

Young volunteers honoured



These are those youths honoured at Volunteering it's COOL for their work in the community, and representatives of the award sponsors. First row, from left: Karie Joncas (\$750), Colton Harvey (\$1,000), Emilie Frenette (\$250), Noémie Landry (\$250), Elizabeth Chamberlain (\$249), Josée Doucet-Thériault (CBDC) Second row: Betty-Ann Mercier (Enterprise Restigouche), Carlo Roy (UCT, Campbellton Knights of Columbus), Manon Goulette (Youth Priority Center), Claudine Arseneault (Dalhousie Rotary Club), Donna Cormier-Pitre (JRY President), Julie Thériault Guitard (OFB). Missing: Mélodie Desjardins (\$250), Mégane Bujold (\$250).

BY DONNA CORMIER-PITRE
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

CAMPBELLTON ► The Jeunesse Restigouche Youth committee held its fourth annual Volunteering it's COOL recognition evening recently before a crowd of over 280 young volunteers from Restigouche.

Beginning its fifth year of existence, this program has more than tripled its participation rate since 2006, with more than 563 young individuals registered with the program and 16,871 hours of volunteering this year alone.

The Volunteering it's COOL program offers each young individual (30 years and younger) a volunteering t-shirt for 40 hours of volunteerism and a backpack for more than 100 hours. Each individual with more than 100 hours is also eligible for one of the six monetary bursaries in a value of \$3,000, all sponsored by local community organizations: Lions Club of Campbellton, Knights of Columbus (local 1946), UCT, Campbellton Richelieu Club, CBDC, Open for Business, Enterprise Restigouche, Youth Priority Center & the Dalhousie Rotary Club.

This year's event was a very emotional one for the committee members and all those who knew the JRY Coordinator, Nicole Thériault, who died suddenly of a brain aneurysm. A well known volunteer herself, Thériault had been one of the key individuals organizing this program, which is unique to New Brunswick. She was well known for her 30-year involvement with the Acadian Games and held the title of the Grandmother of the Acadian Games in the region. The Department of Social Development is also a major sponsor of this program.

In her memory, the committee offered an additional bursary in recognition of her 30 years of community service and her more than 19 years as youth coordinator in Restigouche County. All those interested in getting involved with the program can call 789-4939.

The winners of this year's bursaries were: \$1000, UCT, Colton Harvey of Nash Creek; \$750, ER, CBDC, OFB, Kane Joncas of Nash Creek; \$500, Campbellton Richelieu Club, Noémie Landry of Balmoral; \$250, Campbellton Knights of Columbus, Emilie Frenette of Tide Head; \$250, Youth Priority Center, Mélodie Desjardins of Kedgwick; \$250, Dalhousie Rotary Club, Mégane Bujold of Kedgwick; \$249, in memory of Nicole Thériault, Elizabeth Chamberlain of Lome.

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