

Team Titans named 2010 Envirothon NL Champs



"Team Titans" (L-R) : Hillary Bellows, Alison Byrne, Michael Dawe, Browyn Woolfrey, Melissa Brake, Envirothon Coordinator Krista McCarthy

Conne River team during the "Soils" field test.

Model Forest congratulates **Team Titans**, from Corner Brook Regional High school. The *Titans* took home the title of Envirothon Champs, from the 2010 NL Envirothon that was held at Max Simms camp in Bishop's Falls this May.

The Envirothon is an annual, academic competition that invites teams from high schools across the province to put their knowledge to the test. Teams are made up of five students plus a teacher sponsor. This year, a total of eight teams participated in the event, representing schools from Corner Brook, Deer Lake, Grand Falls, and Conne River.

Envirothon focuses on the province's natural resources, and teams are tested in specific areas such as soils, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife. Each team is required to do a field test based on each of these 4 topics, as well as a fifth test, in an area predetermined by event organizers, based on a current environmental issue. This year's issue was: protecting groundwater through urban, agricultural and environmental planning.

Teamwork and public speaking skills are also tested, as one of the requirements is to give a presentation. At this year's event, the teams were presented with a problem scenario centered on the current environmental issue, and were then required to find an adequate or appropriate solution to the scenario and present it orally to a panel of judges, made up of representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Ocean, Natural Resources, and Environment and Conversation.

In preparation for the presentations, teams are not permitted to use the internet or text books, but only the knowledge that they learned and retained throughout the school year. Their knowledge goes beyond what they learn in the classroom, as environmental science is an extracurricular to these keen students. Knowing the demands of the competition (especially returning teams), motivates these guys to meet on their free time prior to the event, to discuss the topics and prepare themselves for success.

During the 3-day event, each team competes for the chance of winning from any of eight award categories: top score in *each* field test (5); top score of the oral presentation; and of course, the overall, Title Champions, with the grand prize: a place at the International level.

There is also the Dr. Neal Simon Team-Spirit Award. Neal Simon was a judge in NL Envirothon 2006, who died in a boating accident later that year. In memory of Dr. Neal Simon, the NL Envirothon recognizes a team that best exemplifies Neal's love of both learning, and of Newfoundland and Labrador's natural environment. The award this year was presented to "NCIS" in Dr. Neal's honor. "NCIS: Newfoundland's Current Issue Solutions" from Elwood High School, in Deer Lake, also took home the award for best score in the oral presentation. Exploits High School "The Baccalo's" scored highest in both the aquatics and wildlife tests, while "Team Titans" scored highest in forestry, soils, groundwater, naming them overall winner of the 2010 Envirothon.

Congratulations and best of luck to theTitans, who will be travelling with coach, Steven Whelan, from Corner Brook Regional High, to California in August, to defend their title in the Canon International Environthon, 2010. Go Titans go!

Model Forest would like to send out a special thanks to all the students, coaches, volunteers, judges and sponsors, who made this year's Envirothon a great success. MF would also like to thank the maintenance and cook staff at Max Simms Camp, Bishop's Falls. This location offers comfortable lodging that can accommodate large groups, and is surrounded by a beautiful outdoor environment.