

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Tillsonburg student receives \$3000 Lansdowne Scholarship from Laurier

Award given for contributions to the community, good academic standing and leadership

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WATERLOO – An aspiring screenwriter with musical talent and an abundance of school spirit has earned one of the largest scholarships offered by Wilfrid Laurier University. Glendale High School graduate Kristen Rajnovich 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.

"I tried to get involved with extracurricular activities in school and this scholarship recognizes that," says Rajnovich, who enters Laurier's English program this fall. "If you can win a scholarship that takes you over the four years of university – that's really important. It gives you time to do all of the other things that make school worthwhile."

Rajnovich spent seven years in the school band, but also found the time to work on the school newspaper and yearbook, help on the graduation council and prom committee, and act as a peer helper. She was also a member of the athletic society, spirit council and the UN club. Outside of school, Rajnovich held a part-time job in a restaurant.

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Rajnovich also devoted six to eight months writing a screenplay. She hopes to one day direct movies or teach media studies.

Two other Tillsonburg students, also from Glendale High School, 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.