

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

June 30, 2015

To paraphrase a well-known movie, "It's a Wonderful Year." Last year, the Board of Directors went out on a limb and chose to give out \$1,000 HOST Program awards to 22 students from 17 Ottawa high schools, an increase of six awards. Based on my financial estimate, this commitment would force us to deplete our reserve by about \$6,000. The dilemma is always to balance the number of awards against current and expected future donations. We strive to make sure that, if most of our recipients are not yet in grade 12, we will be able to support them through graduation. To our surprise and extreme gratitude, this year's donations exceeded my estimates by over \$14,000!

In June, the Board was once again faced with the same dilemma: by how much can we increase the number of awards and not risk our ability to support recipients until graduation? I am delighted to announce that we will add 13 schools and give out **34** awards next year.

These are the 30 schools that will participate in the HOST Program in 2015-16:

<u>Current schools</u>		<u>New schools</u>	
Cairine Wilson	Canterbury	Bell	Brookfield
Colonel By	Garneau	Glebe Collegiate Institute	Hillcrest
Gisèle-Lalonde	Gloucester	Lisgar Collegiate	Louis Riel
Immaculata	Lester B. Pearson	Merivale	Notre Dame
Mother Teresa	Rideau	Ottawa Technical Institute	Sir Guy Carleton
Ridgemont	Sir Wilfrid Laurier	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
St. Matthew	St. Patrick	Woodroffe	
St. Paul	St. Peter		
St. Pius			

We are very excited that we are getting closer to our goal of supporting at least one student from each of the 51 youth high schools in Ottawa. In order to accomplish this feat, we need your continued support. If you are a donor, I will send out a reminder email to you on the one-year anniversary of your donation. Please renew

your donation so we can continue to support students in need of our help to graduate high school.

In April, we welcomed four new members to the Board of Directors:

- David Hill, Q.C. O.C
- Carman Joynt
- Dena Splinter
- Michael van Aanhout

They bring experience and skills that will allow us to continue to expand our reach into the community. At the same time, we said goodbye to Leanne Bergeron whose increased workload as a school Guidance Counsellor limited her availability to the Board.

As usual, I have included a financial statement as well as excerpts from the letters that I have received from this year's recipients. I hope you enjoy reading them; they clearly demonstrate the impact that your donations are making on these students' lives.

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at rlussier@rogers.com. Our web site, www.host-program.org, has been re-designed to make it easier to navigate. You will find information about our Board of Directors, previous **President's Reports** and excerpts from every letter that we have received from the recipients.

With my best regards and good wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Richard Lussier
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