

Song of the Shuswap

Salmon Arm Observer

April 27, 2010

Passion: Contestants reveal love of the watershed.

The Salmar Classic Theatre was filled Earth Day evening as singer-songwriters shared their entries in the Celebrate the Shuswap contest, sponsored by the Shuswap Watershed Project. Contestants showed their passion for the Shuswap in gentle, reflective numbers, exuberant rock and pretty well everything else in between. Audience members hooted, hollered and leapt to their feet with wild applause when Megan Abel was declared winner of the youth song-writing competition. Arianna Vrieling won second place in the youth category.

In the adult category longtime North Shore resident Sue Kyle won for a song she wrote almost a decade ago. Her Shuswap Swing was the final number for the evening, performed ably by her group Birchbark. Jessie Clarke of Old Man's Beard was declared second-place winner for his rollicking salute to the Shuswap.

While the concert which drew 34 entries was the culmination of the songwriting contest, artists in other genres had an opportunity to shine too. There were 134 entries in the art poster contest. Jessica Bergman was the winner in the Grade 3 to 6 division, with Shelby Matvenko coming in second. Shawn Warwar took first place in grade 7 to 9 and Derek Shogrun was second. Alyssa Graham was first in the Grade 10 to 12 category and took first overall, winning an Ipod, which was presented by Ministry of the Environment's Carol Danyluk. Georgia Chesney took second place.

A total of 6 essays were entered. Lindsay Whitehead took first place and Netanya Quessy was second in the Grade 3 to 6 category. In the grade 7 to 9 category, Sten Korver took first place. Essay winners in the Grade 10 to 12 category were Paige DeWolff in first place and Edward Out in second.

The four-hour event that featured a talk by Shuswap Environmental Action Society president Jim Cooperman and a video by Fred Bird, came to a close at 11 p.m. with the Song of the Shuswap award.