

# CWSF 2018 - Ottawa, Ontario



## Kasia Kowalski

### Mycoremediation: One Way Fungi Can Save the World

**Challenge:** Environment

**Category:** Intermediate

**Region:** South Shore

**City:** Mahone Bay, NS

**School:** Bayview Community School

**Abstract:** This experiment aims to determine whether different species of fungi from the same genus will break down motor oil less or more effectively depending on the type of substrate they are being grown in. This is to find the best species of fungi (of the species tested) for cleaning up oil spills on land, and to innovate our methods of dealing with these issues.

#### Biography

My name is Kasia Kowalski. I was born and raised in Nova Scotia, and have had a life-long interest in nature and all related sciences, as well as art, music, mathematics, and literature. I enjoy reading, writing, playing piano, clarinet, and violin, painting, sketching, educating myself on science and learning in general. I have a Highest Academic Average award, 2 Model Citizen Awards, and won the 1st place Lunenburg Folk Harbour Society Jim Pittman award when I was 11 years old for a short story I wrote. In the future I plan to pursue a career in physics or biology, and to continue writing fictional prose, playing music, and making art. I got the inspiration for my experiment upon recalling a fascinating article I read several years ago on the incredible potential of fungi, and have since designed my own experiment to test which species of fungi is most effective at cleaning up oil spills. In the future my existing project could be expanded to test different and more varied species of fungi and soil types from what I've used in my experiment.

#### Awards

#### Value

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