

Scholarship named for late social activist awarded for first time

[Final Edition]

The Record - Kitchener, Ont.

Author: FRANK ETHERINGTON

Date: Sep 5, 2002

Section: Local

Text Word Count: 270

Document Text

A scholarship for Waterloo Region students will be awarded for the first time today in the name of a Kitchener social activist who struggled with schizophrenia before killing himself in September 2001.

The inaugural Helmut Braun memorial award provides between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for each of two students in need of financial help.

The two local recipients of scholarships this year are Stacey Watson and Molly Bannerman.

Watson is a third-year student of women's studies at the University of Waterloo while Bannerman is taking her master's degree in social work at the University of Toronto.

The award was created by Kitchener's Centre for Research and Education in Human Services and the Waterloo Region Self Help group.

The centre is a non-profit organization that does community-based research on social issues and the self-help group is operated by people who survived mental illness and now provide support for others.

Joanna Ochocka, centre co-ordinator, said yesterday the scholarships are awarded to students who work in social justice, peace and conflict resolution or community development.

Braun, who was involved in groups that protested racism and the content of the Charlottetown accord in the early 1990s, was a local Marxist-Leninist candidate in the 1997 federal election. Two years later, he was an independent candidate in the provincial election.

Later, he worked as a researcher at the Centre for Research and Education.

The memorial is administered by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada and information on how to donate can be obtained by calling 745-7821.

fetherington@therecord.com

[Illustration]

Caption: Photo: Helmut Braun was a local activist before committing suicide after a struggle with mental illness.

Credit: RECORD STAFF

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.