

Report to Council

Report Title: Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award Winner

Prepared By: Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator

Department: Economic Development

Date: May 25, 2021

Report Number: ED2021-03 **File Number:** C11ED, L04

Attachments: Photo of Colin Maxwell

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby accepts Report Number ED2021-03 - Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award Winner, prepared by Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The first winner of the Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award has been selected! Connor Maxwell, a graduate of Sacred Heart High School and its environmental high skills major program, will receive \$1,000 towards his studies in environmental engineering at the University of Guelph this year.

Connor competed nationally in several Canada-wide science fairs, winning medals for his research in environment and water resources, and will be spending this summer working for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority in water resources management. His appreciation for environmental issues began at a young age, spending summers with his grandparents on the Rocky Saugeen River.

He's now completing his second year of studies in environmental engineering, learning design skills to minimize and prevent the impact of human activities on water, soil and air systems.

The Legacy Award committee, consisting of Walkerton Clean Water Centre CEO Carl Kuhnke, Councillor Tim Elphick and Community Development Coordinator Paulette Peirol, unanimously chose Connor from among a strong slate of 9 candidates from the region who applied for the award.

The award was established last May, on the 20th anniversary of the Walkerton e-coli water tragedy, and honours those who suffered, while supporting the next generation of students embracing environmental stewardship and the protection of clean water. The scholarship is distributed from the earned income from an endowed fund held by Community Foundation Grey Bruce, a registered charity.

Fund donors include the Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Walkerton Rotary Club, Veolia Water Canada, Deputy Mayor Dan Gieruszak and his wife Elizabeth, and Gary and Peggy Munro. The Municipality of Brockton is also a contributor.

The fund currently has over \$19,000 invested in it, a solid achievement within a year of it being established. (The WCWC recently contributed another \$1,500 to the fund.)

Staff have worked closely with Community Foundation Grey Bruce, the Walkerton Clean Water Centre, donors, schools, and other organizations to ensure this fund is well publicized.

We will profile Connor in the near future and invite him to be a guest panelist (non-voting) when we judge next year’s entries.

The panel strongly believes Connor will be an excellent ambassador for Walkerton’s “clean water living” mandate and continue his career in the water resources field after graduating from university.

Analysis:

The Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award is proving to be a strong achievement in the wake of the 20th anniversary of the e-coli water tragedy. It offers a true legacy for the youth of our community and underscores our commitment to clean water initiatives.

It is our hope that the fund will continue to grow so that in future years we may fund more than one student.

Sustainability Checklist:

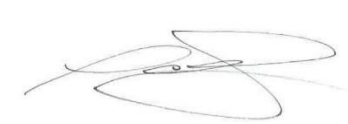
What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- | | |
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| • Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? | N/A |
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Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paulette Peirol".

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sonya Watson".

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer