

Youth in Action Volunteer Program Awards Ceremony Making a Difference in *Their* Community!

Volunteer West Island Director Lynda Barrett, Volunteer Coordinators Lou-Anne Amabili and Yolanda Rodriguez, and Terry Aitken, Community Programs Coordinator for VWI, along with MNAs Yolande James (Nelligan), Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), and Pierre Marsan (Robert Baldwin), and their representatives gathered to present certificates and awards to 31 student volunteers, including the winners, one from each of the eight high schools that participated in the second annual Youth in Action Program during the 2010-2011 academic year.

The Youth in Action Program was introduced the previous year at three schools in the Nelligan riding as a collaborative initiative by Yolande James and Volunteer West Island to encourage and recognize outstanding volunteer contributions by West Island youth. Its success resulted in its expansion to five additional schools in the ridings of Jacques-Cartier and Robert Baldwin. The 2011 Awards Ceremony celebrated the hard work and dedication that all the participants demonstrated through their volunteer involvement, towards the betterment of the community.

Eligible students (aged 12-17) each gave a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer work in the community and completed a Youth in Action workbook prior to April 29, 2011. Once they submitted the action plan for their volunteer project, participants obtained their workbook from their school's Community Officer. The workbook is designed to offer a comprehensive view of a student volunteer's community involvement and assist judges in selecting a winner from each school. In recognition of the students' efforts, MNAs presented winners with a certificate and a laptop computer.

This year's winners are

École Secondaire Saint-Georges: Amy Lai

École Secondaire des Sources: Abdullah El-Safadi

École Secondaire Felix-Leclerc: Shayan Mantegh

St Thomas High School: Lucia DeLuca

Riverdale High School: Marisa Sollazzo

John Rennie High School: Manpreet Sidhu

Lindsay Place High School: Mikhaela Neelin

Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School: Caitlind Pawson



“This program inspires the youth of today to think beyond themselves and to make a difference in their community” Lou-Anne Amabili, Youth Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator for Volunteer West Island. The program will recommence next fall and be expanded to François Ouimet's riding of Marquette.

2010-2011 Participants

St Georges: (Bruce Herbert)

Amy Lai
Amelie Poulin
Liane Villemure

Riverdale: (Sandra King)

Marisa Sollazzo
Megan Workman
Megan Jackson
Michael Albanese
Brittany Walters
Amanda Deak
Joyalene Thurairatnam
Erica Simeon

PCHS: (Patricia Aldred)

Caitlind Pawson
Felicia Vacirca

De Sources : (Tania Carreira)

Abdullah El-Safadi
Leena Toban
Corinne Revel

St Thomas: (Anne Novak)

Lucia DeLuca
Robin Richard-Shaw

Felix-Leclerc: (Bruce Herbert)

Shayan Mantegh
Mengxi Zhang
François Laliberté
Maggie Allabade

LPHS: (Sue Simatos)

Mikhaela Neelin

JRHS: (Sue Simatos)

Manpreet Sidhu
Meghan Kelly
Symeon Peter Mateo
Megan Parker
Stephanie Gunther
Veena Nagamuthu
Naomi Weinberg
Amanda Savoy

Volunteer West Island

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...time spent helping others

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