

Award rich in history



Touching tribute: The Frankie Bates Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually.

Grade 12 Innisfail High student, Zike Maree, was awarded the first-ever Frankie Bates Memorial Scholarship to pursue lifeguard training. Frankie devoted her life to those around her in Innisfail, before her passing a few months ago. However, it was the remarkable story of how her life was saved 65 years earlier that was central to last week's award presentation.

When she was only two years old, Frankie had fallen down a cistern on the family farm near Tilley. It happened that Bob Wardle (right, holding medal) had just completed his lifeguard training and managed, at great risk to himself, to rescue her from near drowning. She had been in 10 feet of water in the tank, and had stopped breathing. Fifteen year old Bob Wardle applied artificial respiration once he managed to get her free of the enclosure. The rescue earned him the first Royal Lifesaving Society Mountbatten Medal ever presented, which is now given annually for the most gallant rescue in the British Commonwealth.

Frankie went on to live a full life in Innisfail, enjoying her children and grandchildren and spending time in our local schools. She and Gavin (left) were married for fifty years.

Dual Credit programming sets high school students up for success!

Chinook's Edge students have a unique opportunity to accelerate their industry careers (and save money!) through the School Within a College (SWAC) program at Red Deer College. In second semester of Grade 12, once students have attained all their high school requirements, they may qualify for a full time pre-employment class. This year, six CESD students were part of SWAC including Kale Ward from Delburne Centralized School (who won Silver at the Provincial Skills competition and Gold at regionals).

"This program has given me such a great head start in my career," said Kale. "I've wanted to take this Automotive Service Technician (AST) program since I was in Grade 9. I knew I wanted to get in on a good thing, and this created the opportunity for me to do so well at the Skills competition.

"I'm just so grateful to my teachers at Delburne - they're definitely the reason I got to this point. They did everything they could for me and Dawson - they really believed in us."

Dawson Beck, also from Delburne, took the Welding pre-employment class through SWAC. Other CESD students included AJ Meijer from Penhold Crossing Secondary School, Samson Robertson from Innisfail High, Darren Wenzel from Spruce View School and Elliot Breitkreuz from Gasoline Alley Career High - who won Bronze in AST at regional Skills!



Graduation! Chinook's Edge Central Office staff joined RDC instructors to applaud students who completed their pre-employment class through the SWAC program.

Thanks to all of you for once again sharing your great stories and photos, your time and encouragement throughout another great year in Chinook's Edge! Sandy

Have a wonderful, restful, safe and happy summer!