

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Thornhill student doubles stock portfolio to win competition

Regional winners from North Vancouver, Guelph, Toronto, Mississauga, Pembroke and Saint John

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WATERLOO – Students in Thornhill, Ontario, continue to beat all comers in the National Secondary School Stock Market Competition.

Jason Snow of Thornlea secondary school recently beat 376 teams from close to 60 schools by almost doubling a virtual \$100,000 portfolio in just 12 weeks. This is the seventh time a team of one or more students from Thornlea has won the competition organized by Wilfrid Laurier University. The school has also won at the GTA regional level six times.

Snow won the most recent national title by growing his portfolio into one worth \$193,242, primarily by trading options. Put contract purchases involving Imperial Oil Ltd. and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. added \$20,000 to the portfolio early in the competition and Snow continued actively trading throughout. A series of call options on Research In Motion Ltd. (RIM) in early November secured the win, selling for a gain of over \$40,000. Snow's advising teacher, Sean Stone, can be reached at (905) 889-9696.

"Jason and the Thornlea teams that came before him have done very well by focusing on options," said Sandra Hughes, director of Laurier's stock market competitions. "The students who participate in our competition learn a great deal about the market and develop significant skills in research, decision making and investing – skills that will serve them well in life, whether they remain interested in the markets or not."

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Laurier also names a first-place winner in six regions across the country. The most recent regional winners are:

Western Canada – Ashkan Pishvaei of Argyle secondary school in North Vancouver won the region with a portfolio worth \$108,884. The win was the result of profitable equity purchases in WestJet Airlines Ltd., Shore Gold Inc., ATI Technologies Inc., New Gold Inc. and CryptoLogic Inc. Advising teacher Colin MacKay can be reached at (604) 903-3300

Ontario, South and West – Greg Morris of Bishop MacDonell high school in Guelph finished with \$112,705. Morris realized quick gains on a purchase of shares in Tahera Diamond Corp. and added to his portfolio with equity purchases in Certicom Corp., Shore Gold Inc., Tenke Mining Corp. and ATI Technologies Inc. A purchase of shares in Silver Wheton Corp. on margin in the last week of the competition added just over \$4,000 and secured the win. Advising teacher Les Schmidt can be reached at (519) 822-8502.

Ontario, Toronto – David Kepes, Omar Madhany, Sadiq Hassan and James Qin of Upper Canada College grew their portfolio to \$115,498. The team won with an early purchase of almost 3,000 shares of Aastra Technologies Inc. The stock saw a significant rise, adding over \$14,000 to the portfolio. Advising teacher Steven Griffin can be reached (416) 488-1125.

Ontario, Greater Toronto Area – Charlie Cheng, David Meng, Taha Asif and Jack Shen of Meadowvale secondary school in Mississauga finished with a final portfolio value of \$112,355. Two purchases of shares in RIM were key to this team's success, adding over \$6,000. Put options on EnCana Corp. and a separate purchase of the company's shares were equally important to the team's success. Advising teacher Rob Wiens can be reached at 905-824-1790.

Ontario, North and East – Jarret Hollands of Bishop Smith Catholic high school in Pembroke won the region with \$105,305. Shares purchased short in Rothmans Inc. were an early winner for this team. Subsequent purchases in Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd., Molson Coors Brewing Co. and Placer Dome Inc. added to the portfolio, and a purchase of option call contracts made on Cameco Corp. in the final days of the competition secured the win. Advising teacher Jack Rosien can be reached at (613) 735-5496.

Eastern Canada – Bronson Blizzard, Fadia Hamdan, Brittany Shaw and Margaret Paulin of Saint John high school in Saint John, N.B., finished with \$108,344. The portfolio gained steadily in value after successful and long-held equity purchases in Bank of Montreal and Royal Bank of Canada. A short sale made on Imperial Oil Ltd. added almost \$6,000. Advising teacher Paul Hodgins can be reached at (506) 658-5358.

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

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