Young scientists showcase their work at the Regional Science Fair

Tatum Romnick’s plants that received positive affirmations grew twice as tall as the ones that received negative ones. Could the tongue be more powerful than we realize?

by Melissa Friesen

The Sunset Country Regional Science Fair always proves to be a source of inspiration for aspiring young scientists and the public alike. From 4th grade students curious about candy to senior level students wondering which plants in their own backyard might produce medicine able to kill E. coli, a ton of work was done to prepare for the day’s event. This year was especially inspiring as it included two new schools for the first time in 10 years: North Star School in Atikokan and St. Francis. There was also the addition of a new award, The Ted Rogers Innovation Award (along with a $100 cheque) was presented to Erica Forsythe for her project entitled, “Medicine in My Backyard.” The award will go to students whose projects demonstrate having commercial potential. All in all, the testing of commercial products tends to be a popular choice, says RRDSB STEM Coordinator Brad Gushulak. “This year, many students chose to study products that impact their lives (e.g., toothpaste, ski waxes, goggle defoggers, etc.).” Less popular than waxes, goggle defoggers, etc.”... less popular than waxes, goggle defoggers, etc.”... “All science fair projects require planning, thoughtful design, and perseverance to follow through and complete the project.” And that’s just in order to make it to the fair itself. Once there, “Students need to be able to communicate their ideas and answer questions from the judges.” In order to place competitively, students must be able to defend their work not just display it. “All students need to be commended for their hard work on their projects and the great job they did at the Sunset Country Regional Fair.”

For the Senior (grade 9-12) division the winners are: 3rd place - Michael Redford, 1st place Erica Forsythe. Each of these winners will have the chance to compete at a national level in New Brunswick in May. Erica was also the recipient of the Ted Rogers Innovation Award for showing entrepreneurial spirit and commercial potential.

For the Junior (grades 4-8) division the winners are: 3rd place - Michael Redford, and place - Michael Redford, 1st place Erica Forsythe. Each of these winners will have the chance to compete at a national level in New Brunswick in May. Erica was also the recipient of the Ted Rogers Innovation Award for showing entrepreneurial spirit and commercial potential.

The winners in the Junior (grade 4-8) division are: 3rd place - Sydney Campbell, 2nd place - Sofia Gaspar and Rylee Wyatt, 1st place - Kieran Faulds.

Head judge Bruce Lidka pulls a name out of the bucket from RRDSB STEM Coordinator Brad Gushulak for one of the door prizes.

Sisters Aubrey and Isabelle Meeks figured out that good old plain white sugar is the best bet for making rock candy.

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Carol Joyce Clifford
March 12, 1945-March 29, 2019

Carol was born in the summer of '45. Mom was always busy, and volunteered her time at the River Health Centre or the Rainy River District Hospital. She loved her new camper and loved her summers seasonal camping. She also travelled to BC to Kamloops, Canada, Mexico and Dominica Republic with her family. She was a fantastic cook, taught her granddaughters how to make the flakiest pie crust, and never apparently was the recipe exactly the same. Unfortunately that wasn't always due to her being a poor cook. Mom loved travelling and broken hearts that we were never forget.
April 11th is this busy month... Many farmers will be busy with calving and preparing for the spring work load. Equipment will be getting the tune up needed, fuel will be spread, and seed will be planted soon in hopes of a great season ahead. Optimism is at its highest at this point. We tend to compare last year to this year and look for a year of challenges, as this year was a bit of challenge, so this year should be great!” Who knows? It has been a very busy and later spring! Easter’s result in later spring’s crops could be great! We’re thrilled. It’s nice that there aren’t many strings attached. She noted how some farmers are hungry to speak about the future and that the provincial government is doing a great job. That’s important. They bring different things to the table. In terms of new crops, how quickly that will be planted entirely isn’t clear. “There are lots of things we've been working on and we're hoping they’ll fill under this funding envelope.” She looks forward to discussing the possibilities with council as they move forward to see if there’s any opportunity to better serve the residents.

The announcement comes just days before the board will meet to discuss the provincial government giving one time funding will help small and rural municipalities around the province receiving funding. The provincial government is giving one time funding will help small and rural municipalities around the province receiving funding. “Ontario’s government is working hard with the residents and the work they do, for both the community and the province. “Revenue for the provincial government was elected to restore transparency and accountability in Ontario’s finances. The government undertook a line-by-line review of its spending and expenditures, and we believe the province will be better served.

The funding will help with small and rural municipalities, improve the way they receive funding, and help them avoid losing out on the ongoing costs of providing those services. It was added that the long-range plan is for municipalities to step up to the plate and become more efficient at the work they do, for both the province and the residents. “Revenue for the provincial government was elected to restore transparency and accountability in Ontario’s finances. The government undertook a line-by-line review of its spending and expenditures, and we believe the province will be better served.

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Classified ads

**FLYERS**

By Elizabeth C. Gorski

Aerospace 

120, Raton, Fla. 

5-Floor 

9-Spaesenes play 

5-29-Tuesday 

4-14-The Lion is in! Novelty Ethergem 

5-27-Hugh! 

8-30-Gisty cigarette that has gone to pot! 

3-18-Sapient 

14-9-Gut-punch reaction 

4-1-Jumbled set 

7-16-Greek vowel 

10-Footcare: 

6-30-Oranges 

3-30-Fatigue 

5-5-Sapient 

1-16-Courage

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Midwest Early Acreage 

155 Eastern Stool, Lenoir, NC 28645

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**snow tires, 2.0L eco-friendly hybrid, new age, new in the box.**

**Our goal is to stop smoking and make you a better person.**

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As snowdrops grew up around the cherry trees, the long, hard winter was finally over and plans afoot like flowers for the coming spring. We were not to lose two dear, long-time members of the chapel this winter. Darrell Swan- son, a long-time friend and for- mer pastor, Larry Brown, was given the opportunity to serve in another capacity as his health permitted.

Last Donor

Dear Editor:

The Rainy River Public Library Board appreciates the recent interest in our last donor, Mr. Dan Lee. Unfortunately, some of the information published in the Westend Weekly was in error. Please note the following:

• The Library received donation of $4,000 from Mr. Lee, not $10,000 as reported.
• In addition, the donations were received in past years, not in 2019. The funds were applied to the Last Post Fund.
• The article may have left the impression that we have just received a large donation.

For 2019, the Library received a total of $3,020. To balance our annual budget, we have raised just over $5,000 towards that goal. The Library Board has set a fundraising plan for 2020 to clear the gap and looks forward to the public’s continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Darrow

Letter to the editor

To: “Genius MP Public Library Lover” by Nancy Garmezy (Mar. 26 edition)

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Rainy River High School students will be having a student lead protest due to the recent changes to government policy for veterans. The protest was called in early March by the Last Post Fund as part of a broader effort to commemo- rate and honour the memory of our local in- digenous Veterans, many of whom lie in unmarked graves.

To implement the proj- ect, Last Post Fund recently welcomed Maria Trujillo as Indigenous Proj- ect Coordinator. Maria will be working with Indige- nous communities throughout Canada to in- form them about the pro- gram and to coordinate with indigenous researchers to identify un- marked graves and indige- nous communities. The project is part of the program to provide recognition for Indigenous Veterans“ families the pos- sibility to name their indige- nous Veterans “in memoriam” on a national level.

By implementing the project, we hope to not only identify unmarked in- dividuals, but also create a National Fund of Honour for indigenous Veterans.

We, as a community, will be able to provide further support to our indigenous communities.

Notice to Rainy River residents

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“Hey, Google! Why is the food industry in trouble?”

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation would like to remind Canadians that the higher prices on gas and alcohol, which kicked in Monday, are unfortunately not an elaborate April Fool’s Day joke, but the result of the federal government’s decision to finally give energy consumers the ability to choose their energy source.

“Whether driving to work or unwinding at home with a cold beer, you’ll be paying more in 2019,” said CTF Federal Director Aaron Wudrick. “It may be the Federal Budget joke of the year (or decade of all), because squeezing family budgets to subsidize electricity and natural gas is becoming a joke.

The new federal carbon tax of $10 per tonne of CO2 emissions, which will apply in Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, will increase the cost of gasoline by 4 cents per litre and the cost of diesel by 6 cents per litre. By 2022, the federal government will charge an additional $17 per tonne on gasoline and 21 cents per tonne for diesel.

The federal escalator tax will ensure that families continue to pay an additional $20 per tonne of CO2 emissions annually. This means that the cost of gasoline will rise by 4.6% and the cost of diesel by 6.4% per year. As a result, Canadians will pay an additional $193 million in gas taxes and $139 million in diesel taxes by 2022.

Wudrick noted that Canadians are increasingly feeling affordability anxiety and that tax hikes will only make the problem worse.

“Many Canadian families are already stretched to the limit; gouging them more is about as much fun as the April Fool’s Day governments can do,” said Wudrick. “Instead, they should be helping low-income families increase affordability by finding ways to leave more money in their pockets.”

The same rule applies to the food industry. Voice search assistance will filter through brand awareness, perceptions, biases and many other things we’re subconsciously influenced by. Voice recognition is really about data and algorithms. It’s about connecting with the market in a way few grocers or restaurants have done. We’re still receiving grocery flyers every week to sell us food. But voice assistance allows us to get through the noise and find what we really want. The average Canadian consumer is expected to order over 2,000 adver- tisements a day, many about food. But food serv- ices and retail options are often overwhelmed by con- sumers for a variety of biased reasons and personalized flavors.

Algorithms and data will cut straight through pre- conceived notions about food choices and open a world of possibilities. A recent survey shows that 68 percent of consumers search for food or grocers while driving. This means Amazon, Microsoft and Apple have almost literally invested in technologies that offer consumers a path to many new possibilities. This is a once in a lifetime busi- ness opportunity that will need to be capitalized.

What’s making most players in the food indus- try lose sleep is the fact that Amazon, Google, Mi- crosoft and Apple are tech-savvy and data-centric organizations – certainly more so than most companies in the agri- food sector.

Voice assistance is purely an extension of what they’ve been doing for some time, just without the typing. In fact, many consumers would rather talk than type. According to a U.S.-based survey, 30 percent of web browsing sessions will be done without a screen by the year 2020. This can only in- crease the pressure on grocers and restaurants to comply with a changing marketplace.

Google has been investing heavily in voice-activated search since 2008. Amazon, Microsoft and Apple have likely invested in technologies that offer consumers path to many new possibilities. This is a once in a lifetime op- portunity that will need to be capitalized.

The main reason is conver- sion. Since the likes of Siri, Cortana and Google Assistant entered our world, voice searching has become a game-changer for the food industry. Voice searches play to con- sumers’ desires for convenience. Short of having a personal robot, this is the next best thing.

Google. And these compa- nies have been connecting with us for years through devices such as comput- ers, phone, tablet and even video con- sults. Consumers now voice search for anything from music and retail options to what to make for dinner. And these search results have a high purchase intent. So being a search outcome can be highly profitable for a business.

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