



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada

MEDIA RELEASE

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Help Make Post-Secondary Education Dreams a Reality for Five Canadian Youth

Rising Cost of Tuition a Barrier for Many of Canada's Young People

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARKHAM, ON (September 24, 2009) Recognizing the important role that post-secondary education plays in the long term success of young people, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) is awarding scholarship funds to five dedicated and deserving youth to help them realize their academic goals.

Through three scholarship programs, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada are providing youth vital support at a time when the costs of post-secondary education continue to rise and quality youth employment opportunities are harder than ever to find. Education costs continue to be the primary reason young people drop out of university or college and these barriers are increasing. Since the 1990's the average undergraduate university student's tuition has tripled.

A quality post-secondary education is more vital than ever in today's world. According to the federal department of Human Resources and Skills Development, within the next five years, two-thirds of new jobs will require post secondary education, yet less than half of Canadians hold such credentials.

"Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada work hard to ensure our young people have all the tools for a lifetime of success, and a quality education is an important part of our commitment," said Pam Jolliffe, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "Awarding these scholarships is a particular pleasure, as it not only recognizes their academic achievements and goals, but also their character, values and the important contributions they have made to their Club and the community."

The **Marshall Scott Youth Scholarship** is generously provided by Mrs. Barbara Marshall-Houlding, The W.P. Scott Charitable Foundation and Mr. Scott Marshall and family and is presented to three youth who demonstrate outstanding involvement in their local Club and community, while taking pride in their educational goals. This year's recipients are **Vanessa Parsons** from Botwood Boys and Girls Club, **James Robichaud** from Boys and Girls Club of Saint John and **Chantal Genereux** from Eastview (Oshawa) Boys and Girls Club. Each recipient will receive a scholarship valued at \$1,000.

The **Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Spirit of Youth Award** is presented to a youth who demonstrates outstanding Club involvement, shows initiative, acts as a positive role model and shows exemplary behaviour in his/her community. This year's recipient is **Jennifer Hudson** from Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vancouver, BC. The award is valued at \$1,500.

The **John Brace Award of Excellence Scholarship** is generously provided by the Brace family and is presented to a deserving youth from Ontario who serves as a role model to young people and plans to attend University. This year's recipient is **Michael Ali** from Boys and Girls Clubs of Peel. The scholarship is valued at \$1,000.

These awards are in addition to the more than 55 scholarships presented by Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and Future Shop annually as part of the Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships program. In the nine year history of the program nearly 500 scholarships have been awarded totaling more than \$1.5 million.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading charitable organization providing programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of 200,000 children, youth and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, Clubs offer access to opportunities, after-school and at other times when children are not in school, to develop healthy behaviours, academic success and technology learning, positive relationships and life and leadership skills. Many Clubs also provide nutritious snacks and meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other support to children, youth and families at risk. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential, for over 100 years. To learn more, visit www.bgccan.com.

Media Contacts:

Matthew Ross
BGCC Communications
(905) 477-7272 ext. 270
mross@bgccan.com

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Recipients:

Marshall Scott Youth Scholarship

Vanessa Parsons, Botwood Boys and Girls Club, NL
Memorial University of Newfoundland, Bachelor of Nursing

Vanessa has been involved with the Botwood Boys and Girls Club in Newfoundland for approximately 12 years; in that time she has been a member, volunteer and staff. She has been a leader in the Girls Decide program and is a student staff member in the S.W.A.S.P program. She volunteers on a regular basis and has been involved in many fundraising initiatives as well as many other after school programs. Vanessa is looked at as a positive role model by her peers and committed to the Boys and Girls Club movement. In the fall Vanessa will begin her first year of studies in the Nursing program at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Vanessa would like to travel after graduation to become a nurse in many countries that aren't as fortunate.

James Robichaud, Boys and Girls Club of Saint John, NB
New Brunswick Community College, Information Technology: Programmer/ Analyst

James has been involved with the Saint John Boys and Girls Club in New Brunswick for about 10 years, in that time he has been involved in many capacities, from member, to volunteer and finally a staff member. James is very passionate about technology and has held various positions in the computer department at the Club and is currently developing a website. He is a role model to many children and youth at the Club and spends much of his own time mentoring and teaching other members how to develop their computer skills. In the fall James will be studying at New Brunswick Community College in the Computer Programming Technology: Programmer/ Analyst program. After graduation he hopes to become a programmer or a computer analyst.

Chantal Genereux, Eastview (Oshawa) Boys and Girls Club, ON
Durham College, Police Foundations

Chantal has been involved with the Eastview (Oshawa) Boys and Girls Club for the last two years. She is an avid volunteer and spends much of her time volunteering at special events and fundraising activities, as well as within the after school programs that the Club offers. Chantal is a very determined young woman who

knows that if she sets goals she can achieve them. Chantal will be entering her second year of Police Foundations at Durham College, after graduation she plans to work with youth at risk, so that she is able to make an impact and help guide them in a positive direction.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Spirit of Youth Award

**Jennifer Henderson, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vancouver, BC
Vancouver Island University, Bachelor of Arts, Geography**

Jennifer has been involved with the Fraserview Unit of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vancouver for just under 15 years; she has been a member, volunteer and is currently a staff member. Jennifer now works during the summers as well as part time during the after school program while attending university. Jennifer volunteers for many special events and fundraising activities. She is a dedicated and passionate individual who goes above and beyond what she is required. Jennifer's dream since she was a child is to one day become an elementary school teacher, currently she is studying a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Geography.

John Brace Award of Excellence Scholarship

**Michael Ali, Boys and Girls Clubs of Peel, ON
University of Toronto, Mathematics and Concurrent Education**

Mike has been involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Peel for the last four years, he has been a member, volunteer and staff. In that time he has been very involved with the homework support program as well as many recreational activities. He continued to volunteer and has taken on a leadership role in many special events and is an active member of the youth council at his Club. He is an advocate for youth not only within the Boys and Girls Club movement, but in the city of Brampton as well, as he sits on the Mayor's Youth Council. Mike is a compassionate and dedicated individual who is very driven. He will be attending the University of Toronto (Mississauga Campus) and will be focusing his studies on a degree in Mathematics and Concurrent Education. After graduation, Mike plans to become a teacher so that he may positively influence others.