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**Scholarships
offered to 4H
members
for projects
that enhance
community**

By ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER
Special to The Champion

For the past 12 years, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) has been offering scholarships to 4H members to help enhance rural communities across the country.

Operating out of 100 rural offices across Canada, FCC provides business and financial solutions to farms and agribusiness and says the scholarship program inspires community improvement.

"FCC's scholarship program is an opportunity for 4H members to demonstrate initiative and leadership with projects that leave a lasting benefit in their communities," said George Kossler, past president of the Canadian 4H Council and FCC account manager.

Members of 4H clubs across Canada are encouraged to create projects that can be implemented in their community that will have a positive impact in that area.

The winner for 2005, Caitlin MacDougall of Ormstown, Quebec, created a project she called "Keeping Kids Safe", where car seat safety clinics were conducted by provincial police and the local media in her community. Ms MacDougall said it was rewarding to see her project realized.

"Educating parents is keeping young children safer in car seats and booster seats, hopefully preventing injuries in the case of accidents," said Ms MacDougall. "It was empowering to see my project come to life and realize that the skills I learned in 4H can make a difference in my community."

Although a winner is chosen from each province to receive a scholarship, only one national winner is selected to have their project brought to fruition, said Leanna Jenkins, communications consultant for FCC.

"A 4H member from each province will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to be used towards their education," said Ms Jenkins. "In addition, one national winner will be selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship (for education) and a \$3,000 budget to help implement their project in their community. Usually local businesses and organizations provide help and resources to get the projects off the ground and the whole community benefits."

The deadline for entries for the 2006 scholarships is April 1, 2006. For more information and entry forms, visit Farm Credit Canada's Web site at www.fcc-fac.ca.

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