

Meet the young and the powerful

Laurier hosts those who aren't waiting to become world leaders

BY BARBARA AGGERHOLM
RECORD STAFF

WATERLOO

She's 11 years old and already Hannah Taylor heads a charitable foundation that has raised \$1 million to help homeless people.

The reasons are pretty simple, says the Winnipeg girl, attending a conference at Wilfrid Laurier University this week for talented young Canadians.

"I have a wonderful family. I have a wonderful home. I have a fridge to go to and a bed to sleep in, and a lot of people in Winnipeg don't," she says.

"And we all have the power to help them and we're not. So why don't we?"

It's that kind of spirit that has drawn 39 prizewinning youth under 20 years of age to the leadership conference, organized by Youth in Motion and hosted by the Laurier School of Business and Economics.

Every year, the national,

non-profit organization names the top 20 Canadians under 20 years of age who show leadership in improving their communities.

This conference, which continues until tomorrow, brings together finalists and past winners of the Top 20 Under 20 award to network and further develop their young leadership skills.

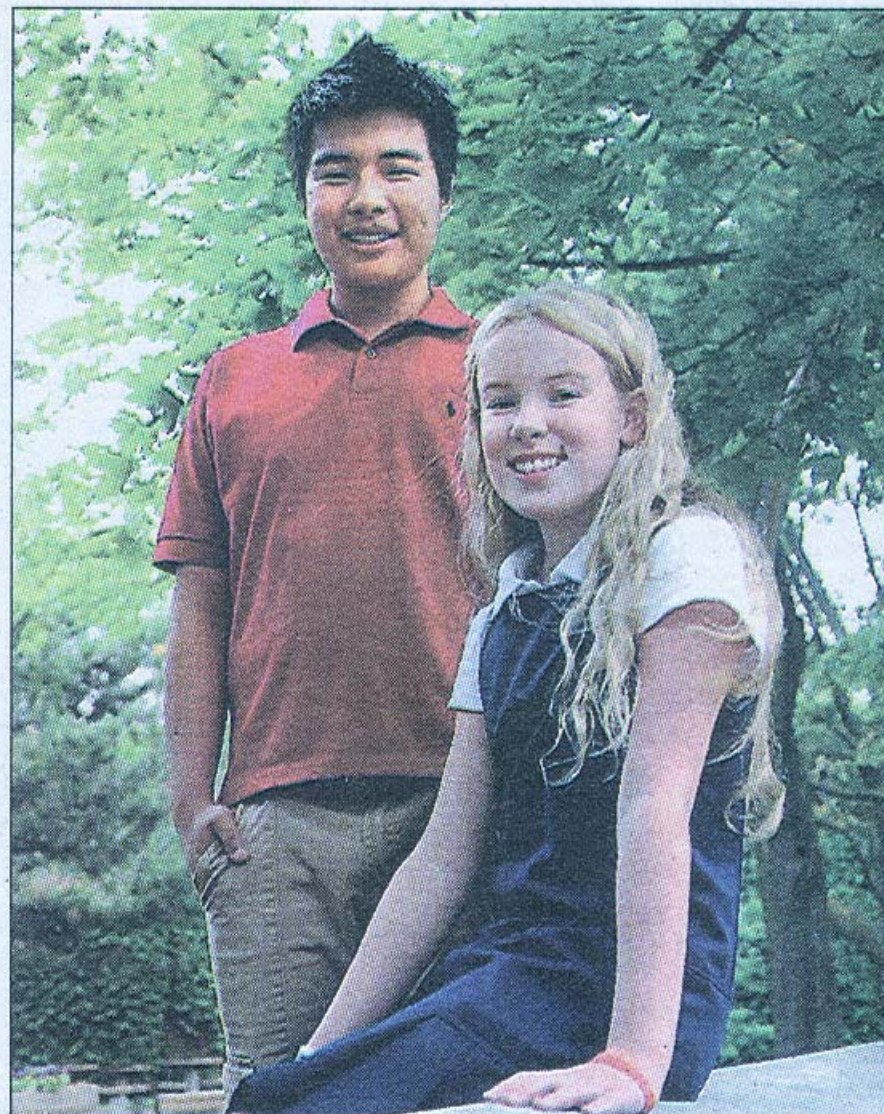
Hannah was a winner in 2006.

"There's some unbelievable young people in this country," said Youth in Motion co-founder Akela Peoples.

Whether they're working on a cancer cure, writing a musical or bringing clean water to families in developing countries, "they have a big dream and they won't stop until they accomplish it."

In the conference room yesterday, Hannah stands out among the group of teens and twentysomethings — but only because of her age.

SEE YOUTH: PAGE A2



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Hannah Taylor and Steven Wang are among the prize-winning young leaders of Canada meeting this week at Wilfrid Laurier University.