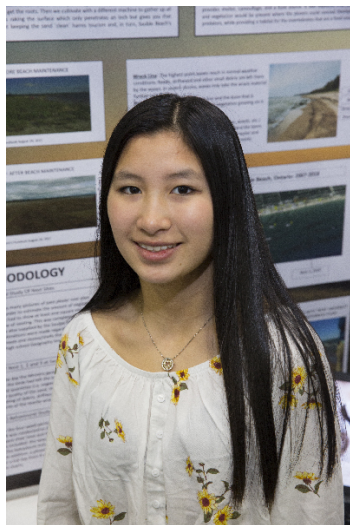


# CWSF 2019 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



## Islay Graham

### Rake Wrack Risk: Do Piping Plovers Prefer a Clean Beach?

**Challenge:** Environment

**Category:** Junior

**Region:** Bluewater

**City:** Georgian Bluffs, ON

**School:** Hepworth Central P.S.

**Abstract:** Beach maintenance has been a controversial issue at Sauble Beach for the Great Lakes Piping Plover, an endangered shorebird. Twenty-eight nesting sites were examined and plover behaviours were scrutinized to determine if plovers prefer a "clean" beach. The ideal plover habitat contained 40.5% vegetation and debris. Plovers spend 56.3% of their time on the wrack line so raking the beach would definitely hasten their extinction.

#### Biography

Living on the beautiful Bruce Peninsula and being encircled by Georgian Bay, Lake Huron and the Niagara Escarpment has impacted my interest in nature and science. Last summer, I responded to the need for volunteers to educate the public about the endangered Great Lakes Piping Plovers. I became a Plover Lover and spent fifty hours at Sauble Beach, Ontario. I was determined to discover their preferred natural habitat and their daily behaviours. Through observation, I developed a strong passion for these interesting shore birds. I am a grade seven French Immersion student at École Hepworth Central Public School. I am industrious, persistent, passionate and love to learn. I try my best to be positive, see the good in everyone and look for opportunities that come my way. I have participated in Science Fair for four years. I have received two silver medals, two gold medals, two special awards and two Best of Fair Awards. This is my first year attending Canada-Wide. I feel it is important to always try your best no matter what. Never be afraid to make mistakes and, when you do, acknowledge and learn from them.

#### Awards

#### Value

Broadcom MASTERS International Sponsor: Broadcom Foundation	\$3 000
Excellence Award - Junior - Gold Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Challenge Award - Environment - Junior Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Western University Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$4000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$4 000
Youth Can Innovate Awards - Junior Sponsor: The Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trottier Foundation	\$500
Platinum Award - Best Junior Project Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7 500</b>