

# Young local filmmakers recognized

SARNIA THIS WEEK

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Award winners from the Lambton Youth Short Film competition pick up their prizes at Sarnia's St. Patrick's Catholic High School. From left to right: Joseph Barclay (Northern Collegiate Institute), Lucian Austin (St. Patrick's CHS), LaFFF/Forest Optimist Club's Scott Ferguson, Isabela Gorgonio (St. Patrick's CHS), Sarah Houle (St. Patrick's CHS), LaFFF/Forest Optimist Club's Ron Van Horne, Matthew Pettit (St. Patrick's CHS) and Josiah Pettit (St. Patrick's CHS). PHOTO BY PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WALICKI FOR SARNIA THIS WEEK

Seven budding young filmmakers from Lambton County received the red carpet treatment outside of St. Patrick's Catholic High School on June 22, picking up awards they won at the Lambton Youth Short Film competition which took place virtually this past May.

In a brief and socially-distant ceremony, Ron Van Horne and Scott Ferguson – both representatives of the Forest Optimist Club and the Lambton Food and Film Festival, who helped organize the festival which is now in its sixth year – handed out trophies as well as cheques for \$400 to the winners.

Nearly 40 filmmakers from across the county submitted films to this year's competition, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. The films were posted online on the May 22 weekend and members of the public were invited to vote for the People's Choice award.

St. Pat's teacher Robert Walicki, whose communications technology program students picked up six awards, thanked LaFFF, the Forest Optimist Club and the Forest Kiwanis Club for hosting a competition that inspired county youth.

"As a teacher I would like to express my immense gratitude to (these) organizations ... for their ongoing support of our young Lambton creatives," he said. "It is organizations like this that help us make our students Future Ready."