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### **Coastal Community's 2009 Scholarship Recipients are Agents of Community Change**

Eight Vancouver Island students have been awarded \$1,500 each, and one a \$2,000 award, in Coastal Community's 2009 Scholarship Program. The program, which is open to students in grades 11 and 12 in the communities the Credit Union serves, brings together community leadership and education by asking students to submit a project that addresses a social, economic or environmental need in their communities.

This year's project ideas exemplified community leadership, addressing such issues as: homelessness; community composting; access to sports equipment for low income families; aboriginal arts and culture; and eco home updates – just to name a few. "It's a lot of fun to review the project plans. All of the applicants have brilliant ideas to make positive changes in their community," says Moira Hauk, Manager of Coastal Community's Qualicum Beach branch who sat on the scholarship recommendation committee.

Nanaimo District Secondary School student Gemma Bowman's multi-faceted plan to galvanize her community to rejuvenate a neglected park on Gabriola Island was chosen as the best overall project, earning her the \$2,000 educational award and up to \$1,500 to put the project into action.

Says Hauk, "We were particularly impressed with Gemma's plan for how it brings together the entire community – youth workers, business owners, local artists and musicians, and young people themselves – therefore benefiting so many. The project integrates a general cleanup and beautification of the park with a public art installation, and youth mentorship. Another aspect of the project that was especially unique is that every phase of it will be documented in video and photographs to be shown at a special screening at the local movie theatre. We (the recommendation committee) thought that was pretty special."

Congratulations to the 2009 recipients of the Coastal Community Scholarship:

Ashley Arvay	Cumberland	Backpacks for Hope
Gemma Bowman	Gabriola Island	Huxley Park Cleanup
Brianna Jones	Duncan	Equipment for Community Sports
Dylan Rybski	Courtenay	The Dirt on Composting
Melissa Kubinec	Campbell River	Let's Go Canada
Meghan Smith	Campbell River	S.E.E. our City
Christopher Rodgers	Nanaimo	Thank a Veteran Day
Jamie Rhodes	Nanaimo	Skimboard Camp
Wallis Edwards	Nanaimo	Get N' Go Baby Gear Online

Coastal Community Credit Union thanks all of the students who applied and wishes them every success in their pursuits.

For more information on Coastal Community's Scholarship program visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca). Check our website in late summer for a story on Gemma Bowman's Huxley Park Cleanup project.

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#### **About Coastal Community Credit Union**

Serving Island communities for more than 60 years, Coastal Community Credit Union is Vancouver Island's largest regional Credit Union. With more than 80,000 members, 625-plus employees, and over \$1.5 billion in assets, Coastal

Community offers complete financial services and solutions through an extensive network of personal banking, insurance, investments and business services centers across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Passionate about the communities it serves, Coastal Community supports community organizations through various programs and the volunteer efforts of its dedicated employees. For more information, visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca).

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