



From: Yarmouth Hospital Foundation
Re: 2015 Nursing Scholarships

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Nursing scholarship winners announced

Three 19-year-olds are the winners of the three scholarships available to first year nursing students at the Yarmouth Site of the Dalhousie School of Nursing.

Two of these scholarships are being awarded for the first time. Brittany Holmes, of Shelburne, is the inaugural winner of the \$5,000 David C. Hall Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Margaret Churchill.

Kennedy LeBlanc, of Yarmouth, is the recipient of the first \$1,500 scholarship endowed by Drs. Rajender and Asha Parkash.

Callista Weir, of Digby, has been awarded the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation's \$5,000 scholarship, which was established in 2008.

The three young women are all committed to remaining in the Yarmouth area following graduation. Both Weir and LeBlanc left home last year to pursue their studies but found that they missed southwest Nova Scotia too much.

They all see great opportunities for new nurses in this area. With the anticipated retirement of many nurses in the Baby Boom generation, "It's a lucky time to be entering the nursing profession," points out Holmes.

"We're lucky that the jobs are here at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital," adds Weir,

“This is my home,” says LeBlanc. “I’ve lived here my whole life and it would be nice to give back this community.”

Hall, former owner of Motor Mart (now Murray GM) and Tri-Star Industries, established the scholarship in memory of his late great friend, Yarmouth pediatrician Dr. Margaret Churchill. It will be awarded annually for 10 years.

“Margaret Churchill was a wonderful doctor, remembered by every kid who ever went to her,” Hall says, adding that she was the first to train a Nova Scotia nurse practitioner in pediatrics.

The former member of the Yarmouth Hospital Board says he wanted to make a tangible difference to both the community and an individual and a substantial scholarship to a nursing student felt like a good fit.

The Parkashes, prominent physicians in Yarmouth for many years, were motivated by a desire to help finance the education of frontline health-care providers. Last year they established a \$50,000 Endowment fund, and now they are actively fundraising to increase its value. “We’re hoping to grow it to \$100,000 within four to five years,” says Dr. Rajender Parkash.

“The Yarmouth Hospital Foundation (YHF) is impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of our student nurses and honoured to be a part of sustaining quality nursing care in the Yarmouth area,” says YHF Board Chair Greg Barro.

“The first-year students at the Yarmouth site of the Dalhousie School of Nursing now have a third and very substantial scholarship available to them,” says Adele LeBlanc, the school’s site administrator. One year’s tuition in the nursing program, plus books and materials, is more than \$10,000, she points out.

“These three young women are excellent choices for the scholarships available,” LeBlanc says.