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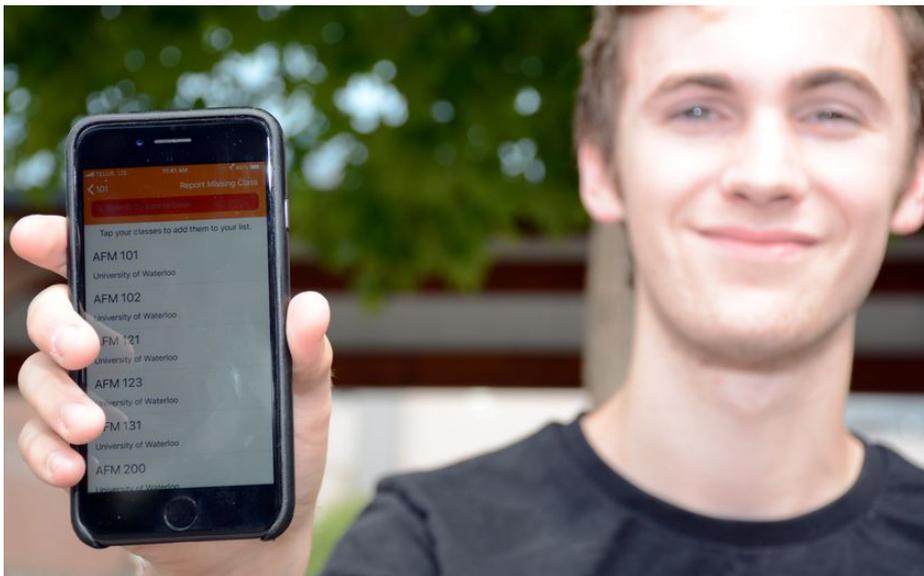
Keeping connected in the classroom



Jonathan Ludlow

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The phone application, 101, lets students in the same classes speak with each other, share notes and other files, and discuss lectures. Currently four universities, Trent, Queens, Waterloo and Laurier, are supported, but this will eventually grow to include all universities across Canada. The app launched last week and is available on iOS and Android. Shot Monday, Aug 20, 2018 in Belleville, Ont. Jonathan Ludlow/Belleville Intelligencer/Postmedia Network



Don't worry, there's an app for that.

Fresh out his first year at Waterloo University, the summer hasn't slowed down Belleville local, Cameron Bardell at all.

In 2017 St Theresa Catholic Secondary School student, Cameron Bardell was accepted to the University of Waterloo with the Schulich Leader Scholarship, the equivalent of \$80,000.

Returning to Belleville, the young Physics major has been spending his summer giving form to an idea he has had since the beginning of 2018.

"I noticed when I was there (University of Waterloo), that there wasn't really a platform for students to talk to people that they didn't already know, about their classes," said Bardell. "A lot of people use things like Facebook to talk to people you already know, but it's hard to meet new people."

Enter 101.

101 is a free smartphone application that Bardell has been designing over the summer. The application, available on iOS and Android devices, allows university students across all of Canada to connect with their classmates.

The whole point of the app, said Bardell, is to create a platform that students use to make connections with classmates that they don't know, since other platforms already connect you with people that you do know.

WEATHER >

Weather widget for Belleville, ON showing a cloud icon, temperature in Celsius (9°C), and a gear icon for settings.

When users download the app and set up their account, they then select the university where they will be taking the course. You can search through these courses until you find the one that you are enrolled in, then add it to your list.

Anyone in that specific class is then able to share notes, talk about lectures, and send files back and forth.

"When you add classes to your list, you search for them and tap on them in the app and it adds them to your list and when you open it up, it's like a group chat that everyone is involved with."

"If you think of I-Message and how you can text multiple people at a time, it's sort of like that, except you don't have to already know someone in it. You just add yourself and you can start talking right away."

Bardell said that he saw many people try to use Facebook groups to do something similar, but the downside to this is that "you already have to know someone who is in them."

"Which I think really isn't that helpful because if you already know the people you're talking to, then you can talk to them some other way."

The app launched last week, and currently supports the classes from four different universities; University of Waterloo, Trent University, Queen's University and Wilfrid Laurier University.

"Within the next few weeks I am going to add at least five more, it's just time permitting since it takes several hours to do each one," said Bardell.

"Eventually over the next months, it will be supported for all universities in Canada and eventually, if everything takes off and I have enough resources, then I'll try to go worldwide."

The app will eventually grow to incorporate colleges as well but since Bardell was more familiar with the university system, he decided to start with what he knew.

Currently the app is still young but if it receives a good reception, Bardell said he would like to continue adding features to it, such as management features for keeping track of school work and assignments, or even a system for tracking your grades.

"If it takes off and justifies spending more time on it, there's a lot of things I would like to add."

Eventually Bardell said he might even expand the app to allow students to talk with people in similar courses but different institutions, "but right now it's focused on students that are in your exact class."

The app, 101, is available for iOS and Android devices and can be downloaded from www.101-software.com

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