

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

The 2013 edition of the Manitoba Envirothon concluded earlier this week at the International Peace Garden. Twenty teams of five students per team competed for the right to represent Manitoba at the North American Envirothon held in Bozeman, Montana in July this year.

The teams from across the Province were challenged by a fifteen stop Trail Test on Friday. The Trail Test made the most of the rolling hills and diverse landscape that the Peace Garden has to offer. Upon concluding the Trial Test, (and after a hearty dinner catered by Fairholme Colony) the teams were introduced more intimately to the theme topic of Sustainable Rangeland Management by Clayton Robins, a Manitoba rancher and winner of this year's Nuffield Scholarship. His insights into rangelands would prove invaluable in discerning a solution to the Orals Question the teams would get Saturday morning.

The Orals Question was indeed a challenge - five parts requiring a studied response to mitigating the environmental impacts on a shared rangeland area. Once the preliminary oral smoke had cleared, three teams emerged to compete for the overall win - Swan Lake Watershed Conservation Team (from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School), Shaftesbury High School Team (sponsored by Sexton Group) and Swan Valley Regional Secondary School. These three teams had a few minutes to compose themselves and then present their solution to five new judges and over 250 fellow students, teacher/advisors and Envirothon volunteers.

The team from the Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District comprised of Victoria Bertram, Chloe Legace, Victoria Verhoek, Megan Moore, Hayden Wlasichuk (advisors: Rick Wowchuk and Shawn Stankewich) presented a well-considered solution to the Environmental challenges facing the Sibley Shared Pastureland. This victory represents the fourth time in the last five years that a team from Swan River has won the Provincial Event. The Shaftesbury High School Team, advised by Kim Stovel and Chris Johnston and comprised of Anna Liu, Erica Northrup, Kayan Xu, Rachael Wadlow and Tina Kim placed a close second with a strong Oral Finish that augmented their top five Trail Test score. The second of three Swan River Teams, the Swan Valley Regional Secondary School team, made up of Taylor Corbett, Ryan Cable, Megan Paquin, Braden Barker, Cole Cameron and advisors Eddie Shao and Matt Forbes, placed third overall.

Provincial Envirothon Co-chair Jim Potton was extremely pleased with the level of competition at this year's event, the 17th. "The enthusiasm, competence and innovative approaches this year's competitors brought to the event was truly inspiring. Proof again that the Manitoba Envirothon program is not only gaining momentum, but increasing intellectual depth at the same time." All twenty team competed in one of four regional events held throughout the province in April. The Manitoba Envirothon is a core program of the Manitoba Forestry Association.

For more information on the Manitoba Envirothon or the North American Envirothon, please contact:

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