

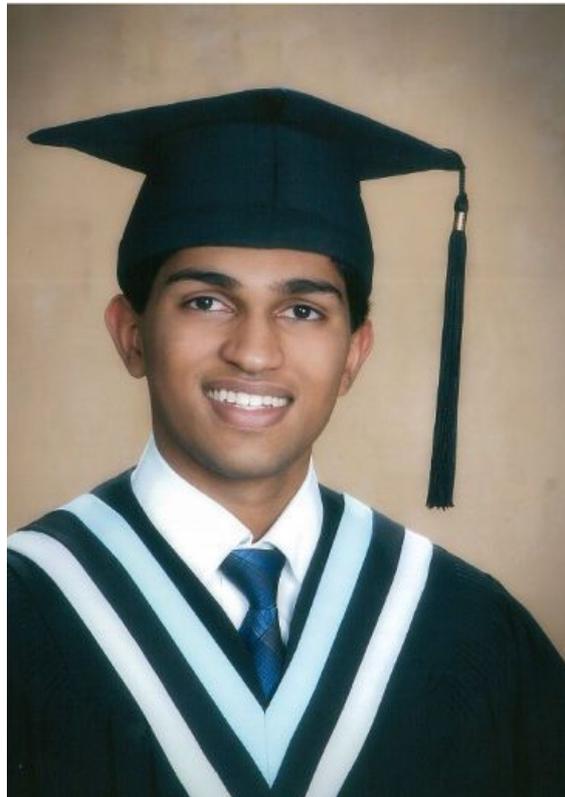


NEWS LOCAL

Corunna resident earns \$100,000 scholarship



By [Paul Morden](#), Sarnia Observer
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PM



Great Lakes Secondary School graduate Joy Shah has been awarded a \$100,000 Schulich Leadership Scholarship to study engineering at Western University in London. (Handout/Sarnia Observer/Postmedia Network)

Joy Shah, 17, a graduate of Sarnia's Great Lakes Secondary School, has been awarded a \$100,000 Schulich Leader scholarship.

He's the first nominee to win the scholarship in the Lambton Kent District School Board, according to a news release from the school.

Shah is heading to Western University in London in the fall to study engineering.

"I was very, very surprised," Shah said.

"I was not expecting it at all."

The \$100-million Schulich Leader scholarship fund, launched in 2012 by Seymour Schulich, provides 50 undergraduate scholarships annually through 20 partner universities in Canada each eligible to provide two annual awards.

Each of the universities can provide a \$100,000 scholarship for a nominee enrolling in engineering and an \$80,000 scholarship for a nominee enrolling in science, technology or mathematics.

"The scholarship will cover my tuition, my books and most of my living expenses," Shah said.

"But, it also opens a bunch of doors for me to get internships, co-op opportunities and leadership opportunities at different places. The Schulich Foundation is very, very well connected."

Karen L'Heureux, a guidance counsellor at Great Lakes who encouraged Shah to apply for the scholarship, described him as "a humble, inspiring young man."

Great Lakes principal Paul Wiersma said Shah is an exceptional student and was recognized by his peers and teachers as exemplifying all-around success.

Shah said he's looking forward to his first year in engineering at Western where will be about experience the different branches of the field, "and then see which one I like."

Shah added, he's currently thinking about going into software or mechatronics engineering, a field combining electrical, software and mechanical engineering.

"It's primarily to do with robots."

Shah grew up in Corunna where he attended Colonel Cameron Public School. He has a younger brother in Grade 4 and his father worked in Chemical Valley and now runs a business, and his mother works at the school board office.

"There were extremely proud of me and very, very happy," Shah said his family's reaction to the news about the scholarship.

Shah began entering the Lambton County Science Fair in Grade 4 and has competed nearly every year, earning three trips to the Canada Wide Science Fair. His projects with science fair partner Parth Vachharajani earned two bronze medals at the national competitions.

Shah said he was attracted to engineering because of the way it uses science and math to solve problems which can "have a direct impact on people's lives."

During his time in high school, Shah was involved in its Key Club and Reach for the Top, as well as the soccer, badminton and tennis teams.

Outside of school, he has volunteered as a team mentor and referee at the regional First Lego League tournament and with Cogeco TV.

pmorden@postmedia.com

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