

Student to attend UNB on \$60,000 scholarship

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SAINT JOHN * A saxophone player from Carleton North High School has just been awarded the Schulich Leader Scholarship which is worth \$60,000.

She said she was shocked when she found out.

“When I got the news we were actually getting ready for a music concert. My phone was going off and I figured it was someone not knowing they had to be there or something,” said 18-year-old Catherine Hall. “It was a huge shock. When I got to the school and told my two best friends they couldn’t understand how calm I was but it hadn’t settled in yet.”

Hall will pursue a degree in biological psychology at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John. She already has a plan for after graduation.

“I’m hoping to study medicine one day, so it’s a recommended program to sort of stream into that,” Hall said.

One of the reasons Hall received the \$60,000 scholarship was her high academic standing.

Hall attributes Carleton North’s teachers to her good grades. She said they help students when they can, but they also don’t make things easy.

“Most of them have been teaching for a while so they know how hard to push us,” Hall said.

While students in the Carleton County area might consider going to UNB in Fredericton because of its closer proximity, Hall said the port city’s campus was her first choice.

“I wanted to stay pretty close to home for my first year,” Hall said. “Fredericton, because of the hills and things wasn’t the best option for me.”

While hills might be a challenge for Hall, she said it makes her unique.

“I guess I kind of stand out at our school, I use a wheelchair,” Hall said. “One of only two at our school so I kind of stick out. But as a person I try to be involved with a lot of things.”

Hall said that other students know she is “just as capable of doing things as they are.”

She's involved in extracurricular activities too, which is one of the requirements for the scholarship. Hall sings in the school's choir, co-manages the music program, co-ordinates the basketball program, is vice president of student council and still finds time to play the saxophone in the school's two bands.

"We [the bands] go on a year-end trip each year and I help organize that, and take care of fundraising, payments and that sort of thing," Hall said.

Her plate is always full with activities, but her mother, Wendy Hall, said she has always been organized.

"Right from the time she was little she would organize her brother and sister, organize us and tell us where we are supposed to be," she said.

Hall said her parents are her "inspirations." Her mother said hearing that makes her feel "sentimental.

"It makes me feel like I'm doing something right."

She also said her daughter's scholarship was a huge surprise for the family.

"It was awesome, so totally awesome. We were just so proud of her," she said.