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### OSCVI student scores big scholarship



By **Scott Dunn**, Sun Times, Owen Sound  
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OSCVI student Reed Bell will attend the University of Ottawa this fall on \$96,000 in scholarships, including the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship. (Scott Dunn/The Sun Times, Owen Sound)

OWEN SOUND - Reed Bell accomplished what no other student at OSCVI or at any other high school in Grey-Bruce ever did.

The 19-year-old Owen Sound resident won the \$80,000 Schulich Leadership Scholarship, one of 50 undergraduate scholarships awarded annually to the most promising students in the country in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Combined with a \$16,000 entrance scholarship to the University of Ottawa, Bell will head off to study chemical engineering in the fall without financial worry.

When he learned in an e-mail he'd won the Schulich, he was helping to set up for the school's semi-formal dance, he said in an interview at OSCVI Monday.

"I was kind of dumbstruck," he said, because he thought he wouldn't win. "And I immediately just kinda did the proverbial jump for joy."

The Schulich Leadership Scholarship was created in 2012, when philanthropist Seymour Schulich established a \$100-million scholarship fund to offer 25 \$80,000 scholarships to students studying engineering and 25 \$60,000 scholarships to students studying science, technology or math.

Every year, each of the scholarship program's 21 university partners select which students are their Schulich Leadership scholarship winners.

"I guess I was Ottawa's top engineering student," Bell said. He said the financial award persuaded him to attend Ottawa U, though his first preference was to study at the University of Waterloo.

He submitted incredible marks, 97% in Grade 12 classes heavy in maths and sciences – tops among the 150 Gr. 12 students at the school. Indeed, Bell earned the top average mark among his fellow students each year of his high school career. His average mark over his entire high school career is 96%, which earned him the Governor General's Academic Medal last fall.

He'd never calculated his high school career average before Monday, when he did so to answer what it was. "It kind of angers me a bit," he said, noting the 84% in Gr. 9 gym and 87% in Gr. 9 music dragged down his average.

Asked why he excels at his studies, he said he has a head for math and science. "Some days I don't know, I don't know. Because there are other students who are **twice** more studious than I am," he said.

**G+** **1** **0** s his homework, prepares thoroughly for tests and makes sure he understands the concepts taught. "Like my grandfather always says, there's no one in our family who has achieved these high of marks," though there is a family aptitude in sciences.

**+** **SHARE** n for the Schulich Leadership Scholarship was based on academic excellence and community involvement.

He returned to high school this year for Grade 13, to take calculus because he hadn't been able to fit it into his timetable in a four-year program. Had he not, he elected student council co-president and if not for that, he thinks he may not have been selected for the Schulich scholarship.

He said he couldn't fit calculus in earlier because he took courses in a broad range of subjects "to be a well rounded student." Besides maths and sciences, he took law, politics, music, Spanish, for example.


He was a student trustee with the Bluewater District School Board for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. He was a volunteer in the YMCA day camp, after-school program and in the pool. Now he works as a lifeguard, instructor and supervisor at the Y.

He's on school teams, including as a long-distance track and field runner, and as a leader on the cross-country running team. He's belonged to the school's mountain bike and nordic skiing teams too.

He's interested in studying in the field of petroleum and gas, which would involve working in the tar sands out West, on an oil rig off the east coast or travel internationally, he said. He's looking forward to the opportunity to travel in his program of study, which includes a co-op placement.

"Energy right? Petroleum and gas and oil. It's very important and . . . right now it's something that we need a lot of. And so there'd be a demand, I assume, for a job," he said.

Every high school in Canada can put forward one nominee per year for the Schulich Leader Scholarship. Bell was nominated by Maureen Radbourne, head of guidance at OSCVI, with reference letters from his science teacher, Fred Schlenker, who encouraged him to pursue chemical engineering, and principal Matthew Pickett.

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