2019 was a year that involved a focus on many of the Award’s basic principles. Our time as Award staff is best spent supporting Award Leaders and we have an amazing network of Award Leaders across Ontario. The Award relies on them to provide motivation and support to youth in their schools and communities. Our goal through the year was to enhance the support the Award provides to that network so that they can be even more effective in bringing the Award to the many youth of Ontario. A revitalized training program for Leaders was initiated which will empower Leaders and give them enhanced skills and tools to better serve those they work with.

They include:
• Clarity around the basic ethos and desired outcomes of the Award;
• Improved mentoring skills; and
• Increased support from Award staff to build sustainable and prosperous Award Centres across the province.

The better the Award supports its Award Leaders, the better they will be able to support youth!

2019 was also a year of firsts! Instead of one keynote speaker at our Annual Breakfast, we had a panel of accomplished community leaders. Each presented their own story of the Award and its impact on their lives. An incredible morning and inspiring for all!

Another first was the invitation by our Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, to host a Gold Award Ceremony in June during the Annual Vice-Regal Conference. Never before had the Vice-Regals of Canada presented as a group and we were honored to be asked. At the Ceremony, youth were able to meet almost all the Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners from across the country. This event is expected to become a highlighted part of each future Vice-Regal conference. We are grateful for Her Honour’s continued involvement and support of the Award and for all the support that the Vice-Regals provide across Canada.

Finally, the Award launched a fundraising initiative that we had never done before. During the Fall we held an online 50/50 raffle. This enabled the Award to extend our reach and connect with more people from across the province. Through social media and other channels, new people were introduced to the Award and to benefits it provides to so many youth across Ontario. Our winner was ecstatic to receive a cash prize of close to $2500.

Looking forward to 2020, we will continue to focus on improving our tools for training and supporting our Award Leaders as well as finding ways to grow our participation across Ontario. Our regular fundraising efforts will continue as we grow and remain a vibrant part of the development of the youth of Ontario.

Thank you for your investment in the Award.
“When I started my Award Journey 35 years ago, I was a Ranger with Girl Guides of Canada. My two Guiders encouraged me to do the Award so that we could become well rounded and learn how to set and achieve our own goals. We did service projects and went hiking on the Bruce Trail, as well as canoeing in Temagami. It taught me about the value of helping other people and appreciating the outdoors. Fast forward many years later, and I became a Guider. Many Ranger groups throughout the province offer the Award as part of their programming. We have engaged leaders that have undergone tripping training, which is invaluable for doing the Adventurous Journey part of the Award. The Adventurous Journeys bring the girls together as they work on a common goal.

Not only is it fun and challenging for our Rangers, but also for the Guiders! When I signed up my group to become an Award Unit, I went through the training.

I was so impressed by the Program Coordinator that I became a volunteer Assessor (back when the books were still used). After assessing the books, I always felt upbeat about the future because I read about all the accomplished, motivated youth in the province. I was very fortunate to eventually become an Award Officer and I have the best of everything. I get to see my Rangers go through the program. I get to work with the many amazing and dedicated Award Leaders in the Toronto Area and their participants. I do this because it is incredibly rewarding to see youth challenge themselves and to become the best versions of themselves. I am grateful to the Award because it instilled in me the habits that I continue today: activities in physical recreation, skill, service and adventurous journeys. I highly encourage everyone who is able, to get involved with the Award, and see what a positive impact it can have on your own life.”

- Laura Cogill, Award Achiever, Award Leader, Award Officer and Parent

**BREAKFAST SPEAKER PANEL**

**Laura Curtis Ferrera**  
Senior Vice President, Marketing, Global Wealth Management, Global Business Banking and Canadian Retail Banking, Scotiabank

**Teresa Kruze**  
TV and Radio Broadcaster, TV Producer, Best-selling Author and Community Activist

**Augusta White**  
Chief of Staff, Manager Strategy & Planning to Chief Officer, TD Bank; Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Achiever; Ontario Board Member

**50/50 DRAW WINNER**

Muriel D. won $2457.50  
Thank you to everyone who participated.
Ski for the Duke | February 1
A great day at Toronto Ski Club in Collingwood with over 80 participants joining us for outdoor fun and fellowship. Together we received 277 donations valued at $45,000!

Annual Breakfast | May 7
With a panel of speakers that included Laura Curtis-Ferrera, SVP Marketing at Scotiabank and parent of an Award Achiever; Teresa Kruz, TV & Radio Broadcaster and Augusta White, Bronze, Silver, Gold Award Achiever and Board Member. Over 100 individuals attended to listen to how the Award affected not only the Award participants but their families as well. This event was a success, raising over $30,000.

Vice Regal Gold Award Ceremony | June 9
We had the honour of presenting Gold Awards of Achievement to 150 participants during the Vice Regal Conference in Toronto. For the first time, six Lieutenant Governors, three Territorial Commissioners and participants from across the country joined together for this historic morning.

50/50 eRaffle | October 23 - December 3
With the new legislation allowing for online 50/50 raffles, the Award took the opportunity to raise funds as well as share the pot. Our lucky winner, Muriel D., took home $2457.

Award Leader Training | October 27
Co-led by Award staff and an instructor from the International Award Foundation, a full-day National Level 2 Award Leader Certification training session was held in Ottawa. The training focused on developing skills to effectively support and mentor participants through the Award. There was a focus on managing program expectations, the GROW coaching model, SMART goal setting, and a deeper understanding of the role of a Leader. It also covered being a contributor to young people’s success and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Award Leaders and Assessors. We are excited to roll out the Level 2 Award Leader Certification to all Award Leaders in 2020.

Gold Award Ceremony | November 23
At Queen’s Park, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, joined 38 amazing young Canadians celebrating their hard work, dedication, and perseverance in achieving their Gold Award. The morning was filled with inspirational young people that are changing the world.

Craigwood Youth Services | London
Craigwood Youth Services is dedicated to serving the mental health needs of youth and their families. The youth at Craigwood have day to day struggles, some have charges against them and often lack positive supports in their lives. Craigwood and the Award are partnered to facilitate positive growth and establish a path for long term success. Through active engagement, positive teamwork, and healthy challenges, youth learn to strategize, adapt, persevere, and succeed. By continuing to work with Craigwood, the Award is showing them they matter and that they can succeed.

Ontario Award Holders Association | Toronto
The Ontario Award Holders Association is focused on connecting with Award Achievers and empowering them to become advocates for the Award. In 2019, a committee of eight Holders operating out of Toronto, Ottawa and Kingston, was established to deliver opportunities for our Achievers. Some highlights included hosting a networking and fundraising event with 75 in attendance as well as organizing a personal development session for Achievers to enhance their public speaking capabilities. The committee members have engaged with the next generation of Award Holders at Gold Ceremonies and shared their personal stories through hand written notes addressed to our generous donors.
“I am so thankful for the amazing opportunities Bluevale and the Duke of Edinburgh have given me. From my amazing canoe trip, encouraging me to volunteer every week, or challenging me to step outside of my comfort zone to try a new skill, I would not be the person I am today without it and for that I am forever thankful. So thank you to all of my teachers, classmates, and administrators who made this experience possible, and here’s to walking into a new chapter with all of these memories very close to my heart.”

- Abby, Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Achiever
The Award contributes to the UN’s Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN in 2015 to:
1) End poverty
2) Protect the planet
3) Ensure prosperity for all.

Each goal has specific targets, which each country has then translated into a set of indicators. The aim is to reach the SDGs by 2030.

The Award is proud to support this endeavour by aligning with the following SDG’s:
THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following corporations, foundations and individuals for generously supporting The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award – Ontario. Donations are important investments in the physical, emotional and social development of young Ontarians.

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AWARD BENEFACTORS
OUR MISSION
To give Canadians aged 14-24 a supportive, non-competitive youth development platform that deepens self-awareness, builds confidence and broadens skills and experience to further their growth as active, responsible citizens.

OUR VISION
To inspire and promote lifelong improvement for all young Canadians by encouraging personal development and achievement.

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