

Kempt, NS. The dedication to conservation of Mallory Heim, a soon to be graduate of New Germany Rural High School, was recently recognized. On June 12th, 2014, Mallory was awarded the Clapp Conservation Award.

The bursary award honours the remarkable efforts of Diane and Harold Clapp, founding members of the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI) based in Kempt. As long-time volunteers in the boardroom and in the field, the Clapp's have helped to build MTRI's success and are an inspiration to people of all ages interested in conservation.

"Since its inception, MTRI has recognized the importance of community involvement and connecting with the people of Queens County and the surrounding area of the South West Nova Biosphere Reserve," said Colin Gray, a past chair of MTRI's board of directors. "The creation of the Clapp Conservation Award has enabled MTRI to publicly acknowledge outstanding achievements and dedication to nature conservation by enthusiastic high school graduates in the area. Again this year we congratulate another such student."

The award was presented to Mallory at MTRI's annual BBQ by John Bottomley and Stephen Mockford of MTRI's board of directors. This is the second year that this award has been presented to a student from the southwestern Nova Scotia embarking on post-secondary learning in the fields of biology, conservation, or natural resources. It is hoped that this award will encourage and build youth capacity for conservation in southwestern Nova Scotia.

In the fall, Mallory will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) majoring in Animal Science at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture in Bible Hill, Truro. She plans to follow a career path in wildlife rehabilitation/conservation following her post-secondary studies. Mallory has been a committed volunteer to the Blandings' Turtle research project in Pleasant River since 2009.

Well done to Mallory and a special thank you from citizens of Queens and Lunenburg counties for your dedication and commitment to species at risk in our region!

