

CWSF 2009 - Winnipeg, Manitoba



Laurissa Christie

What's the Buzz Now?

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. Einstein stated that without the honeybee, humanity would be lost within three years. Possible causes for decline in honeybees include: environmental factors such as pesticide usage, climate change, and diseases. Colonies were tested for varroa, tracheal mites, and nosema. Pollen samples were identified and analyzed for pesticide residue. Farmers are concerned their actions produce negative impact on honeybees.

Biography

Laurissa is a grade ten 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 four time Canadian "pumpkin chuckin" champion. In 2007 at CWSF she won a gold medal in automotive and bronze in engineering for her project on biodiesel. Last year she won a bronze in environmental science and honourable mention in innovation. In the summers of 2007 & 2008 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 Silver Medallist - \$1500 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 500
The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 000
Bronze Medal - Earth & Environmental Sciences - Intermediate Sponsor: Petro-Canada	\$300
Silver Medal - Environmental Innovation - Intermediate Sponsor: EnviroExpo, Presented by VIA Rail Canada	\$700
Total	\$3 500