

Oshawa student gets \$5,000

Scholarship will help Tamara Bannon pay student loans
Jan 05, 2009 - 01:52 PM
BY MARGARET CAPPA

DURHAM -- Oshawa student Tamara Bannon is getting some help repaying her \$25,000 student loan from the Firkin Group of Pubs.

Ms. Bannon is one of five Ontario students to win the \$5,000 scholarship. She entered herself in the competition after her mom heard about it on the radio in September.

A third-year criminology and justice student at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Ms. Bannon said the money will help alleviate some of her financial stress at graduation.

"When you finish school it makes it harder to get your life started when you have the stress of debt on you," Ms. Bannon said.

The Firkin scholarship is unique because it's targeted at upper year students as opposed to students entering university or college, she said. The money goes straight to her account with the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

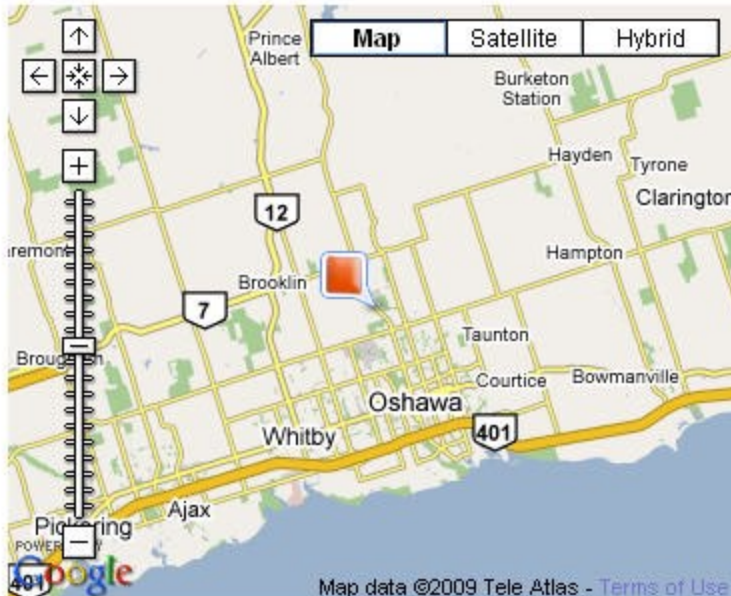
In her entry essay for the scholarship, Ms. Bannon explained she deserved to win because she comes from a single family home where money was always tight. She is also an avid volunteer at school and in the community with the Oshawa Airport Lions Club.

Ms. Bannon plans to pursue a career in law after school.

"I like the idea of working in a courthouse," she said.

For now though, Ms. Bannon is just concentrating on graduating. She hopes to finish school a semester early so she can save even more money.

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