

National awards for Vancouver students

Vancouver secondary students excelled at the 2006 Canada-Wide Science Fair held this year in Saguenay, Quebec, accomplishing an amazing feat: all nine students came home with awards. That's pretty amazing when you consider that only about 20 percent of the almost 500 students who attend the fair, come home with awards.

Van Tech Secondary science teacher, Devon Ross, is confident all nine students exceeded their own expectations. "The students gained confidence and created many new friendships they will carry with them for a long time. The teachers who accompanied the students, had the chance to participate in professional workshops on how to improve science learning. And we all got to share our cultures and our stories with other students, teachers and scientists from across the country."

Devon credits the Vancouver School District's strong science programs for the strong showing. "These outstanding results show the importance we place on science. While some see the awards as the

highlight, I see the smiles and the way the students grew during the week, both academically and personally."

Here are our champions:

Robyn Thom and Thomas Sun (Grade 11, Churchill) won a gold medal (\$1,500), a silver medal (\$700), a \$2,000 UBC scholarship and a \$3,500 scholarship to the University of Western Ontario. Nancy Nguyen (Grade 11, Tech) won a silver (\$700), The Canadian Mathematical Society Award (\$750), a \$2,000 UBC scholarship and a \$1,500 scholarship for the University of Western Ontario. Kitsilano's Grade 12 duo of Philip Edgcumbe and Maxim Winther took a bronze (\$300), The Merck Frost Exploring Minds Award (\$1,000), The Actuarial Foundation of Canada Award (\$1,000) and \$1,000 for the University of Western Ontario. Churchill's Kenneth Wong (Grade 12) won \$1,500 for his engineering project explained in French, a bronze medal (\$300) and a \$2,000 scholarship to the University of Western Ontario. Hanna Cho and Bing Luo (Grade 11, Churchill) and Tech's Grade 9 student, Lauren Law, won Honorable Mentions (\$100).



*Top medalists from Canada-wide Science Fair
Thomas Sun and Robyn Thom from Churchill*

Science education expands

Students at eight Vancouver elementary schools will be getting the education of a lifetime in the new school year.



*Student and teacher form
partnerships during
science enrichment program*

The fledgling scientist-in-residence program is now officially part of the many innovative programs offered by the Vancouver School Board. Beginning in September, real-life scientists will work with teachers at eight schools to draw up lesson plans and offer students an exciting science education for the 2006/2007 school year.

This new science enrichment program is a hands-on, active learning initiative that has proven to be very popular in a pilot program as students develop positive attitudes about science: enhance their knowledge of science and develop exploration and inquiry skills. Teachers get the opportunity to form partnerships and develop and implement science experiences for their students. It's professional development without having to leave the classroom.

The scientists come from university faculty and staff, private companies, government agencies, and science organizations, just to name a few.

The program was developed by Dr. Paige Axelrood, Senior Research Scientist at Vizon SciTec Inc. Through her determination and tenacity, the Vancouver School Board is now able to formally support the Scientist-in-Residence program thanks to the generosity of The Vancouver Foundation, Rix Family Foundation, Derek Spratt through the B.C. Technology Foundation, and Vizon SciTec Inc, all of which have contributed financial and moral support.