

PEOPLE

Teen honoured

Named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20

BY BRADLEY BOUZANE
The Telegram

An extremely busy Sarah Small, because of her endeavours in enterprise, community and leadership, has been named among the cream of the crop for Canadian youth.

The 18-year-old St. John's resident was recently named one of Youth in Motion's Top 20 Under 20 for her active lifestyle and ambition in a number of areas. As co-creator of Tea-rrific, a green tea-based skin cream/sunblock, Small was the only person from Newfoundland and Labrador to receive the recognition of the Top 20 this year, which wasn't the expectation she had when she applied.

'A huge honour'

"This is a huge honour, I don't know what else to say," Small said in a phone interview from Toronto, where she is participating in events tied in with the awards. "When you come up here (to Toronto), you're surrounded by all these people who have done amazing things, and it's a humbling experience because you think, 'How do I compare to these people?'"

Small and classmate Ronan MacParland created Tea-rrific, an anti-oxidant skin cream.

She was first short-listed and among 40 original applicants, before being selected as one of the Top 20 following an interview with organizers.

In addition to her creation, Small also serves on the provincial Youth Arts Advocacy Council for musical education, which works towards getting music back into more school programs.

She was given the honour based partly on her leadership skills as well.

Not only does the musically inclined Small sing with the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Choir, she serves as president of the group.

Small is set to graduate from Holy Heart of Mary school in June, and after the summer, she will start music studies at Memorial University. She has chosen to study piano, but also had been accepted to concentrate on voice at the music school, but turned down the opportunity in favour of the ivories.



Sarah Small

Even based on her substantial list of accomplishments considering her age, Small was still shocked she was lumped into such an elite group of young Canadians, who each received \$1,500 as part of the award.

"I had no idea, because I looked at award winners in the past and what they've done and thought for sure that I wouldn't meet their standards," she said.

Also in her company this year is a 10-year-old who has already published four books, and another person who has raised more than \$1 million for children's relief in Africa and has been on Oprah for his efforts.

Part of the awards is a one-week leadership summit for the winners in Toronto hosted by Youth in Motion, a national non-profit group that aims to prepare young people for success in life and work by honing their personal and professional skills.

The group helped build a home for the Habitat for Humanity program, and participated in other community- and leadership-based events throughout the week.

Following the summit, winners in the Top 20 are paired with a mentor from another part of the country, who will help direct each winner for the next eight months to work towards their personal, professional and educational goals.

Now that she has been honoured, Small sees only one option for how she can build on the momentum of the national recognition.

"The best thing I think I could do at this point is to ad-

vocate to other young Canadians to get involved and take part in their communities and participate in everything that is offered to them," she said. "The award has already been given, and I've already been honoured, so now I'd like to give back to the community what they've given to me."

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