

# CWSF 2017 - Regina, Saskatchewan



## Jacob Bowman

### Fish or chips: brook trout in Harper Creek

**Challenge:** Environment

**Category:** Intermediate

**Region:** Peterborough

**City:** Peterborough, ON

**School:** Holy Cross S.S.

**Abstract:** Harper Creek in Peterborough has one of Ontario's last remaining urban brook trout populations. I have been conducting a multi-year study to evaluate trout habitat quality. During the course of my research, plans were announced to build a casino close to the creek, including a realignment of roads. I found that road realignment will be detrimental to the trout population in North Harper Creek.

#### Biography

I am in Grade 9 at Holy Cross Secondary School in Peterborough, Ontario. I am a fly fisherman and I have always been interested in fish, especially the brook trout. I have been studying the Harper Creek system in Peterborough for the past 3 years, because this interesting network of creeks contains one of the last urban brook trout populations in southern Ontario. I have had success at the Peterborough Regional Science Fair presenting results of my trout study during the last 3 years. Since I began my research the city announced plans to construct a casino in close proximity to the creek. I have been the only person conducting studies of the creek prior to this announcement, which has made my research relevant for fish conservation as plans go ahead for casino development. Recently, it was announced that a new telemetry study of brook trout in the creek will be conducted by Trent University to follow up my project. I will continue to monitor trout in the creek as well.

#### Awards

#### Value

Excellence Award - Intermediate - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 000