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SPORTS

# Thomson receives White Rose Scholarship St. Vital woman now studying for a PhD at Stanford University



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Posted: 12/11/2017 7:29 PM | [Comments:](#)



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(From left) François Bertrand, Polytechnique Montréal's interim CEO and chief research, innovation and international officer; Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal; Ella Thomson, who was injured in the 1989 tragedy at the school and is "Godmother" of the Order of the White Rose; and Michèle Thibodeau-DeGuire, principal and chair of the board of directors of Polytechnique Montréal, who is also president of the Order of the White Rose jury.

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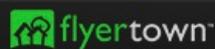
Ella Thomson wasn't born when the massacre at Polytechnique Montréal occurred in 1989, but she has now been touched by the tragic story in more ways than one.

The 21-year-old St. Vital native is the third recipient of Polytechnique Montréal's Order of the White Rose Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a Canadian Woman engineering student who wishes to continue her engineering studies at the master's or doctoral level.

The \$30,000 scholarship was created three years ago to honour the victims of the tragic shooting — which occurred on Dec. 6, 1989 and took the lives of 14 women — as part of the activities surrounding the 25th annual commemoration of the event. In terms of its criteria, officials say the scholarship not only recognizes the importance the school places on the contribution of women to engineering, but also encourages and rewards a young woman who stands out in that field.

Thomson, whose illustrious academic resume includes a Schulich Leader Scholarship and research into the role mitochondrial dysfunction in degenerative diseases conducted at St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Manitoba, and started a PhD at Stanford University in California in September.

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