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### NEWS

## Major scholarship award



By [Bruce Bell](#), The County Weekly News/The Intelligencer  
Thursday, May 18, 2017 6:58:18 EDT PM



**BRUCE BELL/THE INTELLIGENCER** Cameron Bardell, an 18-year-old Grade 12 student at St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School learned earlier this week he has been awarded an \$80,000 Schulich Leadership Scholarship to the University of Waterloo.

BELLEVILLE - Life can change quickly, even with the simple click of an e-mail.

Cameron Bardell, a Grade 12 student at St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School pretty well had the next four years of his life plotted out. As a \$20,000 C. David Naylor Scholarship recipient to study physics at the University of Toronto, he knew where he was going to school in the fall. He knew where he would live in the fall and he knew what courses he would take when he got there. Any pre-university student will tell you there isn't much planning left to do when you have the what, when and where figured out. That all changed in a flash on Tuesday morning when Bardell sat waiting for a morning session at the school's Career Day to get underway and decided to check his e-mail. What he discovered was the equivalent of \$80,000 about to land in his lap. The Belleville teen learned his application for the Schulich Leader Scholarship had been approved by the University of Waterloo and he was going to have to start planning all over again.

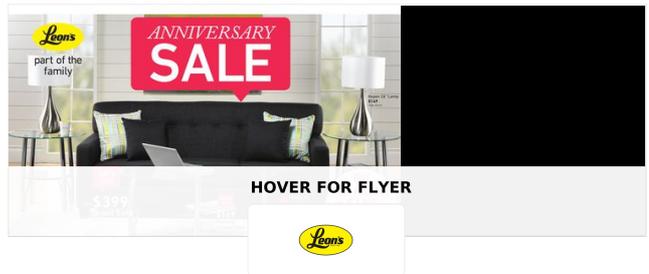
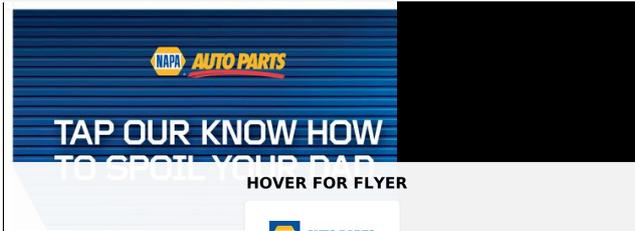
"I just sat there for a minute, kind of in a daze," he said during a break from class on Thursday morning. "I just got up and left to call my parents to tell them. I was shocked - I had already been accepted at U of T and thought the process for the Schulich was over. I wasn't even thinking about it anymore - the application had been sent to both U of T and Waterloo and then I got the e-mail from Waterloo. I had everything planned out and in a matter of seconds it all changed. They're both excellent schools so it isn't like there would be a wrong choice."

Wednesday evening he had to go online, cancel his acceptance of the U of T offer and accept Waterloo's.

True to the character of someone accepted to both schools with a 97 per cent average, he was worried about having already accepted an offer.

“They told me not to worry about it – it happens all the time – so that helped me feel better about it,” he said. “There really wasn’t much of a choice – it’s a lot of money and, hopefully, it will pay for my tuition, residence and the other things for the next four years.” It wouldn’t be accurate to say the money comes with no strings attached, but it is as close to guaranteed as one can get. There are no academic conditions, but his status will undergo a yearly review by the school’s scholarship department to make sure he is progressing well toward graduation. For the next four years he’ll receive a cheque for \$20,000 every July for the upcoming academic year. While physics is the major, he may add on computer programming as a minor. Last summer he started his own company designing apps for local companies, something he may consider doing again this year. His time spent volunteering to help special needs students led to him designing a program for smart board games now used in a number of local schools to help those students. His four years at St. Theresa haven’t been spent entirely on studies. He was a member of the basketball team his first three years and spent all four years on the soccer team. Hockey also took up some of his spare time. The middle child of Trever and Stacie Bardell, he has no plans to use a physics degree as a catalyst to follow in his father’s footsteps as a surgeon, instead hoping to complete his undergrad, move on to a Master’s program and eventually complete a PhD. “No, I don’t think medicine is my thing, so what I’d ultimately like to do is become a professor and do research,” he said. “Right now, that’s what I find appealing, but we’ll see what the future brings.”

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