

My Co-Founder Hailey Williams and I were selected by Renaissance Sackville for the 2012 Youth Citizen of the Year Award – Post Secondary School division.

Five honoured with Sackville Youth Citizen of Year awards 1

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Five local youths were honoured during Sackville's Fall Fair weekend for their efforts in promoting environmental awareness and engaging the community in new experiences.

Lena Dietz-Chiasson, Jordan Carr and Morgan Sears of the Grow With Action program, as well as Jessica Svenningson and Hailey Williams of the Good Bike Project, took home Sackville Youth Citizen of the Year honours on Friday evening.



Top, Jordan Carr and Lena Dietz-Chiasson are presented with Sackville youth citizen of the year awards by Renaissance chair Harold Jarche for their work with Grow With Action. Above, Mount A student Hailey Williams is presented with her youth award...

The aims of the program were to foster an ongoing partnership between youth and other members of the community within the context of the community garden, to inspire youth engagement within the Sackville community and to allow youth access to educational experiences that go beyond the classroom.

Three of the participants in particular - Dietz-Chiasson, Carr and Sears - took these goals to heart and made the program their own, said Jarche.

"Their dedication to the community is sure to inspire their peers to contribute in positive ways, as well," he said.

Also receiving awards for their

contributions were Mount Allison University students Svenningson and Williams, who brought their Good Bike Project to life in Sackville this summer.

Jarche said the students came to Renaissance about six months ago with their idea, a proposal that combined art and cycling.

"The Good Bike Project was an attempt to increase the awareness, activity and promotion of cycling within and around the Sackville community through an artistic message of active vibrancy," he said.

Several brightly painted unusable bicycles were installed throughout Sackville, with several goals - to increase awareness and opportu-

Grow With Action was a youth empowerment program at the Sackville Community Garden this past summer, said Harold Jarche, chair of Renaissance Sackville, sponsor of the annual youth citizen of the year awards.

Under the direction of youth coordinator Vanessa Roth, the participants worked to promote environ-

ML Marty Lund · 5 years

I am delighted to be included in this honor of our best local students. I won't go on and on,

mental stewardship, positive community connections and self-sufficiency skills.

Their work included preparing and tending to several organic garden plots, performing maintenance jobs to beautify the garden site, helping out with community skill-share events, and running their own booth at the farmer's market where each week a portion of their proceeds went to a local charitable organization, said Jarche.

All of the program participants worked with volunteers from the community to learn valuable skills such as permaculture design, bookbinding, beekeeping, whole foods cooking, herbology, and pottery.

with the added benefit of attracting positive attention from visitors to our town," said Jarche.

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nities for cycling within the community through the power of art; to keep the idea of cycling in people's minds and hopefully increase enthusiasm for this form of transportation, making Sackville a greener community; to alleviate an additional weight to a landfill and increase space in the garages of the community members (all bikes were collected during the major garbage day); and to include the members of the community in the project by making the Good Bike Project an activity for Day-break members.

The bikes were installed in various locations throughout the community in July.

"They have provided all of the previously mentioned benefits,