

Nature NB was pleased to announce the establishment of The Mary Majka Scholarship Fund in June of 2014 to honour the legacy of Mary Majka, one of its founding members and Presidents (1980-84). The Fund's purpose is to further youth engagement with nature and our natural heritage, one of Mary's primary interests.

The Mary Majka Scholarship Committee was created later in 2014 to provide general oversight and periodic recommendations on the operation and direction of the Fund, to Nature NB.

The Fund is open to New Brunswick students from middle school to those attending an undergraduate program. It is hoped that annual awards can be granted ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, depending on the number of applicants and funds available.

Two types of scholarship are offered:

- The first could be awarded to a student who is or will be ***studying in the field of natural sciences with an interest in nature and the environment***. This would be conveyed as a study scholarship.
- The second could be awarded to a youth wanting to ***further their knowledge in the natural sciences*** and would be given as a contribution to cover specific expenses such as participation in a workshop.

Twenty-three students applied by the 2017 deadline. The Scholarship Committee met in early May to review and evaluate the applications and to determine the number of awards that might be possible, given the current balance of funds on hand.

The Committee recommended that a study scholarship be awarded in 2017 to Lena Gallant of Wood Point (Sackville area), to Allison Pugh of Fredericton and to Zachary MacMillan of Riverview, each for an amount of \$500.00. The awards were announced at the Festival of Nature in Kouchibouguac on June 3rd.

Lena Gallant graduated from Tantramar Regional High School in the spring of 2017 and started undergraduate studies in Science (Biology) at Acadia University in the fall. Her goal is to work as a wildlife biologist. Lena has enjoyed being an active student volunteer at the Tantramar Wetlands Center where she realized that biology and environmental science appealed as career choices.

Allison Pugh has always loved nature and was described by one of her teachers at Fredericton High School as a leader by example and having made it "cool" for students to wear hip waders and dig in the bottom of a brook with bare hands. Allison graduated in June and moved on to UNB in Fredericton where she will pursue a Bachelor of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources.

Zachary MacMillan spent summers at a family cottage near the ocean and developed a strong passion for the sea. He graduated this spring from Riverview High School and in September entered the Science program at Dalhousie University where he plans to study marine biology. His teacher describes him as being a natural leader with a love for nature, the sciences and the ocean.

Nature NB is proud to support Lena, Allison and Zachary in their studies and congratulates them on their accomplishments to date.

Donations to the Mary Majka Scholarship Fund can be made online or by cheque through the Nature NB office at 924 Prospect Street, Fredericton, E3B 2T9. Information brochures are available online at the Nature NB website. Nature NB is a New Brunswick non-profit, charitable organization and charitable receipts are issued.

Jim Wilson
Chair, Mary Majka Scholarship Fund Committee