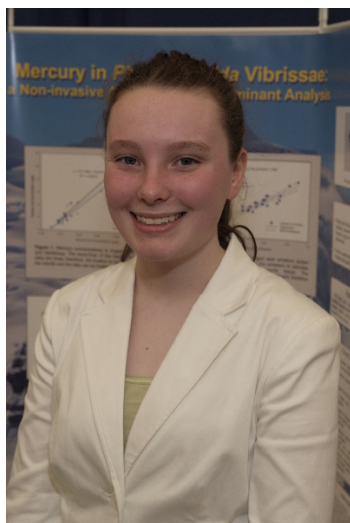


## CWSF 2007 - Truro, Nova Scotia



### Beth Ferreira

#### Mercury in Phoca hispida Vibrissae

**Division:** Engineering & Computing Sciences / None

**Category:** Intermediate

**Region:** Manitoba Schools Science Symposium

**City:** Winnipeg, MB

**School:** Fort Richmond Collegiate

**Abstract:** This study analyzed ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*) vibrissae for mercury content because whiskers collection is less invasive. Cold-vapour atomic absorption spectrometry and laser ablation ICP-MS showed a significant positive linear relationship between whiskers and muscle tissue. The amount of mercury in the whiskers is consistent with the expected range for liver or kidney tissue.

#### Biography

I'm Beth Ferreira and I am 15 years old in grade 10 at Fort Richmond Collegiate in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I enjoy being involved in activities at school with my friends. Some of my favourite ones involve music. I play oboe in wind ensemble and tenor sax in jazz band. As well, I am in grade 10 piano. I love playing water polo on my school's team and I participate in many environmental initiatives at my school such as Envirothon and recycling. At home, I like to read and listen to music. As for my future, I want to study biology. I think science is the best and definitely worth pursuing.

#### Awards

#### Value

The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$2 000
Gold Medal - Earth & Environmental Sciences - Intermediate Sponsor: Petro-Canada	\$1 500
Total	\$3 500