GVRSF 2013
Annual Report

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Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

Sponsored and Supported by:

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Dr. John Hepburn
UBC Vice President Research,
GVRSF Honourary Chair

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BC INNOVATION COUNCIL

UBC Science,
Dr. Simon Peacock, Dean

www.gvrsf.ca

About GVRSF

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF) is the regional science fair for the Greater Vancouver area. It encompasses 8 school districts – Vancouver, Richmond, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, New Westminster, Burnaby, Sunshine Coast (Sechelt etc.), and Howe Sound. GVRSF is open to over 100,000 students from grades 7 to 12 attending public, separate, independent, private and home schools. GVRSF is a registered charity run by a diverse group of dedicated committee volunteers from business, education, and industry.

Mission

To promote project-based science and encourage youth to conduct research and experimentation in areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Major Activities

GVRSF committee volunteers organized and staged the 31st Annual Regional Science Fair at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The University of British Columbia's administration and staff offered excellent support, cooperation and assistance to the GVRSF and provided a warm welcome to all of our students, volunteers, judges, and visitors.

This year GVRSF continued its third year running a Post-Secondary Workshop, available to Grade 11 and 12 students participating in the GVRSF, informing students of future prospects in academia. In addition, GVRSF continued to host a Teacher Meet-and-Greet session on the Friday of our fair to build a network of Teachers interested in the Science Fair Movement. This year, we extended the Teacher session by half an hour to include two presentations. One presentation was by one of our very own committee members trained in Smarter Science and the other was presented by a teacher regarding technology and website-use for science fair projects.

In addition, GVRSF 2013 continued its second year of the CWSF Alumni Mentorship Program. This program was initiated in 2012 by alumni committee members with the goal of helping prepare those moving on to the Canada Wide Science Fair with any improvements to their projects, project reports and presentations.

Chair's Message – Brian Le

I am honoured to have chaired the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Organizing Committee since February 2012. Having served as a member of the committee since 2008 and been a part of the science fair movement since 2004, I am proud to be associated with a society that is focused on engaging our community's youth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, through project-based science.

This year, the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair celebrated its 31st consecutive fair. This has been made possible thanks to the continued support from our sponsors and the dedication of our hard-working volunteers and committee members.

As we look to the future, our committee is dedicated to support students so that Canada can benefit from the innovative science and technology contributions of its youth. To do this, we have implemented new aspects to our regional fair to appeal to youth and the general public. The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair has started up a Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/gvrsf), Twitter (www.twitter.com/gvrsf) and blog (www.gvrsf.wordpress.com). This year, we now include QR codes on our posters that lead those who scan them directly to our main website (www.gvrsf.ca). We also had new graphics made for video productions that were featured at the awards ceremony. At the 2013 GVRSF, we also included music during the awards ceremony and a backdrop Power Point display showing pictures of the award winners.

Leading up to the 32nd Annual GVRSF 2014, we will continue to develop a new look to our main website (www.gvrsf.ca) and work closely with Youth Science Canada (YSC) and the Science Fair Foundation of BC to increase awareness of science fairs and ethics. We will also continue to build our sponsorship base to help facilitate future changes to the fair and hopefully provide better support to our CWSF Finalists. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, we have had nearly 10 new committee members each bringing their own specialties join last year.

The GVRSF committee welcomes greater participation and appreciates further assistance from all backgrounds, disciplines and specialties. We encourage you, or any of your connections, to contact us (Chair@gvrsf.ca) if you are interested in helping the science fair movement in British Columbia.

There is still much more progress to be made, and as we move forward with long-term visioning and planning, we are committed to enabling the youth of the Greater Vancouver Area to strive for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Brian Le, B.Sc. | Committee Chair

Science Fair Operation

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Society is a committee of approximately 35 volunteers, who meet 6 times per year, whose purpose is to plan, and discuss logistics for, the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. This year's fair was held April 11 – 13th, 2013 at the University of British Columbia.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) hosted the Greater Vancouver Regional Fair (GVRSF) 2013, as it has since 1993, in the Student Union Building (SUB). The UBC Faculty of Science's annual donation to the Society includes, among other things, the cost of this venue. All participating Science Fair projects are displayed in the SUB Ballroom and Party Room, where adjudication takes place. School groups are invited to tour the exhibit on the Friday of the fair. Furthermore, the general public is invited for their viewing on the Saturday of the fair.

This year there were 308 student participants from 44 schools. This was a manageable amount of students given the venue size.

Project registration is done by the student, with help from their teacher and parents, through our website www.gvrsf.ca. The website and database are maintained by designated committee members. The cost per participant is $40.00.

The Faculty of Science at UBC is the main coordinating on-campus body for the annual GVRSF. With their promotion and coordination efforts, up to 21 departments and research units across various UBC Faculties support the Science Fair. In addition, a choice of one out of 17 science laboratory tours was offered to each Science Fair student this year. The lab tours are led by university teachers and researchers, and last one hour each. Student volunteers and parents help chaperone students on the UBC campus. The range of subjects covered is diverse and includes many hands-on activities to engage students in a variety of scientific disciplines. Finally, with the help of UBC Science, a university science orientation workshop was offered for senior students at the Fair.

Faculty members and graduate students from UBC, SFU, and several local colleges act as the judges for the event. In addition, this year we had several judges who are currently working in science and/or technological industries. Confidence in the judging process was high due to our system of spot-checking the judges' rankings.

Students' feedback about their judging experience was also positive. Students felt that the question and answer time with the judges was adequate and that they came away with good ideas and a better understanding of the scientific process.

2013 GVRSF Registration Statistics

Complete - Students / projects per age category / division

	Junior Stud | Proj	Intermediate Stud | Proj	Senior Stud | Proj	Total Stud | Proj
Discovery	44 29	22 15	3 2	**69 46**
Energy	17 13	18 12	2 1	**37 26**
Health	36 24	39 28	4 3	**79 55**
Information	8 4	6 3	2 2	**16 9**
Environment	40 28	25 17	7 6	**72 51**
Innovation	14 9	10 8	3 3	**27 20**
Resources	2 2	4 3	2 1	**8 6**
Total	**161 109**	**124 86**	**23 18**	**308 213**

Complete - Projects per age category / division / language

	Junior		Intermediate		Senior		Total	
	en	fr	en	fr	en	fr	en	fr
Discovery	28	1	15	0	2	0	**45**	**1**
Energy	12	1	12	0	1	0	**25**	**1**
Health	23	1	28	0	3	0	**54**	**1**
Information	3	1	3	0	2	0	**8**	**1**
Environment	22	6	17	0	6	0	**45**	**6**
Innovation	8	1	8	0	3	0	**19**	**1**
Resources	2	0	3	0	1	0	**6**	**0**
Total	**98**	**11**	**86**	**0**	**18**	**0**	**202**	**11**

Fair Highlights

Over **$45,000** in cash, prizes, trips, scholarships and participation awards.

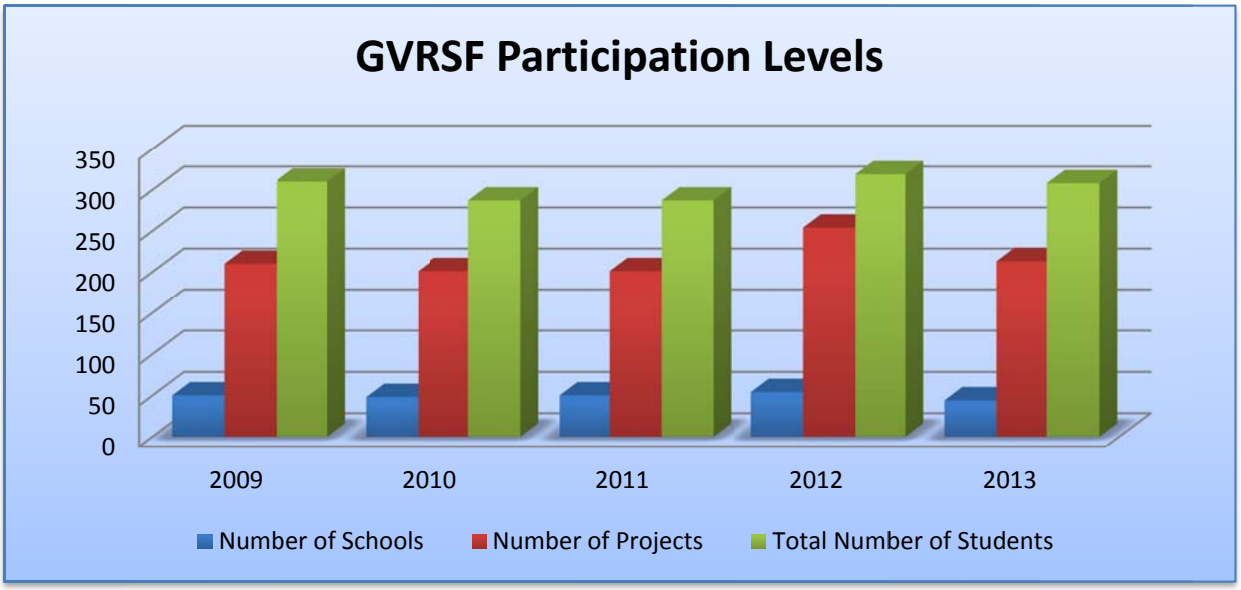
146 students received Merit Awards

Over 70 special awards were received, totalling $5,075 cash plus $16,000 in scholarships

17 students won trips to compete in the 2013 Canada-Wide Science Fair held in Lethbridge, Alberta this year.

Science Show
Sponsored by Science World

The Friday of GVRSF is an outreach event for both GVRSF participants and Grade 7 -12 students designed to create interest in GVRSF for future fairs. The day's activities consist of schools within the Greater Vancouver area coming in to tour the exhibit halls and near the end of that day this year, Science World put on a Science Show that captivated the minds of our participants.



Competition Results

Our top 17 students won a grand prize trip to the Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in Lethbridge, Alberta to represent Team GVRSF and Team BC. This year, Team GVRSF brought back **$35,550 in cash and scholarships**!

National Competition Results – Canada Wide Science Fair

Janice Pang (Grade 9, Pinetree Secondary School, Coquitlam) — Gold Medal $6,200 in cash and scholarships
Inflammation in Pancreatic Islets: Contribution of Islet Macrophages

Alim Parhar & Safal Parhar (Grade 8, St. University Hill Secondary, Vancouver) — Gold Medal $8,700 in cash and scholarships
Does Tumeric Enhance the Regeneration of Planaria maculata?

Duncan Stothers (Grade 10, St. George's School, Vancouver) — Gold Medal $6,000 in cash and scholarships
The F.I.R.S.T. Frame (Front Impact Reduction SysTem) for Commuter Bicycles

Justine Hansen (Grad 9, Burnaby North Secondary, Burnaby) — Bronze Medal $1,100 in cash and scholarships
He Huffed, He Puffed

Megan Nantel (Grade 12, David Thompson Secondary, Vancouver) — Bronze Medal $2,100 in cash and scholarships
Wild Diesel Destroyers

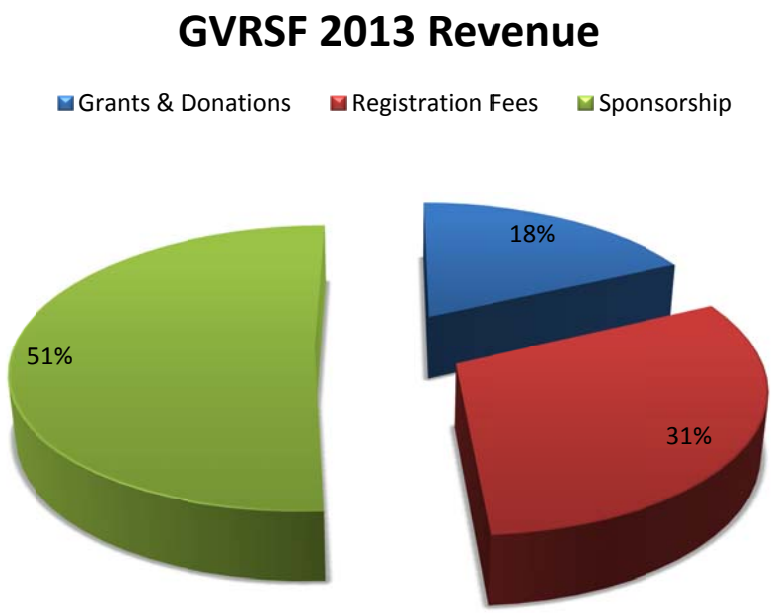
Sean Stothers & William Stothers (Grade 7, St. George's School, Vancouver) — Bronze Medal $2,100 in cash and scholarships
How Does Your Olla Grow?

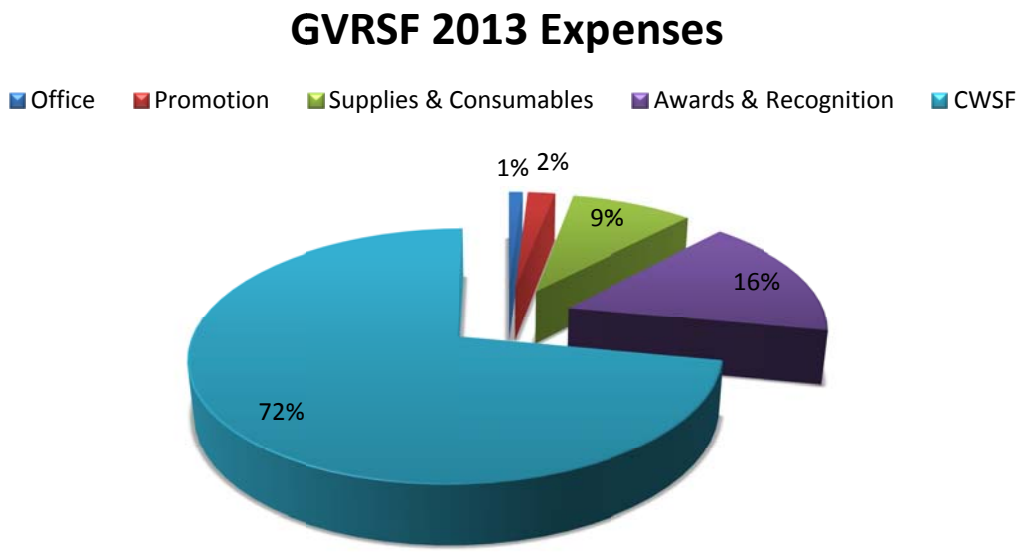
Elizabeth Suen (Grade 8, York House School, Vancouver) — Silver Medal $1,300 in cash and scholarships
What's Holding you Back?

Nicole Ticea (Grade 9, York House School, Vancouver) — Silver Medal $4,050 in cash and scholarships
Rain, Rain, Go Away: The Piezoelectric Roof Tile

Vivian Li Ge Yang and Kelvin Zhang (Grade 8 and 7, Lord Byng Secondary and Maple Creek Middle School, Vancouver) — Silver Medal $5,300 in cash and scholarships
Controlling Telerobots over the Web using Natural User Interface (Kinect)

Financial Highlights – Statement of Operations





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Science Fair Foundation BC
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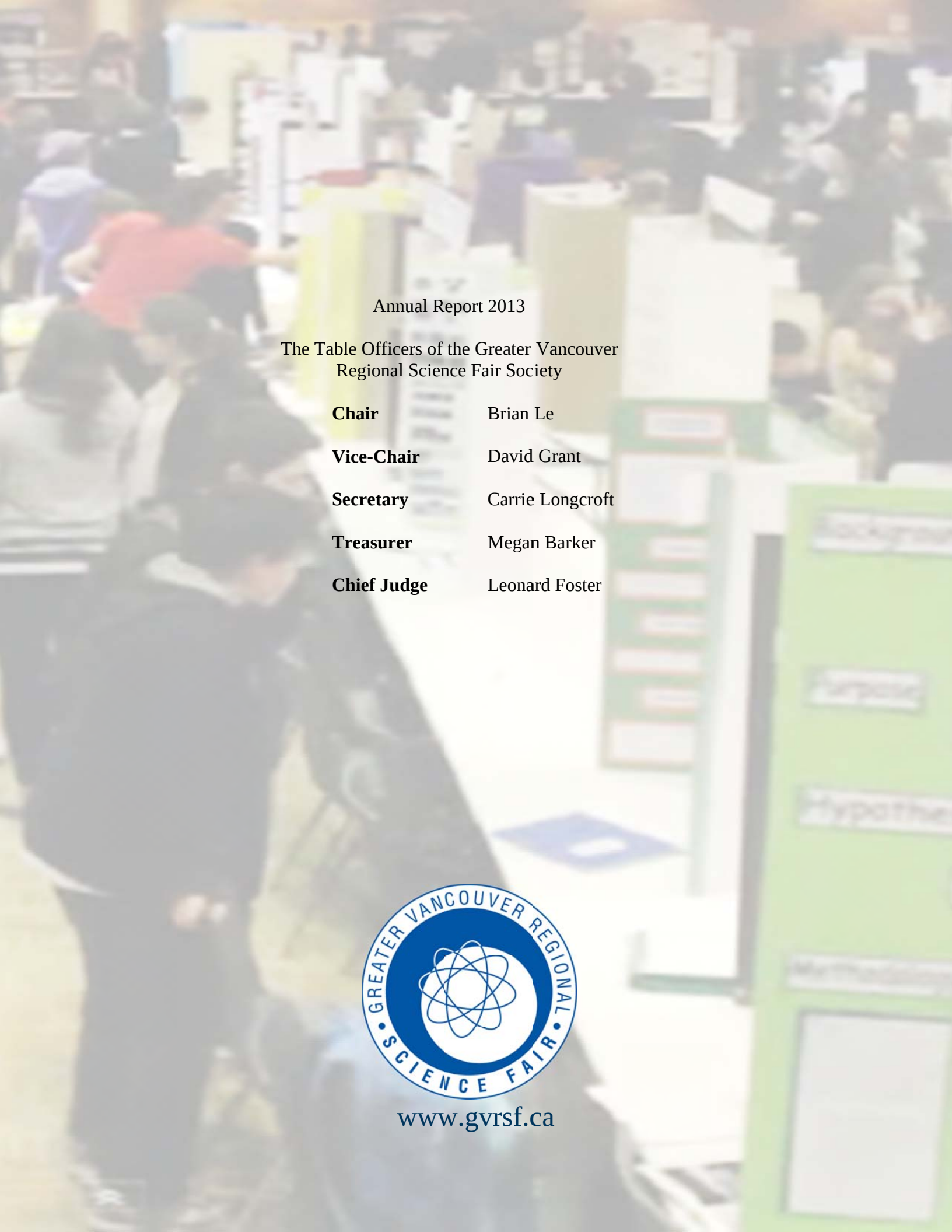
Join us for the 32nd Annual Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair 2014
Dates: April 10-12, 2014
Location: The University of British Columbia

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair
c/o HR MacMillan Space Centre
1100 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9

chair@gvrsf.ca www.gvrsf.ca

Science Fair Foundation BC



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The Table Officers of the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Society

Chair	Brian Le
Vice-Chair	David Grant
Secretary	Carrie Longcroft
Treasurer	Megan Barker
Chief Judge	Leonard Foster

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