



COBSS

CENTRAL OKANAGAN BURSARY & SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

Our Mission Statement

The Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS) is a non-profit group of volunteers from the Central Okanagan area who are dedicated to providing financial assistance to our Grade 12 graduates in order that they may further their post secondary education.



2015 COBSS AWARDS

625

Student Applicants

543

Awards

\$437,090

Total Value of Awards

THANK YOU DONORS!

Your generosity and thoughtfulness make a difference in a young person's future.

www.cobss.ca cobss@shaw.ca 250.861.4980

A Message from COBSS President Louise Arkle

COBSS, began as an idea. A unique idea that was the result of a challenge and association among our founding fathers: **Harry Dewar, Ken Harding, Lou Dedinsky** and **Rosemary King**. Since 1971, COBSS volunteers have been committed to their dream, to assist aspiring high school graduates.

COBSS is distinct. It allows graduating students from across the Central Okanagan to submit one application that qualifies them to be considered for over 500 scholarships, bursaries and awards donated by a variety of individuals, businesses, sports and community organizations. Counsellors from each of the schools; coached, encouraged and oversaw the submission of 625 applications to COBSS this year. Post-secondary education is increasingly required for employment. The cost can be prohibitive, and financial assistance may make all the difference in a young person's journey. Students have also reported that receiving an award from their community is very self-assuring.

It is with sadness that COBSS announces the passing this year of one of our founding fathers, **Mr. Harry Dewar**. COBSS will forever be grateful for Mr. Dewar's inspiration.

Where Are They Now?

A Past Recipient's Experience

My name is Stephanie Bandura, and I am the proud and grateful recipient of the 2013, Central Okanagan Foundation: Peter and Mary Wiens bursary, and the Winfield Auxiliary to KGH Foundation bursary in the amounts of \$2500.00 and \$750.00 respectively.

I graduated from George Elliot Secondary School in Lake Country with the unwavering support and help from our guidance counsellor Ms. Karen Gilbert. Ms. Gilbert spent endless hours helping me look for financial support to assist me in fulfilling my dream to pursue further education. She led me to COBSS.

The application I submitted to COBSS outlined my very difficult living situation, the financial burdens that my family and I endured, my place on the honor role and principal's list, and my dream to attend University in the Okanagan to become a Registered Nurse.

The money I received from COBSS (along with other financial assistance) helped me with the innumerable costs of student living including: housing, transportation, food, and most importantly tuition and practicum expenses. A few of the items I purchased were nursing uniforms, a stethoscope and clinical instruction time.

I am happy to report that while I still work two jobs along side attending University fulltime, my practicum component at the hospital is going well. My goals are to graduate from nursing and begin working in a rural environment, in hopes of participating in the loan forgiveness program, as my debt is significant.

COBSS, and my counsellor at G.E.S.S. have played an invaluable role in my journey to achieving my dream.

Story of a Donor: The Hank Grenda Memorial Award

Our family really values education. My late husband, Hank Grenda, was a teacher for 32 years. I am a retired teacher from School District 23. Our son and daughter both attended post-secondary institutions. Our son is in finance, and our daughter is a teacher on call. When my husband passed away suddenly at the age of 58 we were devastated. We knew immediately that we wanted a Bursary in his name. We contacted COBSS and they did all the legwork during our time of grief. We included the COBSS information on Hank's obituary. Nine years later, these donations are still supporting our Award.

Donors can set the criteria for their Award and can choose their level of involvement in the yearly selection process. Hank was involved in Apprenticeship/Trades programs, so that is the major criteria for his Award. He also encouraged students to volunteer in the community so we included that component for applicants. Families can choose one secondary school or the entire district. Donors can choose the recipient each year or leave the selection to the COBSS committee. Donors can present their Award or choose a representative. Our first recipient was Dexe Sproule. Hank had encouraged Dexe to apply to COBSS, and he had coached Dexe in senior boys basketball. It was bittersweet and emotional to present Hank's first Bursary to Dexe. He was appreciative and we felt Hank's legacy begin. Recipients have gone on to become welders, chefs and mechanics. Over the years we have appreciated our opportunity to honour Hank and to assist a student with their endeavors at Secondary School Graduation time.

The Grenda Family

Dexe's Success Story

I was honoured that the Grenda Family presented me with the very first Hank Grenda Memorial Bursary. Mr. Grenda was so much more than a teacher to me. He was a role model, coach and friend. I was fortunate enough to receive other bursaries, but was particularly touched by The Hank Grenda Memorial Award. I used this money to enroll in the Welding program at SAIT in Calgary. After completing this course I took my career on a different path, and am currently a sales manager for Automaxx in Calgary. Thank you for believing in me, Mrs.

Donors can design student awards with as much individuality as they can imagine. Please consider creating a scholarship for an academic achievement, or a bursary for a student who has financial need. A memorial award is an enduring way to commemorate the passing of a loved one. Tax receipts are available.



empowering generations to give.

COF working through COBSS provides many awards for Okanagan students. Visit:
www.centralokanaganfoundation.org

BURSARIES/SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS TIMELINE for COBSS

November	Donors will receive, by November 1 st a renewal contract to make any revisions to their award (i.e. criteria, number of awards given, and amount of award).
December	Renewal contracts with payment are due to COBSS by December 1 OR notify COBSS by email that your award will be given and payment will follow shortly.
December	First week of December, on-line applications open for 7 weeks, see school websites.
January	Mid January, on-line application window closes.
February	Counsellors review student applications.
March	All COBSS applications are submitted to COBSS.
March	Mid March, COBSS contacts donors to verify students' eligibility. Also to set up appointments for donors to select their student recipient(s).
March	End of March COBSS members allocate the balance of the awards for the donors.
April/May	Letters are produced for donors informing them who their successful recipient(s) is/are. Graduation ceremony information - date, time and place is also included.
June	Student recipients receive documentation at their graduation ceremony informing them of the award(s) they have won.
July/August/ September	Students submit documentation to COBSS for payment of award(s) to schools.
October	Renewal contracts printed and mailed to all donors for updating, in preparation for student applications for the following June.

Congratulations



Graduate!

COBSS wishes to express our gratitude to Deb da Silva, of KPMG and Richard Ingram of RBC Securities for the donation of their professional services to manage our accounts and investments.

For a complete list of the 2015 donors, please consult our website, www.cobss.ca Also reach COBSS at cobss@shaw.ca, tel. 250.861.4980