

## Shannon Burwash Memorial Fund

### Scholarships awarded for 2020

August 8, 2020 -- Calgary, AB -- The Calgary Foundation is very pleased to announce the following scholarships have been awarded from the 2020 Shannon Burwash Memorial Fund. Qualified students from across Canada applied for the three available scholarships this past June.

#### **\$2,000 Leadership Award to Kimberly Stewart**



Kimberly Stewart is a current fourth year Student at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. She has wanted to become a veterinarian since grade six after reading the Big Ben biography, which told the tale of Ian Millar's famous show horse Big Ben. His many colic episodes and frightening trailer accident inspired her to pursue a career in which she may be able to help animals like Ben, just like the veterinarians did in the book.

Kimberly has a Bachelors degree in Zoology from the University of Calgary where she spent four years earning her degree with a year off in between her third and fourth year to take part in the elected role of one of the Calgary Stampede

Princesses. Kimberly and two other women made up the trio and they took part in numerous events and rodeos around the Calgary and surrounding area as well as acting as ambassadors for the Stampede on an international scale. After her year off, she went back to school to finish her last year, joined the CS Chuckwagon Committee, and has taken on the role of Production Manager and Operational Manager for the production subcommittee.

Once Kimberly got into veterinary school she started to become more involved in the extra curricular activities the school had to offer and became the President of the Calgary Association of Veterinary Students as well as a member of numerous clubs. She was also able to host the first Theriogenology day where they had guest speakers including Dr. Wayne Burwash himself, as well as an afternoon filled with clinical skills labs focused around theriogenology. Kimberly says, "I have developed a passion for equine reproduction over the past four years and I am hoping to bring that passion to a practice once I graduate."

### **\$1,000 Encouragement Award to Sadie Popoff**

Sadie Popoff was born in Calgary, Alberta and has been heavily involved in the equine community since moving to Cochrane in 2011. She was involved in 4H equine programs for four years and has competed in both Western and English events with her horse, Roper. In high school, she obtained her Equine Technician Green Certificate. Her experiences with horses have played a significant role in her life and has taught her many valuable lessons. It has been this involvement that has led her to pursue a career as a veterinarian.



Last year, Sadie started her first year at the University of Calgary to study biological sciences. After completing her undergraduate work, she plans on applying to veterinary school. She is interested in all aspects of equine medicine, especially the research side that explores the development of new therapeutic procedures and medicines.

Alongside equine medicine, Sadie hopes on working as a part-time or volunteer veterinarian for wildlife rehabilitation centres. She currently volunteers at the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation to gain more experience in a clinic setting and hopes to continue working to protect wildlife. She is very excited to pursue this career as it will allow her to remain involved in the equine community and continue doing what she loves.

### **\$1,000 Encouragement Award to Claire Horsch**



Claire Horsch has had a passion for horses her whole life. Growing up on her family's working cattle ranch has allowed her to pursue her riding dreams, and given her the opportunity to raise and train young horses. Claire has been in 4-H for eight years, and has participated in many equestrian shows and competitions with her horse projects.

This year Claire was accepted into the AQHA Young Horse Development Program and received a donated weanling filly as her project horse. She is proud to be the only Canadian participant in the 2020 program. In keeping with her passion for horses, Claire also volunteers as a horse leader and side walker with her local Therapeutic Riding Association.

This fall Claire will be starting the Bachelor of Science program at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC, where she plans on completing an undergraduate degree in Animal Biology before applying to veterinary school. Claire knows that working with animals is her calling and is determined to make her dream of becoming a veterinarian come true.

Since 2016, there have been **two different categories of**

**scholarship awards:**

- The Leadership Award is for students advancing past their second year of studies (\$2,000 award).
- The Encouragement Award is for first or second year students (2 X \$1,000 awards).

**[Click here for the link to these two awards.](#)**

"Again this year, we were extremely impressed with all of the scholarship applicants," said

Dr. Wayne Burwash. "This is the sixth year that The Calgary Foundation has awarded the scholarships since Shannon's passing in 2013, and we have now awarded \$23,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to all the recipients and best wishes for rewarding careers involving the horse."

For more information, click here to visit the [COHA Shannon Burwash Memorial Scholarships](#) webpage.

Shannon Burwash was a leader and a lover of the horse industry across Canada. The scholarships are awarded to deserving students who are focused on getting a post-secondary education, and being involved in the horse industry in their future.

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## **Help CQHA expand scholarship support with a donation to the**

### **Shannon Burwash Memorial Fund for**

### **Equine and Agricultural Studies**

Our overall goal was to raise **\$125,000** so the fund can keep generating annual awards to deserving students into the future. Dr. Burwash is most appreciative of all the generous donors who have enabled us to reach this important milestone. As of 2019, the fund reached its target goal of \$125,000, but **welcomes further donations** so that it may increase the number of scholarships awarded annually.

#### **To Donate:**

- **Online:** Visit [calgaryfoundation.org](http://calgaryfoundation.org) choose "Donate" at the top, right hand side of webpage, then click on the link for "**Donate to an Existing Fund**", and then search the drop-down menu for "Shannon Burwash Memorial Fund for Equine for Equine and Agricultural Studies" (listed alphabetically). VISA and MasterCard are accepted.
- **By Phone:** To pay by credit card over the phone, call 403-802-7700 during office hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please do NOT leave your credit card number on voicemail.

- **In Person:** The Calgary Foundation, Kananoff Centre, #1180, 105 12th Ave., SE, Calgary during office hours.
- **By Mail:**

Make cheques payable to **The Calgary Foundation**, indicating "Shannon Burwash Memorial Award" in the memo section. Mail to:

The Calgary Foundation, 1180 - 105 12 Avenue SE., Calgary, AB T2G 1A1

- **Tax Receipts for Donations:** A Canadian tax receipt will be issued for donations over \$25

For more information, contact Ms. Darlene Chrapko, Director, Awards & Scholarships, at The Calgary Foundation at T: 403-802-7711 or E: [dchrapko@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:dchrapko@calgaryfoundation.org)



## 2018 Burwash Scholarship Recipients



The Calgary Foundation is very pleased to announce three scholarships were awarded for 2018 from the Shannon Burwash Memorial Awards for Equine and Agricultural Studies. Qualified students from across Canada applied by June 1, 2018 for these scholarships, which were allocated as below:

Dr. Burwash said, "We were extremely impressed with all of the scholarship applicants this year, the fourth year that The Calgary Foundation has awarded the scholarships since Shannon's passing in 2013.

Since 2016 there have been **two categories of scholarships**. One is for first or second year students (2 - \$1,000 awards). [Visit this link for more information](#). The other is for students advancing past their second year of studies (\$2,000 award). [Visit this link for more information](#):

### **\$2,000 to Marthe Wildsmith**

Marthe Wildsmith was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, and is currently completing rotations in her final year of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the University



of Calgary. Growing up, Marthe had two passions - music and riding. These passions have been formative in her career choices, first as a musician, and now as an equine veterinarian. She started riding at a local stable when she was 7 and what started as a summer horse obsession has turned into a life-long passion for the horse industry. She has worked for numerous stables in Edmonton and surrounding area, taught riding lessons and summer camps, led trail rides in the Rocky Mountains, and traveled to Germany to pursue further study of dressage. Her interests lie in equine reproduction, lameness, and ambulatory medicine. She hopes to complete an internship in 2019 and own a small equine veterinary practice where she can provide compassionate care to both horses and owners. When she isn't at a veterinary clinic learning, or at school studying, Marthe can be found hiking in the backcountry, playing her piano, spending time with her husband Kyle, or sitting on a horse with a smile on her face.



### **\$1,000 to Olivia McDonald**

Olivia McDonald grew up in Lunenburg, Ontario and was introduced to the equine industry at a young age due to her maternal grandparents having showed Clydesdales for over 20 years. Being around horses so much led her to begin showing an interest in riding light horses and it drove her to a point in her life where she believes a career in such area is best suited for her future. Her plan is to attend McGill University to obtain a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Environmental Science while specializing in Animal Biology. With such education, her ultimate goal is to operate an equine rehabilitation facility that would incorporate the use of some of the newer and less invasive therapeutic strategies such as hydrotherapy, Infra-Red (IR) treatments, photo-biomodulation, heat and laser technologies, and massage therapy. Such rehabilitation techniques can be used to improve muscle elasticity, increase blood circulation, accelerate recovery rates, reduce injuries, and keep many of our equine friends happy and active, while ultimately decreasing the amount that are retired early, sold or traded, or sent to auctions or slaughterhouses. The anatomical structure of the horse and their overall physiology has always been an interest of Olivia's, though was further enhanced when her own mare (shown in the picture) experienced muscle injuries to her shoulder and hind. Muscle, tendon and ligament injuries are so common in many horses, though preventative therapies are not readily available in



her area and therefore, many cases are either left untreated or managed with the use of regular medication. She is currently in the process of becoming certified as a practitioner in both equine kinesiology taping and canine hydrotherapy and also plans to obtain a diploma in Equine Studies from the University of Guelph, become a registered equine massage therapist (REMT), and acquire qualifications to be an equine first-aid instructor. She has always enjoyed animals of all kinds and is certainly the type of person that will play with a dog or cat when at a party or visiting other people. Therefore, a career involving animals is what Olivia has always truly wanted to do, making her extremely excited and motivated towards making her dream of helping them reach their fullest potential and live long and healthy lives become a reality.



\$

1,000 to Jourdyn Sammons

Jourdyn Sammons was raised on a mixed farming operation southeast of Calgary. She was always actively involved in agriculture, whether that be through extensive involvement in 4-H (projects ranging from beef to sewing), or helping out with the day to day operations on the farm. She has always loved animals, however horses hold a special place in her heart. She was on the back of a horse before she was on top of a bike and was helping move and process cattle on top of a horse before she had her driver's learner license. Moving away from the farm and into a city has made her realize and value western culture more than ever before. In the fall, Jourdyn will be continuing her studies at the University of Saskatchewan to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biosciences. After she finishes her degree, she plans on studying veterinary medicine, and becoming a large animal veterinarian. At the moment, she is unsure if she wants to specialize in a certain area, but some areas that interest her are animal nutrition, and performance horses. She is excited to continue her education so that one day she may be able to help educate owners and

producers on the most advantageous and humane methods of animal handling, nutrition and medication. A particular issue that Jourdyn feels passionately about is the debate as to whether or not it is acceptable to use animals for sport, such as rodeo. In today's society, there are many individuals who are not exposed to agriculture or rodeo and believe that the use of animals violates their rights, and that it is wrong. She hopes to better defend the use of animals in sport and agriculture by continuing to learn about management practices, and animal welfare. She wants to one day be able to educate others about animal welfare and help them understand and appreciate performance animals. Hopefully by doing so, she can help ensure that the use of animals in agricultural practices and sports remains a valued part of Alberta's western culture. When not studying or working with animals you can find Jourdyn spending time outdoors by either running, hiking or gardening. She has always enjoyed playing hockey, and now that she is in university you can either find her playing intramural hockey or coaching elementary school teams on the weekends.

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## 2017 Burwash Scholarship Recipients



The Calgary Foundation is very pleased to announce three scholarships were awarded for 2017 from the Shannon Burwash Memorial Awards for Equine and Agricultural Studies. Qualified students from across Canada applied by June 1, 2017 for these scholarships, which were allocated as below:

Dr. Burwash said, "We were extremely impressed with all of the scholarship applicants this year, the third year that The Calgary Foundation has awarded the scholarships since Shannon's passing in 2013. We realized that there are differences in academic achievement, leadership and volunteer activities depending on the number of years a student has been involved in their studies. The changes we made for 2016, regarding the qualification criteria, have addressed these aspects and I am very pleased to say that the awards now more clearly achieve the goals of the fund."

There are **two different categories of scholarships**. One category is for first or second year students(2 - \$1,000 awards)

Visit: <http://calgaryfoundation.org/grants-awards/student-awards/high-school-students>.

and the other category is for students advancing past their second year of studies (\$2,000 award)

Visit: <http://calgaryfoundation.org/grants-awards/student-awards/undergraduate-graduate-students>..



**\$2,000 to Persephone Greco-Otto** (shown here with Dr. Wayne Burwash).

Persephone grew up in Toronto competing in the hunter, jumper and equitation rings. Her love of horses led her to pursue a degree in Animal Biology at the University of Guelph. While at Guelph, Persephone got involved in equine research projects and discovered her passion for research.

In 2015, Persephone moved to Calgary to pursue a Doctorate degree in Veterinary Medical Sciences with Dr. Renaud Leguillette. Her research focuses on using water treadmills to condition horses. Water treadmills are a novel tool to improve athletic performance and fitness as they provide high-resistance, but low impact exercise. This allows for improved cardio-respiratory fitness, while limiting the risk of future injuries. In her spare time, she can be found with her fiancé, mare and puppy, and exploring the mountains.





**\$1,000 to Jodi Graham:**

Jodi was introduced to draft horses at a young age and has been involved with them for 15 years. The draft horses have always been an area of interest for Jodi.

Jodi began showing at the Olds Fair and Rodeo and soon joined the Halter and Harness Heavy Horse 4-H club where she learned the skills and knowledge required to raise, show, and work safely with draft horses. Through countless hours driving horses, Jodi has gained the experience and confidence needed to become an accomplished driver, driving everything from a single cart horse to a four-a-breast (pictured) and a four-up. Jodi continues to be a member in several groups including the Wild Rose Draft Horse Association, Alberta Percheron Club, and Alberta Equestrian Federation.





\$

**1,000 to Brooke Armstrong**

Brooke is from Sussex, NB. She received her mare Rena from her wonderful neighbours Joe and Dianne Hornbrook in the summer of 2016, shortly before heading away to university. She was not on the market for a horse when the offer came up, but she supposes that is how most good things come about, “They find you when you're not looking!”

Brooke chose the Diploma of Veterinary Technology program with the purpose of later specializing in Equine. Now that she has Rena, she has a bigger drive to learn and succeed in both the diploma, and later the specialty, so that she can give Rena the best care possible to ensure she is a happy and healthy life long partner.

While home for the summer in New Brunswick Brooke takes riding lessons, and plans to continue into Reining lessons in Nova Scotia this year once she returns to University. She hopes to own a small boarding stable one day, while potentially breeding and showing foundation bred Quarter Horses in Reining.

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## 2016 Burwash Scholarship Recipients



The Calgary Foundation was very pleased to announce three scholarships have been awarded for 2016 from the Shannon Burwash Memorial Awards for Equine and Agricultural Studies. Qualified students from across Canada applied by June 1, 2016 for these scholarships, which were allocated as below:

"We were very impressed with all of the scholarship applicants this year," said Dr. Burwash. "This is the second year that The Calgary Foundation has awarded the scholarships since Shannon's passing in 2013. We realized that there are differences in academic achievement, leadership and volunteer activities depending on the number of years a student has been involved in their studies. The changes we made for 2016, regarding the qualification criteria, have addressed these aspects and I am very pleased to say that the awards now more clearly achieve the goals of the fund."

There are **two different categories of scholarships**. One category is for first or second year students (\$2 - \$1,000 awards) and the other category is for students advancing past their second

year of studies (\$2,000 award)



### **\$2,000 Awarded to Jenna Lambert**

Jenna Lambert was born and raised in Calgary, AB and is entering her third year of study in the Veterinary Medicine Program at the University of Calgary. Jenna started riding at a young age, and her love and passion for horses has carried forward into a passion for veterinary medicine. Over the past four years, Jenna has worked on a research project alongside veterinarians from UCVM, with a focus on predicting disease severity and outcome in critically ill horses in Alberta. Being part of this study allowed her to work alongside numerous equine specialists and truly solidified her decision to become an equine veterinarian. Jenna has a strong interest in equine surgery and upon completion of her DVM hopes to pursue the path of becoming an equine surgeon. In the future, Jenna plans to take the knowledge and skills she gains as an equine veterinarian aboard to help working equids in need.

In the past, Jenna has enjoyed the opportunity to become involved in her local horse community. One notable experience was spending one year as the Calgary Stampede Queen. She was able to participate in numerous community based charity and fund-raising events, and meet people from various horse communities. Jenna is actively involved in the UCVM Equine Club, which hosts annual community events focused on horse health and educating members of the public, specifically 4-H and Pony Club. In addition to this, Jenna is also a team-lead on the equine committee for Vet-U-Can, an open house for UCVM which is hosted every two years.

Growing up riding Quarter Horses has left a particular soft spot for the breed. Currently, Jenna enjoys training her young Quarter Horse mare, Stella, during study breaks. In the past couple of years she began competing in the Extreme Cowboy Racing circuit, and hopes to continue this sport which promotes trust and partnership between horse and rider.



### **\$1,000 Awarded to Brooklyn Collard:**

Brooklyn Collard is a 17-year-old honours student from Calgary, AB. She will be attending the University of Calgary Honours Zoology program in the fall. After her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend veterinary school working towards becoming an equine vet.



Brooklyn has been in 4-H for eight years, completing the horsemanship and English jumping projects. Her passion lies in jumping horses, and she has attended weekly jumping lessons, as well as Pony Club for eight years. Brooklyn has been training her 14-year-old smoky buckskin mare, Zorro, for the last seven years. She competes with Zorro in English, western, trail, gymkhana and jumping events. She is an active volunteer for both 4-H and Pony Club in the community, including flood clean-up at the Millarville Racetrack, cleaning tack for the Therapeutic Riding Association, and baking for families in need through the Made by Mama's organization.



**\$1,000 Awarded to Alisa Brace**

Alisa Brace was raised on a small farm east of Sundre, AB and spent much of her childhood either doing chores on a small beef operation or riding horses. Her first time on a horse was when she was three months old and even just as an infant she knew that her place in life was in the saddle. Alisa started small with just pleasure riding at home and around her property, then branched out to competing in local light horse shows in both English and Western, and most recently she has begun to take part in the drill team for her hometown pro rodeo, running sponsor flags between events.

As well as various horse activities Alisa was also an avid dancer at her dance club in Sundre where she danced for eleven years and got the opportunity to compete in various competitions as well as take leadership roles as both an assistant dance teacher in her younger years and as a role model to the younger dancers in her last few years. She also played on both the Eagles and Scorpions basketball teams in middle and high school. Alisa is currently a student at Lakeland College and having completed her certificate as a Veterinary Medical Assistant she will be



heading back in the fall to complete her diploma in Animal Health Technology. She looks forward to finishing school and starting her career in a clinic with a main focus on equine and bovine herd health and reproduction, as well as equine performance.

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## 2015 Inaugural Scholarship Recipients



The Calgary Foundation was very pleased to announce the following scholarships have been awarded from the 2015 Shannon Burwash Memorial Fund. Over 30 qualified students from across Canada applied for the two available scholarships this past June.

"We were definitely impressed with all of the scholarship applicants this year," says Dr. Wayne Burwash. "It was the first year that The Calgary Foundation awarded the scholarships since Shannon's passing in 2013. We realized that there are differences in academic achievement, leadership and volunteer activities depending on the number of years a student has been involved in their studies. For that reason, the scholarship awards have been changed to address these aspects."

In 2016, there will be two different categories of scholarships. One going to first or second year students (2 - \$1,000 awards), and the other (\$2,000) going to students advancing past their second year of studies.



### **\$2,000 Awarded to Bailey Smith**

Bailey Smith comes from a small performance horse breeding operation in Okotoks, Alberta. She received a BSc Agriculture from the University of Alberta , and is now entering her fourth year at the University of Calgary in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Bailey is focusing her studies on equine medicine with specific interests in reproduction and sports medicine and rehabilitation.

Bailey has always been very involved with horses, from gymkhanas and hunter jumpers shows as a kid, to grooming for polo teams, and exercising cutting horses between school semesters. Overall , Bailey has been most active in barrel racing, having competed in the high school, college, Canadian All Girl and various amateur rodeo associations. Even though competition has taken a backseat to her studies, she still tries to get out and ride a young Quarter Horse in her free time.

Bailey is also involved in her community, and has taken positions in her student government.

The Calgary

Association for Veterinary Students, and the American Association for Equine Practitioners Student Chapter at the university. She has a strong passion for mentoring others, and plans to take a serious role in mentoring horse enthusiasts, veterinary students and young veterinarians in the future. After completing her DVM, Bailey plans to complete an internship in equine referral medicine then return to the Calgary area to become an associate at a high-end equine practice and remain competitive with her horses.



### **\$1,000 Awarded to Brandy Rimmer:**

Brandy Rimmer is in her third year of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary. Prior to this she attended Grant MacEwan University for four years while taking her Bachelor of Science Degree. Although it is her love of animals that led her down the path of veterinary medicine, it is her passion for horses that has pushed her to come this far.

Brandy grew up on a farm in the small community of Lake Isle, one hour west of Edmonton, and with the help of her family she began showing Quarter Horses at a young age. She believes it has been the lessons that she learned through many years in 4H, her tight-knit community, and her supportive family that have all helped her to get where she is today.

Brandy has worked for an ambulatory equine veterinarian for the last two summers and this fast-paced job has assisted her in solidifying her career choice of becoming a large animal/equine veterinarian. She has owned many horses throughout her life but there was one in particular that left a lasting impression, and showed her how unbelievably strong the bond between a human and a horse can be. Brandy hopes to use her education to better the lives of horses and their owners while she continues to learn and grow throughout her career. "Shannon Burwash was an inspiration for many women, and I hope to exemplify a similar passion for horses and education in my life as she did in hers," said Brandy.

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**students who are focused on getting a post-secondary education, and being involved in the horse industry in their future.**