

2015 Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarships Awarded

Ottawa, ON, November 24, 2015 – The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarship, Ryan Gohlich (Carleton University) and Philippe Charest (Laval University).

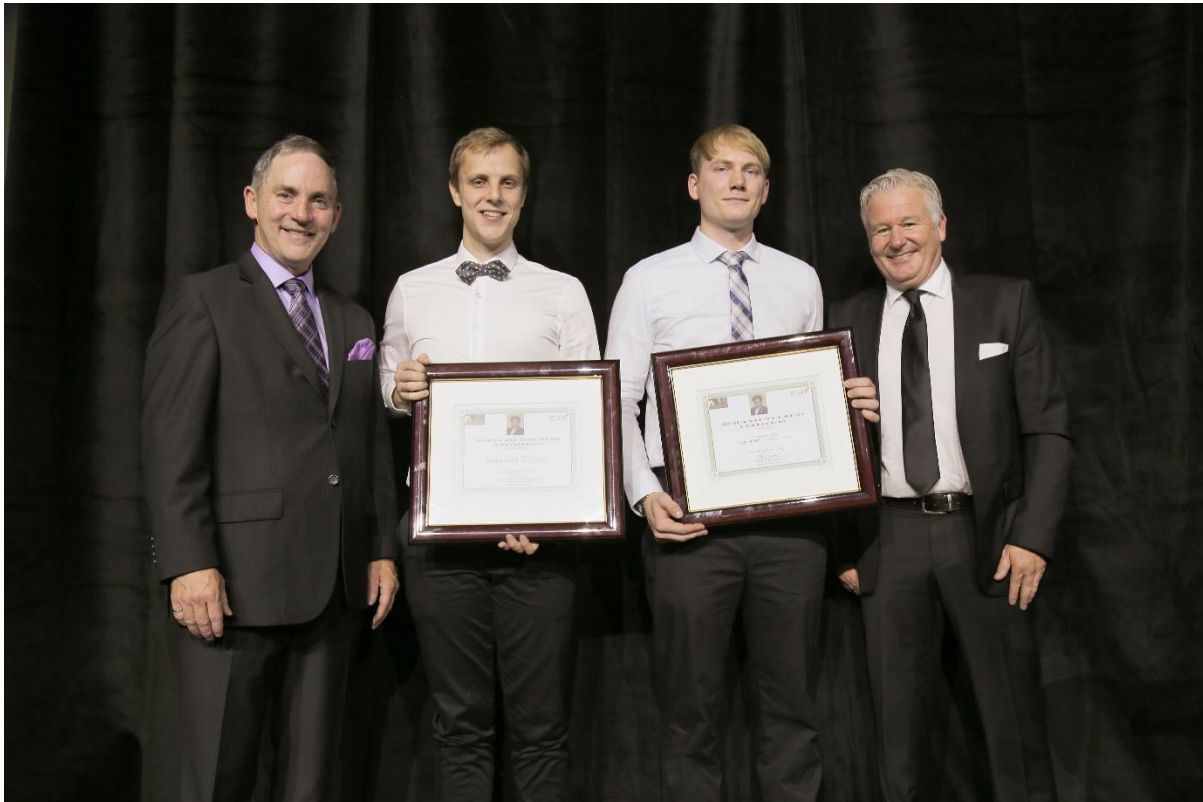
Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarship Fund was established twelve years ago to encourage the search for innovative solutions for the use of wood in construction and is awarded yearly to graduate students who demonstrate excellence in their studies of structural wood or architectural wood design.

Catherine, a professional engineer, was a passionate representative of our industry who relentlessly championed the use of wood in residential and commercial construction. She was president of the CWC from 2000 to 2003. This award was created to honour Catherine's memory and to perpetuate the legacy she left to the Canadian forest products industry.

- **Ryan Gohlich (Carleton University)** - Ryan is a 3rd year Masters of Applied Science student in the civil engineering program at Carleton University in Ottawa. He has been conducting research to develop a hybrid timber-steel moment-resisting frame for use in seismic resistant heavy timber structures. This work seeks to develop a high capacity moment connection that will promote a ductile failure mode during a design level seismic event, which means the connection will not fail suddenly during a severe earthquake, giving time for occupants to leave the building if needed. The connection, according to the presentation, will be designed to localize seismic damage to a single element that can be accessed and repaired post-earthquake, theoretically lowering the cost of repair after a major event. This work is important because it could make heavy timber structures higher performing, more efficient and more affordable in high seismic locations compared to a similar system with non-ductile connections or lower capacity connections. Ryan Gohlich achieved an outstanding perfect Grade Point Average of 12.0 after 6 challenging graduate courses, and is supervised by Dr Jeffrey Erockho.
- **Philippe Charest (Laval University)** - Phillippe recently completed a Master's degree in architecture at Laval University in Québec. His Thesis demonstrated the innovative use of wood in construction of complex forms in architecture. The skills acquired at the graduate level encouraged him to pursue his doctoral studies in wood science. The title of his research project is "Wood and Biomimetic: Design of wooden trellis structures." The project objective is to confirm that wooden trellis can be minimalist structural systems because of their compactness while presenting undeniable environmental and economic benefits. His project is co-supervised and under the direction of Professor Claude MH Demers (PhD). His research method combines numerical and digital simulation. This information will be used to validate the architectural, aesthetic, and innovative structural designs related to wood structures based on biomimicry in a northern climate.

“The submissions this year demonstrated the dedication, excellence and innovation that Catherine Lalonde was all about.” explained Michael Giroux, president of the CWC.

The goal of the Memorial Scholarship is to recognize graduate students from Canadian universities who best exemplify Catherine’s passion for wood and wood products and who demonstrate academic excellence through a research project that will have a positive influence on the structural wood products industry.



Left to right: **Michel Giroux** (CWC), **Philippe Charest** (Laval University), **Ryan Gohlich** (Carleton University), **Steven Street** (Ontario Wood *WORKS!*).

For more information, please contact:

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