



The James Hillier Foundation

Nurturing tomorrow's discoveries today

34 Spalding Drive, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 5W5

Dear Hillier Scholarship Recipients;

Since 1997, the James Hillier Foundation has bestowed scholarships for university to Brantford and Brant County high school students wishing to pursue a career in scientific research. Last year, the scholarship amount was increased from \$20,000 to \$28,000 for a four-year undergraduate degree. 2026 marks the 30th year for the program and including this year's recipients, 94 local students have been awarded university scholarships. To date, the Foundation has provided almost \$1,600,000 in scholarships.

2026 Scholarship Recipients

This year, the Foundation was pleased to offer four scholarships. High school students Arham Hasan and Sajid Monowar from Assumption College, Zorawar Singh from Pauline Johnson and Andrew Song from North Park Collegiate.



Pictured left to right -Arham Hasan, Sajid Monowar, Zorawar Singh, Andrew Song

The Brant Beacon provided an article on this year's recipients outlining some of their achievements and reports on their aspirations.

[Four students honoured with James Hillier scholarship | BrantBeacon](#)

A complete listing of past scholarship recipients may be found at:

www.jameshillierfoundation.com

2026 Scholarship Presentations

This year's scholarship presentations took place at North Park Collegiate in Brantford. Peter Giordano, Foundation Chair welcomed recipients and provided an overview of James Hillier's career path and the importance Dr. Hillier placed on the scholarships he received to attend the University of Toronto.

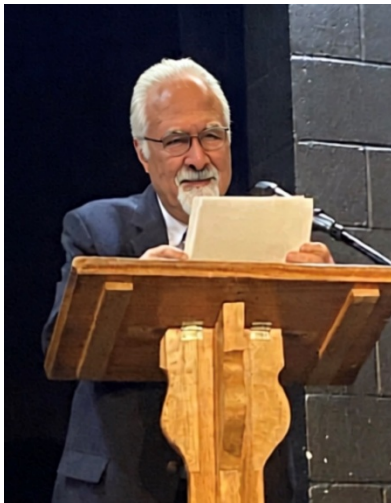
The Board of the James Hillier Foundation was delighted to have Nolan Cross address the 2026 scholarship winners.

Nolan Cross, 2020 recipient (Brantford Collegiate), actually spent his elementary school years at James Hillier Public School. He spoke about the impact the scholarship had on him personally.

"The scholarship had a very practical impact on my education. Financially, it helped make university more manageable at a time when every bit of support mattered. But, it also gave me something equally important: a clear academic standard that I needed to maintain. The requirement to remain above a certain average became a non-negotiable goal throughout my degree."

And offered the following advice,

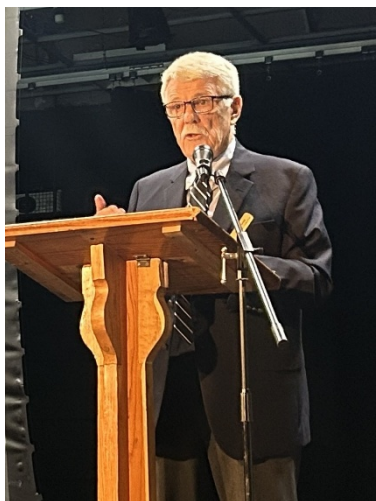
"Be proud of what you have accomplished, but also be excited about what comes next. You do not need to have every step figured out today. Stay curious, keep working, and allow yourself to grow into the opportunities ahead of you."



Chair – Peter Giordano



Nolan Cross



Peter Dennis, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced this year's recipients speaking to their high school accomplishments and their aspirations.



Vision 2026

David Page, former head of science at Assumption College and now a member of the James Hillier Foundation Board of Directors is spearheading Vision 2026 student forum. Previously, as head of science at Assumption College, he led the earlier Vision 2024 and 2020 events. The conference will see approximately 800 students from the Grand Erie District School Board and the Brant, Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board attend the conference that takes place at Brantford's Sanderson Centre and Laurier University.

The students will attend seminars and workshops from lead research scientists in a wide variety of disciplines.

The James Hillier Foundation is the principal sponsor of this conference.



Keeping In Touch

Nolan Cross, 2020 scholarship recipient, kindly provided a brief update on his activities.

I was a recipient of the James Hillier Scholarship in 2020. Since then, I have graduated from McMaster University with a Bachelor of Engineering Physics and a minor in mathematics. I specialized in optics and quantum computing and pursued additional coursework to deepen my understanding of the underlying physics and math. I am now a master's student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Calgary. Under the supervision of Dr. Erika Janitz, I am helping to develop quantum sensors based on nitrogen-vacancy centers in diamond. Our goal is to harness the quantum properties of atomic-scale defects to measure environmental conditions such as magnetic fields and temperature variations. Quantum sensors provide superior sensitivity compared with classical sensing technologies and are promising candidates for a wide range of future applications. If any of this sounds interesting to you, or if you have any questions about the journey through university, feel free to email me at: nolancross27@gmail.com.

Please keep us up to date with your contact information. Notify us of any changes to your email address by forwarding revised information to: info@jameshillierfoundation.com

Best Regards,

Chuck Beach

Director – James Hillier Foundation

“Success favours a prepared mind” – James Hillier