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**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



**REPORT TO:** Council  
**MEETING DATE:** August 27, 2012  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR 12 37  
**SUBJECT:** Ontario Heritage Trust Scholarship Nomination  
**PREPARED BY:** Suzanne Purdy, Curator

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 12 37 "Ontario Heritage Trust Scholarship Nomination"; and

THAT Council recommends Hannah Russwurm, former summer student of The Blue Mountains at the Craigleith Heritage Depot in her application for a Two Thousand Dollar Scholarship through the Ontario Heritage Trust's Young Heritage Leaders scholarship.

**B. Background**

A former Craigleith Heritage Depot summer student, Ms. Hannah Russwurm, has requested the Municipality to support her nomination for a Two Thousand Dollar Scholarship through the Ontario Heritage Trust's Young Heritage Leaders scholarship. The deadline for this Scholarship application is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

To become eligible, the student must have contributed to cultural heritage in some capacity. Staff is recommending this nomination as Ms. Russwurm did work at the Depot for two summers and her contributions in this capacity make her a strong candidate for this scholarship.

Hannah is attending Western University and the Scholarship funds would be applied to her schooling. The deadline for the application is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

**C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community.

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community.

**D. Environmental Impacts**

None at this time

**E. Financial Impact**

None

**F. In Consultation With**

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

**G. Attached**

1. Description of Ms. Russwurm 's contributions to cultural heritage.
2. Young Heritage Leaders scholarship Program guidelines

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature

For more information, please contact:

Suzanne Purdy  
spurdy@thebluemountains.ca  
705.444.2601

## Things I did at the Depot and how I helped preserve the history of the Town.

The Blue Mountains Depot is located in The Town of the Blue Mountains, in Ontario. The building has been both a train station and restaurant, but ever since 2001 it has served as the local museum, documenting interesting people and events in the Blue Mountains from all parts of history. I had always had an interest in history and the past, and after taking the grade 10 history course I decided to apply for a job there. During the following two years I was given the incredible opportunity to play a proud part in preserving, restoring, and even discovering the unique history of the place where I live.

One of the most personal things I did was identify both first and second world war soldiers, both those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who lived to tell of it, who had originated from the Blue Mountains. This was interesting for a few reasons, in that not only did many of the soldiers have interesting stories, I actually knew many of their living descendants today. It was an amazing experience to trace down local heroes, and make connections with locals today. At a local Remembrance Day ceremony, the museum set up an event which allowed people to ask us questions about both the war in general, and about their family. Through this I learned a lot of interesting stories, and I helped preserve the memory of the soldiers' sacrifices, not only on paper in the museum, but in the hearts and minds of the community and their loved ones.

Perhaps the best way to preserve history is to simply educate as many people as possible about it. I was given the opportunity to visit many historical sites around the Blue Mountain area such as Delphi Point, the Oil Sands, a Petun Village, and the Mary Ward shipwreck, to better educate myself about our local history. By educating myself about the area, I was better able to educate others. This quickly paid off as I often had to answer quick-fire questions from visitors to the museum. Also, I was more equipped to describe and talk about the historical sites with the groups of kids who toured the museum. By knowing interesting stories, and giving vivid descriptions I made history more interesting and personal, and I believe everybody learned something. Every person who came away knowing something new about our area contributed to the better preservation of it's history. As a guide and teacher the effects of my efforts, to preserve local history, grew exponentially.

Not only did I teach in the museum, I also helped educate students in school. I did this by helping to plan and create Edu-kits for teachers to rent. These kits contained various artefacts and information pertaining to a certain topic. They came with a teachers guide as well, to help direct lessons and better inform students. So not only did I educate others about history, I helped others educate others about history.

But my job not only was to reach out to others about history. My job also included documenting and accessioning artefacts within the museum, not only artefacts already in the museum, but also artefacts newly donated. On my trip to the Petun Village, I collected chert and donated it to the museum. With these artefacts I wrote text panels, biographies, and

organized displays for the visitors to the museum to see. Part of cataloguing included taking pictures, pictures of the Depot Lecture Series and other events such as the local historian, Charles Garrad's birthday.

My job at the depot was possibly the best job I have ever had, learning wise and interest. Not only did I educate the community about its local history, I educated myself, local schools, and all the visitors to the museum. With this, I helped preserve the history of the Town of the Blue Mountains.

## Program guidelines

**Complete the nomination form onscreen. Please send completed forms and supporting material by mail.**

**Annual nomination deadline: June 30 (If June 30 falls on a weekend, please submit nominations on the following business day.)**



Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life are proud to sponsor Young Heritage Leaders, a program that fosters a sense of local pride, community involvement and volunteerism.

**Note: For 2012, the deadline to submit nominations for the Young Heritage Leaders, Heritage Community Recognition, and Community Leadership programs has changed to September 1, 2012.**

Please submit your nomination package as usual (forms and mailing address info are available [here](#)). If you have any questions, please contact [reception@heritagetrust.on.ca](mailto:reception@heritagetrust.on.ca), or call 416-314-0448.

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### What is the Young Heritage Leaders program?

The Ontario Heritage Trust's Young Heritage Leaders program celebrates youth achievements in preserving, protecting and promoting local heritage. Since 2000, the Trust has worked with communities and schools to recognize over 3,800 young volunteers across Ontario for their activities to conserve built, cultural and natural heritage.

In 2007, the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement was established to recognize the most exceptional Young Heritage Leaders group nominees and the top individual nominee.

### Who is eligible for nomination?

Any resident of Ontario, 18 years old and under, who has made outstanding contributions to their local community in the area of built, cultural or natural heritage preservation is eligible for nomination.

For schools, a specific class or small project group may also be nominated where the effort is shared. An entire student body of a school is not eligible. Project groups from youth organizations, such as 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Cadets, Field Naturalists, Girl Guides and others also qualify for nomination.

## What types of activities qualify for nomination?

### Built heritage:

- research or writing (books, walking tours, exhibits, websites) on heritage buildings
- hands-on voluntary work to restore or maintain a heritage structure (buildings, bridges, etc.)
- significant fundraising to support restoration of a historical building

### Cultural heritage:

- significant volunteer service to a museum or historic site
- research or writing (books, walking tours, exhibits, websites) related to local history
- sustained participation in historical re-enactments at local events
- significant voluntary participation on an archaeological dig
- collection of local artifacts, heritage photographs or memorabilia that are shared with the community
- volunteer work in preserving, restoring or re-creating a heritage garden based on historical research
- volunteer participation in activities or events that protect, preserve or promote First Nations, Métis, Franco-Ontarian heritage or others

### Natural heritage:

- significant volunteer work at a conservation authority/area or parkland
- demonstrated leadership in the protecting natural heritage (endangered species habitats, rare Carolinian forests, wetlands, tall grass prairies, etc.)
- hands-on efforts to improve a natural heritage site
- research or writing (books, walking tours, exhibits, websites) related to local natural heritage resources

## How are nominations submitted?

Nominations must be endorsed by a motion of a municipal council, regional council, First Nation band council or Métis community council. School principals can also endorse nominations. Councils and principals can each submit **one nomination for each of the three categories**.

The Trust encourages community, youth and heritage organizations to contact their local council with proposed nominations. Teachers are encouraged to propose candidates for nomination to their school principal.

A detailed description of the nominee and their achievements must be included. Supporting material (publications, media stories, photographs) should be provided. Photographs of the candidates with their projects or participating in the activity for which they are nominated are helpful. Please do not send originals of important or official documents, as they will not be returned.

Nominations must be submitted using the program [nomination form](#). The form is available in PDF format. Please send completed forms and supporting material to the Trust by mail.

## What is the Young Heritage Leaders scholarship?

The Ontario Heritage Trust and its program sponsors – Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life – will be rewarding the young person whose leadership in preserving, protecting and promoting heritage is deemed to be the most exceptional with a \$2,000 scholarship. Every **individual** nominee will be considered for this scholarship to assist with future post-secondary education. The scholarship will be held in trust and will be paid to the recipient's post-secondary education institution of choice upon enrolment.

Students who are nominated as part of a project group are **not** eligible for the scholarship.

## **What is the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award?**

Both individual and group nominees will be considered for the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement. This award recognizes the most exceptional youth group in each of the built, cultural and natural heritage nomination categories, and the most outstanding individual nominee across all categories.

## **How are the recipients selected?**

All Young Heritage Leaders nominations that meet the program criteria will be recognized.

The individual recipient of the Young Heritage Leaders scholarship and the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award will be selected from the pool of **individual** nominees submitted. Group recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award will be selected from the pool of **group** nominees submitted. These awards will be presented at the discretion of the Trust to the individual and groups whose efforts to preserve, protect and promote heritage are deemed to be the most exceptional.

The Trust will notify the council/principal of the status of the nominations before the end of December.

## **Who makes the presentations to recipients?**

The Trust will provide certificates and achievement pins for the recipients. It is the responsibility of the council/school to frame the certificates. Councils/principals must notify the Trust of local presentations. When possible, the Trust will send a representative to the community to make the presentation.

Recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award will be invited to a presentation reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor at Queen's Park. They will receive certificates and special achievement pins.

## **Where should nominations be sent?**

The [nomination form](#) is available in PDF format. Please send completed forms and supporting material to:

Young Heritage Leaders  
Ontario Heritage Trust  
Heritage Programs Branch  
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 302  
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Ontario Heritage Trust at:

Dawson Bridger

Community Programs Officer (Acting)

Heritage Programs Branch

Telephone: 416-314-0448

Fax: 416-325-5071

Email: [dawson.bridger@heritagetrust.on.ca](mailto:dawson.bridger@heritagetrust.on.ca)