

Community Awards



Gail Baddeley Award

This award is for a graduating student whose leadership and commitment have contributed to a caring school environment where young people help their peers. The student will have a strong academic achievement record, will have participated in school activities and be proceeding to university or college.

Catherine Sinclair Bratty Visual Arts Scholarship

This award will be bestowed upon a graduating student for excellence in Visual Arts. The student may be in either the elective or the major program. This student must be continuing on in the Visual Arts or related field of study at a post-secondary institution. The student will have excelled in developing his or her artistic vision through hard-work and practice, as well as attaining strong academic achievement.

Lily Cheng Community Champion Award

A Community Champion award is presented to a graduating student selected by the school. The award is to recognize the contribution of a student who has made a meaningful contribution towards making the community a better place - either at school, the surrounding community or participating in local government. Lily Cheng, who is the Toronto City Councillor for Willowdale, Ward 18, is a strong believer in the importance of community participation and has donated this award to encourage students who have made this effort

Kiwanis Club Award

The Kiwanis Club is dedicated to meeting the needs of the members of the community. Before merging with the larger Toronto branch, the former North York Branch of the Kiwanis Club left a legacy award to a student who has made the most improvement academically in their final year and who has made a significant contribution throughout their high school years to the community through volunteering. The volunteer activities could be in school like coaching or peer tutoring, or in the wider community like working with seniors in a home.

Lt. Governor's Community Volunteer Award

This award recognizes exemplary involvement in the community.

Nandkeolyar Family Award

This award goes to a female student who is a newcomer to Canada. She has made a positive contribution to school life and will be continuing her studies at a post-secondary institution. Priority is given to a student with a demonstrated financial need.

OSSTF District 12 Jim McQueen Excellence in Education Award

This award goes to a student who has made a significant impact within the school community.

University Women's Club Award of North York – Claude Watson Arts Award

This award is presented to a female student, Canadian citizen, living in North York, graduating from the Claude Watson program. The recipient for this award has demonstrated excellence in the Arts program, is proceeding to a Canadian post-secondary education in the creative arts, has shown evidence of participation within the school and the community at large and, having financial need.

University Women's Club of North York – Female Engineering Award

This award goes to a female student, Canadian citizen, living in North York, enrolling in an engineering course (any discipline) in a Canadian post-secondary institution. The student will have demonstrated a good work ethic, improvement in their academics in their final year at Earl Haig, shown evidence of participation within the school and the community at large, and financial need.

WTPEO Engineering Scholarship

The Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter of Professional Engineers Ontario (WTPEO) is awarding three engineering scholarships to eligible secondary school students who gain admittance to an engineering program at the university level for September 2023.

Memorial Awards



Lisa and Rebecca Haberman Memorial Music Scholarship

Lisa and Becca Haberman very much enjoyed their years at Earl Haig. Lisa was a member of the school's gifted program and went on to earn multiple degrees that allowed her to work at places like the Royal Ontario Museum, Havergal College, and the University of Toronto School. Becca Haberman was in the Claude Watson program where she excelled in piano, performance and composition. She was vibrant, creative and original. Becca became ill in her last year in the Claude Watson program. This award is presented to a graduating Claude Watson student who has demonstrated excellence in music performance and/or composition.

John Hoare Technical Theatre Memorial Award

John Hoare loved the theatre, and devoted much of his life to developing and encouraging that love in others. He taught drama for many years; sold plays and drama-teaching resources to teachers; produced, acted, designed, and crewed in all varieties of shows, both professional and amateur. His son, David, also fell in love with the theatre while attending Haig. David became deeply involved in the lighting crew, and spent most of his five years in Cringan Hall putting together shows. It was John's unfailing generosity and support of all these Earl Haig endeavours that encouraged David to follow his passion into a career in technical theatre, and it is our hope that this award will similarly encourage others in their love of the arts.

This Award is intended to support a graduating student that is involved in the technical aspects of theater production. The recipient of this award demonstrates skill, dedication, teamwork and a passion to continue in the field of theater production.

Jenny Isford Memorial Award

Jenny was a bright, beautiful and sensitive young woman. She had a lovely voice and she held lead parts in Haig's annual musicals. She planned a future career in the Arts, but was murdered one evening after leaving a bus on her street. At the time of her death, she was practicing to be an Argo cheerleader.

The recipient of this award will have demonstrated high scholastic achievement and creativity in the field of Arts, and as well, these talents will have been applied to extra-curricular activities. The student is dedicated to the dream of pursuing a career path in the field of the Arts.

Rachel Kohm Award

Rachel Kohm was a vivacious student involved in the Claude Watson Drama major program. After graduating in 1994 and having attended university, Rachel began an impressive career with Partners/Revolver Film Company. Her all too short time at Partners was marked with personal satisfaction, Juno awards and the respect of her colleagues. This memorial award honours a Claude Watson drama graduate who has done extensive work in the Arts program and who is pursuing Arts at the post-secondary level.

Emma Neagu Memorial

Emma Neagu was a talented gymnast, a dedicated student and a determined young woman. She was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma Cancer in March 2016 and had many surgeries and treatments following her diagnosis, including leg amputation. This did not stop her from continuing to perform handstands, flips on the trampoline, and dancing in School shows. She was also a strong advocate for Childhood Cancer. Through her journey, Emma remained selfless, always looking to help others. She had a contagious smile and continued to be positive throughout. She was fierce and touched everyone who met her. Emma passed on April 7, 2019 but will forever remain in our hearts.

The recipient of this award is a graduating student who has shown courage, positivity, and the determination to make a positive change

William Thomason Memorial

The William Thomason Memorial Award was established in 2009 by the Palumbo family in honour of Bill Thomason, a neighbour and wonderful friend to young and old alike. He especially delighted in talking to young people about their future goals in life. He was an ardent supporter of the public school system and spent many hours encouraging young children and teenagers to remain in school, study hard, follow their hearts and to always give something back to the community that served them so well. He was fond of music of all types, most particularly jazz. He attended many student events at Haig and enjoyed the range of music performances and the talent of the young musicians. Michael and Kathryn Palumbo are both graduates of Earl Haig and Bill would come to all their events and performances. The recipient of this award is a student who best exemplifies leadership in music and who intends to pursue music, especially jazz, as her or his vocation.

Nick Vanderboom Award

Nick was a student of Earl Haig who died in a car accident in October 2005. After his friends and family, the most important aspect of Nick's life was sports – he was an elite athlete who loved the competition, the camaraderie, the physical exertion, the opportunity to stretch his skills past his natural talent and, most significantly, the connections he made by playing games.

The Nick Vanderboom Scholarship is awarded by Nick's Mother and Sister to two students, one female and one male, who excel at sports but at the same time, have a wide scope of interests in academics, in the arts, in social causes – in any of the wonderful aspects of life and its pursuits.

Ruth Watson Award

Ruth Watson, wife of Claude Watson, was a dedicated and loyal supporter for the Claude Watson Arts program. You could always count on Ms. Watson to accept any arts invitation given and be in the audience with her elegant and soft smiles. Claude had passed away and did not see his vision of an arts school come to life, but Ruth stepped in and continued his legacy. While the Claude Watson School for the arts may bear her husband's name, it is Ruth who became the face of the program for so many years.

The recipient of the Ruth Watson award will have demonstrated excellence in more than one arts area and in their academics. They will also have provided leadership that benefits the entire school and will have been a participant and supporter of the arts at Earl Haig.