



Back row: Julia Fisher, Mayor Tom Walker, Austin Weiss, Emily Guest, Charlotte Yarnold, and Riana Hockridge with her dad Rob. Front row: Camile Storteboom, Steven Igbinsosa, Mia Friar, Zjaya Doman, Cara Baudin and Lanelle Hockridge. [SARAH SIMPSON/CITIZEN]

# Student posters tell food security tale

SARAH SIMPSON CITIZEN

This spring university student Julia Fisher went to 108 classrooms in 14 Cowichan Valley schools talking to youth in Grades K-7 about food security on behalf of the Municipality of North Cowichan.

The result was an increased understanding of the importance of local food production and 388 entries in the Municipality's Friends of the Environment Poster contest.

Fisher is the 11th North Cowichan summer student to take on the poster program.

"I spent about an hour with each class and spoke about how important their food is," she said Wednesday. "We only have about a two- or three-day food supply on the Island and about 90 per cent of our food is coming from off the Island and that is very scary to me," she said. "I just hope that they left feel-

ing curious about where their food came from and went home to mom and dad to talk about gardens and chickens and community markets and food maps."

But Wednesday was a special day in council chambers as Fisher announced the winners of the poster contest.

Mayor Tom Walker wore his special chain of office for the children.

"Those posters have been judged as to their quality and creativity and their appeal and is the message in there," said the mayor.

Nine of the 12 winners were on hand to receive their prizes from Fisher and the mayor.

Camile Storteboom, Steven Igbinsosa, Mia Friar, Zjaya Doman, Cara Baudin, Austin Weiss, Emily Guest, Charlotte Yarnold and Riana Hockridge were each given a certificate and a goody bag chock full of prizes from local merchants for their efforts.