



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.



2017 COBSS AWARDS

617

Student Applicants

537

Awards

\$434,080

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 Jude Pipher



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 617 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.

Allocation 2017



Where Are They Now?

A Past Recipient's Experience

My name is Taylor Pomponio, although I graduated from MBSS in 2009, I would like to thank the COBSS society for all the bursaries, scholarships and awards they give out to help further the education of Okanagan students. I was privileged enough to have received several COBSS scholarships and awards to help fulfill my now dream job as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) registered nurse.

For as long as I can remember, I have always been interested in the medical field, specifically the pediatric population. Being one of the older kids in my neighborhood, I did a lot of babysitting jobs growing up. I quickly learned to be patient, a good listener, attentive, sympathetic, cook, a cleaner, etc. Being someone's "favorite" babysitter meant that I must have done something right to make a positive impact in their life, which seemed to be so effortless. As I look back on those days, I can recall being very proud doing something that not only made me happy, but others as well.

When applying to Universities, I knew 100% that I wanted to pursue a career in nursing. I didn't work a lot during the school years (that was a concern as post-secondary degree is expensive) as my main focus was keeping my grades up so I would be accepted into the University I wanted to attend. The hard work and dedication ensuring a good work ethic did pay off as I was accepted to my first-choice University, UBC-Okanagan.



The help I received from COBSS was invaluable. It made a big difference helping me on my journey. I graduated in 2013 from UBC-Okanagan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing; I went on to a year-long specialization in Neonates through BCIT and now work full time at Kelowna General Hospital.

HARDING, Kenneth Frederick



Ken was born in Kamloops on May 24, 1926. His family returned to Kelowna 2 years later where he grew up, living the remainder of his life in Kelowna.

He is survived by his loving wife Gwen (nee Reece) of 68 years, son Kevin and wife Cheryl, grandson Justin, granddaughter Stephanie, great granddaughter Cali, sister Joyce (Colin Cameron) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and special long time friends. Predeceased by daughter Temie Ann, brothers Lynn, Terry, Roy (RCNVR), Doug, sisters Gwen Gregory, Hazel Spracklin.

Following a short career in the family hardware and furniture business, he joined Whillis Insurance Agency ultimately with Jim Whillis as a partner evolving into Whillis Harding Insurance Agency until his retirement at 75.

He was a dedicated volunteer in the community starting with the Kinsmen Club at 19. He was a Junior Chamber of Commerce member, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotarian, Central Okanagan Foundation, founding member of Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS), B.C.I.T., United Way, Bold Horizons Campaign, Safety Council and the Gellatly Nut Farm. Honored by receiving Queens Jubilee Medal, Honorary Fellow of Central Okanagan College, Fred Macklin Memorial Award and member of the Board of First United Church.



2014 COBSS Tea
Mr. & Mrs. Harding

KelownaNow

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.


 — CENTRAL OKANAGAN —
FOUNDATION

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 and 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



Graduates!

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.

Follow COBSS on facebook and twitter. For a complete list of the 2016/2017 donors, please consult our website.
www.cobss.ca Also reach COBSS at cobss@shaw.ca, tel. 250.861.4980