

THE 2018 HUSKY ENERGY EASTERN NEWFOUNDLAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

This year the fair was hosted by Waterford Valley High. The fair was held on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14. On Friday morning students attended tours offered from several departments and research facilities at Memorial University and the Ocean Sciences Centre in Logy Bay. Tours were followed by judging in the afternoon. There were over 80 judges, many of whom are professors, instructors and graduate students at MUN. There were 130 students from 15 schools on the Avalon Peninsula, both junior and senior high, competing. These schools included Crescent Collegiate, Gonzaga, Holy Heart, Holy Spirit, L'école Rocher-du-Norde, L'école des grand vents, Lakecrest, MacDonald Drive Junior, Mount Pearl Senior, St. Bonaventure's College, St. Kevin's Junior, St. Michael's, St. Peter's, Villanova and Waterford Valley.

On Saturday, the public viewing and awards ceremony was attended by approximately 500 people. The emcees for the ceremony were Erin Baker, Co-Chair and Yvonne Dawe, past chair and current communications officer of the Eastern Newfoundland Science Fairs Council, (ENSFC), the group of volunteers that organizes the fair each year. A number of representatives from the major sponsors of the fair also attended and assisted with the presentation of awards. These included Mr. Jim Piercey, Manager of Production Operations, Atlantic Region, Husky Energy; Dr. Mary Courage, Interim Dean of Science, MUN; Dr. Irene O'Brien, Dean, School of Health Sciences, CNA; Dr. Dale Kirby, Minister, Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development; Mr Larry Eddy, Program Specialist, Science and Technology, NL English School District.

One of the highlights of the awards ceremony was the awarding of the grand awards which includes the selection of the 6 students that will represent Eastern Newfoundland at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa, in May. These included Jasmine Rahman and Henley Mullins from St. Bonaventure's College, Oishi Hawlader from Gonzaga, and Mitchell Hynes, Chris Peacock and Aaron Sakar, all students from Holy Heart. Chris Peacock received the Marine Institute Entrance Scholarship (\$1000), Oishi Hawlader received MUN's Faculty of Science scholarship (\$2550), and Jasmine Rahman was awarded the "Husky Energy Best of Fair" Prize (\$500).



Jamie Parsons (ENSFC Co-chair), Henley Mullins, Mitchell Hynes, Aaron Sakar, Jim Piercey (Husky Energy), Chris Peacock, Oishi Hawlader, Erin Baker (ENSFC Co-chair)

Of the 105 projects, over half were recognized with medals and awards. There were 15 honourable mentions and 56 medals presented (25 gold, 16 silver and 15 bronze). As well, over 50 special awards from a number of MUN faculties and departments (Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Physics, Psychology, Engineering, Medicine and Ocean Sciences) and other organizations (NAACAP, CMOS, IEEE, RAS, Conservation Corps, NL Institute of Agrologists, NL Lung Assoc, NL College for Medical Lab Sciences, Neety Panu, SHAD and WISE) were presented. The monetary value of all prizes, including the all expenses paid trip to the national competition, totaled over \$20 000. As well, the 6 grand award winners were each presented with a stuffed husky dog from Husky Energy.

A list of all winners can be found at <http://eastern.scifairs.k12.nf.ca/eastern.html>

The Eastern Newfoundland Science Fairs Council extends a sincere thank you for the generous support of our sponsors: Husky Energy; Faculty of Science, Memorial University; College of the North Atlantic; Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Government of NL; NL English School District; Marine Institute, Memorial University; Rutter; Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Government of NL; Belbins Grocery; Chandler Enterprises; Starbucks.

Canada Wide Science Fair Results

It's a Sweep! Science Team NL all medal at the 2018 Canada Wide Science Fair



Science team NL: Mitchell Hynes, Henley Mullins, Aaron Sarkar, Oishi Hawlader, Jasmine Rahman, Erin Burt

Congratulations to the 6 students who proudly represented our province at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa this past week. Students were selected from 130 young scientists who competed at the 2018 Husky Energy Eastern Newfoundland Science and Technology Fair in April. The team included Oishi Hawlader from Gonzaga, Mitchell Hynes and Aaron Sakar from Holy Heart, Erin Burt of Holy Spirit as well as Jasmine Rahman and Henley Mullins from St. Bonaventure's College. The students spent a week at Carlton University along with chaperones, Ms. Erin Baker and Ms. Heidi Kavanagh. The national fair brings together approximately 500 junior and senior high students from all provinces and territories. For the first time in recent history all NL students won a medal! This is quite an accomplishment and a rare occurrence for any team from any region competing at the national level! Jasmine, Oishi and Aaron all won silver medals while Erin, Henley and Mitchell took home bronze. Henley also won the junior physics prize from the Canadian Association of Physicists. In addition, all medal winners were offered entrance scholarships to a number of Canadian Universities including Carlton, Dalhousie, Western Ontario, Ottawa and UBC (Vancouver).

Local Young Scientist Represents NL at 2018 Prime Minister's Science Fair

Jasmine Rahman was amongst 35 of our country's best and brightest young innovators this past week in Ottawa at the second annual Prime Minister's Science Fair. Jasmine, a grade 10 student at St. Bonaventure's College, presented her project "Optimizing Plant Growth Efficiency by Strategically Combining Organic Waste" to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Science and Sport Kirsty Duncan.



“Congratulations to the young scientists, researchers and innovators who participated in the year's Prime Minister's Science Fair. The incredible work they showcased today is an inspiration to people of all ages across Canada and demonstrates what can be accomplished with hard work, determination and encouragement. Their inventions, curiosity and creativity have the potential to build a better world for us all”

– *The Honourable Kirsty Duncan*

Jasmine Rahman explains her project to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Duncan

In her research Jasmine determined combining char and fish hydrolysate resulted in substantial plant growth. Jasmine's excellent work was recognized at the 2018 Husky Energy Eastern Newfoundland Science and Technology Fair where she won "Best in Fair". Jasmine was also one of 6 students selected from 130 that competed at the regional fair to represent Eastern NL at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa this past May. All 6 students came away from that event with medals! That was an unprecedented accomplishment for any team competing at this prestigious national event. It just goes to show what our youth can accomplish given the opportunity. The regional fair is open to all students, from grades 7 to 12, in Eastern NL. The 2019 fair will be held on April 12 and 13 (venue TBA).

"The advice I would give to students thinking about a science fair project is to pick a topic you're passionate about and be creative" – *Jasmine Rahman*