

Bradford winner of 'Strong Communities, Strong Future' contest

By Miriam King

The Community Foundations of Barrie, Bradford West Gwillimbury & District, Huronia, and Orillia & Area received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to strengthen their organizations, and enhance public awareness of their role in building strong communities.

One of their first steps, as the 'Community Foundations of Simcoe County', was to launch a video contest. That contest, "Strong Communities. Strong Future," invited residents to create short videos that expressed what a strong community means to them.

All entries were posted online, at MySimcoe.TV - one of the sponsors of the competition - and a panel of judges chose one winner within the catchment area of each of the four participating Community Foundations. Each winner received a \$500 donation to the charity of their choice.

In BWG, local winner James Brophy pieced together a video capturing the positive attributes of his community - from farming to places of worship, welcoming businesses, and exciting community events. His charity of choice? The Helping Hand Food Bank.

"I chose the food bank because I feel that it not only helps a specific group of people, but many people who are in need of food," Brophy said, noting that the \$500 prize "will go directly to helping people in my community."

He was congratulated by Andy Stokes of MySimcoe.TV and representatives of the BWG & District Community Foundation, at the Food Bank on Nov. 25, when the prize was presented. The food bank also won an opportunity to work with MySimcoe.TV to create a promotional video.

The winning videos and charities are posted on the Community Foundations of Simcoe County page, at www.mysimcoe.tv



From left, James Brophy, Anne Silvey of the food bank, and Kim Goggins, Marketing for the Community Foundations of Simcoe Co. Submitted photo.