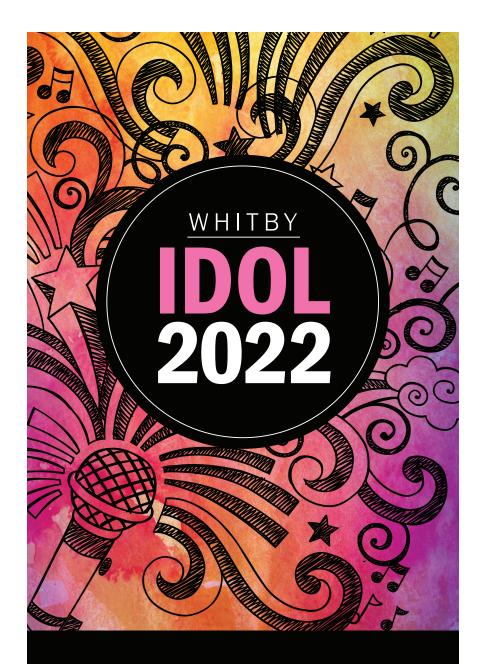
2021 Celebrating Youth Awards

Awards Ceremony



Thursday, November 25, 2021





whitby.ca/YouthEvents

The Celebrating Youth Awards recognizes our young leaders and highlights their selfless contributions and acts of goodwill in our community.

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees and thank you to all of the nominators for their submissions that highlighted the award winners.



Itinerary

7:00 p.m. Welcome, O' Canada and Greetings

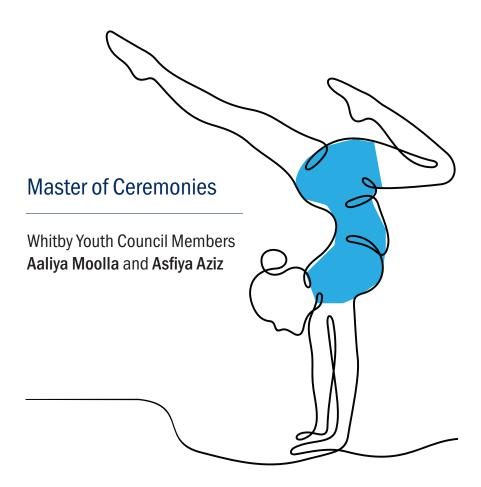
from Mayor Don Mitchell

7:15 p.m. Performance by Whitby Idol Alesha Stevenson

7:20 p.m. Keynote by Youth motivational speaker,

Sam Demma of PickWaste

8:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony



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Andrew Vermeulen

DONALD A. WILSON SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Since suffering a massive stroke at the age of 10, Andrew has dedicated his time to bringing awareness to pediatric stroke. Andrew held numerous awareness events at his then public school. He is currently a Junior Board member to a charity that provides scholarships to pediatric stroke survivors and assists on their awareness campaigns, one of which is advertised on Durham Region Transit buses. Andrew also takes to social media to help educate people of all ages the signs of stroke. Andrew's not only an asset to the pediatric stroke community, but all communities as he's such a strong advocate for pediatric stroke and the needs of survivors, thus enriching the lives of many in Whitby and Durham as a whole.

Ashley Haque

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11

Ashley Hague is a Senior Student at Anderson CVI and has been involved with various volunteer work. She is the current Minister of Resources and Planning and has led and organized many events. Some of these include Food Drives, Holiday Hope, Spirit Week, Student Mentors, Go with the Flo, and was a content contributor to Meaning of March Awareness Campaign and Mental Health May. These events required many hours to prepare and successfully implement with Ashley's hard work. Outside the school setting, she is heavily involved with Teen Advisory Group and Reading Buddies through Whitby's Public Library. Ashley leadership style is one of compassion, empathy and team work where she understands that the greater good is more important than personal achievement.

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

Steve Jobs

Avery McElhanney

DONALD A. WILSON SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 11

With the needs of others more visible than ever during the pandemic, Avery put her thoughts and intentions into action with Selfless A.C.T., the charitable initiative she started in May 2021. She creates self-care packs for teens in need around the Region of Durham. She has stocked her dining room full of supplies to create these packs which has allowed Selfless A.C.T to donate to Donald A. Wilson's High School guidance department, The Refuge in Oshawa, 100 packs to the DDSB for families with teens in need and 100 packs for the Durham Children Aid Society for their youth and teen holiday program. These packs are lightweight backpacks, filled with many essential items such as, menstrual care, masks, hand sanitizer, dental care, soap, deodorant, lip balm and cleansing wipes, among others. She has created multi social media platforms to garner donations from those in the community who would like to participate. Many have donated products, money and even Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum points to help the cause. She is kind and caring and inspires others to believe that the goodness of our community can make sure we all take care of each other.

Brianna Robson

BROOKLIN HIGH SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Brianna has been an excellent student and leader at Brooklin High School over the past 4 years. Her biggest achievement was sparking a positive change by successfully creating a motion for all Durham District School Board washrooms to provide access to free menstrual products by March 2022. Working with another classmate Brianna, urged the DDSB to take the necessary steps to end period poverty by arguing that menstrual products should be a human right and not a privilege. Brianna also brought awareness to the stigma around menstruation and its impact on mental health. As a 16 year-old Brianna was able to successfully advocate for this change as she worked with the local school board trustees and the local media.

Brooke Warner

DURHAM COLLEGE | FIRST YEAR

Brooke has made the Town of Whitby a better place as she has always been thoroughly involved in her community from a young age. She has contributed well over 720 hours of community service in the past four years through volunteering at her former local elementary school with their musical productions, the Spook-a-Thon Fundraiser, Meet the Teacher night, Book Fair, and Ice Cream Truck Night as well as volunteering in the Kindergarten and primary grade classes. Brooke was part of the Junior Optimist Club of Brooklin from 2014 until she aged out this year at 18. She was a Bronze level Member in 2014-2015. Member at Silver Level in 2016-2017, the Co-secretary in 2018 and the Secretary in 2019-2020. In 2020 she assisted with the digital posts for their Instagram page. She has also participated and assisted in organizing the Youth Dances, Breakfast with Santa, Here We Grow, Brooklin Spring Fair Parade and Float Building, and the Boston Pizza Night. Brooke has also dedicated her high school years to documenting her community around her, even during the beginning era of Covid, and her photos were printed in the 2019-2020 high school yearbook. While just graduating from high school, she still returns to assist her former teachers with the sorting of the 2020-2021 yearbooks through the continued pandemic where she was the Editor in Chief of the Yearbook on her own time as a volunteer. In addition, Brooke volunteered as the Grade 12 GRADWEAR Representative for her Graduating Class in 2020-2021 where she volunteered to create, advertise, organize. and distribute over 100 pieces of clothing to her fellow graduates. Brooke has also volunteered at The Court at Brooklin, assisting with serving dinner to the residents and running a booth at their Christmas Bazaar Market. In 2017, Brooke was awarded the Daughters of Isabella Community Volunteer award and in 2021 was also awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for her avid and continued dedication to her community. In 2021, Brooke was also awarded the Optimist Club of Brooklin Scholarship for the impact that she has made in her community.

Declan Amaral

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Declan has been a role model and leader in the community at All Saints as well as an inspiration across the province, especially in his role as one of the two Student Trustees for the DCDSB. In his first term as a Student Trustee (September 2020-June 2021), Declan met with students and staff from across the Durham Catholic District School Board to ensure that GSA's (Gay-Straight Alliance Groups) were set up in each of the secondary schools. Once he and his co-trustee had compiled the research needed to take action, they wrote a report calling on the board to support 2SLGBTQ+ students by providing educational resources, recognizing 2SLGBTQ+ holidays, and flying the Pride flag at all board facilities during Pride month. With the support of the Director of Education, these recommendations were passed and the school board were one of the first Catholic school boards in the province to pass such a motion. Declan has continuously advocated for racial justice and equity for different marginalized communities to ensure that they have the same educational experience as their peers, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. Through the two year leadership program Declan has been enrolled in at All Saints, he has also been able to serve the community in various ways, such as this year in the week-long awareness campaign for Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation in honour of the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

Henry Ford

Emma Pang

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11

Emma Pang is a Senior Student and current Minister of Finance and Records for Anderson Student Council. Emma has contributed her leadership and media skills to many successful initiatives such as Go with the Flo, Holiday Hope, Food Drives, media content for Fit Fridays, Mental Health May and fundraised for Coldest Night of the Year. She has also volunteered time at Sunny Crest Retirement Home through Mission 271 and participated in their Shoe Box Campaign. Outside the school setting, Emma has taken on roles assisting Whitby Figure Skating Club and has taught French and Mandarin with an International Language Program. Emma continues to demonstrate her commitment, empathy and organizational skills through her leadership.

Eve Thamir

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11

Eve Thamir is the current Deputy Prime Minister of Anderson CVI's Student Council. Her work and leadership on Council has been outstanding and has allowed many successful events to happen over the past year. Holliday Hope, Food Drives, Go with the Flo, Meaning of March Awareness Campaign, and Mental Health May are a few of the initiatives she has led or organized. Her contribution to weekly media posts to promote healthy eating and school spirit were essential to keeping the student body connected. Eve represented Penny Pack, a non-profit organization to raise awareness, funds and products to support the homeless. She also volunteered with Whitby's Library Public Summer Camps. Innovative, compassion and committed are words that accurately describe Eve's ongoing leadership.

Hanson Feng

DONALD A. WILSON SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 11

Hanson is a hard working student at Donald A. Wilson. Not only does he strive for his own success, but he strives for the success of others. When others ask for help, he provides assistance both academically and personally. He is a reliable student and friend. Hanson has been an active member of the Whitby Youth Council for the last several years. He regularly attends meetings, frequently assists with planning and running programs and events such as; the Celebrating Youth Awards, Whitby Idol and Whitby Youth Fair. He can always be counted on to help out and continually demonstrates leadership, initiative, commitment and dedication to youth initiatives within the Council. Hanson has also volunteered his time at community events including the Whitby Christmas Market and at the Whitby Public Library. As a result of all his time and dedication, he has already accumulated nearly 100 volunteer hours.

Jada Loney

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Jada is the epitome of an awesome youth who deserves to be celebrated and recognized. She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to her community while excelling in her academics. Jada is a self-motivated outstanding student of Media Arts at All Saints who is always willing to help her peers. She models a commitment to continue to develop as a collaborative, accountable, respectful, and engaged team member and she makes a real difference in our community. As a grade nine student Jada participated in a Human Trafficking workshop at All Saints and after the presentation asked the admin team why Grade 9 males were not able to access the presentation. She respectfully pointed out why it should be. The following year the presentation was presented to all Grade 9 students. In her Grade 10 year, Jada was thriving at school and then the pandemic hit. As everyone pivoted to remote learning Jada pitched the concept of creating a Titan's version of John Krasinski's viral hit Some Good News. Working remotely, Jada organized a team of talented Drama and Media Arts students and they created two editions of Some Good News for the Whitby community. It took countless additional hours of her time

on top of her studies, but she wanted to make it happen to spread positivity and she achieved her goal. In Jada's Grade 11 year she again demonstrated her commitment to the wider community when she managed a team of grade 9-11 media artists and produced a video to show support and gratitude for front-line medical workers. Her team of young digital artists created interactive virtual meditations for the nurses using QR codes and Jada organized the digital artwork that would be printed and donated to hang in the Lakeridge Health staff area(s). The focus for the contribution was to show immense gratitude but also to acknowledge the impact on their mental health. In her current Grade 12 year under the extremely stressful environment of the quadmester system, Jada decided that her final Media Arts project for Grade 12 would be a digital project that gives back to the community. She is creating an interactive archive website which will be a living record and resource. The goal of the archive is to help future parents and children learn more about the opportunities within the AMP Media Program and make an informed decision about the program. The website is designed to show the growth a student goes through in AMP Media Arts and eventually create a mentor network for alumni to give back to the current Titan community. Jada is actively seeking out diverse feedback from various stakeholders as she values inclusivity and equity. Everyone from elementary teachers and students from grade 7-12 are provided a voice. Jada is clearly an active member of the learning community, preferring to work behind the scenes when leading her peers. She is truly what any civic community would wish of its citizens. A citizen who is hardworking and innovative whose purpose is to leave the place that has given her so much a little better than when she arrived.

Kristina Siiman

BROOKLIN HIGH SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Kristina Siiman is a student who demonstrates excellence in everything she does. She was a central leader in the planning and execution of the 2021 Brooklin High School Bearathon of Hope and Terry Fox run. We raised a total of \$3,400 which was more money than in all previous years for the Terry Fox foundation. Kristina was a central part in what made the event such a huge success. Kristina is exceptionally organized with the ability to see what needs to be done in any leadership project for it to run effectively. Her technological skills were put to use as she created the promotional video for the event and continued to support the social media and marketing group. Kristina is respected deeply by her peers who recognize her leadership, work ethic, academic achievements, and work habits.

Another event Kristina (and a classmate) organized in June 2021 was a fundraiser for Feed Ontario. They reached out to a local ice-cream store (Tip-Top Creamery), whose business had been negatively impacted by COVID and inquired if they would be interested in sponsoring them in a fundraiser. They explained how not only would the funds raised be for Feed Ontario but would also provide revenue for Tip Top Creamery as well as restoring positive community spirit within their local community. The fundraiser was a success for both Tip-Top Creamery and Feed Ontario. They raised \$175 in only a week for Feed Ontario's COVID-19 Emergency Food Box program.

"Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world."

- Malala Yousafzai

Leila White

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 12

Leila is a motivated, caring, kind, reliable and very compassionate individual. She is approachable, has a friendly disposition and is an amazing leader. Leila truly does thrive when given an opportunity to lead. She has been giving back to the community through her work at Planet Fitness for the last four years. She is a gymnast coach who specializes in working with children between the ages of 1.5 to 16. A number of the children enrolled in the class have various physical and mental challenges and varying levels of strength. Leila helps these young children with their social skills and encourages them to have confidence in their abilities, all the while ensuring that they are having fun and feel safe. In addition, Leila was nominated by a number of teachers at Anderson Collegiate to work as a lunchroom supervisor in a PLP classroom, a Practical Learning Program that the DDSB has within its schools that offer intensive supports to special needs students. The fact that Leila was nominated by a number of teachers for this opportunity speaks volumes about her character and how she makes others feel. Leila has also volunteered a number of times within the community at large. She has volunteered at Senior Centres in her neighborhood, she was involved with the Brooklin Community Centre to organize crafts for children, she has participated in organizing backpack clothing drives for the homeless of the community and she has been a part of a food drive for Mission 271 at Anderson Collegiate. Leila is an amazing young woman who cares deeply about others and is dedicated to effecting change in her school and the community at large.

"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."

- Maya Angelou

Mariah Martin

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11

Mariah Martin is a Senior Student at Anderson CVI and is the current Minister of Communication and Marketing for Student Council. She has been instrumental with the success of many events held over the pandemic year. Holliday Hope, Food Drives, Go with the Flo, Meaning of March Awareness Campaign, Black History Month and Mental Health May are a few of the initiatives she has led or organized. She also participated with Mission 271 with their fundraiser Car Wash and her skills in media design has been essential in promoting events. Outside of school, Mariah is heavily involved with the Young People's Theatre as an assistant drama teacher and with fundraiser outreach events. Creativity, media skills and dedication are the essence of Mariah's leadership.

Meghan Stroud

DONALD A. WILSON SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Meghan is a strong leader in the school community. She is extremely organized, motivated, and takes initiative running student council - all while maintaining a high academic average. Although the focus of the student council is to promote school spirit within the building, she is always seeking out ways to connect the school events to the local community. Recently, Meghan led a fundraiser, the sale of candy grams, donating proceeds to Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation. Last year, Meghan orchestrated a toy drive for the holidays. She provided huge boxes covered with wrapping paper at the major school entrances, and she took them from there to Simcoe Hall Settlement House. It was the first toy drive at Wilson and it was a huge success. Meghan is currently running the second toy drive for this holiday season. In addition to the work she does within her school community, she is an avid volunteer throughout the Town of Whitby. She has shared her love for dance by performing at retirement homes and running classes for younger children. She participates in the Kids Help Phone peer to peer program, an online support space for adolescents. Additionally, Meghan volunteers for other local schools organizing the library, assisting with school musicals, and organizing sporting events. Meghan's selfless commitment has led to the betterment of the school and surrounding community.

Mobina Yosefi

HENRY STREET HIGH SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Mobina is a recent newcomer to Canada and she is still mastering the English language. She is actively involved in her school and within the Whitby community. Mobina is a student leader within Henry Athletics. She helps run lunchtime intramurals as well as supports special events like rugby tournaments. While not an athlete herself, she uses her leadership skills to facilitate these important experiences for her peers to enjoy. Mobina is also a leader within the Inclusive Student Services Department. She volunteers her free time to attend one of the special education classrooms at Henry to promote inclusion and develop social bonds with the students. She has befriended one of the students with special needs and has become a mentor to her. She often is relied upon by the classroom staff to help communicate with this particular student as she is able to communicate with her in her first language, Farsi. Mobina works hard at her part-time job, serving customers within the Whitby community. She has aspirations of going on to study Canadian law at university and to continue to give back to her community.

Olivia Elmhurst

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Olivia Elmhurst is a student whose contributions to All Saints have a breadth and depth of commitment not seen by many students. Her commitment is grounded in a genuine and selfless love for her community; she does everything with humility and grace. She has welcoming energy that is felt by all students and staff that interact with her and she makes the school a brighter place. Olivia immediately made her mark on the All Saints and greater Whitby community – she embodies what it means to be a service-focused, committed, and passionate leader in a community. She has been a member of Student Council all four of her years at All Saints. In addition to the spirit weeks, dances, talent shows, and spring fair, Olivia worked with council to run the Terry Fox event. Last year, the virtual event raised \$23,440 which earned All Saints the top spot in Ontario. This year's socially-distanced event has raised \$53,210 for Cancer research. Olivia demonstrated tremendous leadership in arranging this extraordinarily complex

event. She was laser-focused and never wavered when countless challenges arose; her positivity was infectious. In Grades 9 and 10 she helped organize and run an overnight educational event called "The Famine Challenge." Over the two years, the event educated students about climate change, as well as, the struggles faced by homeless youth. For three years, she volunteered at the Grade 9 orientation week. She has also helped students handle the transition to high school by helping with the Grade 8 Road Trip school transition sessions. Olivia is also member of two Leadership classes; this year tasked with planning and running the school's first Truth and Reconciliation week. Olivia spent countless hours preparing the strips of ribbon that were used to create pins for the student body of 1,400. She also coordinated 6,509 orange ribbons to the railings in the front atrium and spent several more hours painstakingly tying hundreds of ribbons. Last year, Olivia and a friend approached a teacher with an idea for a new school group. The group was to focus around women's empowerment, with the hope of creating a space used to permit young ladies to work together for the benefit of women in our community. Soon after, the Riveters held their first meeting. In the first year, the group expanded to over 60 members. The group in now in the process of applying for non-profit status and has over 90 members. The first initiative was to collect menstrual products for Bleed the North. During the menstrual product drive they collected over 13,000 items which was 30% of Bleed the North's yearly mandate. This campaign earned Olivia, a friend, and their teacher supervisor an eleven-minute live interview on CTV news. Bleed the North had such an impact on Olivia that she joined their cause. She is now one of the main organizers of the website. Last April, the Riveters partnered with Victim Services Durham and the Human Trafficking unit of the Durham Regional Police to design posters with information regarding human trafficking and put them up in all Durham Region motels. The group is working currently working with @milliondollarssmiles, @inspirealways and @45dayreset to raise funds to grant a wish for a critically ill student in their community. In the community, she volunteers with Simcoe Hall Settlement House. Olivia has also been a competitive dancer for the last eight years and has won several awards. Her top dance award was Miss Teen Cadence. She has taken this role to a new level by becoming one of the teaching staff at the studio while also working part time at Pingle's Farm. As a dance instructor, she is beloved by her young students; she has inspired a

whole new generation of children to be passionate about dance. In her job at Pingle's Farm, even though she is a part-time staff, Olivia has been entrusted as a keyholder. Whatever community group or organization Olivia belongs to, she devotes herself fully to its cause and each of its facets. As a member of the inaugural group of successful applicants to the new Regional Arts and Media Program at All Saints, Olivia demonstrated a profound commitment to helping build the drama program as a dedicated and highly skilled performer and theatre practitioner. In her first performance, in addition to an on-stage role, Olivia was also nominated by her peers as a student producer (a clear indication of the respect she earned in such a short period of time). As a producer, Olivia was responsible for the acquisition and organization of costumes, props, programs, and other production areas; a tremendous responsibility for any student. Olivia handled it with a level or expertise that belied her age, proving her adeptness at juggling multiple responsibilities to serve both her peers and her production. Olivia has also performed in the school musical, helped organize and participated in the first evening of TedX Talks as the event's emcee. As a member of the inaugural TedX club, Olivia was instrumental in organizing the evening where all proceeds went to support the Refuge Youth Shelter in Oshawa. She was also a driving force behind planning and executing a touring variety show with the intention of bringing joy and laughter to seniors living in Long Term Care. Students like Olivia are rare. She is compassionate, caring, humble, relentlessly positive, and genuinely committed to making her community a better and brighter place. Olivia has made an enduring mark in the All Saints and Whitby community.

"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

- Abraham Lincoln

Olivia Flanagan

HENRY STREET HIGH SCHOOL | GRADE 11

Olivia Flanagan is one of the hardest working students at Henry Street High School and she is only in Grade 11. She begins her day at school by delivering the morning announcements so that students and staff know what activities are going on at school. Her cheerful voice greets the entire community as they start their day. As Minister of Social Media and Advertising of the Henry Street Leadership Council, Olivia dedicates her time to helping the other students at Henry find their place. She created and maintained a website for the incoming Grade 9 students so that they would feel connected to the school during their spring in online classes when no in-person transition activities were permitted. Olivia uses her knowledge of graphic design and video editing to create videos, posters, and digital content in order to keep students informed and connected. Her Student Leaders and Mentors Introduction Video and her Frosh Day video went a long way to keep the Grade 9's informed and helped foster their sense of belonging in their new school. Olivia has been an essential part of helping to create a positive and inclusive school community at Henry Street. Olivia inspires staff and students alike to give life their all. She puts 110% into everything she does, most especially those things that are for the benefit of others.

Pritika Lally

DONALD A. WILSON SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Pritika is a strong, compassionate, and selfless leader. She has been actively involved in her community for many years and has a powerful drive to make her community a better place. She has continually demonstrated leadership abilities, diligence and commitment to her community. Along with being academically strong she has accumulated over 700 community service hours. Pritika is known to be an energetic leader who always takes on challenges. One of her major projects has included founding a free mentorship program. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on many students and the student-teacher relationship was severed for many students taking crucial support away from them. To combat this issue, Pritika founded a mentorship program that matches high school students to young students to assist them and

break down barriers in their learning. Pritika has also been an advocate for the environment. As a member of the Ontario Nature Youth Council, she coorganized a planting event in Rosedale Park. With several young volunteers who assisted, they were able to plant 200 pollinator-friendly plants. Other than forming initiatives regarding the environment, she has also assisted in starting up STEM club in which she is the President of. Pritika has a firm goal of making STEM more inclusive and equitable; leading numerous workshops, panels, and conferences targeting various minority groups in STEM. Additionally, Pritika is a volunteer at Lakeridge Heights Retirement Residence and has continuously been actively involved in engaging with the residents. Pritika has led numerous programs at Lakeridge Heights, one of the major programs being Science Without Boundaries. Combining her interest in STEM with her passion for volunteering, Pritika has founded this program that is interactive and suitable for individuals with different cognitive and physical levels. This program provides stimulating science activities that provide both entertainment and enlightenment, as part of a lifelong learning process. She conducts this program for the memory-assisted residents.

Rohit Ganesan Kannan

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11

Rohit has been an actively engaged youth both as a student from Anderson and with the community. As a member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program, there were events he was involved in from Poppy Sales, Remembrance Day Parades, and being a Host Speaker for the Ontario-wide Cadet Activity Program in April of 2021. He has also been a Reading Buddy at the Public Library. In school, Rohit is the current Speaker of the House in Student Council leading many events and initiatives. He was instrumental in fundraisers like Holiday Hope, Go with the Flo, Food Drives, Meaning of March Awareness Campaign and is a contributor to Student Mentors. He is part of the DECA Business Club as an executive and its goal is to provide business-related opportunities to students that have been missing over the pandemic time. Rohit understands that the underlying principle of citizenship is the exchange of ideas, sharing joy, and helping one another. It is this kind of involvement that will forge the leaders of tomorrow, who will ultimately bring the world into the future.

Sarah Marsh

ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11

Sarah Marsh is a senior student at Anderson CVI and current Privy Executive Advisor for Student Council. Sarah has shown outstanding leadership with many events, Holliday Hope, Food Drives, Go with the Flo, Meaning of March Awareness Campaign, and Mental Health May to name a few. She was Co-chair of Fit Fridays promoting wellness and was a prominent participant with Mission 271 We Scare Hunger. Sarah is also a proud member of the 2 Vandenbos RCACS where she has been recognized for her work with Amica Letter Writing Campaign, Girls Take Flight and Young Eagles. She received additional awards from Pringle Creek PS and the Whitby Rotary Club for her community connections. Sarah embodies leadership qualities of initiative, dedication and determination to achieve any goal.

Shatoya James

HENRY STREET HIGH SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Shatoya James is very involved in the Town of Whitby through her tireless work as an ongoing volunteer with the AIDS Committee of Durham Region (ACDR). This organization works to diminish the stigma of AIDs and other sexually transmitted diseases and to connect folks, from primarily racialized groups, with the information and support they need to live healthy lives. Shatoya joined the organization in June of 2021 and since then has contributed to many initiatives. Recent events include a virtual information night to promote 'GetAKit', which provides self-testing kits, community and support around their use. There was also an in-person event promoting self-love and wellness through activities like doing nails and hair. Shatoya is responsible for managing the ACDR social media accounts, sharing information and collaborating with other organizations. Shatoya has learned a lot from her experience with the AIDs Committee of Durham Region and plans to pursue psychology in her post-secondary education so that she may continue to help others in her future.

Sydney Telfer | ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11 Callum McIntyre | ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 11 Arnav Saini | ANDERSON CVI | GRADE 12

MISSION271 is a service-oriented club at Anderson Collegiate Vocational Institute that works to improve the school, the community and the world. The MISSION271 Core Leadership Team at Anderson CVI have kept the fire alive during this difficult time. The core members have worked hard to keep students connected during the last 18 months, especially when school has looked so different. They have done this by offering online game and networking nights; called HangTime and planning gatherings at school to connect over board games and cards. They have prepared for events for when restrictions open up; specifically a Food Drive, a Sock Drive, in-person HangTimes and a "retreat week" at school. These students are seeking to fulfill a vision where school is a place for students to feel included and be connected. Each of these leaders is unique in their own way but they all are helpful, cheerful, enthusiastic and willing to serve the greater good. They bring new ideas to each meeting and live out their values every day.

Victoria Fitzpatrick

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL | GRADE 12

Victoria has contributed tirelessly to the school environment and atmosphere at All Saints. She leads with a quiet spirit, through setting an example of hard work and devotion to the community. She is well-spoken, creative, accomplished, and naturally earns the respect of all who she interacts with. The arts are a huge part of Victoria's life. She has been a well-respected member of the All-Saints Drama AMP program since 2018. She has been the co-host of the annual talent show, devoting countless hours to writing original emcee material while effortlessly stewarding the show. In 2019 she was highlighted as a Ted Talk speaker at the school inspiring countless members of our community to take up her cause. She was instrumental in the success of the event as an organizer as well. Thanks to her efforts, the TedX event also raised hundreds of dollars for The Refuge Youth Shelter in Oshawa. Victoria has also been a member of Student Council the last three years. She started her journey with council in grade 10 as

the Social Convener and presently serves as the President. Over the last three years, Victoria has worked on numerous projects, including organizing a virtual in-person Terry Fox event, numerous fundraisers and various other school spirit events. She brings her energy to all the school rallies and works to ensure the social media presence keeps students and staff up to date regarding various events and activities. She is a strong communicator and terrific collaborator her peers on student council look to her for quiet guidance and leadership in all that they do. This is all done while she maintains her academics with ambitious standards. Last year Victoria and a friend recognized a great need amongst the female students at their school, and as a result created The Riveters, a women's empowerment group focusing on creating a safe space for young women in the community. They discuss topics regarding women's issues and self-growth, in hopes of educating others in the greater community. Ongoing, they are participating in self-improvement activities and workshops with organizations throughout the GTA. In the first year, the group expanded to over 60 students and now in its second year has over 90 members. The first initiative was to collect menstrual products for Bleed the North in which they collected over 13,000 items; 30% of Bleed the North's yearly mandate. This campaign earned Victoria. a friend, and their teacher supervisor an eleven-minute live interview on CTV national news. Last April, the Riveters partnered with Victim Services Durham and the Human Trafficking unit of the Durham Regional Police to design and put-up posters with illustrating education pertaining to human trafficking in all Durham Region motels. The group is currently working with @milliondollarssmiles. @inspirealways and @45dayreset to raise funds to grant a wish for a medically fragile student in their community. Victoria is also a competitive springboard diver for Optimal Diving Club. In 2018, she was part of the Ontario Summer Games as an athlete and was the aspire II women's B provincial 3M springboard champion. Her passion for diving landed a part-time job at Lifetime Athletics as a lifeguard/ swim instructor for 20 hours a week in Ajax. Her tenacity, quiet dignity, and willingness to serve all has made a profound impact on the All Saints community.



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