

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Thornhill students take top regional spots in stock market competition

Thornlea Secondary School students consistently among best student traders in Canada

For Immediate Release

**May 23, 2000
38-00**

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WATERLOO – Thornlea Secondary School has some of the best novice stock market traders in the country. For the past seven years, the Thornhill school has earned at least one of the top-three spots in its region – and in one case emerged the national winners – in the Wilfrid Laurier University National Secondary School Stock Market Competition. This year Thornlea Secondary School swept the regional standings, taking all three top spots in the 72-day competition.

Lone trader Marcus Lee navigated a volatile market in which the TSE 300 Index rose over 10,000 and sank below 8,500, beating roughly 125 teams in the Greater Toronto Area. A member of the first-place regional team in the fall competition, Lee entered the winter contest out of personal interest and picked a few obscure stocks instead of more popular technology stocks. Starting with an imaginary investment of \$135,000, he built a portfolio worth \$181,543 by focusing on equities and heavily investing in Plaintree Systems Inc.

The team of Noah Schwartz, Amy Rotman, Michael Gaspar, Michael Pelc and Tamar Krieger-Baum placed second regionally with a final portfolio of \$174,170. Third place went to Ricky Katz, Scott Jackson, Andrew Newmarch, Shariff Somani and Adam Winston for their portfolio of \$155,490.

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"We build this competition into a lot of courses at Thornlea and many of the students have participated two or three times," says advising teacher Paul Stephenson (who can be reached at (905) 889-9696, ext. 102). "Marcus was a very conservative trader this time around and I think that's why he was successful. The April crash in technology stock prices was a great learning experience because students didn't know what would happen."

For his efforts, Lee will receive \$250 cash, a trophy for his school and is invited to attend the awards dinner at the Toronto Stock Exchange on June 7. The second-place team receives \$100 cash and the third-place team shares \$50.

Thornlea Secondary School has placed first nationally or regionally in the stock market competition each year since becoming involved in 1993. The competition is incorporated into a number of business and accounting courses at the school. As many as 25 teams are entered into each fall and winter competition, making Thornlea one of the strongest participating schools.

Nearly 650 teams from 90 schools across Canada competed in the latest stock market competition. A five-person team from Regina, Saskatchewan, took the top spot nationally with a portfolio value of \$201,364 and Kyle Brack of Upper Canada College in Toronto will receive the Huntly McKay Award for best exemplifying the spirit of the competition. Brack finished the fall competition with a portfolio value of \$302,618.

Operating since 1972, Laurier's high-school stock competition is held twice each year and teaches high-school students about investing as they monitor stock market quotations, submit daily buy-or-sell orders and view their portfolio on-line. Competition sponsors include the Toronto Stock Exchange, Star Data Systems, RBC Dominion Securities and Bell Canada.

THE TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE OF KNOWLEDGE EXCELLENCE

As an industry leader in the field of capital markets and investment, The Toronto Stock Exchange is pursuing a strategy as a centre of knowledge excellence, and continually seeks out new forums to communicate information to investors and students of investment. The TSE supports and sponsors a variety of programs geared towards investor education and market policy analysis. They include the Wilfrid Laurier Stock Market Competition, the University of Toronto Capital Markets Institute and the J.F. Kimber Fellowship. As well, the Exchange's interactive visitor centre, Stock Market Place provides investors of every level with information and education on the securities industry. Through its Education Program, the TSE provides teachers across Canada with free resources for teaching capital markets. The Teacher's Kit has been approved and recommended by the Ontario Curriculum Clearinghouse.

The TSE is a pivotal enabler of economic growth in Canada. Economic growth depends on the availability of capital and its effective use. Our role is to bring those with capital together with those who need it to build businesses, create jobs, make investments and accumulate savings in Canada for Canadians. We are in a unique position to make a difference and we do.

The TSE is committed to helping teachers because:

- The Exchange believes "educated" investors will actively and confidently participate in the capital markets.
- Increased investors will build liquidity and trading activity and will provide for a healthy capital market system.
- The TSE has always been committed to educating investors and the public about the capital markets system.

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Education Program

Through its Education Program, the TSE regularly offers workshops and resources to teachers in Ontario and has participated in conferences for the Ontario Business Educators Association and the Ontario Association of Math Educators conference.

The TSE is taking its knowledge of the industry, putting a framework together and then offering this as a resource to teachers. The TSE continues to be involved in discussions with a number of different players to identify the best strategic relationships to complement our business. We are working with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and are planning a 3-day institute for teachers across Canada, which will assist them in using our national teaching resource for teaching capital markets.

The TSE's Education Department recently participated at the Ontario Business Educators Association Conference in April and will be at the Ontario Association of Math Educators Conference in May.

The Wilfrid Laurier University Stock Market Competition

The Toronto Stock Exchange has been the primary sponsor of the Wilfrid Laurier University National Secondary School Stock Market Competition since its inauguration in 1983. The competition, which runs in two 12 week national sessions, provides secondary students with the opportunity to participate in a realistic stock market simulation through a computer supported and administered program. Students are evaluated on their portfolio performance, their stock selection ability and trading techniques used in the mock investment of \$100,000 on The Toronto Stock Exchange.

Capital Markets Institute of U of T

The Toronto Stock Exchange donated \$2.75 million to establish a Capital Markets Institute at the University of Toronto. The Institute, which entails two fully endowed academic chairs at the Faculty of Law and the Rotman School of Business, brings together academics and leaders in law, industry and government to conduct research in the area of Canadian capital markets and related public policy.

J.F. Kimber Fellowship

The Kimber Fellowship is a program that brings distinguished speakers from the legal, academic and business communities, domestic and international, to meet and conduct lectures with members of the investment community and at the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University.

Studies and Conferences

The Toronto Stock Exchange sponsors major studies on market issues and often hosts related conferences. Recent examples are the recently formed committee to examine standards governing securities research analysts, the Mining Standards Task Force, the Dey Report on Corporate Governance, the Allen Report on Corporate Disclosure and the Kirzner Report on Equity Market Fragmentation. These initiatives contribute significantly to public policy debate on various industry issues.

TSE, April 2000