

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL TRADES FOUNDATION PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ONTARIO STUDENTS

Each year, the Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation (Foundation) awards a wide range of scholarships to students pursuing a career in landscape and horticulture. Scholarships are available to registered apprentices and students who reside in Ontario and are enrolled in accredited post secondary institutions.

Providing scholarships is particularly close to the hearts of Foundation supporters, who point with



pride to the many recipients who are now successful industry members. Each year, applications and nominations are accepted online until June 30 via the Foundation website at OHTF.ca.

Together with the Cullen Family Scholarship Program and several Landscape Ontario Chapters, the Foundation supported over 40 future leaders of the landscape and horticulture profession with over \$69,000 in funding in 2025.

2025 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

Apprenticeship (\$600)

Cadet Hassan
David De Marchi
Deborah Foroglou
Emily Collins
Jason Spilker
Lilian Burgess
Lyndsey Siddique
Randy Motilall
Ross Richard

College and University (\$1,000)

Hoann Chan, FANSHAWE COLLEGE

Postgraduate Scholarship (\$1,000)

Ian Murphy, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Ramtin Shafaghatai, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Stefi Rescheleit, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

The Bob and Ruby Allen Scholarship (\$500)

Suhaan Hasija,
NIAGARA PARKS SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE

Casey van Maris Memorial Fund (\$1,000)

Suhaan Hasija,
NIAGARA PARKS SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE

Don Salivan Memorial Fund (\$1,000)

Benjamin Niehaus,
NIAGARA PARKS SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE

Hensbergen/ DeGroot Scholarship Fund (\$500)

Cassidy Williams, DURHAM COLLEGE

Horst Dickert Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Shelby Scarpelli, SENECA POLYTECHNIC

Neil Vanderkruk Innovation and Scholarship Fund (\$1,000)

Jacob Fox, FANSHAWE COLLEGE

Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship (\$1,000)

Michelle Gauthier, HUMBER POLYTECHNIC
Yike Yang, ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

OHTF Post-Secondary (\$1,000)

Caleb Ring, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Emily Ballard, SENECA POLYTECHNIC
Lily Schaafsma, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Matteo de Florentiis, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Meijun Shuai, FANSHAWE COLLEGE
Mingze Chen, HUMBER POLYTECHNIC
Monique Gumiran, NIAGARA COLLEGE
Samuel Chapman, FANSHAWE COLLEGE
Skye Crouzat, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Trynne Delaney, HUMBER POLYTECHNIC

London Chapter Horticultural Technician Program (\$1,000)

Yi-Ting Chua, NIAGARA COLLEGE

Upper Canada Chapter Scholarship (\$1,000)

Matthew Preston

Waterloo Chapter Dave Wright Scholarship (\$2,000)

Kimia Jouyandeh, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Waterloo Chapter Rob Tester Scholarship (\$1,000)

Songrui Li, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Cullen Family Scholarship Program

Brooke Abbink,
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (NEED-BASED \$5,000)
Janine Bouma,
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (NEED-BASED \$5,000)
Erinn Sutherland, FANSHAWE COLLEGE (\$3,000)
Jessica Hachey, NIAGARA COLLEGE (\$3,000)
Katelynn Frizelle, FANSHAWE COLLEGE (\$3,000)
Kristin Bissessar, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (\$3,000)
Maeve Kennedy, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (\$3,000)
Matthew Litwin, ALGONQUIN COLLEGE (\$3,000)
Tasneem Mirza, HUMBER POLYTECHNIC (\$3,000)
Thisya Sierra, SENECA POLYTECHNIC (\$3,000)
Joey Fournier,
ALGONQUIN COLLEGE (APPRENTICESHIP \$2,000)
Sarah Kim,
ALGONQUIN COLLEGE (APPRENTICESHIP \$2,000)

MEET THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Lilian BURGESS

APPRENTICESHIP SCHOLARSHIP \$600

I have always had a strong curiosity for the natural world.

Maybe it was destiny? My name is Lily Rose Burgess after all. During my undergraduate degree I began working for a local garden maintenance company in Orangeville, where I developed practical skills and expanded my plant knowledge. I hope to continue building knowledge and experience that will help me excel in the field, and ultimately create positive change in the industry.



Michelle GAUTHIER

TONY DIGIOVANNI SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

My passion for horticulture began while growing up on my family farm and deepened

when I discovered permaculture and its regenerative approach to gardening. I'm interested in environmental science and how it connects to sustainable landscape design. Today, I practice sustainable gardening techniques at home and hope to share my horticultural knowledge through teaching, while designing edible gardens.



Sarah KIM

CULLEN SCHOLARSHIP APPRENTICESHIP ANY SCHOOL \$2,000

I earned an Honours B.A. with specialization in Psychology from the University of Ottawa

in 2017, before my passion for landscapes and gardens transitioned me into the garden maintenance industry in 2020. I see the gardened landscape as a space that offers many opportunities for relaxation, contemplation, connection and human activities. I hope to become Red Seal Certified and continue growing and refining my skills in design and project execution.



Tasneem MIRZA

CULLEN SCHOLARSHIP HUMBER POLYTECHNIC \$3,000

For 25 years, I worked in the financial services industry, but over time

I saw how the system frequently operated in ways that did not support the people it served. My interest in horticulture started with the practical idea of creating an alternative income stream through market gardening. My current goals include increasing awareness of permaculture, supporting community sharing programs and encouraging accessible forms of gardening.



Brooke ABBINK

CULLEN SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS-BASED \$5,000

I was born and raised in the small town of Dresden, Ont. Growing up in a small town made

me fall in love with landscapes, with the main entertainment being going for walks. I have three siblings and am an aunt to four. I am currently studying horticulture at the University of Guelph Ridgetown campus. I have loved learning about all the different trees we have on our campus and cannot wait to extend my knowledge to others.



Katelynn FRIZELLE

CULLEN SCHOLARSHIP FANSHAWE COLLEGE \$3,000

I am a current student at Fanshawe College in the Landscape

Design Technician program and a graduate of the Horticulture Technician program. I first discovered landscaping in 2020 and it quickly became a true passion. I enjoy transforming visions into vibrant gardens and designing spaces that bring joy and connection.



Kristin BIESSessar

CULLEN SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH \$3,000

I am steadfast in my dedication to design environments that

support human health and well-being, with an emphasis on the promotion of mental health and the relief from illness-related symptoms. My experience as a mental health worker has supplemented therapeutic landscape design theory with observations of clients' needs in their environments. I am interested in creating spaces that help destigmatize mental illness and start honest conversations.



Jessica HACHEY

CULLEN SCHOLARSHIP NIAGARA COLLEGE \$3,000

I am a lifelong nature enthusiast and curious explorer, with a strong

foundation in both people-focused work and plant study. In my second year of the Horticulture Technician program at Niagara College I've found a community that shares my passion for plants and the natural world. Over the past summer I completed a life-changing co-op experience as a landscape gardener at Whistling Gardens.



Ian MURPHY

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

Currently pursuing studies in ecological design and urban conservation, I am passionate about bridging

the gap between science, landscape planning and community engagement to build cities that welcome — and protect — wild species. With continued support and collaboration, I look forward to contributing to healthier, greener and more bird-friendly communities across Ontario and beyond.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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**Yi-Ting
CHUA**

LONDON CHAPTER
\$1,000

My passion for plants and horticulture drives my goal of building a career in the greenhouse industry.

I also work as a student horticultural technician in the Niagara College Academic Greenhouse and a research assistant in the research greenhouse. These roles help me learn more about propagation, transplanting, watering, fertilizing and harvesting.



**Kimia
JOUYANDEH**

WATERLOO CHAPTER
DAVE WRIGHT
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,000

I am pursuing a Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of

Guelph where I am particularly interested in how landscapes shape emotional experience, strengthen sense of place and create inclusive environments that support mental well-being. I seek to integrate principles to create sustainable, engaging and inclusive environments that support both individual and collective well-being.



**Songrui
LI**

WATERLOO CHAPTER
ROB TESTER
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

I have a background in architecture and gained almost a decade

of professional experience in the field before pursuing further studies in landscape architecture at the University of Guelph. My research interests focus on ecological restoration and native plant design, exploring how landscape strategies can heal disturbed environments and foster resilient ecosystems.



**Ramtin
SHAFAGHATI**

POSTGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

I am a third-year Master of Landscape Architecture student at the University of Guelph with a strong

interest in plants and their application in landscape design. My work focuses on integrating planting design with innovative, community-focused landscape solutions. I am committed to creating sustainable, resilient environments and contributing meaningfully to the future of the profession.

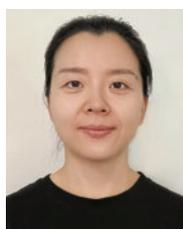


**Emily
COLLINS**

APPRENTICESHIP
SCHOLARSHIP \$600

I grew up in the rural landscape of Dufferin County, with the passion and privilege

of working outdoors. Now, operating as the general manager of Leaves & Petals Garden Maintenance in my ninth year with the business, I am looking to hit the books to seek formal accreditation within the industry and propel my team to new levels of gardening excellence.



**Meijun
SHUAI**

POST-SECONDARY
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

I am a Horticulture Technician student at Fanshawe College.

Growing up in rural China, I developed a quiet interest in plants that later encouraged me to change careers and pursue horticulture. I'm building practical skills in plant production and landscape maintenance and hope to contribute to sustainable, community-focused green spaces.



**Monique
GUMIRAN**

POST-SECONDARY
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

I am a driven agricultural professional whose educational journey began

with a bachelor's degree in agronomy in the Philippines. As a Licensed Agriculturist, I've built a good foundation in agricultural principles. Now studying Horticulture at Niagara College, I am focused on contributing my skills to the Canadian horticultural industry's research and technical sectors, specializing in sustainable greenhouse and landscape innovation.



**Samuel
CHAPMAN**

POST-SECONDARY
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

I am passionate about planting native species at home and hope to work in municipal parks and

naturalized areas. I'm grateful for the funding that supports my education and inspires me to strengthen community green spaces. I am committed to fostering biodiversity, promoting sustainable landscapes and contributing to healthier ecosystems for future generations.



**Skye
CROUZAT**

POST-SECONDARY
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000

I am a fourth-year Landscape Architecture student at the University of Guelph. I am passionate

about design and its contribution to biodiversity in urban environments. My love for nature and the outdoors has been a constant inspiration throughout my academic endeavors. I hope to create spaces where humans and wildlife can coexist, reconnecting society with the natural world and providing habitats for species in need.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FUND BALANCES

	YEAR END AUG. 31, 2025	YEAR END AUG. 31, 2024
General Fund	\$17,466	\$4,626
Dunington-Grubb/Sheridan Nurseries		
Research Fund	\$273,220	\$255,079
Growers' Group Research Fund	\$491,812	\$448,233
Ottawa Chapter Val Kirshner Scholarship Fund	\$93,146	\$86,053
Scholarship Fund	\$120,565	\$99,752
Casey van Maris Scholarship Fund	\$35,465	\$33,278
IPM Symposium Research Fund	\$229,025	\$208,732
Tony DiGiovanni Scholarship Fund	\$250,874	\$229,875
John/Ruth Wright Scholarship Fund	\$82,907	\$75,560
Horst Dickert Scholarship Fund	\$142	\$1,085
JT Somerville Fund	\$13,367	\$12,182
Highway of Heroes (TFL) Fund	\$0	\$67,239
Unilock/Designers Group Fund	\$15,729	\$14,336
Hensbergen/Degroot Scholarship Fund	\$33,602	\$31,103
Russel/Karen Loney Scholarship Fund	\$12,576	\$11,462
Cullen Family Scholarship Fund	\$15,037	(\$2,542)
Robert And Ruby Allen Scholarship Fund	\$27,941	\$25,943
1 Bench 1 Tree Fund	\$5,859	\$5,387
Peter Olsen Scholarship Fund	\$39,121	\$36,897
OJ Muller Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$14,280	\$13,015
Steve Neuman Scholarship Fund	\$11,902	\$10,847
Upper Canada Chapter Scholarship Fund	\$9,663	\$9,763
Welcome Forest Fund	\$26,258	\$24,735
Neil Vanderkruk Innovation & Scholarship Fund	\$87,255	\$80,479
Hortprotect Research Fund	\$58,422	\$53,245
Cecil Delworth Fund	\$64,942	\$59,717
London Chapter Scholarship Fund	\$9,438	\$0
Don Salivan Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$2,663	\$3,383
Waterloo Chapter Scholarship Fund	\$77,328	\$73,343
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$2,120,003	\$1,972,805

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	YEAR END AUG. 31, 2025	YEAR END AUG. 31, 2024
ASSETS (CURRENT)		
Bank	\$199,486	\$240,061
Accounts Receivable/Other	\$1,280	\$13,690
	\$200,766	\$253,751
LONG-TERM		
Investments	\$1,906,419	\$1,727,244
Investment-Vineland Consortium	\$57,711	\$57,711
Accrued Interest Receivable	\$29,507	\$23,049
	\$1,993,637	\$1,808,004
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,194,403	\$2,061,755
LIABILITIES (CURRENT)		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Charges	\$74,400	\$88,950
ACCUMULATED FUND BALANCES		
Fund Balances-Regular Funds	\$2,022,944	\$1,815,727
Fund Balances-Special Projects	\$97,059	\$157,078
	\$2,120,003	\$1,972,805
TOTAL LIABILITIES/FUNDS	\$2,194,403	\$2,061,755

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & FUND BALANCES

	YEAR END AUG. 31, 2025	YEAR END AUG. 31, 2024
REVENUES		
Investment Gains (Losses)	\$185,633	\$301,406
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0
Research Grants	\$0	\$0
Donations/Funding	\$133,963	\$222,967
TOTAL REVENUE	\$319,596	\$524,373
EXPENSES		
Administration Fees/Expenses	\$15,892	\$22,976
Disbursed as Research Grants	\$0	\$0
Event/Sponsorship Expenses	\$84,806	\$305,604
Disbursed as Scholarships	\$71,700	\$84,200
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$172,398	\$412,780
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$147,198	\$111,593
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$1,972,805	\$1,861,212
FUND BALANCES, YEAR END	\$2,120,003	\$1,972,805

For information on the Foundation,
including scholarship applications,
supported research programs or to donate,
visit OHTF.ca.

