

James K. Weeden Community Service & Leadership Scholarship

Originally from Lockerby, in Elderslie Township, James K. Weeden (Jim) was an active Bruce County 4-H member in his youth, with a particular interest in beef cattle, swine, and judging livestock. He was also keenly interested in horses and worked as a young person for Jim McKay exhibiting Commercial horses. Jim's parents, Keith and Alice Weeden, were active members in community service and agricultural organizations throughout Bruce County and Ontario and strong supporters of working with researchers and government agencies through agricultural extension initiatives. Many of those extension workers and experts became mentors and friends, including the influential leader Hank Bellman, who inspired Jim to follow in his footsteps and become an agricultural engineer.

This inspiration led Jim to pursue his Bachelor's Degree and later a Master's Degree in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Guelph. Throughout his career and life, Jim has continued to advance the legacy of his parents and mentors through his own commitment to community service and leadership in the agricultural sector. Jim spent three decades delivering high-impact programs and projects as an Agricultural Engineer with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, including leading the development of the still-in-use 'Best Practices in Agriculture' guidance and serving as an instructor at the former Centralia College. He also maintained a strong connection to the University of Guelph, where he twice served as the President of University of Guelph Alumni Association and led the planning and delivery of the largest donation by the Alumni Association to the University, \$500,000 in support of building of what is now Rozanski Hall.

Jim and his late wife Marjorie were also active in the draft horse industry. They met as young people competing against each other exhibiting Commercial Horses, and later owned and exhibited a very successful six-horse-hitch of registered Haflingers. Jim and Marjorie were pivotal in establishing the Ontario Haflinger Association, with Jim serving as President during a period of major transition in modernizing the breed and the organization. Jim's passion for draft horses keeps him involved in various shows and fairs across Canada and the United States through his small photography business, 'From the Stands Photography', and through his leadership in supporting agricultural organizations in modernizing their event management. Jim has supported four 'world' shows for all three draft horse breeds in acquiring and implementing digital tools for total event management, helping them to connect the important heritage of these livestock events with modern tools that allow them to thrive today and into the future. This scholarship aims to support young leaders in developing the skills and networks that will allow them to add their own unique contributions to advancing the continuing evolution of the agricultural sector.

Jim claims that he has never been an 'exceptional' student or leader, but that he simply noticed that there were things that he could do to help others and his communities, and then set about doing them. He has devoted, and continues to be committed to, quietly showing up in service of the greater good – whether that is at work, in his community, or in supporting the preservation and continued development of agriculture. Known for his sense of humour, curiosity, and generosity, Jim has always advocated for the importance of education for people of all ages, interests, and capabilities. He has never stopped

challenging himself to learn and grow, and is widely celebrated for encouraging the same habits in everyone around him. This scholarship has been created to recognize, celebrate, and reward these same qualities in emerging leaders.

In recognition of Jim's lifelong and continued community service and leadership, Jim's family is pleased to offer the James K. Weeden Community Service and Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$750 to be awarded each year. As a special note, the scholarship amount is reflective of the support Jim's parents were able to give him when he started his own post-secondary education and reflects that the scholarship was established to celebrate Jim's 75th birthday in 2023.

Please note this application is for Bruce County 4-H members only.

Application due date: June 1, 2024.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must be either currently active or have been active in the immediate prior year as a member in the Bruce County 4-H Association.
2. To be eligible to receive this award, applicants must be enrolled in a degree-level program at a university. Proof of enrollment will be required. Applicants who are not yet enrolled but anticipate university enrollment in the immediate future are eligible, but will not receive the award monies until after they have enrolled and can provide proof of enrollment. Applicants currently enrolled or intending to enroll in a University-level program (including graduate studies, as long as they are not more than one year out from active 4-H membership) are eligible, regardless of the location of their chosen institution (applicants enrolled in University programs outside of Ontario or outside of Canada are eligible).
3. Preference will be given to applicants who intend to pursue education in agriculture or/and engineering (with an environmental or agricultural focus). Preference will be given to applicants that intend to pursue careers in the public sector following the completion of their education.
4. Applicants should be active in the community, although their participation **does not** have to be extensive, in the form of formal titles/positions, or noted by awards/achievements. Preference will be given to applicants who show ongoing dedication to using **their** unique skills and attributes to support the betterment of others and the community and who demonstrate a positive, learning mindset.
5. Applicants who identify as racialized, women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, persons of various sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities and cultivate the values of 4-H across all they do are strongly encouraged to apply.

6. Applicants are not required to demonstrate academic excellence; however, applicants should be in 'good' academic standing and have met the required standard for entry into the post-secondary program of their choosing.
7. Applicants are only eligible to receive this award once.

Scholarship

To apply for this scholarship, please submit the following:

- A copy of your resume or similar summary of your experience and community participation (no longer than 2 pages)
- A separate page that lists two references (include their name, relationship to you, current role/title, phone number and email address)
- Answer the following questions (200 words or less per question)

Please complete the below application and submit it back to giving@4-hontario.ca by June 1, 2024

Name: _____
 Age: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Telephone: (____) _____^[1]_{SEP} Cell: (____) _____^[1]_{SEP}
 E-Mail: _____
 University: _____
 Course of Study: _____

1. Please describe your involvement in the community and at school. What have you learned? How has this helped you develop as a person and as a leader?
2. Describe your educational goals. What is the main emphasis of your course of study and your reason for enrolment in the program?
3. List and describe your involvement in agriculture – this could be on the farm (at home, through family/friends, or employment), employment, or other activities and organizations, hobbies, or other relevant activities that connect you to agriculture. Please share what you love most about agriculture and what you are most excited to contribute to the sector in the future.
4. Explain, in your own words, how your participation in 4-H (or other agricultural youth groups) has supported your personal development. This could include developing your approach to leadership, the way it has helped inform your educational goals or career choices, how it has shaped your attitudes towards

community service, or any other notable way your participation in these groups has influenced your development and sense of self.

5. Please share a brief overview of your future goals. Who are you working towards becoming? This might include your plans for education or career, contributions you would like to make to your community or to the agricultural sector, goals you are working towards in your hobbies or other activities, or any other goals you have set for yourself.
6. Other/additional information: Please use this section to share any other experiences, interests, or activities that you are engaged with that may be relevant or may help us get to know you better. This could include hobbies, activities, group awards, involvement with other community organizations,