



CALGARY
JUNE 7, 2005

Photo by John Lapierre

Award Category:	Emerald Award for Youth
Recipient:	Cochrane High School - Katy Eso and Justine Makin
Presenter:	David Lewin, EPCOR

The 14th Annual Emerald Awards celebration took place on Tuesday, 7th June 2005 at the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, Calgary. A complete list of award recipients is available on the Emerald Awards website at www.emeraldawards.com

CHS goes green — Emerald green!

CATHERINE OSHANEK

Times Reporter

It came as no surprise that Cochrane High School's Sustainable Development Committee took home the prestigious Emerald Award for the youth category on June 7 at the EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts in Calgary.

Biology teacher Stephanie Bennett, along with her co-worker Earl Binder, were the grease that got the cogs rolling in the project that developed 30 large solar panels atop the high school.

"That was really special," said Bennett. "It was all about environment excellence and it was put on by the province of Alberta, so they've been recognized by the province."

The students at Cochrane High were absolutely thrilled to have their hard work acknowledged at such a high level.

"It was a really nice school affair, and it was really nicely organized. They were wine and dined, and it was really quite a special evening," said Bennett, adding that all but one member of the committee could attend, including principal Chris Lees.

The school received international attention with its project that took years and a \$50,000 fundraising effort to materialize.

The 14 students on the Sustainable Development Committee were more than excited to win one of the awards during the 14th annual event, and can not wait to see what future classes will accomplish in regards to the project.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments that we have been able to pull through, throughout this last year or two," said Grade 12 student Carolyn Kolb.

This win was the icing on the cake for

the group, which has been honoured by the likes of Canadian scientist David Suzuki.

"All our hard work has paid off, and we hope people will be able to follow in our footsteps in the near future," said Kolb.

She also said she and her fellow classmates owe tons to their teachers' persistence and guidance throughout the project.

"We want to thank Ms. Bennett and Mr. Binder for all of their hard work and dedication that they put towards this project because if it wasn't for them, we never would have been able to do it," said Kolb.

As for whether Cochrane High will be

striving for another win in next year's competition, Bennett said that she doesn't expect they will ever have the same opportunity for such a large project.

"We are definitely pursuing more projects. We are not going after awards or anything like that. This was something that was very original and all we are doing now is expanding the system," said Bennett.

"What we are hoping to do though this project is motivate more kids, just on the whole concept on sustainable developments," she said. "And that it's a viable option, and just another way to look at how they use electricity and generate electricity."

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CochraneEagle.com

Cochrane High project captures Emerald Award

By Shawn Logan

The Eagle

A Cochrane High sustainable energy initiative that bedecked the school's roof with 30 solar panels tied directly into the building's power grid has landed an Emerald Award for the project.

The project, which saw science teachers Stephanie Bennett and Earl Binder along with 15 students raise more than \$47,000 to hoist 30 large solar panels as well as a 400 watt wind turbine, took

the prize in the youth category at the June 7 award ceremony.

Plans for the project were developed in 2000 but really got rolling last year, pulling in a number of grants and donations and earning praise from renowned Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki.

The solar power source, which provides for around one per cent of the school's power needs, is one of first of its kind in any school in Canada.

Another Emerald Award was handed to a pair of Cremona women for their work on protecting Alberta rangelands.

Clare and Kathy Tannas were recognized in the individual commitment category for their work in the rangelands over a 25-year span.

Their company, Eastern Slopes Rangeland Seeds Ltd., has inventoried in excess of one million acres of rangeland, discovered hundreds of rare plants and created management plans.