

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **Thornhill students take top honours in national stock competition** *Thornlea Secondary students claim another national win and more top spots in GTA region*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Bay Street may need to look no further than Thornhill for the next generation of stock wizards. Students at Thornlea Secondary School have once again captured several top positions – first place across Canada and the two top spots in their region – in the national stock market competition for high-school students run by Wilfrid Laurier University.

Thornlea student Laurie Kroach won the Winter 2001 National Secondary School Stock Market Competition by turning a virtual \$100,000 into \$453,405. He spent \$1,541,899 on 88 successful trades over 12 weeks, focusing on call and put options on companies such as Research In Motion, Celestica Inc., Ballard Power Systems Inc., Nortel Networks, TD Canada Trust and JDS Uniphase.

Two other Thornlea teams won first and second place in their region – Ontario (Greater Toronto Area). Rob MacLeod, Bryan Moreton, Adam Hoffman, Mike Krochmalnek and Brian Tsang finished with a portfolio worth \$241,090. Marcus Lee, Noah Schwartz, Brandon Gerson, Sanaa Siddiqi and Preeya Mistry amassed \$229,396. Marney Pollock, the teacher who advised the Thornlea teams, can be reached at (905) 889-9696, ext. 102.

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“This is another strong showing by Thornlea, who have now won two in a row,” said Sandra Hughes, director of Laurier’s national stock market competitions. “Laurie Kroach, who just won on his own, was also on the team that won last fall’s competition. This time last year, the school claimed the three top spots in its region.”

Thornlea was just one of approximately 90 teams from across the country participating in this winter’s competition. Between February 19 and May 4, 458 teams or individual entrants vied for national prizes that include \$500 and a \$1,000 scholarship to Laurier.

Winning first place in one of the competition’s six regions earns the team or individual \$250. Second-place regional prizes are worth \$100 and third place earns \$50.

Along with Thornlea, the regional winners are:

**Ontario (North and East)** – Shane Ross and Nick Beuving of Timmins High and Vocational School in Timmins finished with a final portfolio value of \$197,637 by focusing on BakBone Software Inc., Sierra Wireless Inc. and Telesystem International Wireless Inc. The team’s advising teacher, Bill Costiniuk, can be reached at (705) 360-1411, ext. 115.

**Ontario (Toronto)** – Stephanie Watsa and Karmen Cheng of Branksome Hall in Toronto finished with a portfolio worth \$181,944 from purchases of Siebel Janna Arrangement Inc. Advising professor Colleen Haag can be reached at (416) 920-6265, ext. 280.

**Ontario (South and West)** – John Belez, Joe McCartney, Jordan Stinson and Brandon Gingerich of Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School in Baden finished with \$226,048. Most profits were made from stock purchases and sales in Research In Motion and Celestica Inc. Advising teacher Patrick Dertinger can be reached at (519) 634-5441.

**Eastern Canada** – Stewart Soh of John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, finished with \$241,144 from margin buys and short sales in Royal Bank and Nortel, but most significantly from Research in Motion, and Exfo Electro-Optical Engineering Inc. Advising teacher Jill Gowdey can be reached at (514) 457-6610, ext. 320.

**Western Canada** – Lisa Spence, April Alejo and Charlene Moranion of Maples Collegiate in Winnipeg, Manitoba, finished with \$192,845. Profits were made in short sales on Research in Motion, a margin buy on QLT Inc. but most significant profits were made on a margin purchase of C-MAC Industries Inc. Advising teacher Gordon Boyko can be reached at (204) 632-6641.

Once a year the competition recognizes a team that best embodies the spirit of trading with the Huntly-McKay Award. Named for a TSE vice-president who was instrumental in involving the exchange in Laurier’s competitions, the \$500 award goes to a team that participates in active trading and experiments with a range of investment strategies. This year’s winners are Matt Watts, Chris Olsen, Mike Farrell, Ben Russo and Dan Toman of Malvern Collegiate Institute in Toronto. Advising teacher Alan Brodie can be reached at (416) 393-1480.

The Toronto Stock Exchange, the major sponsor of Laurier's national stock market competitions, hosts an annual banquet for the national winners for the fall and winter competitions, for Ontario's regional winners and for the Huntly-McKay recipients. This year's awards banquet will be held at Stock Market Place, Toronto Stock Exchange on June 5, 2001.

Laurier has been running stock market competitions since 1972. Held twice each year, the national competitions teach high-school students about investing as they monitor stock quotations, submit daily trade requests and view their portfolios on-line. Star Data Systems, RBC Dominion Securities, Sun Microsystems, Institutional Equity Traders Association of Toronto and Bell Canada join the TSE as sponsors of the competitions.

For more information on the competition for high-school students, as well as the competitions for other, please visit [<http://invest.wlu.ca>].