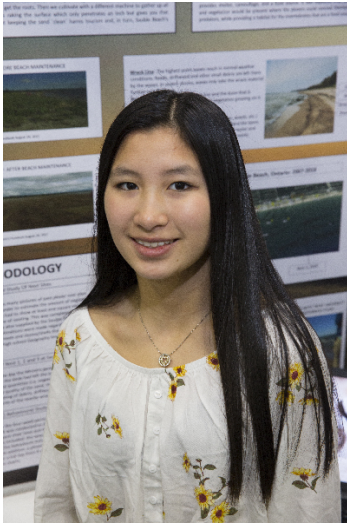


CWSF 2019 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



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	
Total	\$7 500