

Canada-Wide  
Science Fair 2001



Expo-sciences  
pancanadienne 2001

# L'ODYSSÉE 2001

## THE ODYSSEY 2001

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The official newsletter of Canada-Wide Science Fair 2001

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## Le mot du juge en chef

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The Odyssey 2001 is also available  
online at [www.cwsf2001.org](http://www.cwsf2001.org)

- *«L'Odysée 2001» est publié par l'ESPC 2001 pour les participantes et participants*
- *Les opinions exprimées dans ce journal ne sont pas nécessairement celles de l'ESPC 2001. Nous sommes ouverts à vos suggestions.*

# Ε'ΟΔΥΣΣΕΕ 2001 THE ODYSSEY 2001

## A few words from the chief judge

Hello to all exhibitors,

Good luck at the CWSF in Kingston!

Here is some information about the judging.

On Tuesday, you will be judged for the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, where each of five judges will interview you for about 20 minutes each.

There are ten time-slots, so there will be gaps between some of the judging sessions. You will find a Judging Timetable on your exhibit, so you will know when to expect the next judge. When they arrive, introduce yourself, "Hello, I am John Jamieson from Punky Doodles Corners, and this is my project on Earthworms." Smile, and make eye-contact. Typically they will ask you to present your project for about ten minutes, and then ask you questions about it. Be positive, upbeat, and proud of the work you have done. You would not be at the Canada- Wide Science Fair unless you were very good. Eventually you will probably be asked a question to which you do not know the answer. This is normal, because the job of the judges is to find out the boundaries of your knowledge.

The decisions are made by consensus after much discussion amongst the five judges, so that your placing in this first round of the competition is the average of their individual opinions. In the second round of the competition which takes place after supper when you are away relaxing, two of the five judges from your Judging Team will join with two members from each of the other judging teams in your Division and Category (e.g. Senior Physical Science) to look at the top two or three exhibits from each of the judging teams, and eventually decide who gets the Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals

Be prepared to deal with a few issues that

may arise at Canada Wide Science Fairs.

(a) If a judge is more than ten minutes late, inform someone from the Exhibitor Support Staff or go to the Judging Information table immediately, because it means something has gone wrong, and we need to know so we can fix it.

(b) If you are nervous during an interview (most often the 1st interview of the day), you might then think the interview was a failure. Don't!. Judges realize that exhibitors can be nervous and take this into account. If you feel that you were unfairly judged by, or did not 'connect' with, a particular judge, do not become upset and don't let it affect your other judging interviews. The reason that we use five judges is that the decision is the average opinion of all five. The judging team will weight the opinion of a particular judge according to how they 'connect' with that particular judge. You may wish to seek help from the Exhibitor Support Staff who are there to help you with any concerns you have.

(c) If your display breaks, or your computer fails, seek help from the Exhibitor Support Staff, who have been trained to help. You did remember to bring duplicate or even triplicate copies of all your software, didn't you. Murphy's Law - "if anything can go wrong it will go wrong" is verified at least once at each Canada Wide Science Fair. Before you leave for the CWSF, think about how you will present your project if your computer fails, i.e., develop a back-up plan.

On Wednesday, you will be judged for the Special Awards where the judging time is much shorter, so you need to prepare a three minute version of your presentation. Since there may be over 50 entries for a given Special Award, the judges doing the first set of interviews are trying to decide only if your project is worthy of going forward to the next round, a decision they will make within five-ten minutes, hence the need for your three-minute presenta-

tion. You will be judged at least once for each of the Special Awards for which you have self-nominated. There is no pre-set timetable for the Special Awards Judging. There are up to three rounds of judging for each of the Special Awards, depending on the number of self-nominations.

In two or three Special Awards, e.g. the Dow Awards, there are so many self-nominations e.g. 150, that we have to do a preliminary round of Special Awards judging in parallel with the Divisional Judging on Tuesday. You probably will be unaware that this is happening. If you self-nominated for one (or more) of these heavily subscribed Special Awards and are not judged for it (them) on Wednesday, this is normal. You will be notified that is the case before judging begins on Wednesday.

A rule at the Canada Wide Science Fair is that "Awards, medals and other items showing participation in other events may not be shown at exhibits." The exception is that the current CWSF participation medal and/or pin may be worn at any time.

We hope that you have a wonderful time at the Canada Wide Science Fair, and that you take away memories that will last a life-time.

David Wardlaw, Chief Judge, CWSF 2001

