

Students get scholarships in memory of crash victim

Some legacies live on far longer than the people who inspire them.

That's the case with Milton's Michael Mutcheson, whose family dealt with his premature and tragic death by creating a scholarship fund to help promising students flourish.

"After my brother was killed in 1995 there were people donating money to a fund," said Jim Mutcheson of Morden, Manitoba. "It was decided amongst the family that we'd start a scholarship in his name."

This year, eight students — six from Milton — will receive a \$1,000 cheque from the fund.

"We have a criteria. It's a combination of athletic ability and marks and role modeling in the

community," said Mr. Mutcheson. "It's based on how Mike was."

Age 42 when he died, Mike was killed in a car accident just outside of Milton. No charges were laid.

"He was just coming down the back roads," explained Mr. Mutcheson. "It was head on. A complete accident."

He left behind a wife and two children. Mike's colleagues in the insurance industry banded together to help out the fund by hosting annual fundraising golf tournaments.

Their involvement is an example of the warmth Mike inspired, Mr. Mutcheson said.

"Everyone was his friend, from the homeless persons to top insurance CAOs," he said. "He

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Contact with scholarship recipients is usually limited to a phone call, often followed up by a letter of thanks from the students.

In the past five years, about \$23,000 has been

awarded to deserving students. Of that, \$15,000 has gone to Milton youths.

"It keeps Mike's spirit of generosity going," said Mr. Mutcheson.

And with the amount of money now in the coffers, the scholarship will likely continue for another generation.

"We've dedicated the fund to kids with a dream," said Mr. Mutcheson. "We hope the best for the kids in the future."

The 2000 scholarship recipients are Anne Gleeson, Adam Finkbeiner, Lauren MacDonald, Nico Zentil, Stefanie West and Chad Merritt, all of Milton. From Morden, recipients are Scott Edwards and Kevin Earl. About 18 applications were received for the fund this year.

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