

## CWSF 2016 - Montreal, Quebec



### Richard Kavanagh

#### Lake Vostok

**Challenge:** Environment

**Category:** Intermediate

**Region:** Central Newfoundland

**City:** Little Bay, P. Bay, NL

**School:** Pearce Jr. H.S.

**Abstract:** The successful exploration of Lake Vostok, a subglacial lake 500 meters below the ice of Antarctica, will provide evidence of environmental conditions long ago and may even reveal ancient life. NASA is working on its exploration and subsequent contamination issues as a testing ground for their main mission ? to go to Jupiter's moon Europa and search for life under its icy surface.

#### Biography

I was born and raised in the small community of Little Bay, Newfoundland. I began school at Sacred Heart Academy, Marystown and currently attend Pearce Junior High, Burin. By grade five, I realized that I had a passion for school and, in particular, math and science. As a result, I decided early on that I wanted to be a teacher like many of my relatives. This is an aspiration that I still have. I enjoy learning new things and have competed in many Heritage Fairs and Science Fairs since grade five, at both the school and regional levels. Like many teenagers, my interests include playing video games and watching YouTube. However, my favorite videos are often documentaries on history and science. My inspiration for this project can be traced back to two experiences: a visit to the Kennedy Space Centre and a tour of the Athabasca Glacier. Both experiences were tremendous learning opportunities and learning about Lake Vostok combined these interests. I plan on following the developments NASA makes with their attempt to breach Lake Vostok, as this is a unique opportunity for us to learn more about life that existed on this Earth millions of years ago.

Youth Science Canada  
PO Box 297  
Pickering ON L1V 2R4  
[www.youthscience.ca](http://www.youthscience.ca) / [info@youthscience.ca](mailto:info@youthscience.ca)  
416-341-0040