

## **Lincoln Agricultural Scholarship Winners 2009**

By Ann Marie Chechalk

“The annual Lincoln Agricultural Society Scholarship Program celebrates young leaders who have excelled in their achievements as 4-H club members and at school and in their community” said Margaret Andrews, a member of the selection committee. Now in its fourth year, the purpose of this program is to develop an awareness of the importance and benefits of higher education. It is offered by the Lincoln Agricultural Society with the cooperation and support of the Niagara 4-H Association.

The scholarships recipients are chosen from current 4-H members that have completed at least six projects and are going on to attend a recognized post-secondary education program with a minimum of twelve weeks. Three scholarships are awarded annually in the amount of \$1500.00, \$1000.00 and \$750.00. Applicants must submit a copy of their academic report cards of their last year of secondary school, a list of their extra-curricular activities, their completed 4-H clubs, involvement in the community and a brief essay discussing their personal goals.

“On behalf of the Scholarship Committee,” said Margaret Andrews, “it is my special pleasure to announce the 2009 Lincoln Agricultural Society’s Scholarship Winners and invite them to come up onto the stage, Andrew Chechalk, Kaila Henderson and Jenna MacDougall.”

“Andrew, Kaila and Jenna are proud 4-H club members in Niagara. All three have accomplished a lot during their young lives and serve as outstanding role models for their peers. Each demonstrates great potential for becoming a significant community leader in the future.”

The 2009 third place (\$750) scholarship winner is Andrew Chechalk. “Andrew has enjoyed growing up ‘on the farm’ in West Lincoln. He has been a very active 4-H member for 7 years. Through 4-H, he has excelled in showing goats and beef while learning a variety of other valuable skills including how to hold on to a sheep without a halter and teach a rabbit to lie on its back; make a meal and knit. Andrew is a member of the Niagara Junior Farmers and Grimsby Curling Club.

Andrew completed his secondary schooling at Blessed Trinity Secondary School in Grimsby and is now in his first year in Political Science at Carleton University in Ottawa. While he is keen to become a politician, maybe even Prime Minister someday, his immediate goals are to continue meeting new people, learning new things, and making good judgments.”

The 2009 second place (\$1000) scholarship winner is Kaila Henderson. “Kaila has also been involved in 4-H for 7 years and while she has completed 33 clubs, she plans on completing many more because she values 4-H for learning the importance of teamwork and dedication. Kaila’s bent for keeping busy is evident in the many extra-curricular activities, which she pursued in her interest for sports, community wellbeing and the environment, during her four years at E.L. Crossley Secondary School in Fonthill” said Mrs. Andrews

“Kaila lives in the countryside near Wellandport. She is enrolled in her first year of General Studies (Social Sciences) at Brock University in St. Catharines. While she continues to search for her special niche, Kaila’s ultimate goal is to help better the lives of children in unfortunate circumstances, possibly, by working with an organization like the United Nations or International Red Cross in third world countries.”

The 2009 First Place (\$1,500) scholarship winner is Jenna MacDougall. “With 8 years as a 4-H’er under her belt, Jenna has taken the 4-H pledge to be ‘her pledge’ for all that she aspires to do as she continues through life.”

“Growing up on her family farm near Smithville, Jenna has achieved champion dairy and sheep showman status while learning the importance of agriculture as the foundation for the healthy living of everyone. Jenna’s extra-curricular activities include soccer, hockey and figure skating, Junior Farmers and Sunday school teaching”.

“Having successfully completed Grade 12 at South Lincoln High School in Smithville, Jenna is now in her first year at the University of Guelph where she is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree. As she keeps in mind the lessons she has learned through 4-H, Jenna’s goals revolve around three topics – education, a healthy lifestyle and bettering agriculture.”

We wish all three winners much success and congratulate them on these scholarships.