

**SAYS (The Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists)** is a non-profit society which organizes the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. Our members are youth advocates from government, academia, schools and businesses.



Science Fair  
Foundation BC

**The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair** is one of fourteen regional Science Fairs run throughout British Columbia with the support of volunteers, local donors and the Science Fair Foundation BC. We are members of Youth Science Canada.

**2011 is the Year of Science in British Columbia**



The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair is part of the BC Government Year of Science initiative. Get Involved in Science this year! Participating in your local Science Fair is a great way to get involved in science!

### The Objectives of SAYS:

- to foster scientific inquiry among young people;
- to help young scientists demonstrate their research; and,
- to provide young scientists with professional feedback.

### What SAYS does:

- organizes the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair (VIRSF);
- arranges judges to assess participants and to offer supportive critiques of their work;
- selects students to represent the Region in the annual Canada-Wide Science Fair; and,
- provides resources for teachers to support student projects.

## Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair: Fifty Years - Our Alumni Remember

**1977 - John Blenkinsopp** - *The science fair instilled a sense of inquiry in me that is still alive today. I started out in pure research and then moved into applied practice in healthcare. Science fairs helped ingrain a spirit of continual learning.*

**1987 - Ken Ozard** - *I design integrated circuits and RF modules at a company in New Jersey. Those RF power amplifiers are used in many brands of cellular phones and smart phones. Yes, without a doubt, my science fair experience was useful.*

**1994/1996 Harmeet Chhina** - *I currently work as a Senior Research Scientist at Automotive Fuel Cell Co-operation (a joint research company between Daimler, Ford and Ballard). I often talk about my science fair experiences and how inspiring it was, not only to enter the fair but to actually win and get some great experiences.*

**1996 - Sarah Cormier (Baxter)** - *I was in Grade 10 when I won an award which allowed me to go on to the Canada-Wide Science Fair. It was a wonderful, useful experience to speak about my project to so many different people of all ages and backgrounds.*

**1997 - Katherine Banner-Martin** - *I looked forward to science fair every single year, as an opportunity to creatively apply what was taught to us in the science curriculum and to simply have fun. Science fair inspires confidence in oneself and one's ideas.*

**2001/2002 - Yichuan Wang** - *Congratulations VIRSF on your 50th birthday! VIRSF provided an excellent opportunity for my peers and me to embark on a self-directed adventure to solve a problem of interest and importance through thorough investigation. Receiving critical feedback and encouragement from our judges helped us to improve and motivated us to continue to pursue our passion for research and problem-solving.*

## The Canada-Wide Science Fair

### Who goes to the Canada-Wide Science Fair?

The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair has been sending a team to the Canada-Wide Science Fair every year since it was founded in 1962!

The top projects in Grades 7 to 12 represent our Region at the national fair. We send up to 7 students, depending on funding. They join 500 other students for a week of exhibits and science education. Many of our students come home with awards and university entrance scholarships. All our students come home excited about opportunities in science, engineering and medicine in Canada.

### How have our students done recently at the Canada Wide Science Fair?

...WOW!

**2011 - Toronto:** Silver Medals - Junior and Intermediate; Bronze Medals - Intermediate and Senior

**2010 - Peterborough:** Silver Medal - Senior; Manning Innovation Achievement Award.

**2009 - Winnipeg:** Gold medal -Intermediate; Silver medal - Intermediate; Bronze medal - Junior.

**2008 - Ottawa:** Gold Medal - Senior; Canadian Association of Physics Prize - Senior

# The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair

## Who attends the Science Fair?

About 150 Vancouver Island students from Grades 4 through 12 attend. Many participated in school fairs first, while others register independently.



## Where and when is the Science Fair?

The University of Victoria hosts the Regional Fair each April. Professionals, faculty and graduate students contribute their time to meet, judge and entertain the exhibitors.



## What do students get out of the Science Fair?

Science and engineering research is fun and rewarding! Many scientists get their starts at local science fairs. We provide students with:

- a chance to exhibit their project to their peers and to the general public;
- an opportunity to interact with professionals who are judges at the Fair; and,
- prizes, awards, and loot!

**1993 - Verity Hoskins-Lopez** - *I never considered that science was something I was particularly good at. However, finding success at the science fair made me re-think some of the limits I had placed upon myself and my abilities. The fact that I had managed to produce something that elicited the approval of actual scientists was a newflash to me: I could do anything I put my mind to.*

**We are very grateful to our donors, who have included:**

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St. Margaret's School  
Starfish Medical  
University of Victoria  
VIATeC  
Victoria Natural History Society  
Zonta Club of Victoria

## Help these young people discover the world of science and engineering.

We rely on donations and volunteers to make the Science Fair the great event that it is.

### How can you help?

- join SAYS, help run the Fair or be a Judge;
- donate to send students to Canada-Wide Science Fair; and,
- sponsor a cash prize or donate merchandise.

### Contact us!

**President:** Dr. Randy Enkin, [renkin@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:renkin@nrcan.gc.ca)

### Please Donate!

**Treasurer:** Dr. Gerry Poulton, [gpoulton@uvic.ca](mailto:gpoulton@uvic.ca)  
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## Please make cheques payable to the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists

Tax receipts are available. All sponsorship is acknowledged on the web site, on all programs and advertising material, and at the award ceremonies.

# VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR



a major annual event for young scientists and engineers in Grades 4 to 12

# 1962 - 2012



organized by **SAYS**

the **SOCIETY** for the **ADVANCEMENT** of **YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

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