

Investing in Achievement

September 2015



Building bridges through rugby

"It's more than a game, it's a way of life"—the mantra of the Dog River Howlers Rugby Club guides members to connect with people worldwide, using rugby as a bridge to experience and support different cultures. This strong sense of community building is reflected in the Howlers Rugby Award, established in 2014 as a way to acknowledge and motivate student-athletes who combine academics, athletic excellence and community involvement. The Indigenous-specific award is the first of its kind in the Vikes athletics program.

The inaugural award recipient, 20 year-old Crosby Stewart, didn't pick up rugby until Grade 11, but has been improving quickly. He won at nationals with the under-18 BC team, and was on the Vikes' winning roster at the National University 7s Rugby Championship in March 2015. Determined to further develop as a player, Crosby dedicates many hours to skill and strength training on top of studying for a combined major in chemistry and earth and ocean sciences.

Howlers Club founder Karl Fix says that "being part of a rugby club can teach young people a lot. It helps them understand what it means to be part of a community and learn to cope with the successes and failures they will have to deal with in their lives." Crosby recognizes the rugby community is vital to his journey to play at a higher level. "I wouldn't have made it this far without people helping me out," he says. "Receiving the Howlers Award means I don't have to work, so I am available for training camps and trials around BC."

Crosby takes his role in the community seriously by volunteering his limited free time with the Vancouver Island Thunder aboriginal youth rugby program. He coaches alongside Canadian national player, Phil Mack, who Crosby has been compared with on the pitch. "In Grade 9, I had no plans for university," says Crosby. "I wouldn't be at UVic if it weren't for sports." By coaching with Thunder, he's helping other aboriginal high school students discover that same path.



Photo: James Sturrock

A relative newcomer to rugby, Crosby Stewart still finds time to coach Vancouver Island Thunder aboriginal rugby team.

Right place, right time, right Depot

Every community wants and needs to invest in its young people, but finding the resources can be a challenge. The University of Victoria's Home Depot Gordon Head Residents' Association Entrance Scholarship is an example of how three organizations put their collective heads together to achieve this, for the benefit of all involved.

The story of this gift begins with corporate giant, Home Depot. It wanted to make a goodwill gesture before opening a new store in Saanich, the equivalent of new neighbours leaving fresh baked cookies on the doorstep. Head office representatives contacted the Gordon Head Residents' Association to see if they could do something positive for the community.

"They suggested building a playground on a derelict site, but that wasn't a fit for Gordon Head at the time," says Steve Coe, former president of the association. "I told them, 'I don't want to disappoint you! I'm sure we can find a way to help you invest that money in the neighbourhood.'"

Steve pitched an alternative idea to Home Depot. What if they used the money to support young people from Gordon Head in a different way, by establishing a scholarship at the University of Victoria? As an alumnus of UVic, Steve had seen the difference scholarships can make to students. He knew that every bit helps when it comes to university tuition. This was a unique request for Home Depot, but they got behind it 100%, and agreed to donate \$50,000 to create the endowed fund.

A decade later, the result of Steve's bright idea and Home Depot's generosity is still having a positive effect on the community. The fund has disbursed a total of \$24,125 to help 12 high school students from local secondary schools attend UVic.



As captain and training officer for the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue, Nathan volunteers up to 2,000 hours a year helping to keep local waters safe.

Since the award always goes to a student who is an active volunteer, it also rewards young people for their contributions to the community. Steve explains that the association "wanted to recognize neighbourhood kids who do good work in Gordon Head—to instill the importance of community engagement in our young people." In fact, most recipients continue to volunteer throughout their time at university like Nathan Leung, who has become increasingly involved in the local Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue team since he received the award in 2009.

This partnership between a large corporation with a local focus, a community association and the university has created a legacy for local high school students that continues to encourage young people to get involved in the surrounding community. A win-win for all involved.

A physicist with his eyes on the stars fulfills his mother's dream

Jordan Wilson-Gerow has had what he calls a "scientific inclination", a feeling of being amazed by the world around him, since he was a young boy. But the 21 year-old version of Jordan, who is studying astrophysics at university, is light years away from the image of his 10 year-old self, doing homework in the back office of McDonalds where his mom worked as the manager.

Jordan's mother, Nicole, did everything she could to provide a solid upbringing for her only child. Coming from very little, Nicole dreamt that she would raise a bright child with diverse interests who would achieve academic excellence. "My mom has been pushing and supporting me all my life," Jordan says. "Now that I've moved out, she contributes what she can, but the price tag of my university education is beyond her means."

Even with maximum student loans, the cost of tuition, rent, groceries and books was too much for Jordan. He relied on financial aid to get through his degree. "For me, scholarships and bursaries were the difference between registering for the next year or not," he says. Scholarships also gave him extra motivation to keep his grades high.

As a result, Jordan threw himself into studying, and found the rewards are far greater than good grades. "You grow to understand and appreciate the entire world around you in a way that can't quite be put into words," he says. His academic excellence also earned him the Harbhajan S. Sandhu Scholarship, which is awarded to the student with the highest first-class GPA in physics.

Jordan graduated with a BSc Honours with distinction in June and has been accepted into a graduate program in theoretical physics. Nicole didn't have the opportunity to attend university, but Jordan says his graduation day was as much her day as his. "She is a huge part of my success. My mom is my motivation and is really why I am here."

"For me, scholarships and bursaries were the difference between registering for the next year or not."

— Jordan Wilson-Gerow



Celebrating new donor-funded awards

Thank you to the generous individuals, organizations and businesses who established new student awards with the University of Victoria this year. The following awards were ratified by the UVic Senate and Board of Governors during the 2014-2015 academic year.

50th Anniversary Education Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Engineering Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Fine Arts Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Human and Social Development Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Humanities Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Peter B. Gustavson School of Business Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Science Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Social Sciences Entrance Scholarship
50th Anniversary Vikes Entrance Scholarship
Ann Gibson Biomedical Engineering Scholarship
Celebration of Joy Award
CFUW Victoria Anniversary Science Scholarship
David Johnstone Chabassol Bursary in Education
CIBC Bursary in the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
CIBC Scholarship in the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Class of 1981 Entrance Scholarship in Honour of Anne Fraser
Joyce Clearihue Graduate Co-op Scholarship
Joyce Clearihue Undergraduate Co-op Scholarship
Costco Canada Undergraduate Entrance Bursary
Myrna McEwen Daniels Scholarship
Terry Daniels Scholarship
Dryden Scholarship for Students with a Disability
DuMoulin Black LLP Prize in Securities Regulation
Economics Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship
Christine Elworthy Bursary in the School of Nursing
Faculty of Humanities Undergraduate Research Travel Award
David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Student Library Scholarship
Dax Gibson Memorial Scholarship in Gender Studies & Anthropology
Emil and Lynette Hain Scholarship in Ukrainian Studies
Hakai Fellowship
Hartwig Industries Graduate Award in Concussion Research
Denise Heap Bursary
Sharron Higgins Scholarship in the School of Nursing
Susan Hill and Susanne Diakiw Bursary in Earth and Ocean Sciences
Susan Hill and Susanne Diakiw Bursary in Education
Howlers Rugby Award
Lorene Kennedy Graduate Student Field Research Award
Lorene Kennedy Restoration of Natural Systems Diploma & Certificate Selected Project Award
Lafarge Canada Scholarship in Civil Engineering
Donald and Evelyn MacLean Scholarship
Dr. Ian MacPherson Memorial Scholarship
Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad in Hispanic and Italian Studies
Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad in Humanities
MBA Leadership Citizenship Award
MBA Pay-it-forward Award
Maureen McLeod Scholarship in Geography
Microserve Scholarship in Business, Management Information Systems
Edward Mothersill Scholarship in Philosophy
New Canadian and Immigrant Entrance Scholarship
Bob Peart Graduate Scholarship in Terrestrial Parks and Protected Areas Award
William Petrie Graduate Student Library Scholarship
Political Science Alumni Scholarship
Mrs. Matilda M. Schill Scholarship
School of Public Administration Leadership Legacy Award
Vincent Short Memorial Theatre Scholarship
Geraldine and Peter Shostak Scholarship in Ukrainian Studies
Robin & Sylvia Skelton Scholarship
Speakman-Granewall Bursary in Mechanical Engineering
Stó:lō Ethnohistory Legacy Scholarship
Roberta Taylor Scholarship
Tsi'tsu'wu'tul Award
Underlings Scholarship
Joyce Underwood Indigenous Undergraduate Student Scholarship in Social Sciences
UVic Bookstore Scholarship in Writing
Sybil Verch Woman in Business Award
Victoria Real Estate Board Past Presidents Scholarship
Victoria Stroke Recovery Association Scholarship
Viking Alumni Rugby Award
Thomas Wirral Cup Award
Michael and Olga Zachary Scholarship in Ukrainian Studies
Jane Zhu MBA Cross-cultural Integration Award

Understanding different award types

Bursaries are non-repayable awards based on financial need and reasonable academic standing. These awards are for students who are receiving the maximum student loans available for their period of study and are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Scholarships, prizes and athletic awards recognize outstanding students. They are non-repayable entrance or in-course awards granted to students on the basis of academic merit and excellence.

Fellowships are merit-based awards granted to outstanding students enrolled in graduate studies. These awards enable students to concentrate on their speciality, pursue their research and maintain a high academic standing.

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