

**Rotary Great Student Awards 2025 – Recipient Bios**

**Mélodie Brais**

**Franco-Cité**

Mélodie is a remarkable grade 11 student who is always willing to offer a helping hand. She is extremely patient, soft-spoken and she cares deeply about the people around her. She is a member of the student council who spends many hours organizing school activities and helping students thrive. Every time she is asked to help with a school activity, Mélodie never refuses. She is humble and tremendously kind. She does not seek attention or gratitude, rather she seeks to make her environment a respectable place to live.

At school, she is a reliable student who devotes a lot of her time to the welfare of others. She is busy raising funds to help people in need at school and in the community. In fact, she helped organize and she participated in the school food drive (*Une canne, ça dépanne*) to help people in need in the community. During the last three years, she has dedicated numerous hours to help others. These are the reasons why we are submitting Mélodie's name for this award as she makes a huge difference not only at school, but also in the community.

**Maeve Elsey**

**St. Joseph Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School**

Maeve Elsey is a student who, over her years at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall, has made the school a better place for everyone. She has taken on leadership roles on our Student Council and has been actively involved in various other activities during her time as a Bear. She is a student who goes out of her way to make all of her peers feel welcome and a part of the SJSH community. From making sure to welcome and mentor younger students and students with special needs in our Musical Theatre program, to being part of our welcoming committee for international students who are new to our school and indeed to our country.

Maeve displays maturity and a genuine interest in what these students have to say and helps them to fit in and feel comfortable right away. As part of the SJSH Social justice program, the Bears Who Care, she helps organize activities that bring awareness and action to address topics such as food and clothing insecurity in our school community and our community at large. For these reasons and many more, Maeve is SJSH's 2025 student who exemplifies "Service Above Self".

**Aiden Corbeil**  
**Nbisiing Secondary**

Aiden exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated and compassionate leader within our school community. Always willing to lend a hand, Aiden is the first to support peers with schoolwork or assist staff with organizing and setting up events. Most recently, Aiden was a founding member of Nbisiing's E-Sports team competing alongside his peers against teams from across Canada and the United States.

Aiden is a role model who embodies the values of our school, consistently demonstrating respect, honesty, and humility. Beyond the classroom, he represents Nbisiing Secondary School with pride, recently completing a successful co-operative education placement at East Side Mario's in North Bay, showcasing his strong work ethic and commitment to personal growth.

Aiden's contributions make him a deserving recipient of this award, and I am confident he will continue to inspire those around him.

**Connor Chémery**  
**École secondaire publique Odyssée**

While he may not be the most vocal student, his actions speak volumes about his personality and awareness of those around him. He is always willing to help his shop teacher on school projects and his classmates with their own. Many of his teachers share that Connor is a calming presence in the classroom and is always respectful towards his peers and those in authority. Outside of school, Connor completed many hours of community service with the heritage railway, helping operate the carousel and drive the train.

He also made sure his peers (mostly senior volunteers) were able to take longer breaks on hotter days and always had water with them. He is also a good neighbor, always willing to help neighbors or friends of the family their property maintenance and other chores, from cutting grass to help moving. When Connor is not busy volunteering and helping others, he likes to keep himself busy by immersing himself in the trades and is aiming to pursue a career either as a welder or electrician.

**Shayla Fader**  
**École secondaire publique Nipissing Ouest**

Shayla Fader, Grade 11, exemplifies the Rotary Club's "Service Above Self" motto through her consistent dedication to helping others across all age groups in the community. She has volunteered in various roles, including as a hospital ambassador at the North Bay Regional Health Centre's LEAD program, where she created a welcoming atmosphere for patients and visitors.

Shayla has also contributed to numerous community events, such as assisting with the Parade of Lights, managing the school recycling program, serving as a lineman for the women's volleyball league, and helping set up local vendor booths at the summer market. Additionally, she has volunteered as a photographer for the West Nipissing Minor Hockey Association and the school basketball team, supported family movie nights at the local elementary school, and created Christmas cards for seniors in the community.

Shayla is a responsible, reliable, and motivated student who has demonstrated significant personal growth throughout the years. Her involvement extends far beyond a typical summer job, demonstrating her passion for community service and her commitment to making a positive impact.

**Addisyn Kelly**  
**West Ferris Secondary School**

She is a leader in dance classes and takes time to work and help others and encourages them when they are trying new things. She is the Dance Captain of the TroDANCE team and is choreographing a piece for 33 students that will be showcased at Artsfest.

She most recently performed on the Lion Children's Telethon, and when the wrong music was played on live tv, she supported her team and made everyone calm.

Addisyn works at East Home as a housekeeper and talks about how she connects with the residents. She chats with them about their days and their families and their interests.

**Riley Trudeau**  
**Northern Secondary School**

She exemplifies "service above self", in both her school and in the wider community. Riley's volunteering is quite extensive. In her local community of West Nipissing, she helped at the annual Traditional Christmas event at the Sturgeon River House Museum, as well as at their First Responder's Appreciation Day. She has volunteered for the Woodland Metis Community Center and has donated her time for the West Nipissing Dream Catchers' Canada Day event, as well as their Aladdin and Frozen Jr. production. In addition to being an active member of the wider community, Riley is an engaged student at school. For example, she has served on the Near North District School Board's Indigenous Youth Circle since 2022. As part of this, she is the schools' Indigenous Youth Trustee until 2026.

She has also attended the Ontario Student Trustees Association conferences, served on the Indigenous Education Advisory Council, participated in the Stuff the Cruiser events, and participated in drumming at White Woods Public School as part of Every Child Matters.

She also helped prepare for Northern's Teaching and Learning Powwow in 2024. Riley has also participated in drumming during lunch at school, at Northern's 2023-24 graduation ceremony, for Orange Shirt Day, and Red Dress Day. Being actively involved is a core value for Riley. In the last couple of years, she has attended the Women's Conference in Toronto, the Anishinabek Nation Youth Culture Camp, and meetings for HearNowON Student Mental Health. She has also served on the West Nipissing Youth Advisory Council, as well as on the West Nipissing Youth Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee. She does all of this while also managing her course load and working a part-time job. Drawing from her Indigenous roots, Riley is passionate about doing her part to make the world a better place. She is a role model for her peers as someone who advocates for others and who acts on her convictions. Northern Secondary School is honoured to nominate her for this award.

### **Mathieu Matte**

#### **École secondaire catholique Élisabeth-Bruyère**

We are proud to celebrate Mathieu Matte, a grade 12 student whose initiative, and selflessness have made a lasting impact on both his school and community. Mathieu is always the first to offer a helping hand, going above and beyond without ever needing to be asked.

One memorable example of Mathieu's generosity occurred during the Christmas breakfast prepared by staff members for the students. As we were cleaning up, Mathieu joined us in the kitchen without being asked to help. One of the teachers jokingly commented, "I guess we have a new staff member!" It was a perfect reflection of how Mathieu always goes the extra mile—making everyone's job a little easier and brighter.

Mathieu has helped to prepare for many school events. He helped build the set for the Christmas play and the float for the Christmas parade. He also offers his assistance in the kitchen whenever there is a meal for our school community.

Mathieu's contributions are both invaluable and heartfelt.

In addition to helping with school activities, Mathieu helps in our community by shoveling yards for seniors.

Thank you, Mathieu, for your unwavering commitment to making the world around you a better place and for going above and beyond to make a difference in every situation.

**Lily Gilbert**  
**Chippewa Secondary School**

Lily was selected because she has earned 416 community service hours, volunteering her time in a number of worthy places including OutLoud and coaching children's basketball programs.

Lily is a dedicated student who is a valuable member of our Arts and Athletics programs at Chippewa.

**Makenna Hamilton**  
**Almaguin Highlands Secondary School**

I am writing to inform you that Makenna Hamilton is our nomination for the 2025 Great Student Award. Makenna, a Grade 11 student at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School, embodies the Rotary Club's motto of "service above self," and she is truly deserving of this recognition. I have had the privilege of watching her grow into an outstanding student and community leader.

Makenna's academic achievements are exceptional. She has earned two Academic Excellence Awards in Grade 10 for her outstanding performance in Math and Instrumental Music. She was also the recipient of the Principal's Choice Award, the English Award, and was honoured as the valedictorian at her Grade 8 graduation from South Shore. Her consistent dedication to her studies is evident in her continued success as an Honours student.

Beyond the classroom, Makenna's commitment to service is truly inspiring. She volunteers regularly with the Restoule Lions Club, where she assists with serving and cleaning up at community dinners, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and community engagement. She also gives her time as a volunteer youth coach with the Nipissing Township Summer Soccer Program, where she positively impacts the lives of young athletes.

In addition to her volunteer work, Makenna has received the Restoule Community Award for her contributions, further exemplifying her dedication to making a difference in her community. Her involvement in various extracurricular activities, particularly in music, speaks to her well-rounded character. Makenna participates in vocals, band, and choir at AHSS, frequently mentoring younger students and leading by example.

Furthermore, Makenna is an exceptional peer tutor. She dedicates time to mentor younger students, offering assistance with organization, scribing, and providing general academic support. She has also volunteered in our Student Support Centre, where she has acted as an ambassador, proctored tests, and scribed for students in need, further demonstrating her generosity and leadership.

Makenna's selflessness and leadership are evident in every role she takes on. She is not only an active participant in her school and community, but she also acts as a mentor and role model to her peers. Her involvement in the Health and Wellness Specialist High Skills Major demonstrates her commitment to pursuing a career in health care, where she hopes to become a nurse to help others—a goal that clearly aligns with her compassionate and service-oriented nature.

Finally, Makenna Hamilton is a remarkable young individual whose achievements, both academic and extracurricular, make her an ideal candidate for the Great Student Award. She consistently goes above and beyond to serve others and is a true leader in her school and community. I offer my highest recommendation for Makenna's nomination and am confident that she will continue to excel and inspire those around her.

**Nadia Shank**  
**École secondaire catholique Algonquin**

Nadia is a grade 11 student à École secondaire catholique Algonquin. She is an engaged student and an active member of this community.

She is always at the forefront of activities to give a helping hand anytime it is needed. She is always willing to give her time to the scorekeeping or timekeeping of many high school sports.

Nadia also helps students at school by tutoring those who need extra help with homework and math. She understands the need for people to give of themselves to make this world a better place. She is the kind of student that answers the call whenever she is asked.

Nadia is also very involved with the community. One of Nadia's gifts is her willingness to help others. She has volunteered to help with community picnics, fundraising BBQ's and has also given many hours to help other students in different drama programs such as Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre.

Nadia has accumulated over 400 hours of community service thus far. She continues to give to her peers and to her community and has been recognized by the Noah Strong Foundation and received the Amberly Auger award in Baseball. Nadia 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.