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EDITORS: BACKGROUNDER FOR  
DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL STORY

2,200 Ontario High School Students  
Learning About Stock Market through  
Computerized Game Run by University

More than 2,200 students from close to 100 high schools across the province are playing the stock market this fall hoping to make profits on the \$100,000 they started with.

The money is mythical but the buying and trading is not - nor is the learning that goes along with studying the market , deciding whether to buy or sell, and seeing holdings rise and fall.

More than 400 teams of four and five players make decisions as a group, then send in their orders to Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. There, a computer analyses the transactions, deducts a regular broker's commission, and sends back regular weekly statements to the teams.

The game was introduced to the high schools on a limited scale two years ago when two high schools near the campus participated. Thirty high schools got on the bandwagon last year and a tremendous demand led the university to extend the game to high schools across the province this year.

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It all started eight years ago when Prof. Ralph Blackmore of the WLU School of Business and Economics introduced the game to some of his honors economics students. He thought the students would learn about the market better from dabbling in it - even with mythical money - than from reading about it in books.

Dr. Howard Prout, who oversees the program from the Wilfrid Laurier University campus, stresses that the game is not merely intended as amusement. It is a learning process that introduces the students to fundamental principles of economics. But it does prove that learning can be fun.

After the 12-week trading period ends in December, an awards luncheon will be held on campus for winning teams. Bell Canada participates with the university when \$1000 in prizes and trophies will be presented to the winners at a January luncheon.

Earlier this year the Hon. Claude Bennett, minister of industry and tourism, visited campus to discuss the university's involvements with high school students.

He praised the university's game as being the kind of involvement that shows the taxpayer that universities are interested in a larger segment of the population than just those enrolled in campus programs.

There is probably no program for high school students involving as many students as the current stock market game operated by Wilfrid Laurier University.