

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENVIROTHON WINNERS TO REPRESENT

MANITOBA IN MISSOURI

Winnipeg, Manitoba - The Manitoba Forestry Association is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Manitoba Envirothon. Of the 21 teams of high-school students studying this year's theme of Urban/Community Forestry, Vincent Massey Collegiate took first place overall; St. Boniface Diocesan High School took second place, with Swan Valley Secondary School in third place.

Over the past school year, students hoping to participate in this year's Envirothon competition trained with the help of teacher advisors. Paul Grossman, who coaches the St. Boniface Diocesan team said interested kids meet after school once a week. having worked with the students for four years, he said, "they're a strong, confident, well-spoken team," all of whom are science-oriented in their career-choices.

Envirothon Co-ordinator, Glenn Peterson, said the Envirothon "leads a lot of these kids to career paths they wouldn't otherwise have followed." Both of his own daughters, who once were Envirothon participants, ended up working in the fields of forestry and biology. "Kids appreciate and get a good grasp of how all the subjects (forestry, soils and land use, aquatic ecology, and wildlife) are interrelated: they have to consider the implications of decision-making and developing a management plan. They have to make a plan that is realistic," he explained.

Friday, May 22 saw the teams running a course of 15 trail test stations where they answered a series of questions on aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils and the theme topic, urban forestry. The teams were given an environmental challenge related to Urban Forestry on Saturday morning – their response was to be an oral presentation of their proposed solution. The top three teams then competed in finals before the entire audience of participants.

The Manitoba Envirothon was first held in 1997 at Birds Hill Park. As Manitoba's oldest environmental education organization, the Manitoba Forestry Association's mission is to educate all Manitobans about wise management of trees and forests, to ensure they remain healthy and productive for today and future generations. ~~Today, O~~ over 2,500-700 students have participated d ~~each year~~ in the Manitoba Envirothon.

The first-place team of this year's Envirothon will go on to compete in Springfield Missouri in July, in the North American Envirothon, over 55 teams will attend from across the continent.

First overall -Vincent Massey Collegiate

Laura Alsip (on camera left in Photo)

Alicia Zelenitsky Hill

Karim Sidhom

Lauren Beauchamp

Yesha Substincic West

Advisor: Bronwen Davies

Second Overall - St. Boniface Diocesan High School

Natalia Wycislak

Nooh Noga

Hannah Payumo

Damian Dragne

Griffin Swansen

Advisors: Paul Grossman, David Lisowski (not in photo)

Third Overall - Swan Valley Secondary School

Nicholas Connolly

Tayler Fleming

Jayden Wlasichuk

Victoria Verhoek

Braden Barker

Advisor: Rick Wochuk (not in photo)

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For further information on Envirothon, please contact:

Glenn Peterson, Manitoba Forestry Association at 1-204-453-3182

Byrnes Benoit , 2015 Envirothon Media Coordinator, 452-9832, 781-0079 cel