

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
LET'S TALK SCIENCE
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High school students to solve a mystery aboard the Chi-Cheemaun ferry

Let's Talk Science Partnership Program volunteers from the University of Guelph will assist Grade 7 to 12 students in solving a crime scene mystery on the ferry boat Chi-Cheemaun during the Bluewater Regional Science & Technology Fair, April 1 at Bayshore in Owen Sound.

Beginning at 9:20 a.m. and running again at 12:30 p.m. students will participate in four hands-on activities that will help them determine which of eight suspects stole a secret formula. The activities include analysing handwriting samples, identifying fingerprints and conducting a chemical analysis of a substance found at the scene of the crime. Students will also learn how to extract DNA from an onion using regular household products.

"The science behind the real world, especially when it comes to things like forensics, is always more interesting than what you can find on television," says Christopher Zweerman, University of Guelph Let's Talk Science Partnership Program volunteer. "Putting science to use shows kids that they can be scientists every day, from cooking a meal to solving crimes. It all comes back in one way or another to science."

"Learning can take place anywhere – the Chi-Cheemaun is not only memorable, it's real and that makes it all the more engaging for students," says Sue McKee, National Coordinator, LTS Partnership Program.

Media are invited to follow the groups of students as they become crime scene investigators and learn about the exciting field of forensic science.

Media Contact: Krista Habermehl, Communications Officer, Let's Talk Science, 519-474-4081 ext. 239 or 1-877-474-4081 ext. 239, khabermehl@letstalkscience.ca

About the LTS Partnership Program:

Since 1993, science, engineering and technology students at post-secondary campuses across Canada have been teaming up with educators to ignite excitement in science in elementary and secondary students. The LTS Partnership Program exists at 28 universities and colleges across the country and its dedicated volunteers deliver fun and engaging hands-on science workshops and activities to thousands of children and youth. The program has recently extended its outreach to rural and remote communities.

About Let's Talk Science:

Let's Talk Science is a national non-profit science outreach organization, founded in 1993, that strives to improve science literacy in children and youth. With a team that includes scientists, early childhood educators and teachers, Let's Talk Science is uniquely positioned to develop effective educational programs that engage children, youth, and adults in learning and improving science literacy. Let's Talk Science specializes in early years education, volunteer science outreach programs, professional learning and training, science literacy research and advocacy and custom program development.

For more information about Let's Talk Science and the Partnership Program, please visit www.letstalkscience.ca.