

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dorothy and Jung Shao Lu Community Services Award

Emmi DuMont *St. Joseph's Morrow Park High School, Toronto, ON*

When Emmi was 13 months old, she was left in a shopping area in a cardboard box and taken to an orphanage in Chongqing, China, then diagnosed in Toronto with a rare respiratory disease. She has joined the SickKids Foundation as an Ambassador/All-Star, Slices for Smiles, 100,000 Hugs for SickKids, Powering Holiday Smiles, Get Better Gifts Catalogue, and SickKids VS video campaigns. She sits on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Youth Advisory Council, and in 2021, applied for and led three Public Health Agency of Canada School Grants. Since age 11, she has volunteered at Lansing United's Nearly New Shop. She received the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award, 2025, the Merit Award Bursary, 2024, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, Student Achievement Award, 2024. Emmi remains committed to addressing health and social inequities in the community as reflected in her post-secondary studies.

Emmi is studying Health and Society at York University.



Ample Ace Holdings Ltd Innovation in Technology Award

Daisy Zhang *Georges Vanier Secondary School, Toronto, ON*

Daisy constructed sustainable wooden structures and a disc golf course, and also designed benches for Heart Lake Conservation Park to align with the needs of the community, using a Miroboard and SketchUp, to add bike storage. In the Jamhacks hackathon, she created a website called Bin to Bite that aims to help those cooking for themselves or families in using all their available ingredients to minimize food waste and maximize meals. She has also prototyped a design for affordable vertical garden planter kits that can save space while growing plants and vegetables in urban homes. She enjoys combining engineering and sustainability to solve problems, and actively participated in her school's robotics and eco club, the engineering programs at local conservation parks, and the GEM mentorship program. Her dream is to be an engineer using technology to create new innovations that help others and improve sustainability.

Daisy is enrolled in Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Waterloo.



Choi King and John C. Mah Memorial Innovation Award

Liam Pope-Lau *St. Michael's University School, Victoria, BC*

In 2019, Liam began development of LifeHeat, a self-heating survival pack developed to increase survivability in cold water emergencies and received the Blue Ocean International Competition First Place Award for his invention. In 2024, he was recognized as an Ingenious+ National Award Winner by the Rideau Hall Foundation and given a special invitation to attend the Governor General's Innovation Awards Ceremony in Ottawa. In 2022, he was named Innovator of the Year by Science Fair Foundation of BC for this invention, and voted winner of the 2022 People's Choice Young Innovator Award as the most popular science innovation. He has also earned notable awards such as the Rotary Club of Victoria Award for Environmental Excellence (2023), ASHRAE Distinction Award (2023) and Excellence Award for Engineering and Geoscience (2022). He was named a finalist in the 2025 International Youth Innovation Challenge as the only one from North America.



Liam continues his studies at the St. Michael's University School in Victoria, BC.

Chung-Kotcheff Family Arts Award

Adrian Chan 陳浚謙 *St. Augustine Catholic High School, Markham, ON*

Since he first began to play piano at age six, music has shaped Adrian's life, developing as a disciplined pianist, and a passionate and determined performer. His talent has taken him to local festivals, then beyond to Musikverein in Vienna, to Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, to Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and finally to Carnegie Hall in New York. He remembers struggling with Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G Minor, but hours of patient, slow practice prepared him to perform it at Carnegie Hall. Music is meant to be shared, and holds the power to evoke emotions. Aspiring to give back to the community, he has performed at school fundraisers, and intends to continue using music to support meaningful causes to create a positive impact.



Adrian continues his studies at St. Augustine Catholic High School in Markham.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Fay and John Wong Defence of the Environment Award

Caryl Szeto *Gleneagle Secondary School, Coquitlam, BC*

Caryl began volunteering at the Hyde Creek Watershed Society at the age of 11 due to her interest in environmental sciences. As a volunteer at the hatchery, she stewards the salmon, educates the public, gives tours of the facilities, trains new members and collaborates with like-minded individuals. The educational aspect of the hatchery is one of her most important jobs where she collects data on fish and invertebrate species in the local watershed. She also represents and mentors youth at workshop and research meetings. Caryl volunteers at the Future Science Leaders program at Science World's Girls in STEAM events. Her experiences at the hatchery fosters her love for the environment and her hopes to become an environmental scientist.

Caryl is enrolled in Environmental Science at Simon Fraser University, BC.



Foon Hay Lum Commemorative Award for Overcoming Adversity

Virginia Cai 蔡佳辉 *Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary, AB*

Virginia was diagnosed with lupus at the age of 10 and her doctors warned that the physical demands of high-level Wushu would be too much. Instead, she competed the following year at the World Junior Wushu Championships, earning a silver medal for Team Canada. Since then, she has held the national #1 ranking in her division and has gone on to represent Canada four times internationally. As a coach at the Calgary TaiChi and Martial Arts College, she has led teams to the Can-Am International Wushu Championships for three consecutive years. In 2023, her students earned six Grand Champion titles, and in 2024, two Grand Champions and one All-Around Champion. This year, her team came back with 6 grand champions. Virginia hopes to demonstrate that resilience means choosing to rise, and to help others rise with you.

Virginia is studying Economics at the University of British Columbia.



Kwai Chun Wong Award of Excellence

Alexander Leung 梁承启 *Moscrop Secondary School, Burnaby, BC*

In 2023, Alex won the CyberPatriot Platinum Award in a national cybersecurity competition. At Hackathons, he built Tuki, an AI app that connects charities with donors. Its smart system matches groups, like linking food banks with grocery sponsors, raising \$500 in beta tests. He also created AI Genius Learner, an AI tool for custom study questions. Alex worked as an IT assistant, earning him a Computer Engineering offer and a Major Access Award Scholarship in 2025. He founded Moscrop's E-Recycling Club and organized the 3-Day E-Recycling Day in 2024. His Instagram and Twitter campaigns taught 100 people about e-waste dangers, while three workshops changed 100 students' habits. Alex's ambition drives him to solve bigger problems. Computer technology is his chosen path to change lives, one code at a time.



Alex is enrolled at Queen's University to study Computer Engineering.

Marilyn Lee Journalism and Communications Award

Rianna Panuelos 龚莉雅 *STEM Innovation Academy, Calgary, AB*

As a Project Lead at the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, Rianna led a campaign aimed to raise awareness about family violence. She managed every aspect of the project, from budgeting and organizing, to hosting and promoting. She created a podcast that explored the impact of family violence on individuals and families, its social consequences, and resources to help those affected. Through this work, she learned how powerful storytelling and media make a difference in people's lives. As a Student Apprentice with the Creative Destruction Lab in 2023, she had the eye-opening opportunity to see how start-ups pitch their ideas to investors which piqued her interest in digital media and storytelling.



Rianna is working towards a Bachelor of Journalism and Digital Media at Mount Royal University, Calgary, AB.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Murphy & Chung Chartered Accountants Athletics Award

Pippa Soyka Rozendaal 杨富婷

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, St. Catharines, ON

Pippa started school rowing at 14, competing at the Ontario Ergometer Championships. At 16, she earned bronze in the Junior Women's Single. She is a Chinese adoptee and only 5'2" tall, when height is key in rowing recruitment. In 2022, she placed first in the Junior Women's Eight, Four, and Double and second in the Junior Women's Eight, Four, and Double at the International Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. In 2023, she placed fourth in the Senior Women's Quad in Boston, and won gold in Philadelphia. In 2024, she won the Lovey Farrell Cup and silver in the Senior Women's Double. At the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, she won bronze in the Women's Four competing against 22 year olds while only 17. Pippa's Chinese family is from Yunyang County on the Yangtze River; she believes that water and watersports are in her blood.

Pippa is studying Biomedical Sciences, as well as the Honours and Pre-Medical programs, at Canisius University, Buffalo, New York. She will continue her athletics on the D1 women's rowing team.



University of Toronto Scarborough Entrance Award

Melissa Chau *Markville Secondary School, Markham, ON*

Throughout her high school years, Melissa made continuous efforts to improve her community through awareness campaigns, supports and projects. She served as President of the Markville Secondary School Equity Club and as a member of the school's Health and Wellness Team. Initiatives there included an anti-vaping campaign, Heritage Month social media campaign, and awareness about positive mental health. Her community work included volunteering as a Reading Buddy and working as a camp counsellor. She continues to work on empowering students to build a more inclusive community.

Melissa is enrolled at the University of Toronto Scarborough in Health Sciences.



University of Toronto Scarborough Entrance Award

Maeya Zheng 郑海晴 *Markville Secondary School, Markham, ON*

Music has been a driving force for Maeya since elementary school through to high school.

Music has made a significant contribution to her life, building her resilience, such as collaborating on challenging pieces. As a contrabass performer in award-winning orchestras or member of choral ensembles and theatre productions, she has been inspired to uplift others, whether as a mentor to support her peers or as a collaborator to foster connections. Her goal is not only mastering an instrument but also on how to harmonize individual passions to create something greater.

Maeya is studying Life Sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough.



University of Toronto Scarborough Entrance Award

Angela Cheng 成思德 *Walnut Grove Secondary School, Langley, BC*

Angela has had a long-time passion about environment sustainability and engineering. She served as a team member to design a plan for Langley's urban development. She pursued her interest in Formula 1-level race cars and learned about the importance of innovation in engineering projects to optimize race car components. As a tutor and volleyball mentor, she honed her skills in leadership, communication, and strategies for a variety of learning styles and techniques.

Angela is enrolled at the University of Toronto Scarborough in Applied Sciences.



2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

University of Toronto Scarborough Academics Award

Annie Cai *Kitsilano Secondary School, Kitsilano, BC*

Throughout her time at high school, it was Annie's priority to maintain academic excellence while also challenging herself. Because her school only offered 2 AP classes, she took it upon herself to study other subjects and earned the AP Scholar with Distinction Award in Grade 11. She also wrote the SAT, where she scored a 1560 in 2024. She completed 2 college-level classes at UCLA, and was accepted into Yale Young Global Scholars. She grew interested in neuroscience, and participated in Pioneer Academic's Spring Term as a research student. Her interest in medicine led to a clinical research volunteer position with BC Children's Hospital. Annie's academic standing reflects her work ethic, while her research achievements showcase her passion and dedication for neuroscience and medicine.

Annie is studying neuroscience at UC Berkeley, California.



E. Ling Kwong Family Medicine Award

Janelle Wai 韋恩樂

Upon completion of a BSc in Kinesiology, MSc in Physical Therapy, and Doctor of Medicine, Janelle continues her studies at the University of Alberta in Family Medicine Residency. As a recipient of many awards in medical and other areas, including sustainability, innovation, and outreach, she has extensive experience in research, publishing papers, educational leadership and in her community as a student clinician and mentor. She maintains her avid interest in climbing, volleyball, baking, video blogging, and piano.



E. Ling Kwong Athletics Award

Simone Huang

Simone is ranked as the #1 Canadian badminton athlete in Girls' Singles and Mixed Doubles. Her accomplishments earned her a spot on Team Canada during which time she competed at the 2024 Badminton World Junior Championship, and the 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2024 Junior Pan Am Badminton Championships. She was the youngest badminton athlete to represent Team Quebec for the 2023 Canada Games, among many other medal winning championships. Her elite athletic performance is no small feat for someone who overcame challenging hardships and illness in her family.

Simone's goal is to represent Canada at the Olympic Games. She is enrolled in Health Sciences at Collège Boisé-de-Boulogne, Montreal.



AMIwealth Group Dignity of Life Award

Aveline Gu 古道萌 *Oakville Trafalgar High School, Oakville, ON*

Aveline is a MEDLIFE student executive, as well as the creator of the Care Machine. She has been travelling to low-income communities around the world to improve healthcare knowledge and practices. This is done through mobile clinics in rural towns, where living conditions remain stubbornly below a humane standard. Her greatest achievements are in education, teaching children about self care and personal hygiene. Inspired by her trips, she proposed to install medicalized vending machines in rural communities: the Care Machine. She is a winner of the 2024-2025 school year's Optimist Essay Contest of Oakville. She has volunteered at a pediatric clinic in Oakville. Aveline learns continuously about the people and the profession of medicine, and follows this path to build dignity where it is absent and to restore it where it has weakened.

Aveline is enrolled in Life Science at the University of Toronto.



Jeffrey W. Lem and Susan Chong Lem Leadership Award

Erick Yang 杨嘉华 *Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary, AB*

Erick became the youngest and only public school champion of the 2023 World Individual Debate and Public Speaking Championships. His Atlas initiative created an online tournament that welcomed over 300 debaters from coast to coast, channeling \$7,500 to UNICEF Canada and other charities. As in-person gatherings resumed, he helped Churchill's debate crew transform Atlas into Alberta's largest annual tournament. At the 2023 World Schools Debating Championships, he tabulated ballots for 50 teams as the youngest tab director ever, leading a legendary team through the disruptions of Typhoon Talim. Erick was invited to speak at the Ceremony Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act. He recognizes that adaptability and calm resolve light the way through any storm.

Erick is studying Politics and Philosophy at Western University with a specialization in Economics.

