

WALTER GAGE PAY IT FORWARD

SCHOLARSHIP

AMOUNT: \$5,000

DESCRIPTION: This Scholarship honours Walter Gage, a graduate of John Oliver Secondary School in 1918 ([link](#)). He grew up at 5871 Argyle Street in South Vancouver ([link](#)) and was a student at nearby Tecumseh Elementary School ([link](#)). As the child of recent immigrants to Canada, Walter Gage benefitted from the efforts of dedicated teachers at these public schools, got an excellent education, and became the first in his family to go to university. He went on to become a professor of mathematics, a master teacher, the 'dean of everything' at UBC for many years, a Companion of the Order of Canada, and the much-loved president of UBC during a crucial period. He was an unforgettable and positive influence for thousands of students at UBC. He had an uncanny ability to recognize students who needed help to overcome adversities they faced, and he generously and selflessly provided that help and encouragement to students for over 50 years, at just the right time and in just the right way. Most of those students went on to achieve their potential, and to contribute their best to their families, professions, communities and society. Those students were his family and his legacy.

Jim McEwen was lucky to be one of Walter Gage's students. Jim also began his education at Tecumseh Elementary School and was fortunate to have Walter Gage as his math professor. He was profoundly impressed by his professor's ability to brilliantly simplify seemingly complex topics, and was even more deeply influenced by seeing his professor's constant efforts to do what he could to help students and others succeed. Jim was one of those fortunate students, receiving an unexpected series of scholarships and bursaries from Walter Gage when he was dean of student affairs, enabling Jim to overcome financial obstacles and successfully complete his BAsC and PhD degrees at UBC. In fact, Walter Gage presented Jim with his diploma upon graduation, and continued to be his role model for years, presiding over the UBC Senate when Jim served as student Senator, and paving the way for Jim to become an Officer of the Order of Canada, thanks in part to lessons learned from Walter Gage.

With this Scholarship, the McEwen family seeks to recognize the John Oliver graduate who best exemplifies Walter Gage's best qualities: achievement of educational excellence; sustained efforts to recognize others in need, and to help them overcome obstacles and achieve their potential in life; and a selfless determination to always try to find new ways to help make the world a better place. The McEwen family asks all applicants for this Scholarship to become familiar with the exemplary life of an earlier John Oliver graduate. The McEwen family also asks each recipient of this Scholarship to consider what Walter Gage asked of his students: *If this Scholarship helps you succeed, and if your circumstances permit in the future, please consider finding a way that you can 'pay it forward' by helping other students in the future.*

The successful applicant:

- Will have demonstrated an understanding of the concept of "paying it forward" through self-initiated personal initiative that significantly assist one or more individuals to overcome obstacles which may limit success, either within the school or elsewhere in the community;
- Submits a reference letter from an individual familiar with the nature and extent of the assistance provided by the applicant;
- Demonstrates financial need for post-secondary education;

- Has achieved an average of at least 80% in Term 1 and 2 in courses taken at J.O. during the regular school year (excluding Community Service, Work Experience, and Career Prep);
- Is planning to enroll in at least 80% or more of a full course load (usually 4 out of 5 courses per semester or its equivalent) leading to a degree at an accredited college or university in an undergraduate program of their choice;
- Is a Canadian citizen, has Permanent Residence status in Canada, or is a Landed Immigrant;
- Submits a letter (2-page maximum, word processed, double-spaced) that describes
 - The nature and extent of the self-initiated assistance provided by the applicant in helping others succeed;
 - How the applicant's financial situation is a serious handicap for enrolling in post-secondary education; and
 - The applicant's post-secondary goals.