

Following York County science fair

Four young scientists headed for national competitions

By Julian Beltrame

"Just great; the kids did a fantastic job," exclaimed Ed Macdonald, co-director of York County's seventh annual science fair, marvelling at the quality of the exhibits on display Friday and Saturday at Bayview Secondary.

The fair has become a favourite among scientific-minded boys and girls in the regions' elementary and secondary schools since its inception, and this year featured a record 159 exhibits.

Science fairs are promoted "to encourage students interested in science experimentation and display" and are first judged at the school and area level before being entered at the county level.

"It's getting to be the thing that everybody is getting into," said co-director Bob Zoski, accounting for the increasing interest in the fair.

And possibly the reason is that nothing succeeds like success. Last year York county entered four students in the Canada Wide Science Fair and came away with nine prizes, including top Canadian and top Ontario prizes.

Macdonald was confident about this year's entrants who will make the trip to Jonquiere, Quebec for the May 18 to May 26 Canada Wide. "I'd say we've got a very good chance because they're better than last year's," he said.

The science fair, sponsored by the Richmond Hill Rotary Club, the York County Board of Education, the Roman Catholic Board, and countless other firms and individuals was attended by 302 students, the best of the more than 8,000 students who had entered the individual school competitions.

The exhibits covered the range of scientific areas, from the physical sciences to biology and environmental science and even included a study on cartoon animation and a home-made pinball machine.

Predictably the amount of work put into the projects differed as greatly as the projects themselves, with some claiming to have spent more than 1,000 hours, while others said 15 hours were spent on their exhibits.

But no matter the time and effort, most agreed the experience was well worth it and almost everyone said they'd do it again next year.

Thirty-six judges spent all day Friday evaluating the exhibits, some requiring as many as six different judgments from teachers, professional and Phds to come up with an appropriate mark for the exhibit.

By Friday night the judges had made up their minds about the class winners and the four best that would enter the Canada Wide in May. The exhibits were judged on neatness of display, organization, creativity, originality, after which each student was queried on his knowledge in the subject of his display.

It would take a near perfect 100 mark to warrant sending an exhibit to Jonquiere, said Zoski.

Local winner

Among the four making the trip will be Peter Smereka of Aurora High and Vernon Stringer of Bayview, who were winners in last year's Canada Wide at Calgary. They will be joined this year by Rod Lewis of Newmarket and Jim Rose of Thornlea Secondary.

Smereka's interest in the physical sciences has not changed since last year's

winning exhibit on "floating water". This year he studies the gyroscopic effect on a spinning wheel.

"I dropped a ball on a record player and the ball spiralled and that made me ask why," he said, explaining his interest in the subject. Using photographs, the grade 9 student was able to graph and account for the ball's motion on the home-made phonograph player.

Vernon Stringer also put photography to good use in his experiment on classifying viral mutations. By photographing the effect of bacterial viruses on bacterial cultures, Stringer was able to separate the normal viruses from the mutations.

"Normal viruses eat the bacterial leaving a cloudy affect, but mutations eat the bacteria quicker and leave holes in the culture," explained the grade 10 student, who plans to go to university and take up biology.

Rod Lewis, now in his last year of high school and who hopes to study agriculture at Guelph next year, chose an appropriate topic of study (recycling red wrigglers) for his exhibit: the solving of modern man's dilemma of how to rid himself of all the

garbage he keeps producing.

"Take any ordinary material and feed it to the red wrigglers and you end up with a dynamite soil mixture in no time," explained Lewis. "All you're doing is using mother nature to help you."

Rod Lewis first became interested in the project from working with Karl Klauk who makes a living out of worm castings by selling the produce as fertilizer.

Thornlea student

The fourth student to be making the trip is Jim Rose, also in his last year of high school, whose electron microscope was the most ambitious of the fair's exhibits. He estimates that he and a friend put in nearly 2,000 hours over the past year and a half, building the six-foot-long microscope.

The microscope which has so far cost his school \$350 and will become the property of the school uses electrons in place of light rays to magnify very small tissue samples. Rather than a viewer, the electron microscope incorporates something similar to a television screen to project an image of the tissue.

Asked if the time and effort was worth it, Jim Rose thought for a moment then ad-

mitted that it was "if it eventually works". The microscope has yet to produce a picture but Rose expects it will before the end of this year.

No doubt these four exhibits were the highlight of the fair, but they were only a part of the fair's over-all success.

The official guide for the 1975 York County Science Fair states its rationale in this way: "Science Fairs are basically educational rather than competitive, and therefore, the benefits are shared by all the participants and not merely by the winners."

No losers

Besides the winners' prizes, knowledge and an experience quite distinct from anything ever encountered by any of the participants before, were available to everyone. Besides these intangible benefits, every participant takes home a memento of York County's 1975 Science Fair.

But perhaps the spirit of the fair was best summed up by Desmond Ellard of the Rotary Club who said, "There were no losers at this fair, only winners."

Summary of results

Junior Special Awards

Alison Barrett and Marie Couperthwaite of Orchard Park, Janice Grey of Orchard Park, Fernando Ramirez of E. J. Sand and Lisa Milne of Beverley Acres.

**Physical Science
Grades 7 and 8**

(Names of prize winners are in order followed by honorable mentions).

Single
Bill Batter, Whitchurch Highlands; Jeff Starkman, Woodland Senior Public; Paul Gilbert, James Robinson. Honorable mention: Beverley Wilson, Deer Park; Warren Bury, Woodland; Filippo Salustri, St. Mary Immaculate.

Group
Tom Nielson and Bill Kitchen, Nobleton; Bill Fortier and David Geiss, Notre Dame; Anne Tunney and Cathy Macdonald, Notre Dame. Honorable mention: Laura Evans and Wendy Allan, St. Patrick's; Gary Foch and Danny Bushello, St. Mary Immaculate; Jane Macauley and Kathy Regan, St. Patrick's.

**Environment
Grades 7 and 8**

Single
Paul Pauls, St. Mark's; David Mallory, Meadowbrook; Karen Dehaas, St. Mary Immaculate. Honorable mention: Maureen McCaffrey, Notre Dame.

Group
Danny LeBlanc and Mike Mumford, Summitview; Rosemary Miller and Nancy Hogg, St. Patrick's; Ian and Cameron Hastings, Morning Glory. Honorable mention: Kathy Shanahan and Darlene Leon, St. Robert's; Beth McBride and Mary Lang, Summitview; Elizabeth O'Malley and Christine Cookson, Notre Dame.

**Life
Grades 7 and 8**

Single
Patsy Van Asperen, John XXIII; Mike Grabarczyk, John XXIII; Peter Ruston, James Robinson. Honorable mention: Mike Kovacs, St. Mary Immaculate; Wicksy Laurence, Park Avenue; Linda Lord, Crosby Heights.

Group
Dianne Jempson and Marilyn White, Royal Orchard; Kenneth Wells and Andrew Reesor, Orchard Park; Catherine and Jennifer Straumann, Crosby Heights. Honorable mention: Karen Lynen and Laura Lee Donohoe, St. Patrick's; Julie Simonds and Karen Barry, Stouffville; Elena Cesaroni and Patricia O'Neill, John XXIII.

**Earth
Grades 7 and 8**

Single
Anne Carrington, Pleasantville; Lorian Faurin, St. Robert's; David Nixon, Baythorn. Honorable mention: Liisa Budd, Park Avenue; Yvonne Diesing, King City Senior.

Group
Heather Neun and Sharon Soderberg, Roselawn; Richard Defaria and David Nickle, Notre Dame; Cathy and Linda Bray, Notre Dame.

**Physical Science
Grades 9 and 10**

Single
Peter Smereka, Aurora Secondary; Stephen Steel, Bayview Secondary; David Kelton, Langstaff Secondary. Honorable mention: Marino Morassutti, Thornhill Secondary; Wanda Kamucki, Stouffville.

Group
Dave Grimes and Andy Steckly, Huron Heights. Honorable mention: Beth Wilson and Barb Williams, Stouffville.

**Environmental
Grades 9 and 10**

Single
Paul Robertson, Thornhill. Honorable mention: Kathy Gupp, Huron Heights.

**Life
Grades 9 and 10**

Single
Vernon Stringer, Bayview; Kimberly Hall, Huron Heights; Mike Zajac, King City.

Group
Bruce Weddel and Rae Knight, Newmarket; Ken Kerrigan, Stouffville. Honorable mention: Kert Wideman, Stouffville.

Canada Wide Fair

Vernon Stringer, classifying viral mutants, Bayview Secondary; Jim Rose, electron microscope, Thornlea Secondary; Rod Lewis, recycling with red wrigglers, Newmarket; Peter Smereka, centrifugal force at right angles, Aurora High School.



Richmond Hill's Bayview Secondary School gymnasium was filled with 159 science displays from across York County last week. Four of the 302 students competing will go on to National finals.



Alan McKim, 13, a student at Richmond Hill's MacKillop Public School, explains his rain making model.

Water condenses under the top snow container.

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Tony's Studio of Hair Design Royal Orchard Plaza
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YORK CENTRAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

take notice that the **Annual Meeting**

of the Members of the York Central Hospital Association will be held in the

York Central Hospital
TUESDAY, the 29th DAY
of APRIL, 1975
at the hour of 8:00 p.m. to:

(a) Receive and consider the Annual Reports
(b) Elect Directors
(c) Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof

Dated at Richmond Hill this 16th day of April, 1975, by order of the Board of Trustees.

J.C. Hepburn, Secretary.