

## **Rotary Club of North Bay's Great Student Award - 2017**

### **Adam Strang- West Ferris Secondary School**

Adam Strang is a grade 11 student at West Ferris Secondary School. His volunteer contributions to the Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre over the past couple of summers makes him one of Ferris' most generous students. Beyond that, he is an invaluable member of the Student Council in the position of "Grade 11 Rep". Adam is always the first to volunteer for the countless activities going on at West Ferris including fun student focused events as well as numerous charity events. Adam is also the "voice" of West Ferris looking after our morning announcements. One of his many contributions to the morning program is hall-way music and varying "Oh Canada" renditions to keep our student body entertained!

### **Victoria Zhou - Chippewa Secondary**

Victoria Zhou is a grade 11 student at Chippewa. She has accumulated over 254 volunteer hours so far. Victoria is a perfect role model when it comes to a high school student who tries to make a difference in her school culture and home community.

Victoria has spent many hours involved in events that help uplift the spirit of others, and to increase her fellow students sense of value and confidence through running Worthy Devotion campaign here at Chippewa. She has also made a difference in our community by volunteering for the North Bay Farmers Market and using her talent as a wonderful pianist to bring joy to others through music. Chippewa is very proud to nominate Victoria Zhou for this year's Rotary Club Great Student Award.

### **Amber St-Jean - ÉSC Algonquin**

Amber is a grade 12 student and an engaged student and citizen of this community.

She is an active member of the school's esteem group which helps students who have self-esteem issues as well as being on the school's student counsel.

Amber also participated in various fundraising activities such as the Annual Food Drive and also helps to organize Halloween events for elementary students. She helps students through the tutoring program at school but what impresses teachers even more is the help she will give to students around her in her courses. Amber understands the need for people to give of themselves to make this a better place. She is the kind of student that answers the call whenever she is asked.

Amber is also very involved with her community. One of Amber's great gifts is her willingness to help others. She has been involved in a multitude of causes in the community such as an identity camp, the Alzheimer's society, the Canadian cancer society, the heart and stroke foundation, the early years center, health unit, the north bay food bank as well.

Amber has accumulated an impressive 225 hours of community service thus far. She continues to give to her peers and to her community. Amber is kind, empathetic and is very accepting of others putting their needs before her own. Her positive energy is appreciated by all who meet her. She is a strong individual who embodies the values of a person who serves others selflessly.

### **Julianna Head - SJSH**

Throughout the past four years, Julianna has been heavily involved in many different volunteer opportunities in her school and community, one of which being Patrick4life. This includes volunteering for multiple activities such as participating and helping organize annual Run/Walk events. She is currently the president of the student council at SJSH and dedicates a great amount of time into planning and organizing activities, fundraisers and all other sanctioned events.

She has also recently joined the new Me to We club at SJSH. This past summer, after a year of fundraising, she had the opportunity to be a part of the Duke of Edinburg program and visit Costa Rica for a humanitarian trip. During her trip she contributed in helping build and paint classrooms, as well as donating supplies and clothing. Lastly, Julianna has been volunteering for all the volleyball based programs in her community since grade seven by teaching the fundamentals of a sport she loves to children, as it is something she has a passion for.

### **Ellen Perry - Odysee**

Ellen is a grade 11 student at Odyssée. She is an honour student with a marked work ethic well beyond her years. She is very attentive to details and is perseverant in her assignments and everything she undertakes.

Ellen is kind-hearted and is also first to often help others at the school level. She also strives to help others in the community and beyond. Years ago, while in grade 7 & 8, she was awarded the school's ALTRUIST of the Year- a

distinction she encompasses, as a person who unselfishly, is always concerned for or devoted to the welfare of others.

Ellen demonstrates her "**Service Above Self**" qualities on a daily basis. She is busy with her studies and has been active with school and area athletics in cross country and badminton. Her perseverance in badminton brought her to the Provincial championships more than once. But despite her busy schedule, Ellen always strives to set high standards and encourages others to be inclusive and open-minded. For the last few years, Ellen has extended her love of reading and learning to volunteering well over a hundred hours at the Powassan library.

Ellen is always smiling. Her respectful demeanour and positive attitude proves that she is an outstanding example of what students can accomplish unselfishly when they help others.

She has accomplished all this despite her hearing challenges, while maintaining extremely high academic achievements and being a constant respectful model for other students.

### **Hayden Wice - Widdifield Secondary**

Hayden is a grade 11 student who is intrinsically motivated to help and assist others as he goes about his daily affairs. In this manner, Hayden endeavours to make a positive impact on his school community, his local community, and even the global community. Hayden began making his mark on Widdifield the day he arrived in Grade 9.

He has been and continues to be involved in a number of clubs at school, including Cats in the Kitchen. Hayden is the lead student organizer for this club, which is designed to provide education and experience to students in the Widdifield community about healthy eating choices. Hayden has been a part of the club since its inception. He has helped to organize and host a number of healthy lunches for the school and has, most recently, hosted a yoghurt giveaway, in which the club offered free yoghurt, fruit and granola to students; and a lunchtime "Extravaganza" in which eggs were featured as a reminder to students to eat breakfast, and especially on exam days.

Hayden is the editor of The Wildcat Banner, the student voice of Widdifield Secondary School. He joined The Banner as a writer in Grade 9 and, quite remarkably, volunteered to be its editor beginning in Grade 10. His leadership has brought much needed stability to this group of young journalists. Under his watch, the newspaper has continued its strong tradition of reporting school news and publishing student writing.

Hayden is also a member and enthusiastic advocate of Free the Children, a youth helping youth organization founded by Craig Kielberger. He participated in this group at Mapleridge, his previous school, and plays an integral role in Widdifield's chapter of this worthwhile club.

Hayden helps to plan events such as the International Dinner and Movember in order to raise money for and awareness of social justice issues. Hayden has trained with the Take Action leaders from Toronto on multiple occasions and has attended We Day in Toronto, twice.

It should also be noted that Hayden served as the host of morning announcements at Widdifield the past two years, that he dances with La Troupe de Danse, Widdifield's dancing ensemble, and that he choreographs many of their routines. Hayden is actively involved in his school community, to say the least.

Outside of school, Hayden has been just as busy. He has been a volunteer event coordinator for the Smoke 'n' Spurs Festival in Powassan for the past three years, the summer program coordinator at the Powassan and District Union Public Library last summer, and he has even been "Mayor for a Day" in Powassan during October of 2013! Most notably, Hayden serves as a member of Mr. Anthony Rota's Constituency Youth Council after being appointed in November of 2016. This council endeavours to allow young Canadians, ages 15-25, to engage with the federal political process by sharing opinions and attitudes that will surely shape the future of our country.

In all he does, volunteerism is central to Hayden's pursuits as a student and as a citizen. It is the foundation on which he is building a life of character. In serving others, Hayden is bettering himself, for, as Mahatma Ghandi has said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." At a young age, Hayden seems to have already internalized this all important life-lesson. Though he is unsure what the future holds, we can all be sure that Hayden will be lending someone a helping hand.