

Leaders of Tomorrow

This Award had its beginnings years ago as part of our partnership with Chilliwack Senior Secondary School. Called "Student of the Month". we recognized at one of our breakfast meetings a student who was chosen by a teacher, as being "outstanding" for their service in or out of the school as well as for their academic achievement .

The emphasis was mainly on how the student demonstrated or exemplified the Rotary Motto "Service Above Self.

We would obtain information about the student, then invite him/her and the parents, plus the nominating teacher/administrator to a breakfast meeting where we would present them with a plaque from the Club as being recognized as Student of the Month!

Under the leadership of President Sue Attrill, our Club's Student of the Month was expanded to include the other two Rotary Clubs and became a "community recognition" with the help of the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce. The Wednesday club partnered with Sardis Senior Secondary and the Friday club partnered with G.W. Graham Secondary School.

Now all Chilliwack Rotary Clubs, the Chamber, the Progress, the City of Chilliwack, the School District, and the BIA (or CEPCO) were involved. It was agreed that the process would remain the same. The selection of deserving students would be made by school personnel and the students would be honoured monthly at the respective Rotary meetings with the guiding selection criteria being "Service Above Self".

Eight students would be selected each year, from September through April inclusive, and then in May there would be a "reception" where those 24 students and their families/friends would gather and \$1000 scholarships would be given to each school's "First" choice. \$500 money certificates from The Progress were given to the "Second" place choices and the third place choices each received \$250 from the City.

The Chamber supplied and paid for the plaques given out at the meetings and the food costs incurred at meetings, and the end of year reception. The Rotary Clubs were responsible for their \$1000 scholarship and also for any monthly costs for the breakfasts/lunches for the students, teachers and parents when the plaques were presented to honour the students.

Each month, The Progress would publish a full-page featuring that month's Leaders of Tomorrow and a write-up about what they did to get their award ...and they also did a fantastic job of highlighting the nine students who received the year-end awards.

A practice that also can occur, is that the school selects students on a rotating basis from various study specialty areas: e.g. Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science & Technology; Building & Trades, Academics; etc.

The process of contacting the students to tell them that they have been chosen, inviting them, their parents and their sponsor to our Rotary meeting is usually done by the Chair of the committee who also presents the plaque to the student. (Donna Williams has some sample e-mails etc. that were sent to the student, telling them more about the Award they were receiving, how to get to our meeting, which helped as a follow-up to the phone call as they often didn't remember anything beyond getting an award for something or other :)

The plaques were delivered to the Rainbow Inn by the Chamber in time for the meeting. We e-mailed the chosen student's name to the Chamber and then the Chamber took it from there.

Also, through this Committee, there were a few monthly programs organized and held at the Chamber where a doctor, lawyer, architect, nurse, veterinarian, hospitality, etc. would speak to interested students about various their career fields, and this was well received at the time!

School Contacts

The liaison Vice-Principal at Chilliwack Senior Secondary school was Paula Gosal : paulagosal@sd33.bc.ca

Rick Jones the Principal was also very interested in our Club's partnership committees – rickjones@sd33.bc.ca

Vice Principal David Manuel is familiar with this award because when he was at Sardis Secondary he was the VP who assisted the Wednesday Club with their selections.... davidmanuel@sd33.bc.ca

SERVICE ABOVE SELF