

For Immediate Release! 2014/05/26

## Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District Team Wins 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Manitoba Envirothon

---

The Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District Team from Swan River Regional High School won this year's Manitoba Envirothon. The team, Braden Barker, Tayler Fleming, Jayden Wlasichuk, Chloe Lagace and Victoria Verhoek put in a stellar trail test performance on Friday in unseasonably hot conditions. The Trail Test was hosted on Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada's research farm, just off 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Brandon. 15 stops challenged the 19 teams competing. The Swan Lake team, advised by Alex Verbo and Shawn Stankewich, delivered a very comprehensive and entertaining Orals Presentation to take first place overall. The Manitoba Forestry Association, presenter of the Envirothon will provide five RESP scholarships among other prizes donated that the students can use as they see fit to continue their educations.

The team from St. Boniface Diocesan High School placed second. Griffin Swanson, Natalia Wicislak, Hannah Payumo, Kyunghyem Kim and Breanne Beaubien were advised by Michael Villanueva and Paul Grossman. This team performed very well in the heat of the Trail Test, but excelled at the Orals Presentation with a compelling and well-informed presentation on Sustainable Agriculture and Locally Grown Food, this year's theme topic. Winnipeg's Vincent Massey Team #1, Alex Bairos-Novak, Alicia Zelensky-Hill, Lauren Beauchamp, Yesha Subotinic-West and Laura Alsip, advised by Bronwen Davies placed third overall.

20 teams from across the province enjoyed the challenge of the Trail Test on what was generally agreed by all to be the best day of the year so far, weather-wise. Brandon University was the host and home base for the competition. It was also the site for Saturday's Orals Competition. The teams were faced with a new Orals challenge and presentation format for this year's theme, Sustainable Agriculture and Locally Grown Foods. In past years, teams would deliver a lecture-style presentation to a panel of judges. This year they were tasked with assuming roles in a five-way "conversation" that would engage the judges while conveying both the team's knowledge of the environmental issues at hand as well as presenting a solution to the problem posed.

**For more information on this year's Manitoba Envirothon, please contact:**

**Byrnes Benoit, 2014 Envirothon Media Coordinator**  
**204-781-0079 [byrnes@spectra-productions.com](mailto:byrnes@spectra-productions.com)**