

# Two New Brunswick students make the grade for the coveted Schulich Scholarship

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Two New Brunswick high school students have been awarded a combined total of \$140,000 from the Schulich Leader Scholarship fund.

Catherine Hall, from Johnville, will receive \$60,000 to pursue a science degree.

Finnegan Kummer, from Little Shemogue, has won \$80,000 to pursue an engineering degree at UNB.

The pair are among 50 students across Canada to be awarded a Schulich Leader Scholarship from more than 1,500 nominees.

"It was a big surprise, but I put in a lot of hours for different things in my high school," said Hall.

Hall is finishing her last year at Carleton North High School and is interested in going to UNB and wants to study science and maybe medicine later on. For Hall, this scholarship will take a huge weight off her young shoulders.

"I will split the money out across four years, so \$15,000 a year, and I plan on living on the UNB residence," said Hall. "It hasn't sunk in yet, but I've known for a couple of months, but it still feels like a huge surprise."

Hall said winning the scholarship was a great opportunity to not worry about cost of going to university and to focus on school work.

She was vice-president of student council and in the music program.

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"We have two bands and a choir at my school, and I play sax in both bands and sing in the choir," said Hall. "I was also the manager for the music program and I would get money together for a year-end trip."

Hall said that music is important to her and she would spend nine to 10 hours a week practicing in the band room. Hall also plays piano and she wants to keep playing music and hoping to keep it up during her post-secondary career.

"I think they saw someone who is well-rounded, not solely focused on academics, but involved with her school," she said. "I even worked with sports teams by being a time keeper for basketball games."

Hall comes from a the small community of Johnville with a population of about 200 people and she said everyone in her town has been congratulating her on winning the scholarship.

"My parents are proud because in such a small community winning this scholarship doesn't happen very often," said Hall. "Everybody here is pretty proud and I kind of feel like a small town hero."

She developed a rare neurological disorder when she was six years old called recessive progressive spastic paraparesis and it has grown worse overtime. She now uses a wheelchair, but she said it hasn't stopped her from being a good person and trying to achieve her dreams.

"Part of the reason why I want to try to keep to medicine is to make a difference," said Hall. "With all the support I've been getting at home and the money she will get from the scholarship I can make my own advancement and maybe help people in a similar situation as me."