

# CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



## Laurissa Christie

### What's The Buzz?

**Division:** Engineering & Computing Sciences / Environmental Innovation

**Category:** Intermediate

**Region:** Bluewater

**City:** Tara, ON

**School:** St. Mary's High School

**Abstract:** Colony Collapse Disorder is a serious problem. This disorder could prevent pollination of one third of the crops humans need for food. Possible causes for the decline in honeybees include environmental stresses on the hives such as, migratory practices, climate changes and diseases. I conducted hygienic testing and hypothesized the more hygienic a hive is the more resistant it is to disease and hive loss.

### Biography

Laurissa is a grade nine student at St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound. She lives in rural Midwestern Ontario with her family on a broiler chicken and red deer farm. She loves to figure skate and proudly represents her local club at competitions. Laurissa enjoys spending time with her family snowmobiling in the winter and in the summer at the cottage; swimming, boating, tubing and riding the sea-doo. She also enjoys traveling to visit her aunts in southern California. She enjoys acting with the local theatre group and representing her school at various public speaking competitions. Laurissa is a three time Canadian "pumpkin chuckin" champion. Last year at CWSF she won a gold medal in automotive and bronze in engineering for her project on biodiesel. In the summer Laurissa worked with a local apiarist learning about the beekeeping industry and conducting experiments. She continued her research throughout the year with the Ontario Beekeeping Association and the University of Guelph. In the future she hopes to attend university and pursue a career in environmental or life sciences.

### Awards

### Value

The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 000
Honourable Mention - Environmental Innovation - Intermediate Sponsor: EnviroExpo, Presented by VIA Rail Canada	\$100
Bronze Medal - Earth & Environmental Sciences - Intermediate Sponsor: Petro-Canada	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1 400</b>