



To: Council
From: Loriann Harbers, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Date of Meeting: June 28, 2023
Subject: South Stormont Student Bursary Program Recipients

Recommendation:

That Council proudly awards South Stormont Student Bursaries to, Alexandra Belmonte, Alex Dionne and Ian McCosham;
Further, the letters of appreciation be extended to all applicants recognizing their achievements offering best wishes in future endeavours.

Executive Summary:

The South Stormont Student Bursary Policy was adopted by Council on August 10, 2022. Members of Council were excited to support and invest in the youth of our community.

Advertising began and 12 submissions were received in advance of the June 9, 2023 deadline. Mayor McGillis and Councillor MacIsaac were appointed to review applications and select the recipients for 2023.

Background:

Following the adoption of the South Stormont Student Bursary Policy on August 10, 2022, advertising via the Township's multiple communication avenues began.

There were 12 submissions received, all meeting the necessary criteria. The students were from 5 different area high schools and are now attending one of the following: Nipissing University, the University of Ottawa, Queen's University, Algonquin College, St. Lawrence College and Guelph-Humber University.

Established criteria included:

- a) The student must be graduating from Grade 12 and must provide proof of registration to a college, university, or other post-secondary institution in a full-time program in the fall of the current year, in any field of study that is a minimum of two years in length.
- b) The student must have demonstrated a passion for community leadership.
- c) The student must complete the application form, and submit accompanying documentation electronically, or in-person at the Township Office no later than the prescribed date.

Each submission included:

1. Letter of acceptance from the post secondary institution
2. Resume outlining work and community involvement
3. One page essay (maximum of 750 words) indicating why they believe they are a good candidate.

Mayor McGillis and Councillor MacIsaac reviewed each application during a meeting held on June 20, 2023. Pursuant to the policy, all names and addresses, from the application and all supporting documentation, were redacted. The committee was not aware of whose applications they were reviewing. Both Mayor McGillis and Councillor MacIsaac concurred that all 12 submissions were very well done and demonstrated an appreciation for our community and a desire to excel in future endeavours.

The decision to select only 3 was difficult with so many positive submissions.

The 3 successful submissions brilliantly exemplified community spirit, leadership volunteerism, academic excellence and overcoming adversity and were able to express these qualities with clarity.

Taken directly from their submissions, we are pleased to share future aspirations of each of the successful recipients:

Alexandra Belmonte, Guelph-Humber University – Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Studies

"Once I have completed my education at Guelph-Humber, My goals are to continue to expand my knowledge in crime and investigation bringing it back to my community. I plan to continue to compete in competitive highland dancing as well. During summer breaks I'm hoping to find a summer job in my field continuing to discover new opportunities, gaining experience and expanding my leadership skills for future endeavours."

Alex Dionne, Queen's University – Engineering

"I have many different career and educational goals that I would like to achieve. To start off I will be attending university in engineering as I want to obtain a degree in civil engineering. I also aspire to have my own engineering business so that I can help and work for townships like ours. I want to have a meaningful as well as impactful job where I can use my innovative skills to improve my community and the life of those who reside in this area. Consequently, as an engineer I can choose to work on projects that benefit society as I can have an opportunity to solve problems and design things that matter, things that make the world a better place to live."

Ian McCosham, Queen's University – Health Science/Kinesiology

"My goal is Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology/Health Sciences- followed by Medical doctor degree and medical specialty and complete a fellowship in Sports medicine. I aspire to become a sports medicine physician in our community as well as coaching athletes in both Cross Country and Track and Field."

Alignment with Community Strategic Plan:

Goal 4: Pride of Place

Objective 4.4: Sense of Belonging

Risk and Asset Management Considerations:

Council is pleased to be able to support the youth of the Township of South Stormont.

Furthermore, Council looks forward to 2024 and beyond when annually, new applications will be received, reviewed, awarded and recognized.

Options:

That Council proudly awards the South Stormont Student Bursary Award to Alexandra Belmonte, Alex Dionne and Ian McCosham.

Financial Impact:

Funds for the bursary were allocated within the annual budget.

Others Consulted:

Mayor McGillis

Councillor MacIsaac