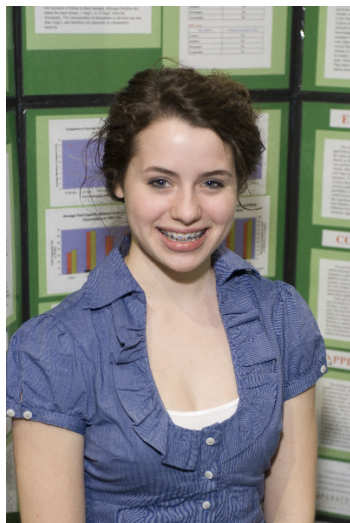


# CWSF 2009 - Winnipeg, Manitoba



## Olivia Geen

### Comparing Silica Gel & Newspaper to Vermiculite as Environmental Soil Additives

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

**Category:** Senior

**Region:** Quinte

**City:** Belleville, ON

**School:** Moira S.S.

**Abstract:** In today's world of escalating climate change, improving water retention in soil has become vitally important in the challenge to conserve water. It was found that recycled newspaper and pharmaceutical drying agents containing silica gel, which are otherwise thrown out by the thousands in pharmacies across the country, improved water retention in soils to the same effect as vermiculite, an existing soil additive.

#### Biography

My name is Olivia Geen, and I am a grade 11 student at Moira Secondary School. I am currently in my first year of the International Baccalaureate program, and was enrolled in the Foundations and Destinations pre-IB programs in past years. I am the Fundraising Head of our Student Council, and regularly volunteer outside of school, helping at science workshops for kids and tutoring elementary students. I have enjoyed working part-time in a pharmacy for three years, and participate in cross-country, badminton, and track and field. I have my grade 7 RCM in piano, and love to read, write, learn, and hang out with friends in my spare time.

#### Awards

#### Value

The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 000
University of Ottawa Entrance Scholarship Senior Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Ottawa	\$1 000
Bronze Medal - Earth & Environmental Sciences - Senior Sponsor: Petro-Canada	\$300
Bronze Medal - Environmental Innovation - Senior Sponsor: EnviroExpo, Presented by VIA Rail Canada	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 600</b>