

# CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



## Joseph McNeil

### Camellia Sinensis as an Aid in Regenerative Nerve Therapy

**Division:** Life Sciences / None  
**Category:** Senior  
**Region:** Strait  
**City:** Red Islands, NS  
**School:** Richmond Academy  
**Abstract:** The objectives of this project are to observe the effects of chemicals found in the *Camellia sinensis* (tea) plant on cells that represent the mammalian central nervous system (CNS). If the chemicals are shown to increase the rate of growth and overall health of the cells, there may be significant applications in pre-natal CNS development and in the treatment of some neurodegenerative disorders.

#### Biography

I became interested in science through my parents. When I was young they would buy me "imponderables" books that would answer random questions about our world. This prompted me to become interested in how our everyday world works. Over time this caused me to become interested in chemistry, which developed into physics which became quantum physics, and now here I am. I am involved in numerous extra curricular activities. These include the Interact club, Junior Achievement, Fencing, concert band, jazz band, Air Cadets and I am on my school's student council. I also have many ambitions outside of school which include obtaining my private pilots license next summer through cadets, owning my own business, writing a novel and making short films on activist issues. My plans for after grade school are to obtain a bachelor of science and a concurrent bachelor of business administration. I will do a double honors in physics and chemistry and a major in marketing. After that I plan to obtain a masters in quantum physics and then a Ph.d in Cosmology. From there I plan to start my own independent research company. Above all, I would truly like to win a Nobel prize someday.

#### Awards

#### Value

Dalhousie University Faculty of Science Entrance Scholarship Senior Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Dalhousie University, Faculty of Science	\$2 000
UBC Science (Vancouver) Entrance Award Senior Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: The University of British Columbia (Vancouver)	\$2 000
The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Silver Medallist - \$1500 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 500
University of Ottawa Entrance Scholarship Senior Silver Medallist - \$3000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Ottawa	\$3 000
Silver Medal - Health Sciences - Senior Sponsor: Canadian Institutes of Health Research	\$700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9 200</b>