



Centennial Middle School Lego robotics team members will vie for the provincial title tomorrow in Toronto. Team members include, (front, from left) teacher Johanne Cournoyer-White, Sarah Field, Justine Rogers, Nick Andison, Steven Kutnara and Jared Whalen. In back, Jordan Hoyle, Steven Damphousse, Andrew White of Georgetown Youth Robotics Odyssey, Alex Lunn and Steven Chen. Photo by Ted Brown

## Centennial students eye Lego robotics crown

A group of Centennial School students who recently captured first place in a Lego robotic competition in Windsor are hoping for a repeat of their success this weekend.

The team, named Gyrophobia, placed first of 15 teams in the robot performance category in the First Lego League Robotic Competition held November 15, and will compete against 48 teams tomorrow (Saturday) during the provincial competition in Toronto.

The win in Windsor also qualifies the team to participate in the First Lego League Michigan State Tournament on December 6. A win in either Toronto or Michigan will advance the team to the First Lego League International

Competition in Atlanta, Georgia next April.

Team members are Jared Whalen, Steven Kutarna, Steven Damphousse, Alex Lunn, Nick Andison, Steven Chen, Andrew White, Sarah Field, Justine Rogers and Jordan Hoyle.

Centennial teacher Johanne Cournoyer-White, co-ordinator of the school's Robotics Club said the recent competition was based on what NASA is currently doing on Mars.

"The students have been working hard building and programming the nine missions their robot must achieve since September 15 when the competition was posted internationally on the First Lego League Web site," said Cournoyer-

White.

The students had to build their robot using the Lego Robotics Invention System then program it to complete the missions in a set period of time.

For example, she said, the team's robot, which was permitted to have no more than three motors, two touch sensors and two light sensors, had to pick up a rover and bring it back to the start point, pick up ice cores, and clear a solar panel.

Cournoyer-White said the team members, students in Grades 6 through 8, earned a total of 246 out of a possible 400 points.

Points were deducted each time a robot or the table was touched.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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