

Meet some of this year's scholarship recipients



Franco Chan
Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000

Whether at work or play, Franco always loves to incorporate some aspect of the outdoors. The

third year landscape design student at Fanshawe College strives to blur the line between interior and exterior design. Being a landscape photographer has inspired Franco to incorporate large-scale ecosystems like prairies with landscaping concepts to create challenging, yet extremely rewarding designs. Franco is honored to be supported and recognized by his professors and peers.



Julie-Anne Côté
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

Julie-Anne Côté got her first job in horticulture working at a fruit and vegetable farm in Orléans, Ont., where she

enjoyed learning about the cultivation of crops. Gaining plant-related job experiences sparked an interest to further explore plant life in an educational setting. Julie-Anne is now working toward a diploma in Ornamental Horticulture at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Her main interest is currently in plant collection development, use and conservation.



Louise Daudt
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

A second-year student in the landscape and horticulture program at St. Clair College, Louise enters the industry

with a background in biology and ecology. Her goal is to make a positive impact on the environment and in the people she is surrounded with. Louise believes that a well-planned landscape can improve the overall wellness of people and prevent environment damages.



Kelley Di Fiore
Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000

The landscape industry is a second career for Kelley Di Fiore. After 23 years as an Art Director/

Graphic Designer with various ad agencies, Kelley needed a change and wanted to do something that would make a positive impact on the environment. Kelley strives to one day be designing green roofs and walls, planting pollinator gardens, growing food, and working to help fix the urban heat island effect. Kelley would like to thank both Landscape Ontario and Mark Cullen for their generous support.



Jake Dupon
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

A very outgoing and down-to-earth guy, Jake is always trying to be the source of energy in a room or during

a team project. He is currently enrolled in Niagara College's landscape technician program. Jake loves all things horticulture- and landscape-related, working to learn as much as possible to share with peers and new generations. He is fortunate for the love and support of his wife, family, teachers, and friends at Niagara College.



Vibhor Goel
Russel and Karen Loney Scholarship, \$500

A student of the landscape technician program at Humber College, Vibhor likes the program very much, and

loves learning a lot about horticulture. Vibhor would like to thank Landscape Ontario for providing him with a scholarship that will help to realize his future career.



Stuart Gummer
Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000

Stuart is a second year student in the horticulture technician program at Durham College. After nearly

a decade in the reforestation industry, Stuart decided to go back to school. Stuart loves learning about all the different aspects of horticulture and with this knowledge he hopes to move toward a more sustainable future for himself and for the planet. Stuart is honored to be a 2019 Cullen Family Scholarship recipient.



Emily Jaarsma
Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000

Finding herself unhappy and life unfulfilled, Emily changed careers from social work to horticulture. She now has a

purpose and is grateful to wake up each day to do something she loves. Her advice: "It's never too late to follow your dreams, and this scholarship will allow me to do just that." Emily is thankful to both OHTF and Mark Cullen for her generous award.



Stephanie Jocius
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

Stephanie is currently working towards a diploma in Ornamental Horticulture at the Niagara Parks

Commission School of Horticulture. Current president of the student association, Stephanie looks forward to becoming an alumni to continue being a role model for her peers and contributing to the School of Horticulture. Combining her previous internship experience working at a historic estate, she developed an interest in rhododendrons, and collections management. She anticipates a career working in Japanese style gardens.

2019 FOUNDATION REPORT



Tim Jones
*High School Program
Scholarship, \$1,000*

Currently in his first year in the Landscape Technician Program at Humber College, Tim has always enjoyed

being outdoors and is looking forward to using the skills he is learning at Humber to eventually design and build creative landscape environments. Tim is grateful for the scholarship and support. Tim has had several co-op and employment experiences in the field and is looking forward to ongoing learning at Humber.



Ahmad Kasem
*Cullen Scholarship
Apprenticeship, \$1,000*

In Canada for just three years, Ahmad has had a great experience so far in the horticulture and

landscaping field. In addition to being a student in the level 2 horticulture technician program at Algonquin College, Ahmad is studying English and hopes for a chance to demonstrate his abilities and skills in a workplace environment.



Afnan Khan
*High School Program
Scholarship, \$1,000*

A student from Ottawa, Ont., Afnan is currently attending the Horticultural Industries program at Algonquin

College. Prior to this, he worked on his Bachelor's degree in economics and anthropology at the University of Ottawa. Afnan's mission is to encourage peace and creativity in his community, and devise new ways of designing spaces to make them more liveable, productive and efficient. He seeks to incorporate his knowledge of culture and his interest in architecture, permaculture, and construction to create liveable areas that dissolve worries and encourage healing.



Emma Kirk
*Cullen Family Scholarship
Program, \$2,000*

Emma is currently a second year student of the MLA program at the University of Guelph. She is

passionate about the environment and is actively looking for ways in which landscape architects can become involved in taking action and fostering productive change. She aspires to be able to push the boundaries of ecological design to design spaces that not only provide social space for people, but also serve a higher ecological purpose. Through a design-driven approach to ecological issues she hopes to make a positive impact in our world.



Destiny Lacasse
*Tony DiGiovanni
Scholarship, \$1,000*

A third year student at Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, Destiny's passions include

horticulture and helping people. After graduation, she hopes to find a job where she can combine both passions, or start her own horticulture therapy business. Destiny is incredibly honored to be selected as the recipient of the Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship, having been lucky enough to cross paths with Tony himself over the past year and getting to see what a true inspiration he is.



Letecia Leadbeater
*Cullen Scholarship
Apprenticeship, \$1,000*

Letecia never imagined the gratification she found when working, understanding and solving gardening challenges

in her own backyard would develop into skills for a new career within the horticultural maintenance and landscaping industry. Being enrolled in the Red Seal Horticultural Technician Apprenticeship Program while working at Modern Earthscapes Land Design has been enlightening for what direction and role she can play in the industry.



Charles Linton
*Cullen Family Scholarship
Program, \$2,000*

A second year student in the horticulture diploma program at the University of Guelph

Ridgetown campus, Charles enjoys working alongside his father, owner of Linton Landscaping. Charles developed a passion for the industry at a very young age and loves the variety of work, working outdoors, establishing relationships with clients and the pride of work that can be accomplished. Charles is very excited to pursue his passion and become the future succession plan owner of the family business.



Katie McFee
*Post Secondary Scholarship
(\$1,000)*

Currently a student in the Environmental Landscape Management program at Seneca College, Katie's

interest in horticulture probably stems from spending so much time with her mom in garden centres when she was a child. Katie enjoyed gardening as a hobby, and it has now grown into an exciting career path. She plans to use and value all of her education to create spaces that are beautiful and green.



Suzy Mitsuzono
*Cullen Family Scholarship
Program, \$2,000*

An international student from Brazil, Suzy is in the second-year Horticulture Technician program at Fanshawe

College. Prior to that, she earned a teaching degree in biology and a masters in genetics and plant breeding in Brazil. Suzy likes to keep her mind open to new opportunities, and is exploring both landscape design and nursery production as future career paths.



Alex Mozzhukhina
*High School Program
Scholarship, \$1,000*

Enrolled in the Landscape Technician program at Humber College, Alex is already thinking of pursuing

a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science after graduation. Alex has always been passionate about plants and the environment, and feels she can truly make a difference by pursuing a career in sustainable landscape management.



Leslie Oghide
Cullen Scholarship Special Need, \$4,000

Born in Nigeria, Leslie Oghide is a final year student in landscape technician program at Humber College.

Leslie has always had an interest in plant studies. His dream is to build botanical gardens and parks that have varieties of plants from his homeland and to use this as a means to raise awareness about the importance of horticulture in our society and how to help preserve our environment. Words are not just enough to express Leslie's gratitude for his award.



Vladimir Rogov
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

After graduating from Niagara College, Vladimir has his sights set on the Bachelor of Applied Science

- Agribusiness program at Olds College in Alberta to further enhance his knowledge of horticulture. Throughout his studies, Vladimir has developed a passion for substituting invasive plant species with native plant material in landscape design and nursery production. He would like to thank the Foundation and instructors, Wayne Wakal and Mary Jane Clark, and classmate Jake Dupon for helping him over the past year.



David Rustenburg
Cullen Scholarship Apprenticeship \$1,000

While working in landscape construction for six years, David has developed a strong passion for designing

and building outdoor living spaces where people can kick back and relax. David is currently enrolled in the Horticultural Technician program at Mohawk College. The program has really helped him to expand his knowledge base on different areas in the landscape industry and has taught him ways to respect the environment before, during and after construction projects. David is very honored to be a recipient of the 2019 Cullen Family Scholarship Program.



Laura Schultz
Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000

In her second year of study at Niagara College, Laura is enrolled in the Horticulture Technician Co-op program.

Pursuing a career in horticulture allows Laura to be surrounded by many things that brings her joy, including plants, with their endless versatility and beauty. Laura would love to one day own her own business with a mission statement to share the joy of plants with others. Laura is also interested in pursuing a career working in botanical gardens.



David Swaby
Horst Dickert Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000

As a mature international student from Jamaica who had never been to a tertiary institution before, coming to

Canada to study Environmental Landscape Management at Seneca College has been a life-changing experience for David Swaby. Always well-known for his "green thumb," David says getting formally trained in the field of horticulture has always been a goal, which is now closer to being achieved thanks to this scholarship.



Tom Temming
High School Program Scholarship, \$1,000

Raised on a dairy farm just outside of Stratford, Ont., Tim worked at Klomp's Home & Garden Centre for six years

where he discovered a passion for plants and landscaping. This past summer, he worked for Touch of Dutch Landscaping to expand his opportunities and knowledge in the field. Tim is currently enrolled as a Horticulture Technician student at Niagara College and hopes to continue to promote his passion for native landscaping and production of vegetable crops for food security after graduation.

Meghan Thompson
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

Meghan is studying horticulture with a focus on arboriculture and forest sustainability in the Fanshawe College class of 2020. She hopes to travel Canada to introduce green spaces to different cities and municipalities. In the interim, she spends a lot of time teaching others about the importance of plant diversity.



Emily Thorpe
High School Program Scholarship, \$1,000

Emily graduated from McKinnon Park Secondary School as a Specialist High Skills Major student

in horticulture. She is currently attending Niagara College and taking the horticulture technician co-op program.



Kaitlin Veitch
Cullen Family Scholarship Program, \$2,000

Being a part of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture has been a dream come true for Kaitlin. She is beyond

grateful to have been recognized among so many other talented and passionate students. Her goal at school is to learn as much as possible in three short years and to become a well-rounded horticulturist. Ultimately, she hopes to one day contribute her skills and horticultural background toward environmental sustainability.



Dana Beren Watts
Cullen Scholarship Apprenticeship, \$1,000

A Toronto native, Dana lives in Peterborough, Ont., and is interested in permaculture, sustainable building, and

activism. He enjoys painting, sculpting and fixing or re-purposing things and is happy to be able to rehabilitate the environment for a living and foster a clients' relationship with it. He is a proud dog owner and nature lover and foreman at Green Side Up Environmental Services and Landscaping.



Set Sil-Yuen Wu
Post Secondary Scholarship, \$1,000

Set Wu is a second year student in the Landscape Technician program at Humber College. Set's

interest in horticulture started with family visits to local city parks at an early age. Set had spent a good number of years in the Information Technology sector where he discovered that taking strolls in parks was a great way to de-stress. Set hopes to create and maintain beautiful park sceneries for all to enjoy in the future. Set says receiving the award will provide added encouragement for him to continue to work hard in school.