

**MANDATE**

*“To ensure a healthy future  
for the horticultural industry.”*



**OHTF.ca**



Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation

2019 **ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# 2019 FOUNDATION REPORT

## About the Foundation

The Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation is the research and scholarship arm of Landscape Ontario. The Foundation's mandate is to ensure a healthy future for the horticultural industry, through financial support of research and scholarships funded by interest generated on capital investments.



## Supporting the Foundation

The Foundation would like to thank all donors. A donation is an easy and effective way to benefit Ontario's horticultural community and is tax-deductible.

## How to support the Foundation

Donations to the Foundation can be made online by visiting [OHTF.ca](http://OHTF.ca) and choosing Donate to the Foundation. Also at [OHTF.ca](http://OHTF.ca), under Foundation Brochures you will find various information booklets on how to support the Foundation in a number of ways outlined below. With a donation to the Foundation, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are "making a difference and leaving a legacy" for the profession that you love.

### You can support the foundation by:

- a) **Sponsorship:** Join the Foundation by making a pledge – an annual donation or a one-time gift.
- b) **Memorial Gift:** This is a meaningful way to honour a friend, loved one or professional contact while also helping to support the profession.
- c) **Legacy Gift:** Earmark funds through your estate to sustain the horticulture profession. Contact your estate planner or lawyer to include this legacy provision in your will.
- d) **Stewardship Program:** Many Foundation sponsors share their expertise by speaking to groups and directing their honorariums to the Foundation.

## Officers and directors for 2019

<b>President:</b>	David Turnbull
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mike Thomas
<b>Secretary:</b>	Bob Allen
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Hank Gelderman
<b>Directors:</b>	Brian Cocks Tony DiGiovanni Ben Kobes Mark Ostrowski Audrey Partridge John Peets Rita Weerdenburg

## Scholarship program

Providing scholarships is particularly close to the hearts of Foundation supporters, who point with pride to the many recipients who are now successful industry members. A list of available scholarships can be found on the Foundation website at [OHTF.ca](http://OHTF.ca). A new "Horticultural Scholarship Opportunities" brochure was developed this year, listing all available scholarships. The brochure was distributed to all post-secondary and secondary schools.

The scholarship program continues to grow, and now boasts a number of scholarships supported by individual people and companies:

- Bob and Ruby Allen Scholarship Fund
- Casey Van Maris Scholarship Fund
- Russel and Karen Loney Fund
- Peter Olsen Memorial Fund
- OJ Muller Memorial Fund
- Unilock/Landscape Designers Fund
- Crystal Lawn Care Scholarship Fund
- Ottawa Chapter Val Kirshner Scholarship
- Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship Fund
- John/Ruth Wright Scholarship Fund
- Horst Dickert Scholarship Fund
- JT Somerville Fund
- Hensbergen/DeGroot Fund

Introduced in 2015, a major component of the program is the Cullen Family Scholarships - distribution of over \$20,000 per year. The program is designed to encourage and inspire leadership qualities in students who have a passion and enthusiasm for the landscape and horticulture profession, with candidates selected by their peers and teachers. Individual amounts are assigned to each school offering a horticultural program.

This year, the Foundation distributed a total of \$56,800 in scholarships to students enrolled in horticultural programs across the province. Congratulations to this year's recipients.

## Scholarship recipient reception

In previous years, the Foundation hosted The Legacy Lounge for pioneers of the profession and LO members during the annual Congress trade show and conference each January. Due to a decline in attendance, it was decided to promote the work of the Foundation and support scholarship recipients at the Scholarship Recipients reception. This provides an opportunity for the students parents, spouses, friends, and faculty to meet the Foundation Committee, Landscape Ontario Board of Directors and scholarship sponsors.

At the 2019 reception, Foundation President, David Turnbull, provided information on the goals of the Foundation and introduced LO President, Warren Patterson; Executive Director, Tony DiGiovanni and Cullen Family Scholarship sponsor, Mark Cullen. There were approximately 70 attendees at the event.

Following the reception, the scholarship recipients and their guests were invited to join the LO Awards of Excellence Ceremony and were invited on stage where they were acknowledged for their achievements.

# 2019 FOUNDATION REPORT

## 2019 Scholarship Recipients

### Apprenticeship Program (\$600)

Jamie Cirkon, Mohawk College  
Pamela O'Neil, Humber College  
Clinton White, Loyalist College

### Bob and Ruby Allen Membership Scholarship (\$500)

Casey van Maris  
Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)  
Owen DaCosta, Niagara Parks College

### Graduate Research Assistant Program (\$6,000)

### College/University from High School Program (\$1,000)

Tim Jones, Humber College  
Afnan Khan, Algonquin College  
Alexandra Mozzhukhina,  
Humber College  
Nicole Reid, Fanshawe College  
Kahia Skinner, University of Guelph  
(Ridgetown Campus)  
Tom Temming, Niagara College  
Emily Thorpe, Niagara College  
Isaac Van Veen, Fanshawe College

### Horticulturist Scholarship (\$500)

Horst Dickert  
Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)  
David Swaby, Humber College

### John and Ruth Wright Turf Management Scholarship (\$2,000)

Russel and Karen Loney  
Scholarship (\$500)  
Vibhor Goel, Humber College

Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship (\$1,000)  
Destiny Lacasse, Niagara Parks

Unilock Collaborative  
Communications Scholarship (\$1,000)

### Post Graduate Scholarship (\$1,000)

### Post Secondary Scholarship (\$1,000)

Julie-Anne Cote, Niagara Parks  
Louise Daudt Pritz de Araujo,  
St.Clair College  
Jake Dupon, Niagara College  
Raven-Lyn Hunte, Fanshawe College  
Stephanie Jocius, Niagara Parks  
Katie McFee, Seneca College  
Vladimir Rogov, Niagara College  
Meghan Thompson, Fanshawe College  
Set Sil-Yuen Wu, Humber College

### Cullen Family Scholarship Program (\$2,000)

Kit Byrne, Seneca College  
(Environmental Landscape)  
Franco Chan, Fanshawe College  
(Landscape Design)  
Kelly DiFiore, Humber College  
(Landscape Technician)  
Stuart Gummer, Durham College  
(Horticultural Technician)  
Michelle Hotte, Algonquin College  
(Horticultural Industries)  
Emily Jaarsma, St.Clair College  
(Horticultural Technician)  
Emma Kirk, University of Guelph  
(Landscape Architecture)  
Charles Linton, University of Guelph  
Ridgetown Campus (Assoc. Dip in  
Horticulture)  
Suzy Mitsuzono, Fanshawe College  
(Horticultural Technician)  
Ranjeet Shinde, University of Guelph  
(Horticultural Science)  
Laura Schultz, Niagara College  
(Horticultural Technician)  
Kaitlin Veitch, Niagara Parks  
(Horticulture)

### Cullen Scholarship Apprenticeship (\$1,000)

Ahmad Kasum, Algonquin College  
(Horticultural Technician)  
Letecia Gumboc Leadbeater, Loyalist  
College (Horticultural Technician)  
David Rustenburg, Mohawk College  
(Horticultural Technician)  
Dana Watts, Loyalist College  
(Horticultural Technician)

### Cullen Scholarship Special Need (\$4,000)

Leslie Oghide, Humber College  
(Landscape Technician)

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## Research programs

The Foundation has also contributed to numerous research programs.

Other programs under the Foundation

- Skills Canada. Cash prizes for the top three competitors in the horticulture sector of the Ontario Skills Canada competition.
- Since administrative structure is already in place, your Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation is collecting charitable donations for the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute ([hohtribute.ca](http://hohtribute.ca)). This inspiring campaign seeks to plant 117,000 trees for each of Canada's fallen soldiers, assisted by the proud efforts of Ontario nursery growers and contractors.
- Grandtrees Walk Fund, for tree planting in the GTA.
- JT Somerville Fund. Christmas tree industry.

## Meet some of this year's scholarship recipients



**Franco Chan**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000*

Whether at work or play, Franco always loves to incorporate some aspect of the outdoors. The

third year landscape design student at Fanshawe College strives to blur the line between interior and exterior design. Being a landscape photographer has inspired Franco to incorporate large-scale ecosystems like prairies with landscaping concepts to create challenging, yet extremely rewarding designs. Franco is honored to be supported and recognized by his professors and peers.



**Julie-Anne Côté**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

Julie-Anne Côté got her first job in horticulture working at a fruit and vegetable farm in Orléans, Ont., where she

enjoyed learning about the cultivation of crops. Gaining plant-related job experiences sparked an interest to further explore plant life in an educational setting. Julie-Anne is now working toward a diploma in Ornamental Horticulture at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Her main interest is currently in plant collection development, use and conservation.



**Louise Daudt**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

A second-year student in the landscape and horticulture program at St. Clair College, Louise enters the industry

with a background in biology and ecology. Her goal is to make a positive impact on the environment and in the people she is surrounded with. Louise believes that a well-planned landscape can improve the overall wellness of people and prevent environment damages.



**Kelley Di Fiore**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000*

The landscape industry is a second career for Kelley Di Fiore. After 23 years as an Art Director/

Graphic Designer with various ad agencies, Kelley needed a change and wanted to do something that would make a positive impact on the environment. Kelley strives to one day be designing green roofs and walls, planting pollinator gardens, growing food, and working to help fix the urban heat island effect. Kelley would like to thank both Landscape Ontario and Mark Cullen for their generous support.



**Jake Dupon**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

A very outgoing and down-to-earth guy, Jake is always trying to be the source of energy in a room or during

a team project. He is currently enrolled in Niagara College's landscape technician program. Jake loves all things horticulture- and landscape-related, working to learn as much as possible to share with peers and new generations. He is fortunate for the love and support of his wife, family, teachers, and friends at Niagara College.



**Vibhor Goel**  
*Russel and Karen Loney Scholarship, \$500*

A student of the landscape technician program at Humber College, Vibhor likes the program very much, and

loves learning a lot about horticulture. Vibhor would like to thank Landscape Ontario for providing him with a scholarship that will help to realize his future career.



**Stuart Gummer**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000*

Stuart is a second year student in the horticulture technician program at Durham College. After nearly

a decade in the reforestation industry, Stuart decided to go back to school. Stuart loves learning about all the different aspects of horticulture and with this knowledge he hopes to move toward a more sustainable future for himself and for the planet. Stuart is honored to be a 2019 Cullen Family Scholarship recipient.



**Emily Jaarsma**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000*

Finding herself unhappy and life unfulfilled, Emily changed careers from social work to horticulture. She now has a

purpose and is grateful to wake up each day to do something she loves. Her advice: "It's never too late to follow your dreams, and this scholarship will allow me to do just that." Emily is thankful to both OHTF and Mark Cullen for her generous award.



**Stephanie Jocius**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

Stephanie is currently working towards a diploma in Ornamental Horticulture at the Niagara Parks

Commission School of Horticulture. Current president of the student association, Stephanie looks forward to becoming an alumni to continue being a role model for her peers and contributing to the School of Horticulture. Combining her previous internship experience working at a historic estate, she developed an interest in rhododendrons, and collections management. She anticipates a career working in Japanese style gardens.

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**Tim Jones**  
*High School Program  
Scholarship, \$1,000*

Currently in his first year in the Landscape Technician Program at Humber College, Tim has always enjoyed being outdoors and is looking forward to using the skills he is learning at Humber to eventually design and build creative landscape environments. Tim is grateful for the scholarship and support. Tim has had several co-op and employment experiences in the field and is looking forward to ongoing learning at Humber.



**Ahmad Kasem**  
*Cullen Scholarship  
Apprenticeship, \$1,000*

In Canada for just three years, Ahmad has had a great experience so far in the horticulture and landscaping field. In addition to being a student in the level 2 horticulture technician program at Algonquin College, Ahmad is studying English and hopes for a chance to demonstrate his abilities and skills in a workplace environment.



**Afnan Khan**  
*High School Program  
Scholarship, \$1,000*

A student from Ottawa, Ont., Afnan is currently attending the Horticultural Industries program at Algonquin College. Prior to this, he worked on his Bachelor's degree in economics and anthropology at the University of Ottawa. Afnan's mission is to encourage peace and creativity in his community, and devise new ways of designing spaces to make them more liveable, productive and efficient. He seeks to incorporate his knowledge of culture and his interest in architecture, permaculture, and construction to create liveable areas that dissolve worries and encourage healing.



**Emma Kirk**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship  
Program, \$2,000*

Emma is currently a second year student of the MLA program at the University of Guelph. She is passionate about the environment and is actively looking for ways in which landscape architects can become involved in taking action and fostering productive change. She aspires to be able to push the boundaries of ecological design to design spaces that not only provide social space for people, but also serve a higher ecological purpose. Through a design-driven approach to ecological issues she hopes to make a positive impact in our world.



**Destiny Lacasse**  
*Tony DiGiovanni  
Scholarship, \$1,000*

A third year student at Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, Destiny's passions include horticulture and helping people. After graduation, she hopes to find a job where she can combine both passions, or start her own horticulture therapy business. Destiny is incredibly honored to be selected as the recipient of the Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship, having been lucky enough to cross paths with Tony himself over the past year and getting to see what a true inspiration he is.



**Letecia Leadbeater**  
*Cullen Scholarship  
Apprenticeship, \$1,000*

Letecia never imagined the gratification she found when working, understanding and solving gardening challenges in her own backyard would develop into skills for a new career within the horticultural maintenance and landscaping industry. Being enrolled in the Red Seal Horticultural Technician Apprenticeship Program while working at Modern Earthscapes Land Design has been enlightening for what direction and role she can play in the industry.



**Charles Linton**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship  
Program, \$2,000*

A second year student in the horticulture diploma program at the University of Guelph Ridgetown campus, Charles enjoys working alongside his father, owner of Linton Landscaping. Charles developed a passion for the industry at a very young age and loves the variety of work, working outdoors, establishing relationships with clients and the pride of work that can be accomplished. Charles is very excited to pursue his passion and become the future succession plan owner of the family business.



**Katie McFee**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship  
(\$1,000)*

Currently a student in the Environmental Landscape Management program at Seneca College, Katie's interest in horticulture probably stems from spending so much time with her mom in garden centres when she was a child. Katie enjoyed gardening as a hobby, and it has now grown into an exciting career path. She plans to use and value all of her education to create spaces that are beautiful and green.



**Suzy Mitsuzono**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship  
Program, \$2,000*

An international student from Brazil, Suzy is in the second-year Horticulture Technician program at Fanshawe College. Prior to that, she earned a teaching degree in biology and a masters in genetics and plant breeding in Brazil. Suzy likes to keep her mind open to new opportunities, and is exploring both landscape design and nursery production as future career paths.



**Alex Mozzhukhina**  
*High School Program  
Scholarship, \$1,000*

Enrolled in the Landscape Technician program at Humber College, Alex is already thinking of pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science after graduation. Alex has always been passionate about plants and the environment, and feels she can truly make a difference by pursuing a career in sustainable landscape management.



**Leslie Oghide**  
*Cullen Scholarship Special Need, \$4,000*

Born in Nigeria, Leslie Oghide is a final year student in landscape technician program at Humber College.

Leslie has always had an interest in plant studies. His dream is to build botanical gardens and parks that have varieties of plants from his homeland and to use this as a means to raise awareness about the importance of horticulture in our society and how to help preserve our environment. Words are not just enough to express Leslie's gratitude for his award.



**Vladimir Rogov**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

After graduating from Niagara College, Vladimir has his sights set on the Bachelor of Applied Science

- Agribusiness program at Olds College in Alberta to further enhance his knowledge of horticulture. Throughout his studies, Vladimir has developed a passion for substituting invasive plant species with native plant material in landscape design and nursery production. He would like to thank the Foundation and instructors, Wayne Wakal and Mary Jane Clark, and classmate Jake Dupon for helping him over the past year.



**David Rustenburg**  
*Cullen Scholarship Apprenticeship \$1,000*

While working in landscape construction for six years, David has developed a strong passion for designing

and building outdoor living spaces where people can kick back and relax. David is currently enrolled in the Horticultural Technician program at Mohawk College. The program has really helped him to expand his knowledge base on different areas in the landscape industry and has taught him ways to respect the environment before, during and after construction projects. David is very honored to be a recipient of the 2019 Cullen Family Scholarship Program.



**Laura Schultz**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000*

In her second year of study at Niagara College, Laura is enrolled in the Horticulture Technician Co-op program.

Pursuing a career in horticulture allows Laura to be surrounded by many things that brings her joy, including plants, with their endless versatility and beauty. Laura would love to one day own her own business with a mission statement to share the joy of plants with others. Laura is also interested in pursuing a career working in botanical gardens.



**David Swaby**  
*Horst Dickert Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000*

As a mature international student from Jamaica who had never been to a tertiary institution before, coming to

Canada to study Environmental Landscape Management at Seneca College has been a life-changing experience for David Swaby. Always well-known for his "green thumb," David says getting formally trained in the field of horticulture has always been a goal, which is now closer to being achieved thanks to this scholarship.



**Tom Temming**  
*High School Program Scholarship, \$1,000*

Raised on a dairy farm just outside of Stratford, Ont., Tim worked at Klomp's Home & Garden Centre for six years

where he discovered a passion for plants and landscaping. This past summer, he worked for Touch of Dutch Landscaping to expand his opportunities and knowledge in the field. Tim is currently enrolled as a Horticulture Technician student at Niagara College and hopes to continue to promote his passion for native landscaping and production of vegetable crops for food security after graduation.

**Meghan Thompson**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

Meghan is studying horticulture with a focus on arboriculture and forest sustainability in the Fanshawe College class of 2020. She hopes to travel Canada to introduce green spaces to different cities and municipalities. In the interim, she spends a lot of time teaching others about the importance of plant diversity.



**Emily Thorpe**  
*High School Program Scholarship, \$1,000*

Emily graduated from McKinnon Park Secondary School as a Specialist High Skills Major student

in horticulture. She is currently attending Niagara College and taking the horticulture technician co-op program.



**Kaitlin Veitch**  
*Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000*

Being a part of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture has been a dream come true for Kaitlin. She is beyond

grateful to have been recognized among so many other talented and passionate students. Her goal at school is to learn as much as possible in three short years and to become a well-rounded horticulturist. Ultimately, she hopes to one day contribute her skills and horticultural background toward environmental sustainability.



**Dana Beren Watts**  
*Cullen Scholarship Apprenticeship, \$1,000*

A Toronto native, Dana lives in Peterborough, Ont., and is interested in permaculture, sustainable building, and

activism. He enjoys painting, sculpting and fixing or re-purposing things and is happy to be able to rehabilitate the environment for a living and foster a clients' relationship with it. He is a proud dog owner and nature lover and foreman at Green Side Up Environmental Services and Landscaping.



**Set Sil-Yuen Wu**  
*Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000*

Set Wu is a second year student in the Landscape Technician program at Humber College. Set's

interest in horticulture started with family visits to local city parks at an early age. Set had spent a good number of years in the Information Technology sector where he discovered that taking strolls in parks was a great way to de-stress. Set hopes to create and maintain beautiful park sceneries for all to enjoy in the future. Set says receiving the award will provide added encouragement for him to continue to work hard in school.

# 2019 FOUNDATION REPORT

## FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FUND BALANCES

	Year End Aug. 31, 2019	Year End Aug. 31, 2018
General Fund	\$8,545	[\$2,655]
Dunington-Grubb/Sheridan Nurseries Research Fund	\$227,522	\$243,570
Growers' Group Research Fund	\$368,896	\$387,245
Ottawa Chapter Val Kirshner Scholarship Fund	\$70,202	\$69,914
Scholarship Fund	\$86,342	\$82,290
Casey van Maris Scholarship Fund	\$31,954	\$32,817
IPM Symposium Research Fund	\$180,807	\$198,195
Turf Research Fund	\$0	[\$8,257]
Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship Fund	\$104,235	\$104,801
John/Ruth Wright Scholarship Fund	\$64,042	\$63,780
Horst Dickert Scholarship Fund	[\$137]	\$858
JT Somerville Fund	\$10,907	\$10,863
Highway of Heroes (Trees for Life)	\$1,745,831	\$944,492
Unitlock/Designers Group Fund	\$11,990	\$10,948
Hensbergen/DeGroot Fund	\$25,598	\$25,493
Russel/Karen Loney Fund	\$9,433	\$9,890
Cullen Family Fund	\$141	\$8,581
Robert/Ruby Allen Fund	\$21,815	\$21,726
Crystal Lawn Care Fund	\$2,199	\$2,190
Peter Olsen Fund	\$30,366	\$30,242
OJ Muller Fund	\$10,711	\$10,668
Grandtrees Walk Fund	\$59,457	\$0
Waterloo Chapter Scholarship Fund	\$67,822	\$70,026
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,138,678</b>	<b>\$2,317,675</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Year End Aug. 31, 2019	Year End Aug. 31, 2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Bank	\$691,859	\$297,884
Accounts Receivable	\$62,218	\$62,693
	<b>\$754,078</b>	<b>\$360,578</b>
<b>Long Term</b>		
Investments	\$2,323,136	\$1,905,303
Investment-Vineland Consortium	\$57,711	\$57,711
Accrued Interest Receivable	\$28,556	\$7,045
	\$2,409,403	\$1,970,058
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,163,481</b>	<b>\$2,330,636</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Charges	\$24,803	\$12,961
<b>Accumulated Fund Balances</b>		
Fund Balances-Regular Funds	\$1,333,390	\$1,373,183
Fund Balances-Special Projects	\$1,805,288	\$944,492
	\$3,138,678	\$2,317,675
<b>Total Liabilities/Funds</b>	<b>\$3,163,481</b>	<b>\$2,330,636</b>

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & FUND BALANCES

	Year End Aug. 31, 2019	Year End Aug. 31, 2018
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Interest/Gains (Losses)	\$38,431	\$81,382
Miscellaneous	\$57,246	\$67,945
Research Grants	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$1,598,691	\$853,769
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,694,368</b>	<b>\$1,003,096</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration Fees/Expenses	\$230,372	\$309,116
Disbursed as Research Grants	\$0	\$0
Event/Sponsorship Expenses	\$586,192	\$222,803
Disbursed as Scholarships	\$56,800	\$40,600
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$873,364</b>	<b>\$572,519</b>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$821,003	\$430,577
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	\$2,317,675	\$1,887,098
Fund Balances, Year End	\$3,138,678	\$2,317,675

For information on the Foundation, including scholarship applications, supported research programs or to donate, visit [ohf.ca](http://ohf.ca)