

Press Release March 7, 2009

The South Central Branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) and Thompson Rivers University (TRU) are pleased to announce the results of the 6th Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Contest, held at TRU today. The contest consisted of loading bridges, built from 100 Popsicle sticks and spanning a gap of 500 mm, to failure. This annual competition is held to have fun, celebrate National Engineering and Geoscience Week in Canada, and to raise awareness of the engineering program offered at TRU.

This year we had 57 entries in 4 categories of competition. The contest features school-aged bridge builders from the Kamloops area, including Clearwater, Sicamous, Skeetchestn, and Vavenby. This year the competition included three bridges shipped all the way from Australia!

Lauren Forsythe from Marion Schilling won the **elementary school category** with a bridge that carried an impressive 181.7 kg (401 lbs). Lauren improved on her design from last year which was loaded to 97 kg (215 lbs).

Christina Noel of Sa-hali Secondary defended her title in **secondary school category**, with a bridge that supported 701 kg (1574 lbs). An aspiring engineer, Christina holds the record for the strongest bridge ever tested in this competition - 734 kg (1620 lbs)- set in 2008.

In the **open category**, Steve Kinch's bridge carried a load of 638.9 kg (1410 lbs).

The **Corporate Cup**, designed to encourage friendly competition amongst the engineering firms in the area, was claimed by Nicholas Kwong, EIT, a mining engineer with NewGold, and Laura Roh. Their bridge was loaded to 304.9 kg (673 lbs).

The top four bridges in each category were:

Elementary School Category - 23 entries, from ages 6 to 13.

1. Lauren Forsythe	181.7 kg 401 lbs	Marion Schilling	Age 9
2. Conner Dee	162.7 kg 359 lbs	Vavenby Elementary	Age 9
3. Taylor Hall, Kieran Bailey and Mitch Graham	152.2 kg 336 lbs	Vavenby Elementary	Ages 12, 11, 11
4. Sara Purvis	83.4 kg 184 lbs	Australia	Age 9

The Secondary School Category - 23 entries, from ages 14 to 20.

1. Christina Noel	701.0 kg 1547 lbs	Sa-hali Secondary	Age 16
2. Dylan Cornell	282.3 kg 623 lbs	South Kamloops Secondary	Age 15
3. Kurt Rustad and Wade Kvatum	158.6 kg 350 lbs	Sa-hali Secondary	Age 16
4. Gavin Snyman and Erin Ryan	150.0 kg 331 lbs	Sa-hali Secondary	Age 14

The Open Category had 7 entries.

1. Steve Kinch	638.9 kg 1410 lbs		
2. Reid Purvis	329.9 kg 728 lbs	Australia	
3. Alan and Emma Forsythe	271.9 kg 600 lbs	Kamloops	
4. Mike Cornell	101.5 kg 224 lbs	Kamloops	

We would like thank our generous sponsors for this community event:

- Interior Savings Credit Union
- AMEC Earth & Environmental
- Golder Associates
- MMM
- Focus
- Urban Systems Ltd.
- Watson Engineering
- WMI Water Management International

The 7th annual Popsicle Stick Bridge competition will be held in March 2010, at Thompson Rivers University. We hope to see you there. For more information please contact:

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