



For Immediate Release

Eleanor Jeavons to Represent Waterloo Region at Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

– Waterloo student wins inaugural Waterloo Region ECU Regional Scripps Spelling Bee –

KITCHENER, ON (February 13, 2023) – Following an intensive and exciting Saturday afternoon competition of local middle school students from across Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, Eleanor Jeavons, a grade 7 student at MacGregor Senior Public School in Waterloo, has been named the 2023 ECU Regional Scripps Spelling Bee champion, successfully spelling the winning word “innovator”. With 12 finalists competing, this year’s Bee marked the first time a Regional Bee has been hosted in the Waterloo region. In addition to a six-night stay at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Centre near Washington, D.C. and round-trip flights for two for the [Scripps National Spelling Bee](#) this June 2023, [ECU – A Division of WFCU Credit Union](#) (“ECU”) has also awarded Eleanor a \$200 Educational Scholarship.

The ECU Regional Scripps Spelling Bee was held at Bingemans on Saturday, February 11, featuring Jim Crichton of CTV Windsor fame as the Pronouncer. It was hosted by presenting sponsor, ECU – A Division of WFCU Credit Union. It was a close and competitive event, going 14 rounds before the Champion Word round, where Eleanor successfully spelled her final word and was named champion.

“Providing youth with opportunities for growth and development is an important part of our mission and our commitment to the communities we operate in,” said Eddie Francis, President and CEO of WFCU Credit Union. “We’re proud to sponsor Waterloo Region’s ECU Regional Scripps Spelling Bee to foster learning and healthy competition in a fun and interactive way. Congratulations to Eleanor and her family. We will be rooting for you this June!”

While parent company, WFCU Credit Union, will host the Windsor Regional Scripps Spelling Bee for the fifth consecutive year next month, hosting Waterloo Region’s inaugural competition marks an important milestone in its community engagement commitment to its local ECU membership. Prior to merging with WFCU Credit Union in 2020, ECU was originally established by the Waterloo Region District School Board in 1972. As part of the credit union’s community engagement program, *Inspire*, the Regional Spelling Bee promotes literacy and language arts in an engaging way. It also aligns with the credit union’s mission to support organizations and individuals that contribute to the well-being of the community, with particular emphasis on youth, education and health.

Eleanor Jeavons of MacGregor Senior Public School will now advance to compete in the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee held near Washington, D.C., where she will be competing against hundreds of students from around the world. The highly-anticipated event will be televised on ION, the Bee’s broadcast home. Full broadcast details can be found at spellingbee.com.

In addition to flight and accommodations during the event and a \$200 Educational Scholarship on behalf of ECU - A Division of WFCU Credit Union, Eleanor has also won the following:

- **The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award** – a 2023 United States Mint Proof Set provided by Jay Sugarman, chairman and CEO of iStar Financial, in honour of his father.
- **The Britannica Online Premium** – a one-year subscription for the premier online resource from Encyclopedia Britannica.

- **The Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online** – a one-year subscription for the official word source for all levels of competition for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“We were very proud of every student who competed at this year’s inaugural Waterloo region event,” said Beth Ann Prince, Manager, Member Engagement & Community Investment, WFCU Credit Union. “Taking the stage took bravery, confidence and concentration. You are all champions and exemplify the spirit of the Bee. I’d also like to thank all of the participating schools and teachers who invested time in the program. We hope to see you again next year!”

*To request media interviews, please contact Julia Harper at jharper@wfcu.ca or 647-330-4706.

About WFCU Credit Union:

WFCU Credit Union has been recognized as a leading, progressive financial institution headquartered in Windsor and Essex County since 1940. Proudly serving Ontario residents, community organizations, small businesses, commercial entities and public institutions for over 80 years, WFCU Credit Union is the sixth largest credit union in Ontario, and twentieth largest credit union in Canada.

WFCU Credit Union operates nine retail locations in Windsor-Essex as well as three retail locations in the Waterloo Region through ECU – A Division of WFCU Credit Union and one digital entity, Omnia Direct. Through their variety of service channels including online and mobile banking, telephone banking and ATM services, WFCU Credit Union and its divisions have become the financial institutions of choice for 64,570 members across Ontario including 59,769 personal members in 25,510 households, 3,431 businesses and 1,370 organizations. Currently, WFCU Credit Union has \$8.93 billion in Managed Assets and Member Service Totals of \$11.8 billion. WFCU Credit Union membership is open to anyone who lives and/or works in Ontario.

About Scripps National Spelling Bee:

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation’s largest and longest-running educational program, having launched in 1925. The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. Visit spellingbee.com for more information about the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP).

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