

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Thornhill school wins national stock competition for sixth time** *Other winners in Vancouver, Stratford, Pembroke, Toronto, Westmount and Chatham*

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WATERLOO – Thornlea secondary school has now achieved six times what no other high school has accomplished. The team of students from the Thornhill school has just won the national stock market competition organized by Wilfrid Laurier University, while a second team has won at the regional level.

Liran Tal and Richard Srour won the winter 2005 National Secondary School Stock Market Competition, turning a virtual \$100,000 into a portfolio worth \$171,452 in just 12 weeks. The team's advising teacher, Paul Stephenson, can be reached at (905) 889-9696.

Thornlea's success was built on options, especially in Research In Motion (RIM). The team earned almost \$10,000 through two separate put option purchases. Another \$8,000 was added to their portfolio through the purchase of additional put option contracts, and two additional lots of call options generated almost \$50,000 and secured the victory.

"This is another tremendous showing by Thornlea, which has now won two competitions in a row," said Sandra Hughes, director of Laurier's national stock market competitions. "The students who participate are clearly learning the valuable lessons – about investing, decision-making and research skills – that come with competing."

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Jon Fishman, Jason Snow and Jaynie Rovet of Thornlea won this spring's Ontario (Greater Toronto Area) regional competition. The team finished with \$153,527, after earning almost \$50,000 in call options on RIM and Precision Drilling Corporation. It added another \$45,000 in purchases of put option contracts on EnCana Corporation, NOVA Chemicals Corporation and RIM. Advising teacher Godwin Ifejika can be reached at (905) 889-9696.

The other regional winners are:

- Western Canada – Siukei Li from Lord Byng secondary school in Vancouver, British Columbia, finished with \$124,639. The portfolio was strengthened by early trading in RIM that earned almost \$25,000, and a subsequent short sale of RIM added another \$1,400. Advising teacher June Arnett can be reached at (604) 713-8171.
- Ontario (South and West) – Local student Connor Gordon from Northwestern secondary school in Stratford won with a portfolio of \$107,294. Gordon bought shares on margin early in Gerdau AmeriSteel Corporation, Inco Limited and IPSCO Inc. and held until they added almost \$10,000 in combined profits. Shorting two of those companies, Gerdau AmeriSteel Corporation and IPSCO Inc., added over \$10,000 to his account. Advising teacher Diane Mitchell can be reached at (519) 271-9740.
- Ontario (North and East) – Kyle Dumouchel and Brad Hallett from Bishop Smith Catholic high school in Pembroke finished with \$112,903. The team profited from strategic short positions in Envoy Communications Group Inc., Zi Corporation, McCoy Bros. Inc., Dynamic Oil & Gas, Inc., Railpower Technologies Corp. and Mountain Province Diamonds Inc. Advising teacher Jack Rosien can be reached at (613) 735-5496.
- Ontario (Toronto) – Reid Langille, Stuart Thursby, Will Olugbala, Scott Soundy and Laura Cooper from Malvern collegiate institute in Toronto won with \$106,027, built on the purchase of shares in Canadian Tire Corporation, made early and held until almost the end that added over \$8,000. Advising teacher Leslie Rulff can be reached at (416) 393-1480.
- Eastern Canada – Joey David, Tommy Do-An, Rachel Gladstone, Kayla Kovacevic, Andrew Mallet from Vanguard Quebec intercultural high school in Westmount, Quebec, finished with \$111,101. The team secured the win through the early purchase of shares in WestJet and Royal Bank that yielded over \$10,000. Advising teacher Bob Nathan can be reached at (514) 932-9770.

The winter competition ran from January 31 to April 22 and included 415 teams from 70 schools. As the national winner, the Thornlea team will be awarded \$500 and a scholarship to Laurier worth \$1,000. The competition also awards the first-place team from six different regions \$250, second-place teams earn \$100 and third places are worth \$50.

Jamie Neil, Stephen Taylor and Brian Feron from Ursuline College in Chatham won the Huntly McKay Award. The \$500 award goes to the team from the fall or winter competitions that best embodies the spirit of competition by fully participating in active trading and experimenting with a range of investment strategies.

The Ursuline College team impressively met the requirements for the award by trading steadily over the course of the competition. The team made 59 successful transactions, spending just over \$668,000. Team members used all the investment vehicles presented in the competition, particularly their margin account and option trading, to build a successful portfolio worth \$112,887. Advising teacher Joseph Moran can be reached at (519) 351-2987.

Each spring the competition hosts a banquet to honour the winners of the fall and winter competitions, the regional winners and the Huntly McKay Award recipients. This year's awards were presented in Toronto on Thursday, May 26.

Laurier offered its first stock market competition in 1972 and now runs them at the high school, university/college and MBA levels. Held twice each year, the national competitions teach participants about investing as they monitor stock quotations, submit daily trade requests and view their portfolios online. The National Post, Bell Canada, Sun Microsystems Canada Ltd. and CGI Group Inc. are major sponsors of the competition.

For more information on Laurier's stock market competitions, please visit the Website at <http://invest.wlu.ca>.