

news

Pasta tower built by OSS students stands up at Spaghetti Bridge Building Competition

By **Laurena Weninger**
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Instead of hearing, "Don't play with your food," four Osoyoos students likely heard, "Way to go," when they won first place in the secondary school team category of Okanagan College's 27th annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Competition on March 5.

The four Grade 11 students from Osoyoos Secondary School (OSS) – Brock Pendergraft, Alex McCallum, Tim Paradis and Chris Schroeter – decided mostly to take part in the contest because it offered them a day away from their regular school routine.

But they also did it because they had already tried their hand

at building a spaghetti bridge in their science class.

Each year, said Paradis, students from the school go to take part in the competition. Competing in the "team" category, the students didn't know if they were going to be required to build a tower or a bridge until they officially began.

The tower they had to build took them about two hours.

Then, a 1.5-kilogram weight was hung through the middle of each of the towers.

If the towers could withstand the weight for a full minute they were weighed.

The lightest tower to withstand the weight won – and that was the tower built by the OSS crew.

There were other categories

where prizes were awarded, including secondary school individual, as well as post-secondary school individual and team.

The heavyweight category – where participants built pasta bridges – is judged a little differently.

Those bridges must be built to weigh less than one kilogram.

Then, they are loaded with an increasing amount of weight to see what they can withstand.

This year's heavyweight winner was Roland Erdosi, from the College of Nyiregyhaza in Hungary.

His bridge held 255 kilograms.

The OSS students' tower is on display in the trophy case at OSS.

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