

Five CDDHS students recognized in award ceremony

Written By **Paula Brown**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) held their annual Royal Recognition Awards on Wednesday (June 16), celebrating recipients of the Stronger Together Award and Tom Egan Community Service Award as well as recipients of the Achieving By Believing Award.

"I'm really excited for them because I know the skills that they developed in getting these awards, they're going to take forward in their life," said CDDHS Principal Wendy McIntosh-Clodd. "I'm always very proud of our students and super proud when students work hard behind the scenes about things they're passionate about, connecting our work in the school to the community."

Gabbie Spencer, recipient of the Stronger Together Award and Annie Cameron, recipient of the Tom Egan Community Service Award were recognized in a small ceremony outside of the local high school. Both awards were presented by Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson.

The first award presented at the small ceremony was the Stronger Together Award, donated by Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson, and is given to a student that works to build connections between student groups, individuals and the community.

Gabbie Spencer, a grade 9 student, was recognized for her work as a member of the CDDHS Black Chapter. Throughout the school year Spencer worked in creating a social media presences for the Black Chapter, organizing events for Black Brilliance Month in February, and creating video such as "Hair Love" and "How to Be a Better Ally".

Speaking about being a recipient of the award, Spencer said, "It was a shock because I didn't even know it was a thing, let alone that I made the criteria to get it. It's an honour to receive an award, to get validated for things that you've done?you get reassurance that you've done well and it's motivation to keep going."

Annie Cameron, a grade 12 student, was the recipient of the Tom Egan Community Service Award, donated by the Egan Family. The award honours late Shelburne Coun. Tom Egan, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 64, and was known for his community service. Cameron was recognized for her advocacy in bringing a student mental health organization, Jack Chapter, to CDDHS and her work in environmental awareness and community climate strikes.

"I was really honoured to receive the award," said Cameron. "I didn't realize what I was making was being noticed in the community sense and it's really cool to hear that people are actually watching and really recognizing student for what they've been doing."

Deputy Mayor Anderson also applauded the students for achieving excellence while facing the impacts of the pandemic.

"It's a true testament to a person's character, their will and drive to succeed," he lauded.

CDDHS also handed out awards to three recipients of the Student Success: Achieving By Believing Award, which is sponsored by the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington. Each year a ceremony is held for recipients who span across the Upper Grand District School Board.

Student Success: Achieving By Believing is an award that recognizes the resilience and perseverance that students have demonstrating in their time as a student.

CDDHS 2021 recipients of the Achieving By Believing Award are Makayla Sillars, Tyler Faries and Brayden Shaw.