

## Local student wins prestigious epilepsy scholarship June 8, 2012

Epilepsy Ontario is proud to announce that St. Catharines' Vanessa Orlando won an OBCL Epilepsy Scholarship. While attending Denis Morris Catholic High School, the 17-year-old completed a co-op placement with Tabor Manor for senior citizens. She has been accepted into the Recreation and Leisure Services program at Niagara College, and hopes to continue her work with seniors after graduation.

"What really strikes me is that they [the scholarship applicants] all admit that they live with epilepsy, and they all see a positive side to it," said Lawton Osler, founder of the OBCL Scholarships and chair of the awards ceremony on June 6.

Orlando is one of eight recipients across Ontario to receive an award funded by Osler Business Consulting Ltd. Each applicant submitted a personal essay under the theme, "How Epilepsy has Shaped My Life." The OBCL Epilepsy Scholarship awards students who are transitioning from high school to college or university.

Epilepsy is the second most common neurological disorder after headache, and can develop at any age. One in 100 Canadians lives with epilepsy, including 1.4 million in Ontario.

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Epilepsy Ontario is a registered charitable, non-profit, non-government health organization dedicated to promoting independence and optimal quality of life for those with seizure disorders. As the province's voice of epilepsy, EO provides information, support services, advocacy, education and research through a network of local agencies and associates.

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