

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Richmond student receives \$3000 Lansdowne Scholarship to Laurier
Award given for contributions to the community, good academic standing and leadership

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WATERLOO – A hard-working volunteer who was given the chance to scale Unity Peak with a select group of high-school students has earned one of the largest scholarships offered by Wilfrid Laurier University. South Carleton High School graduate Christina Colenbrander has been admitted to Laurier with a \$3,000 Lansdowne Scholarship.

Created in 1998 by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, the Lansdowne Scholarships are awarded to students with good academic standing, who demonstrate financial need and who have contributed to their school or community through volunteer leadership activities. The \$3,000 awards are renewable over four years and can contribute \$12,000 to the cost of a student's undergraduate education.

"This scholarship helps a great deal. It helps my parents out," says Colenbrander, who applied for several awards but was hoping for the Lansdowne Scholarship. "I enjoy the extracurricular things so much. It relieves stress, so it actually helps me with school in a way."

Colenbrander participated in a number of committees and teams while attending South Carleton High School, including the track and field team, the students' council, a peer integration committee, the awards assembly committee and the leadership planning committee. She also helped with an early literacy intervention program, working with a grade two student at Richmond Public School.

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Colenbrander's biggest achievement came when she was selected by her teachers to participate in a climb to Unity Peak in the Canadian Rockies. "It was an amazing experience," she says of the adventurous, team-building trip. "It's indescribable."

Her athletic ability and 87 percent average led her to Laurier's kinesiology program.

Three students from the Ottawa/Carleton region have been awarded Lansdowne Scholarships in the past. In total, the scholarship fund has helped 28 Laurier students from select areas across Ontario, including the Ottawa/Carleton Region, the Region of Waterloo, the City of London, the former City of York, St. Thomas/Elgin County, Tillsonburg, Strathroy, Wawa, Marathon, Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay, Nipigon and White River.

Students who meet additional criteria – such as being a ward of the Children's Aid Society, residing in a group home or suffering from a permanent physical disability – are eligible for Mariposa Scholarships worth \$6000 per year. Students must apply specifically for both the Lansdowne and Mariposa Scholarships and must earn at least half of the value of the scholarship through part- or full-time work.

Over \$2.8-million in scholarships and bursaries is awarded to Laurier students each year. Dedicating over seven percent of its operating budget to financial assistance, Laurier ranks first in scholarships and bursaries spending in the primarily undergraduate category of the annual *Maclean*'s rankings.