



Student's Care about Our Watersheds

Summary:

Students in Southern Alberta care about the health of our watersheds. Agrium's Caring for Our Watersheds contest wrapped up on May 8th at the Calgary Zoo when top finalists competed to win the \$1,000 first place prize.

Over 200 proposals were received from Grades 7-12 students who answered the question, **“What can you do to improve your watershed?”** Students researched their local watershed, identified an environmental concern and came up with a realistic solution. Community judges selected the top entries to compete at the finals.

Sierra Harty from Erle Rivers School in Milk River placed first in the Grades 7-9 Category for her idea to use trails and signs to protect the Milk River Watershed. Cameron Reed from Centennial High School in Calgary placed first in the Grades 10-12 Category with a project to reduce the impact golf courses have on the Bow River by using bat boxes and bird houses. All finalists won a cash prize plus a matching cash prize for their school.

Lindsey Metheral, Agrium Program Coordinator said, “This is an opportunity for students to learn about their local watershed and be empowered to turn their ideas into realistic solutions.”

Nearly \$17,000 was awarded to students and schools who participated. Along with the cash prizes, Agrium has also provided \$10,000 to help implement the students' ideas.

A special thank you to the community partners who made this event possible: Agrium, Bow River Basin Council, Inside Education, Milk River Watershed Council, Oldman Watershed Council, RiverWatch and South East Alberta Watershed Alliance.

For more information visit www.CaringForOurWatersheds.com or call Lindsey Metheral at 403-225-7782.

GRADES 10-12 CATEGORY				
Final Place	Award	Student Name(s)	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	Cameron Reed	Reducing the Impact of Golf Courses on the Bow River Watershed	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
2	\$800	Emma Morgan, Connor Molineaux, Katie Morgan & Courtney Schubert	Saving Our Watershed, One Bathroom at a Time	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
3	\$600	Adam Medley & Suraj Sridharan	Household Shower Head Replacement	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
4	\$400	Sara Taafe, Samantha Hans, Laura Farley & Andrea Terakita	Organizing an Environmental Conference	Ripple Effect (Calgary, AB)
5	\$300	Jonathan Leung	Protecting the Wetlands in the Bow River Headwaters	St. Mary's High School (Calgary, AB)
6	\$150	Sarah Strange & Alysha Sopp	Filtering Our Storm Water to Improve Water Quality	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
7	\$100	Danny Han, Andrew Johnson, Natasha Campbell & Nigel DeBlois	Batteries should be Recycled, Not Wasted	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
8	\$100	Altan Zehir, Matthew Stetz & Cole Boettger	Saving the Bow River Watershed, One Tap At A Time!	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
8	\$100	Krystin Bjornsen & Cassandra Stolz	Implementing Rain Gardens in Our Community	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
8	\$100	Matthew Woloschuk, Zarin Bari & Leah Goettler	The Green Bin Concept	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)
8	\$100	Christine McDonald & Kiera Rozenuk	The Bow River	Centennial High School (Calgary, AB)

GRADES 7-9 CATEGORY				
Final Place	Award	Student Name(s)	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	Sierra Harty	Green is Great - Trails and Signs	Erle Rivers School (Milk River, AB)
2	\$800	Jace Doenz	Cattle Waterers	Erle Rivers School (Milk River, AB)
3	\$600	Jalen Hult	Wired Tree Seedlings	Erle Rivers School (Milk River, AB)
4	\$400	Tyson Bohnert	Neighbourhood Stewards & Nature Clubs	Families Learning Together (Lethbridge, AB)
5	\$300	Christopher Ross & Duncan Alexander	The Water Diet	Ripple Effect (Calgary, AB)
6	\$150	Gillian Curren	Using Social Media to Promote Water Shortage Awareness	MidSun School (Calgary, AB)
7	\$100	Laura Noble	Speaking - Youth Conference	Ripple Effect (Calgary, AB)
7	\$100	Maya Degrood	Water Depletion	Erle Rivers School (Milk River, AB)
7	\$100	Nikolas DeVries	A Future Without Private Transportation	Bishop Pinkham School (Calgary, AB)
7	\$100	Tierra Maggrah	Water Consumption in the Home	Erle Rivers School (Milk River, AB)
7	\$100	Trey Blackmer	Milk River Watershed	Erle Rivers School (Milk River, AB)

Background:

Agrium Inc. understands that taking care of the world requires more than simply talking about it. It calls for stewardship and a lighter footprint. As a result, Agrium has launched an environmental program for Grades 7-12 students called, "Caring for our Watersheds" (CFW).

CFW asks students to submit an essay proposal that answers the question, "**What can you do to improve your watershed?**" Either individually or as a team they must research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and come up with a realistic solution.

Lindsey Metheral, Agrium Program Coordinator said, "One of the most appealing benefits is that this is an opportunity for students to learn about their local watershed and be empowered to turn their ideas into realistic solutions."

Agrium is proud to offer CFW in Southern Alberta, including all cities and towns south of Red Deer, AB. Students inside and north of Red Deer are encouraged to enter the CFW: Central Alberta contest.

With over 200 entries to choose from in Southern Alberta, community judges selected the top entries from the Grades 10-12 category and the Grades 7-9 category. These contestants gave a five minute presentation to a panel of judges on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at the Calgary Zoo.

Nearly \$17,000 was awarded to students and schools who participated. Along with the cash prizes, Agrium has also provided \$10,000 to help implement the students' ideas.

A special thank you to the community partners who contributed to the success of the Southern Alberta contest: Agrium, Bow River Basin Council, Inside Education, Milk River Watershed Council, Oldman Watershed Council, RiverWatch and South East Alberta Watershed Alliance.

History:

CFW was piloted from 2007-2009 within the Battle River Watershed (Camrose, Alberta area). When the students were asked what they could do to help their watersheds, the answers surprised everyone. Not only because students provided new solutions to old problems, but also because it was apparent how much future generations care about watersheds, their world and their place in it. Local community partners such as the Battle River Watershed Alliance were instrumental in connecting students with real life opportunities.

Agrium President and Chief Executive Office Mike Wilson said, "I have seen the spectacular innovation and ideas put forth in Caring for our Watersheds. I strongly believe this contest will be beneficial not only to our environment but to the communities where we operate." He went on to add, "What better way to help grow the next

generation but by engaging them and asking for help in seeking solutions in our communities.”

In 2009-2010 the contest will be offered in Canada within Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta; and in the United States within Colorado. Future years will see the contest expand throughout North and South America.

The success of CFW relies on teachers, students and community volunteers. If you would like to be involved please visit www.CaringForOurWatersheds.com.

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