

Scholarships are investments towards industry's future

For nearly 40 years, Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation has provided young people with scholarships to help them pursue formal education within the industry.

Along with the scholarships, the Foundation also provides financial assistance towards research projects.

The Foundation now provides over \$60,000 in scholarships each year. In 2015, a total of 42 students were awarded scholarships, who are all listed below.

The students will be introduced during the Awards of Excellence ceremony at Congress on Jan. 12. As well, the scholarship recipients have been invited to the

Legacy Room at Congress.

The Foundation is governed by a volunteer board, comprised of respected industry members. Both the industry and the board lost long-time leader and president of the Foundation with the passing of John Wright this summer. Current members of the Foundation board are Monica van Maris, vice-president; Brian Cocks CLT, secretary; Hank Gelderman CLT, treasurer; Directors, Bob Allen, Tony DiGiovanni CLT, Ben Kobes, Mark Ostrowski, John Peets, Mike Thomas, Dave Turnbull CHT, Neil Vanderkruk and Bob Wilton.

The Foundation offers four ways to contribute:

Sponsorship: Join the Foundation by making a pledge — an annual donation or a one-time gift.

Memorial Gift: This is a meaningful way to honour a friend, loved one or professional contact and help support the industry

Legacy Gift: Earmark funds through your estate to sustain the horticulture industry. Contact your estate planner or lawyer to include this legacy provision in your will.

Stewardship Program: Many Foundation sponsors share their expertise by speaking to groups, and directing their honorariums to the Foundation.

A donation to benefit Ontario's horticultural community is tax deductible. More information and forms may be found online at ohhf.ca.

INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Laura Mclean

Casey van Maris Memorial Scholarship \$1,000

"I want to thank you for having a scholarship for students like me, going into secondary education for horticulture," says Mclean. She said it will help her to further her education and to know that there is a professional association for her career. Mclean started her studies at Ridgetown, where she has met many great people who are also interested in the same horticulture field. Coming from a hobby farm north of London, Mclean says she uses her creative skills to make gardens look beautiful.



Dylan Harding

John and Ruth Wright

Turf Management Scholarship \$2,000

Harding says he is very grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the John and Ruth Wright Turf Management Scholarship. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation." Harding grew up in Toronto and developed an interest in novel ways to control weeds when he spent several summers working in landscape maintenance. His current research involves the investigation of grass native-bacteria for potential to control dandelions in residential turf systems.



Brianna Collis

Unilock Collaborative

Communications Scholarship \$1,000

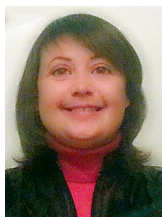
Brianna Collis holds an honours BSc. in Plant Science and is currently a Masters of Landscape Architecture candidate studying at the University of Guelph. Having worked in community and youth organizations, urban gardening, conservation biology, horticulture and soil ecology, she is excited to design landscapes with a creative and integrated framework.



Tyson Jennett

Graduate Research Assistant Program \$6,000

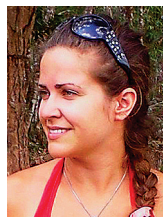
Jennett is currently in his second year of his Ph.D. in the lab of Dr. Youbin Zheng at the University of Guelph. His thesis aims to create standardized protocols for the characterization of substrate components and to develop substrates for maximizing nutrient retention, specifically phosphorous, in green infrastructure used in landscaping.



Corina Ottnad

Horst Dickert Memorial Scholarship \$1,000

As a green roof professional and a strong advocate of native plants, Ottnad has been actively involved with many successful community landscaping projects. Currently, she is earning her diploma in the Landscape Technology Program at Humber College as part of the Class of 2016.



Kira Burger

Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship \$1,000

Burger says she wants to express her gratitude to instructors Claude Smith and Mary Anne Jackson Hughes, her classmate Heidi Wechselberger, and to Landscape Ontario for helping with her receipt of the scholarship. "I came to the horticultural industry with a background in biology, international development and environmental education, and a desire to create a tangible positive impact. I believe that thoughtfully designed and well installed landscapes can enhance environmental quality, be tools for education, improve the livability and enjoyment of urban environments, and contribute to the development of more vibrant and healthy communities."

2016 OTHF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Mark Lappan

High School Program Scholarship \$1,000

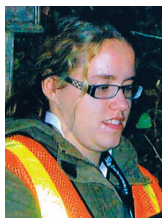
Lappan says he very much appreciates the generous scholarship to help offset the costs of his tuition. "I am from the beautiful town of Kingston, and have a passion for the outdoors." He is currently enrolled in the Landscape Technician program at Humber College to expand his knowledge in horticulture and landscape design in order to help take his business, Mark of Excellence, to the next level.



Brittany Musseau-Drover

High School Program Scholarship \$1,000

Currently attending the horticulture program at Durham College, Musseau-Drover plans to continue her education in arboriculture and landscape design. She hopes to become a landscape architect, to create magnificent sceneries for everyone to love and enjoy.



Samantha Robertson

High School Program Scholarship \$1,000

Robertson is currently enrolled in the Co-op portion of Niagara College's Horticulture Technician program. She says her passion for horticulture has been with her all her life, having been raised in the industry.



Ben Stormes

Post Graduate Scholarship \$1,000

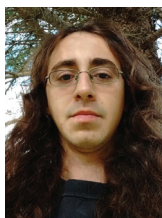
"I thank the Landscape Ontario Awards Committee for selecting me for the 2015 Post Graduate Scholarship. I'm honoured and thrilled." Stormes is a Cornell Plantations Graduate Fellow in Public Garden Leadership at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. An alumnus of The Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, as well as The University of Guelph, he says he will continue to engage in rewarding educational experiences in an effort to bring diverse skill sets to the horticulture and public garden fields.



Wayne Lewington

Horticulturist Scholarship \$500

Lewington presently works at Hamilton Golf and Country Club in course and grounds. Enrolled in deciduous trees at Mohawk College, he is in his final module for his plant identification certificate. "Why didn't I take these courses 30 years ago? Who knows? But it's never too late to learn," says Lewington.



Joseph Greenspon

Horticulturist Scholarship \$500

"I am very appreciative of the recognition and award," says Greenspon. He is currently finishing up the Horticultural Industries program at Algonquin College in Ottawa. "I hope to one day open a tree nursery to grow rare and under-used native trees, shrubs and medicinal plants." He also works at the Central Experimental Farm, looking after research plant material.



Jasdeep Heer

Horticulturist Scholarship \$500

Heer started off as a part-time landscaper. "It soon became my field of interest," he says. To further expand his knowledge, he entered Humber College's Landscape Technician program. "Receiving the Horticulturist Scholarship shows my passion, dedication and motivation to succeed in this field."



Rana Soldouz

Horticulturist Scholarship \$500

"I'm very thankful and appreciate this opportunity," says Soldouz. With a bachelor degree in architecture, she plans to complete her diploma in Environmental Landscape Management by April 2016 from Seneca College.



Nicholas Albanese

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

Albanese is in the process of completing the final year of the Landscape Technician Program at Humber College. "I'm most proud of the work I've done in my construction and design classes. Over the last three years, I have worked on maintaining gardens and turf at a condominium complex in Collingwood. I hope to include these interests in my future career," he says.



Melissa Alexander

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

Alexander has a love for all things outdoors, in both work and play, from landscaping to camping. "I tend to be optimistic, with a glass-half-full outlook on life and strive for excellence in everything I do," she says.



Heather Bailey

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

"I was thrilled to learn that I was the recipient of the Foundation's scholarship," says Bailey. "I have had a love of gardening since I could hold a trowel. I am excited to pursue a career in urban/community design, specializing in plant selection and environmental psychology."



Joanne Bowers

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

Bowers is grateful to have received the scholarship. She says, "Growing up in rural Southern England, I gained, from an early age, a deep connection and respect for the landscape around me. My hope is that everything I do in my future career will benefit my environment wherever I am."



Loannis Eliopoulos

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

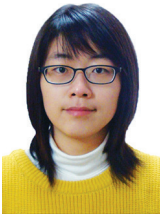
Eliopoulos says he is extremely proud of all the hard work he put into receiving this scholarship. "I look forward to applying all the knowledge and skills that I have gained at Humber College into all my future endeavours," he says.

**Jessica Goncalo*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

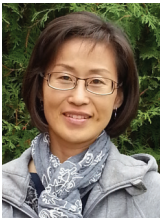
Goncalo describes herself as a book nerd who loves science and the outdoors. She says she excels at school due to a mix of academic effort and an enthusiasm for sustainable horticulture.

**Denise Hostrawser*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

From a small community outside of Fergus, Ont., Hostrawser says she fell in love with horticulture when she was working around the world. "I am looking forward to using this scholarship towards my tuition and tools of the trade," she says.

**Yuyeun Jung*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Jung is studying Environmental Landscape Management at Seneca College. She wishes to become a horticultural technician in the landscape industry.

**Hye-Ran Kim*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Kim says it was an honour to receive the scholarship. Originally from South Korea, Kim is a student at Seneca College, King Campus. She finished her co-op work this summer, and says she really enjoyed working in a greenhouse.

**Mei Jin Lin*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Jin Lin says she has a passion for the planet, which she hopes to protect and beautify with her knowledge she gains from her studies at Seneca College. "I have received a cheque, which will encourage me to work harder on my environmental program," says Jin Lin.

**Thomas Lombardi*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Lombardi is a second year Landscape Technician student at Humber College. "I enjoy horticulture and landscape construction." He aspires to continue his studies next year, before launching a career in the industry.

**Wei Wang*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Wang is enrolled in the Landscape Technician (Co-op) program in Niagara College. Her dream is to become a landscape architect.

**Joshua Medeiros*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Medeiros describes himself as quirky, knowledge-loving and creative. He says, "I absolutely love nature. I am in this industry not just because I get to work with the diversity of the plant kingdom and observe my efforts in the growth of flora, but moreover to have a career with less negative environmental impact, yet spreads the admiration of our beautiful planet. Thank you Landscape Ontario, for your generosity will help me flourish."

**Nicole Moon*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Moon is a Horticulture Technician student at Niagara College, as well as a Horticulture Therapy student at the Toronto Botanical Garden. After completing these two programs, she says she looks forward to developing gardening experiences that inspire a love of nature in children and young adults. She says, "This (scholarship) will help me significantly in paying for my tuition, especially since my husband and I are both in school right now."

**Althea Reid*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Reid says she has lived between a large, dense city and a vast natural environment her whole life, and wants to combine the two on a scale that will be enjoyable to all. "Being able to create pieces of oases is what I enjoy to do," says Reid. "The words of 'thank you' can't convey my gratitude in receiving this scholarship. The scholarship allows me to be one step closer to my goal of being in the landscape trade."

**Kathleen Stevens*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Stevens says her horticultural knowledge and its importance within the landscape industry was shaped by her academic studies at Fanshawe College, and strengthened through practical applications in her co-op placements. Upon completion of her Landscape Design diploma this year, she intends to use this knowledge to make effective plant selections that ensure her designs fit into the surrounding conditions and ecology as well as be aesthetically pleasing.

**Emily Weber*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

Weber says, "I would really like to thank the Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation for this award. It has helped contribute to my studies." Weber says she is thrilled to be in the horticultural industry. "It is a great industry, with amazing people leading us, and I am so glad we have organizations like OHTF to stand by us and support us!"

**Shane Williams*****Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000***

"Thank you very much for the grant. It is greatly appreciated and needed." Williams says he first realized his love for the horticulture trade in his home town of Peterborough, during high school. "As my passion for the industry grew, I enrolled at Seneca College, where I now hone my skills for my future in the industry, for which I care so much."

2016 OTHF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Miriam Elsworth

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

Elsworth says, "I am extremely grateful for this scholarship — thank you!"

Currently in her final year at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, Elsworth says she has a deep love for plants and the environment. "I hope to pursue a career related to the restoration and conservation of our beautiful natural areas in Canada."



Brad Taub

Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000

Taub is in his second year of the Landscape Technician program at Humber College. "I am excited about pursuing opportunities in the field of horticulture, particularly in the areas of sustainable landscaping, botanical gardens, and the grower industry. Taub's other interests include architectural and garden history, travel, and photography."



Scott Cafarella

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

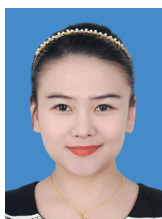
"I am honoured to be the 2015 recipient of this award, which will help me greatly throughout the rest of my studies," says Cafarella. A third year student in the Master of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Guelph, he is currently studying urban greenways in Hamilton. "In the future, I hope to share my love of plants by continuing to improve access to green space in the built environment."



Taylor Parks

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

Parks is in her second year at Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, where she says she enjoys learning about a variety of different aspects within the horticultural field. "I've developed quite an affinity for aquatic plants, ponds, and natural swimming pools. I am very grateful to have been nominated by my school for this award, and am very thankful to the Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation and Mark Cullen to have been selected."



Yujing Ma

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

Ma says she deeply appreciates Mark Cullen for the chance to win this scholarship. A student in Fanshawe College Horticulture Program, Ma is an International student, who says she is deeply obsessed with the plant world, and has great passion for the industry.



Heather MacKay

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

MacKay is a second-year student in the Landscape Technician diploma program at Humber College, with a background in market gardening and publishing. "I'm also a research assistant at the college, working on forest regeneration in the Humber Arboretum, in partnership with the Centre for Urban Ecology."



Erik Murray

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

From Caledon East, Murray is taking the Environmental Landscape Management Program at Seneca College.



Anna Hynd

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

Hynd, a second year student in the Horticulture Technician Program at Niagara College, says it is a perfect place to combine her love of learning and passion for gardening. "I am grateful for this scholarship and look forward to a long and happy career in horticulture."



Sarah Cudmore

Cullen Scholarship \$2,000

"I thank the Ontario Horticulture Trades Foundation for providing me with the Mark Cullen Scholarship." She is currently enrolled in the second year of the Horticulture Diploma Program at the University of Guelph-Ridgetown Campus. "I'm interested in propagation, as well as the management of seedlings," says Cudmore.



Joshua Salverda

Cullen Scholarship, Apprenticeship \$1,000

Salverda has worked at The Garden Wizard in Milton for the past eight years. He says, since he began working at The Garden Wizard, "I enjoy making a difference in people's lives. Working as the operations manager in an outdoor atmosphere has been the best experience, and hopefully for many more years to come."



Jordan Morgan

Cullen Scholarship \$4,000

Morgan is from Baden, Ont., and is a student at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture. "I have a passion for all aspects of horticulture, specifically arboriculture." Morgan expresses a special thanks to all those who made it possible for him to receive the Cullen Scholarship. "I look forward to furthering my education."

Also receiving scholarships were:

Macormick Foulds, Niagara College, High School Program \$1,000;
Cole Rix-Littley, Fanshawe College, High School Program \$1,000;
Elena Dunham, Fanshawe College, Horticulturist Scholarship, \$500;
Christine Keller, Humber College, Horticulturist Scholarship, \$500;
Zhenwei De, Seneca College, Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000;
Seth Duncan, Humber College, Post Secondary Scholarship \$1,000;
Kevin Kosempel, St. Clair College, Mark Cullen Scholarship \$2,000;
Kevin Gascoigne, Algonquin College, Mark Cullen Scholarship \$2,000, and
August Bergemann, Mohawk College, Mark Cullen Scholarship \$1,000.