



Township of Melancthon's James Beachell Award

James Beachell, a native of Yorkshire, England, became the first Reeve of the Township of Melancthon and the first Warden of Grey County. He opened Melancthon's first post office in 1851 and erected a hotel and tavern ("Beachell Hotel") that proved to be popular among travellers and settlers.

OPPORTUNITY

Every year, the Township of Melancthon awards one Grade 12 student at Centre Dufferin District High School with the James Beachell Award. The Award, which includes a \$500 bursary, is presented to a student who writes a short essay on a topic of interest identified by the Township's Heritage Committee. This year, students are invited to write an essay on either:

- a Canadian veteran who was born, or lived, in Melancthon Township; or
- the history of water sources in Melancthon, including rivers, streams, and lakes, and how they have contributed to the development of the municipality (e.g., mills, agriculture, and settlement patterns).

For students choosing the veteran topic, the essay should indicate:

- The name of the veteran and the war/battles in which they served
- The years they served in the war(s)
- Any awards that were presented to the veteran
- Any other details about the veteran's service during the war(s), as well as information on their life prior to (or after) the conflict

The Township of Melancthon's Heritage Committee will review essay submissions and select the successful candidate. The James Beachell Award will be presented each June at the CDDHS graduation commencement.

REQUIREMENTS

- Essays should be between 250–500 words
- Students can use resources available online as well as resources available in local libraries and museums. Students are encouraged to check the Museum of Dufferin website and location for existing documentation.
- Submissions must include citations for any sources of information, research, or references used
- Essays should be submitted in Microsoft Word or Google Doc format no later than **Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST**
- Essays should be submitted to info@melancthontownship.ca with the subject title: 2026 James Beachell Award Essay

Should you have any questions about the James Beachell Award or about the essay contest, please contact info@melancthontownship.ca