

CWSF 2019 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Graeme Hopkins

A Taphonomic Comparison of Two Ordovician Fossil Assemblages

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Intermediate

Region: Ottawa

City: Ottawa, ON

School: Ashbury College

Abstract: Does the way in which rocks are formed affect the kinds of fossil animals preserved in them? I examined two types of rock deposits. One deposit was formed by gradual accumulation of silt on the sea floor; the other was formed when a mudslide deposited many layers of silt simultaneously. The deposit yielding the most fossil specimens and species overall was formed by the mudslide.

Biography

My name is Graeme Hopkins. I am 14 years old, and I live in Ottawa, Ontario. I am currently in grade 9 at Ashbury College. On weekends and holidays, I like to volunteer at the Canadian Museum of Nature and spend time outdoors. In the Spring and Summer, I enjoy fossil and mineral collecting. I am a member of the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club and the Eastern Ontario Natural History Society. Last Fall, I attended the 2018 Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership. In the future, I hope to pursue a career in paleontology. This is my first time attending the CWSF! My inspiration for this project comes from my love for Paleontology, and my large collection of fossils. Over the past few years, I have observed different fossil species are found in different areas of Ottawa. This project was developed to explore the reasoning behind this observation. In the future, I plan to sample more comprehensively the rock formations of the Ottawa area to further understand how geologic processes affect fossilization and species representation. I would advise students thinking about doing a project to follow their passions, try their best, and be original!

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Intermediate - Silver Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Western University Scholarship Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$2 000
Total	\$2 000