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# YOUNG ISLAND SCIENTIST

Newsletter of the  
Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists

31 OCTOBER 2011

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## Important Dates

### Registration deadline for VIRSF

Wednesday March 28, 2012

<http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf/>

### Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair

Sunday April 15 & Monday April 16, 2012

### Next Meeting of SAYS

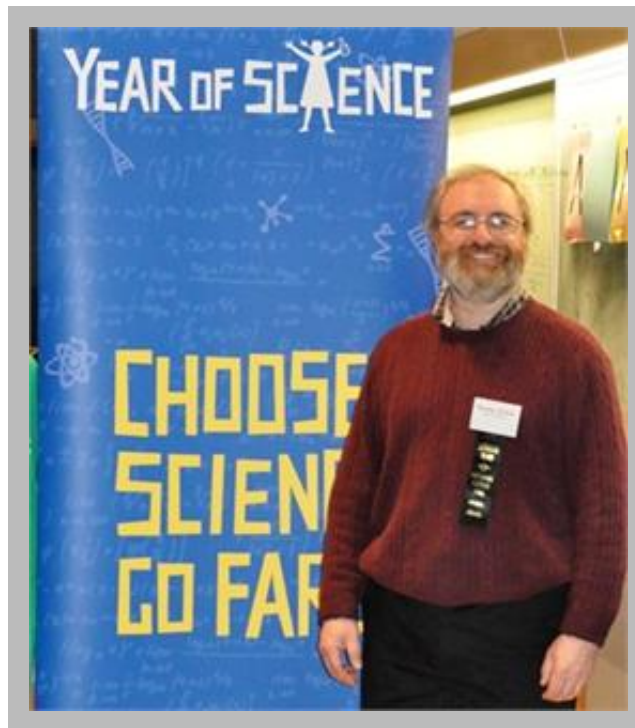
Tuesday January 17, 2012

## Opportunities to Support the Science Fair

### 1. Support kids to do science and submit a Science Fair Project

Make sure they do not miss this opportunity to get real world science experience. Science Fair is a chance to practice scientific thinking and creative

## The President's Lab Bench



By Randy Enkin

I *do* love Science Fairs.

I love watching clever motivated kids thinking, problem-solving, creating and presenting.

I love working with the community of volunteers, teachers and donors who make Science Fairs happen.

I love the lofty ideals of the movement - to help prepare our society for the increasing importance of science and technology.

My three children all entered Science Fair projects for several

problem solving, to gain complete project management experience. It's a forum to demonstrate their passion for their favourite topic and to develop public presentation skills. It's a chance to explore their post-secondary direction and to develop impressive material for their CV and scholarship applications.

Many students get to work on their Science Fair projects in school, but that is only one pathway to the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. Home school students and public or private school students working independently of school are welcome to submit their projects directly to the Science Fair.

## 2. Volunteer - Join SAYS

The Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists has exciting plans. The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair was one of the original 12 regions of the Canada-Wide Science Fair in 1962. Join us for our 50th Birthday Bash at the 2012 Science Fair.

We need to expand our volunteer base. During most of the year, we do outreach to students, teachers and parents, we fund-raise, and we prepare for the Science Fair. In April, we need many judges and volunteers to run the Fair.

There are only 3 meetings a year. Come be a part of this worthy venture and make a real difference to the students in our region!

## 3. Support SAYS

The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair and our other outreach programs cost \$25-30k per year. All these funds must be found locally. If you support the idea of Youth Science, give your financial support to the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists. Donations will be given a tax receipt, and sponsors names and logos will be prominently displayed. See our fundraising brochure at <http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf/SupportSAYS.html>

## Science Fair Project Ideas

*In this regular feature, we will offer some ideas to help you think of your own Science Fair project. Please send in more ideas for the next newsletters.*

### Birds On A Wire:

Have you noticed that birds perched on electricity wires are almost evenly spaced apart? It would be easy to take a photograph every time you see birds

years, and they all went on to study at university what they tried out in their Science Fair projects. So I am a fan of Science Fairs, and it would be great if more people knew about them and got involved.

Welcome to our first VIRSF Newsletter! There is lots of general information about Science Fairs on the internet, but here is a new and better way to tell you about your regional fair. Who are the people in our community? What sorts of work are people doing here? How can you get involved? We hope to publish a newsletter every 6 weeks.

We look forward to your feed-back!

*Randy Enkin is head of the Paleomagnetism and Petrophysics Laboratory at the Geological Survey of Canada – Pacific. He is President of the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists.*

## In Memoriam - Eveline Geminiano



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of one of the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair's main benefactors. Eveline Geminiano moved to Canada from Indonesia at age 17, studied math at UBC, received her teaching diploma at the University of Toronto, and taught math at Colquitz Secondary School. Eveline Geminiano passed away on 26th June after a two-year battle with cancer.

She and her veterinarian husband, Jim Geminiano, raised 3 children, two of whom (Nathan and Alexa) were multiple champions at the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. After Nathan's tragic death at age 14, the Geminianos established VIRSF prizes, named after their children, for students who are chosen to represent the Vancouver Island Region at the Canada-Wide Science Fair for two or more years. Since 1996, these awards have been offered 31 times to 17 remarkable students. We thank the Geminianos for their generosity and their efforts to encourage excellence at the Vancouver Island Regional Science

up on wires, and then measure their spacing on the photograph. With measurements on the ground and a bit of math, you can even work out the true distance between birds. How consistent is their spacing? Are difference related to air temperature, wind speed, or something else? Do humans beings on a bench or in a line-up space apart in a similar way?

(A great resource to get weather measurements for any location and time in Victoria is <http://www.victoriaweather.ca/>. This is where the University of Victoria reports results from weather stations set up on all the region's schools.)

### Foaming Frenzy:

You can make whipped cream out of thick cream, but if you whip up milk, you can also make a good foam for your hot drink. Using a milk foamer, how much foam gets made and how long do the bubbles last? Does the foam depend on the amount of butter fat? You can buy at least 6 different types of milk and cream in the supermarket, and by mixing them you can make any concentration of butter fat. How about chocolate milk? What makes the foam, and what controls the qualities of the foam?

### SAYS News

The British Columbia Innovation Council held its annual Innovation Exploration event in Victoria for the first time in its 20 year history. On October 24 and 25, the BCIC brought all 68 regional Science Fair winners to Victoria to meet and network with leaders from British Columbia's science and technology development community and to become more aware of the opportunities available in science careers. We visited labs at the Centre of the Universe, VIATec, the University of Victoria and the Insitute of Ocean Sciences/Pacific Geoscience Centre. We had a wonderful dinner and networking evening at the Royal BC Museum, attended by several MLA's, including Moira Stilwell, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, Research and Innovation.

### Web Resources

#### Local:

Fair.

## Sponsor Profile - Prototype Equipment Design



### Ray Brougham, President - Prototype Equipment Design

By Katherine Silversides

*Tell me about your company.*

Prototype Equipment Design is a “boutique CNC machine shop” that provides complete solutions to individuals and companies. We often produce one or dozens of an item compared to most CNC machine shops that will make thousands of one item. We work to improve on ideas, helping our clients from early concept design to the finished product.

Recently, Prototype was designated as a first level supplier for the Canadian Military. We are the only one on the west coast at the moment.

*What's your training or background?*

I started out as a millwright apprentice working in the Pulp and Paper industry. When I was about 40, I decided to go to university for a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering.

*What led you to start Prototype?*

While doing my Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering, I was working part time with Redlen Technologies. They needed some equipment for growing semiconductor crystals.

In 2001, Prototype started in my garage, almost as an experiment with Redlen as our first customer.

In 2004, the company had grown to 5 employees and we moved into current facility. Currently, there are 16 people working for Prototype. Our work includes circuit boards, software, and a wide range of machining on different materials like metals, plastics, and wood.

*What do you look for in new employees?*

We commonly hire graduates of the Camosun Technology program. We look for people who like what they do and are good at it, like the members of the FIX IT robotics team.

Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair: [web.uvic.ca/~virsf](http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf)

### **Provincial:**

Science Fair Foundation BC:  
<http://www.sciencefairs.ca/students/>

### **National:**

Youth Science Canada:  
<http://www.youthscience.ca/get-started>

### **Contact Information**

**President:** Randy Enkin

RandyEnkinScienceFair@gmail.com

**WebMaster:** Gordon Greeniaus

GordonGreeniausScienceFair@gmail.com

Share this email

*Why do you think it's important to sponsor Science Fair?*

They're our future customers or employees!  
The only advertising Prototype does is by word of mouth and sponsorship for engineering/science related groups like Science Fair, or teams like FIX IT team.  
These kids are interested in what we are doing, learn about our services, and will know who to contact once they are working in the field.

*Katherine Silversides is a home-schooled Grade 11 student who represented Vancouver Island at the 2011 Canada-Wide Science Fair in Toronto. She is a member of the FIX IT Robotics Team which went to the world finals in St Louis last year.*

**For the list of all our much-appreciated sponsors, please see: <http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf/sponsors.html>**

## **Alumni Profile - Adrienne Duimering**

I first entered the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair in Grade 5. I remember the excitement associated with setting up my project in a real university building and having real university student judges taking an interest in my work. In 2007, when I was in Grade 9, I was fortunate enough to attend the Canada Wide Science Fair in Truro, Nova Scotia. I had experimented with environmentally sustainable fire retardant alternatives. This incredible week of interacting with like-minded students from across Canada, attending engineering workshops, and speaking with professors and researchers, motivated me to immerse myself in all things Science. My participation in Science Fairs, involvement with the Canada Wide Science Fair Mentorship Program, and the publication of my CWSF project in a Science 10 textbook helped me to distinguish my application to the international summer school at Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics. This, in turn, helped me obtain my summer teaching position with the engineering Science Venture camp. I am in my third year in the Science faculty at UVic and am just as enthusiastic about spending my time at the university as I was a decade ago.

## **Top 10 Reasons To Do A Science Project**

*From Youth Science Canada's survey of 500 student finalists at the 2010 Canada-Wide Science Fair.*

1. Learn a lot.

2. Make friends and contacts.
3. Have fun!
4. Do real science.
5. It's a great experience!
6. Challenge yourself.
7. Win cash, trips and scholarships.
8. Develop skills like critical thinking, communication & time management.
9. Pursue your own ideas and interests.
10. Explore careers in science and engineering.



## Developing a Science Fair project

### The Need to Knead

By Wendy Topic

A successful experiment starts with a question or observation about the world around you. Once you have a question, you can design an experiment that will allow you to find an answer.

Deciding on the variables that you will test and control is the key to a successful design.

Join Milo as he designs an experiment to test "The Need to Knead".

Read the full article [HERE](#).

*Wendy Topic is a science teacher at Glenlyon Norfolk School. Follow this regular VIRSF Newsletter feature as Wendy describes Milo's journey through the whole process of doing a Science Fair project.*

You received this email because you have been a supporter or a participant of the [Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair](#).

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