

CWSF 2015 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Derek Hennings

Strength of Common Construction Softwoods

Challenge: Innovation

Category: Intermediate

Region: Yukon Stikine

City: Whitehorse, YT

School: Vanier Catholic Secondary

Abstract: Lumber is the most common material used in the framework of buildings. Softwoods like the Douglas fir, Lodgepole Pine and White Spruce are widely used in both residential and commercial structures. The maximum static load of each of these three species is determined in this experiment, which is used to decide which of the three is the most structurally secure for use in construction.

Biography

I'm not much different from any other Canadian boy you have ever met. I'm huge on hockey and love any opportunity to get together and play our game. But go a little deeper and I'm far from the average boy. I've been blessed to be able to go to the CWSF 2015, but I didn't make it there all by myself. The inspiration for my project came from the tragic stories you here in the news about people being killed from their own house collapsing in on them while they are still inside. I have seen far too many of these to not try to do something about it. After this Science Fair, I plan on spreading my results to contractors and building crews here in the Yukon and in turn to the rest of Canada. My advice to future young scientists like myself is to study something that you love to do, and it won't be a chore, but a passion. I love to build and look where it took me.