccer Club during two summers. She has managed all of these activities while working significant hours at her part time job.

As far as photography is concerned, Kaley spent long hours planning and implementing a slide show for the Athletic banquet for the past two years, as well as designing a cover for the Pearson yearbook. The committee who interviewed Kaley were also very impressed with her photographic portfolio which she submitted to us.

We believe it especially fitting that Kaley receive this award for the study of photography, as Leon Laron himself a photographer, would have wished if he were here tonight.

Congratulations Kaley!

Andrew Corbett

Andrew Corbett is the winner this year of the Foundation's oldest award, the McDermott Educational Award for vocation studies.

Andrew graduates from Robert Bateman High School this spring with a "B" average overall, and a grade of 91 % in Transportation and Technology. ' He has been accepted for the 2009 - 2010 year to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program in Transportation and Technology. Andrew hopes to become a

certified auto mechanic.

While at Bateman, Andrew has been active in several areas. This year he is a varsity Rugby Player. He has also volunteered to help out with the maintenance of the auto mechanics shop, and has assisted the mechanics in their work. He has also been a mentor with the younger students in Transportation and Technology, showing them how to weld and use tools properly. As well, Andrew was a member of the Advisory Committee for Youthfest, representing Robert Bateman, and assisted with the Elementary School Dance and the Battle of the Bands.



Outside of school, Andrew has been a Youth leader in his Church, planning the running of concerts and other events. As well, he has been actively involved in Cubs and Scouts for several years. He was a Cub leader and Venture volunteer for the 31st Burlington Scouts, where he led weekend excursions to Camp Manitou, and last year he volunteered as Staff at the World Jamboree in Quebec and Jambo in London. Andrew also took on a leadership role as Venture Company President and Vice President as part of his Scouting experience.

Ron Mackay, Venture and Rover Advisor for the 31st Burlington Scouts, writes:

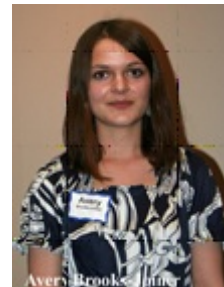
"Andrew has been exemplary, not only doing the regular scouting functions but in his willingness to help the leaders and educate the Scouting youth with whom he comes in contact."

We believe Andrew is truly a worthy recipient of the McDermott Award for 2009, and we are sure Ron would have been pleased with our selection.

Congratulations Andrew!

Avery Brooks-Joiner

Avery graduates at Central High School this spring with an exemplary track record. Not only has she maintained a solid honours standing for all four years, but she has had major involvement with her school in many other ways. She has been a member of the Concert Band, player and assistant Captain of both the Women's Hockey team and soccer team, a member of the school REACH team for four years, involved with the Environmental Club, and a Prefect for the past three years. This year she is Head Prefect.



Avery has also served on the Halton District School Board Senate for three years, and on the Student Council for four years, this year as Treasurer.

Outside of school Avery volunteers for Performing Arts Burlington, where she has helped with memberships and fundraising. She also has volunteered for the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Ontario Museum Association. In addition she find time to play soccer and hockey for community clubs teams outside of school.

Avery plans to study Commerce at Queens University this fall, with the eventual goal of becoming a Creative Director in a corporate or non-profit setting.

Josie Schnurr, the Program Leader for Guidance at Central, writes, "Avery was also recently chosen as our schools' representative for the Student of Excellence. I can think of no worthier candidate. Avery exemplifies leadership, confidence, empathy, humility and responsibility." She also said she discovered something wonderful about Avery. She states "almost every staff member I spoke to has something positive to say about her, or that she had assisted them in some small way with a task they were

undertaking. I had no idea what a significant impact she has had on so many people at Burlington Central."

Comment likes these, combined with meeting her leave no doubt that her track record is for real, and we know Avery will continue to excel in University in many areas.

Congratulations Avery!