

The 'Sonny Tougas' National Bursary Program

Post- Secondary Scholarship

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals and Clubs who have supported The Sonny Fund. Your generosity has made it possible for us to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of these young people.

Maurice 'Sonny' Tougas was an All Breed Judge, a CKC life member, whose life embodied honesty, integrity and sportsmanship.

Sonny was the consummate teacher, always willing to lend a hand, offer advice or freely share his knowledge.

He was the 'best' dinner companion, whose stories were filled with laughter, perhaps even some embellishment. He shared his adventures to the delight of his many friends and never failed to entertain, or be at a loss for words.

The 'Sonny Tougas' National Bursary Program (STNBP) recognizes that many youngsters of the dog fancy have contributed greatly to the sport of pure-bred dogs through participation in events such as conformation shows, obedience trials as well as other performance events sanctioned by The Canadian Kennel Club.

To honour the memory of 'Sonny' Tougas, this program is designed to aid a deserving student in support of his / her educational objectives in the form of a post-secondary scholarship.

This year we received applications from an outstanding group of individuals.

We have a candidate from Queen's University enrolled in the Arts program, another young lady who is about to complete her educational degree, an aspiring film and video production student, a student pursuing an architectural degree at Carlton, a future Veterinarian Technician at Guelph, a student looking to complete her PHD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Harvard and a young man who has very quietly become the 'poster boy' for Canadian dogdom.

Not only are all of these youngsters above average students, but they share the same passion as those of you who are here tonight. And that is our love of purebred dogs. Each and every one has competed in the Junior Handling program. I think it ironic that there are some who think our sport is in trouble when we have youngsters such as these sharing our passion.

This year because of the exceptional group of applicants, we have decided to expand our bursary awards to include an additional award of \$500.00.

The first award of \$500.00 goes to a young man who needs no introduction. His teacher at Auburn High describes him as intelligent, conscientious and highly organized. His mentor uses words such as humble, eager to learn and always looking for ways to improve his skills.

We are talking about Colton O'Shea. Colton represented us at Cruft's this year by winning the International Junior Handling Competition. Whatever career path Colton chooses, he will most certainly succeed.

He is very deserving of this award.

Our \$1,000.00 award goes to a very exceptional young lady - who has managed to balance high academic standards, several volunteer positions in addition to providing support to a large extended family.

Heidi Morris has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, a Master of Sciences in Immunology & Infectious Diseases and is currently completing a PHD in Biological & Biomedical Sciences.

I would like to congratulate all of the candidates who have applied to The Sonny Fund. You have restored my faith in the youth of to-day.

My friend, Tougas, would be very proud of your achievements.

So, a toast to your future and a toast to Sonny!

Thank you.