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Scholarship moves Aurora student toward goals

Aurora Banner
By [Teresa Latchford](#)

To Aurora's Lukas Weese, a Schulich Leadership Scholarship puts him one step closer to working for the World Health Organization or owning his own pharmaceutical business.

The recent Country Day School graduate will move into residence next week to begin his life science studies at the University of Toronto. But unlike his fellow classmates, he was recently awarded a \$60,000 scholarship that encourages students to pursue science, technology, engineering or math in post-secondary studies.

"To me, the scholarship is a symbol of everything I have worked for up until now," he said. "It takes a tremendous financial weight off my shoulders, so I can pursue what I am passionate about, science."

He was nominated for the scholarship by his school's university adviser and then completed a lengthy application as well as an essay for consideration by the selection committee.

In his application, he highlighted the work he has done with Safehaven, a Community Living project providing residential alternatives and respite care for children and youth with multiple disabilities and complex medical issues.

"I did a school project that helped lower the cost of transportation for these children," he said. "But I really got inspired and wanted to do more."

He became an ambassador for the project and began to approach local businesses, asking for support. The Magna Hoedown named the project as one of its charities and raised \$30,000 for the project and \$5,000 was raised at the annual Aurora mayor's golf tournament for the cause.

"I'm a huge believer in the more you give to your community, the more you shall receive," he added.


Along with his high school's science department and his parents, his grandfather, Stephen Lukas, has been one of the greatest influences on his decision to pursue biochemistry.

His grandfather came to Canada penniless, worked hard and is now 85 and still working in Europe with a pharmaceutical company. He went from working on a farm to developing his own capsule technology to where he is now.

"He just loves life, his work and his family," Weese added. "He really has been a great positive in my life."

Not only is he looking forward to beginning his studies at the university, he also looks forward to meeting new people and getting involved in the clubs about which he is passionate.

"I want to have a well-rounded experience," he said. "High school was really great but I think the best is still yet to come."



Serious goals

Mike Barrett
Lukas Weese has dreams of either opening his own pharmaceutical business or working for the World Health Organization.

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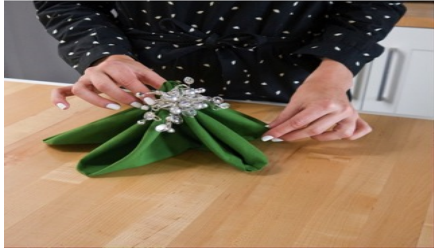
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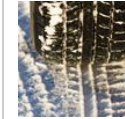
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