

BARRY BUTSON MEMORIAL EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH WRITING BURSARY

\$500.00



History

Established in 2019 by his wife, Donna. Barry Butson was the Head of the English Departments at Woodstock Collegiate Institute, Huron Park Secondary School, and John Diefenbaker Secondary School in Hanover. He was a football coach at all three schools and credited for reinstating the team at JDSS after many years of the school not having a team. Mr. Butson also established creative writing programs at all the schools. In his retirement, Mr. Butson was a prolific writer publishing seven books of poetry (*East End Poems*, *Black Ice*, *Patio Life*, *To the Farm*, *Down at the End of the Street*, *Small*, and *Beyond*) and a memoir under the pen name of Thomas Meeker (*Still Wet Behind the Ears*). Mr. Butson's first book of poetry, *East End Poems*, won the national Milton Acorn: The People's Poet Award presented to a first-time published Canadian poet whose poetry is exemplary and portrays the writer as a "people's poet". In 2018, Mr. Butson was posthumously named Poet Laureate of the City of Woodstock.

Selection Process

All members of the English Department, along with the Head of the English Department, will form a selection committee and review the candidates' applications and their written work from their graduating year and previous years and notify the Thames Valley Education Foundation of the recipient.

Available To

Woodstock Collegiate Institute

Criteria

The bursary will be granted to a graduating student who:

- With financial need
- Is proceeding to post-secondary education in any field
- Demonstrates a strong aptitude for creative writing and academic proficiency in their secondary school English courses

High marks are not needed.

Deadline

See your school's guidance/student services office.