



Look Who's 40! New Name, New Look, New Year!

This year promises to be an exciting one as the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre unveils its new look and name in time for 40th anniversary celebrations. A new logo is in the works, and will be released very soon.

The reason for the new name and look is two-fold. First, the old name, "Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies" was too long and difficult for people to say, or remember. Most automatically default to the original name, "OEC". Adding "Bluewater" to the name puts our local stamp on it,

and declares the OEC as our own. Second, the "Inspired by Nature" handle came to be associated with the campaign for new buildings on the main site, which has come to a close. The Bluewater Education Foundation has met every goal it had for rejuvenation of the main site, and it is time to move on to new goals and aspirations.

The 40th anniversary year will also be marked by many celebrations and projects:

Facebook – "Like" Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre for occasional updates on all of the celebrations! Share

your memories and stories!

Fall Open House at BOEC

Fall Harvest Dinner Hosted by the Bluewater Astronomical Society

Spring Fling Chi-Cheemaun Cruise, Hosted by the Bluewater Education Foundation

Open Air Reunion, Hosted by the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre

Spring and Fall Pelee Wine Sales

See inside for more information regarding each event.

Also, watch for the new BOEC logo, to be unveiled soon!

Program Still "Hopping" at OEC

This year, we welcome back Chris Tew and Peter Alle-mang for another year of excellence in outdoor education.

The OEC will be operating in support of the grade 6 residential, and grade 7 and 8 camping program this school year. We can't wait to greet our new crop of outdoor learners, and create for them an exciting learning experience in the wilds of

the Bruce!

We also wish Judy Robinson (now at Bayview), and Martin Kerr (now at BPDS) all the best with their new assignments this year! We know they will be wonderful assets to their new schools!

Oh, and if you are wondering what that Carlin Val fellow is up to, you can check out his blog and website at [http://atlastadventures.com/cycle-](http://atlastadventures.com/cycle-2-save.html)

[2-save.html](http://atlastadventures.com/cycle-2-save.html) Carlin successfully completed a climb up Mount Denali last spring in support of Mental Health Awareness, and then joined his wife, Debbie Ray two days later to cycle across Canada. They are currently somewhere on the east coast, and have completed their journey.

Inside this issue:

Bluewater Education Foundation	2
Eco-School Training	2
Planning Your Visit	3
Ranking River Route	3
40th Anniversary Details	4
Green Dates	4
Environmental Resources	5

Special points of interest:

- 40th Anniversary Plans Underway
- Eco-School Training Dates Set
- Helping You Plan Your Visit
- Bill 55 Information

Address From The Bluewater Education Foundation

By Ray Fenton, Honourary Executive Director of the Bluewater Education Foundation

Approximately 3000 students per year experience the 'magic' of the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre through programming provided by the dedicated staff. I witness this over and over yet I am still amazed at what a life altering experience it is for the children.

The Foundation has realized its first dream by fulfilling its promise to replace the aging dorms, dining hall and classrooms. An additional \$80,000 was spent on repairs to the bank barn to preserve it as an impressive heritage structure and to use the barn for teaching, concerts and more.

Partnering with the Bluewater Astronomical Society, the ES Fox Observatory, a state of the art facility, has been built on site. This functional observatory adds to the many unique educational resources of the Centre by allowing the children to have a hands-on, eyes-on learning experience looking through the many telescopes. It is the largest privately owned facility of its kind.

The on-site residential program continues untouched this year despite financial cut-backs in other areas of education. Grade 6 students from across Grey and Bruce Counties participate by staying at the Centre for 3 days and 2 nights.

The Foundation's current project is the rejuvenation of the Spry Lake Campground. New tents have been purchased and alterations made to the platforms. The gates and wood shed will be replaced and the driveway has been improved. Discussions on upgrading the cabin are presently underway.

The existence of the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre as it is today is a shining example in the province of Ontario of what can be accomplished by a group of dedicated volunteers in a time of financial cut-backs. Members of the public and corporate communities continue to give their moral and financial support.

The Bluewater Education Foundation through a 'Trust' owns the land and buildings on the site. The Foundation partners with the Bluewater District School Board, and they in turn provide the programming and staff at the 'Centre'. The Foundation provides the use of the Centre for the students and it is available to rent for other education groups.

The present need is to continue building our Endowment Fund to ensure there will be sufficient funds available to maintain the Centre in the future with the dream of the Centre becoming financially self sufficient.

The outdoor education site was purchased by the Bruce County Board of Education on November 2, 1971. The first classes at the Centre began in the spring of 1972, forty years ago. We are proud of this Bruce Grey legacy with the theme of our activities this year celebrating our 40th anniversary.

Eco-Schools Training

The Eco-Schools initiative is really catching on in Bluewater! Students in seven Bluewater schools were recognized for their environmental efforts last spring! Has your school signed up yet?

Release time will be provided this fall for 6 Bluewater teachers from 3 schools to attend Ontario Eco-Schools training in Midhurst. See the Staff Lounge for details, and email deborah_diebel@bwdsb.on.ca right away if you are interested in attending this training. Serious schools ready to begin the program this year will be considered first. Your school must not have sent a representative prior to this year to be able to qualify to go this time.

For more information about the program in general, or to register to become an Ontario Eco-School, visit www.ontarioecoschools.org

Also, on September 18th, a "how-to"

workshop on starting the Eco-Schools program will be held at the Bluewater Education Centre. The session will run from 4:30—5:30 pm.

Inspired by the initial efforts of G.C. Huston school three years ago (the first school in Bluewater to certify!), the Green at Heart Committee and the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre have taken up the challenge of turning Bluewater green! One of the most effective ways we have found to encourage student engagement in all things green is participation in this program. As a side benefit, your school will be saving energy and reducing waste while incorporating environmental studies into your curriculum.

The session in Midhurst is still highly recommended for those ready to start the program in their school. Please RSVP to Deborah Diebel via BEAM to let her know of your intention to attend.



Save energy and
reduce waste.

Planning Your Visit To The BOEC

We like to "rough it" at the OEC, but when it comes to planning your trip, pre-planning will help you "smooth it" - the more we can organize ahead of time, the smoother your trip will be. Last week, grade 6, 7 and 8 teachers with camping and residential bookings at the OEC received confirmation of the dates for their OEC trip. If you are visiting in September or October, Deborah Diebel will already have made contact with you.

To prepare for your BOEC trip, your first priority should be soliciting the help of parent chaperones. Police Record Checks take longer now, so start the process now to save hassles later. We recommend at least two chaperones in each dorm, if possible.

Go to www.oec.bwdsb.on.ca, and on the left-hand side, click on, "Your Visit". Scroll down to either, "Grade 6 Residential", or "Grade 7/8 Camping". There you will find links to all of the paper-work you need beforehand (aside from the permission forms your office will supply for you), and brochures with checklists to help you plan ahead. There is also one brochure to print for your students, and one for your parent chaperones. BOEC staff are currently in the process of updating these forms and brochures, which should be completed by the end of September.

Please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Diebel at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre with any questions or concerns.



It's the BOEC 40th Anniversary. Join the celebration.

Rankin River Route Now Open

Paddling enthusiasts have been waiting since 2006 for the reopening of a favourite route on the Bruce Peninsula. The time has come! This summer marked the sixth season of work to clear fallen trees on the lower Rankin River. The trees came down and blocked boat passage in the ice storms

of 2006 and 2007. Numerous volunteers, including members of the Boat Lake Cottage Association, the Rankin Resource Group, and local paddling clubs have come out to help over the years. The past few summers they have been assisted by the Ministry of Natural Resources' Junior Rang-

ers program. With the steadfast support of Ken Goldsmith, on the chainsaw, the Rangers finally cleared the final stretch of downed trees this summer. The route is cleared enough to allow one canoe to pass at a time, but still preserves the wildlife habitat qualities of the river required by DFO fish habitat laws. Happy Paddling!

Bill 55 Makes Significant Changes To Endangered Species Act

From the Hart's Tongue Herald, reprinted with permission of OSFN President, Stew Nutt

In the late spring, the Provincial government introduced their now "famous" budget Bill 55. Embedded in this bill were significant changes to the Endangered Species Act.

They were:

-Removing the requirement to ensure that new resource or development projects result in an overall benefit for species at risk. This rule allowed for responsible forestry, mining and other projects while en-

suring a future for endangered species. Under Bill 55, the Minister of Natural Resources can simply sweep aside species needs in favour of short-term economic gains.

-Removing the requirement to protect the habitat of endangered species on large areas of private land, despite the fact that most of Ontario's endangered species are found in Southern Ontario where land is 90 % privately owned.

-Removing the deadline for the developing recovery plans for species at risk listed before 2007. With no deadline, what are the chances that action will be taken to

save these species?

Ontario Nature asked that individuals and organizations get involved by sending letters and making phone calls to our MPPs and the Premier himself. Many did, and because of those efforts these parts of Bill 55 were removed. However, it is expected these clauses will be reintroduced this fall in a new effort to change the Act. Please visit Ontario Nature's website, <http://www.ontarionature.ca> for updates. Here you will also find ways to get involved. A letter sent soon to encourage the Premier to not change the Endangered Species Act would help.

40th Anniversary Events

The 40th anniversary year of BOEC will be marked by many celebrations and projects:

Facebook – “Like” Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre for occasional updates on all of the celebrations! Share your memories and stories!

Fall Open House at BOEC – Date TBA

Visit the grounds, meet the staff, participate in activities!

Fall Harvest Dinner Hosted by the Bluewater Astronomical Society

October 27th, 2012, BOEC Dining Hall

Guest Speaker, Robert Burcher

Music by Paul Williamson

Silent Auction

Dinner by Wayne Burke Catering from Kincardine (yum!)

Tickets \$50/ea – tax receipts issued for portion of ticket price.

Tickets Available Now! – Email stargazer@wightman.ca or Andromeda@gto.net

Spring Fling Chi-Cheemaun Cruise, Hosted by the Bluewater Education Foundation

April 20th, 2013, M.S. Chi-Cheemaun

Guest Performer,

Silent Auction

Pelee Island Wine Tasting

Catered Dinner

Cruise – first one out for the season! (weather permitting)

Tickets \$125/ea –tax receipts issued for portion of ticket price.

Tickets Available Now!

Email mackay_ann@hotmail.com

Open Air Reunion, Hosted by the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre

May 11th, 2013, The Great Outdoors at BOEC

Past students, staff, and volunteers, as well as the general public are invited to

return to the OEC to participate in favourite OEC programs, reconnect with old

friends and colleagues, enjoy some food and the outdoors, and perhaps even

perform at our evening campfire!

Watch for registration details.

Archive Information Requested

Please send us your photographs and stories for inclusion in a digital archive of the past 40 years at the OEC!

Spring and Fall Pelee Wine Sales – Details TBA



Green Dates To Remember

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up

September 15 – 23, 2012

<http://shorelinecleanup.ca/>

Footprints Conference

September 20, 21, 2012

Contact BPDS for details

Council for Outdoor Educators of Ontario 40th Anniversary Celebration and Conference

Honouring Roots, Standing Tall, Branching Out

September 21 – 23rd, Camp Pinecrest

<http://www.coeo.org/>

The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

September 24, 25, 26, 2012

<http://www.waterfestival.ca/>

The Bruce Grey Forest Festival

October 16, 18, 19, 2012

<http://www.forestfestival.ca/>

The Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education Conference

What is Where? Why There? Why Care?

October 19, 20, 2012

<http://www.oagee.org/what-is-where>

Experience Green 2012

West Hill Secondary School

November 2 – 3, 2012

<http://www.saugeenconservation.com/page.php?page=Experiencegreen>

Science Teachers' Association of Ontario Conference

Recapture the Wonder

November 15, 16, 17, 2012

<http://stao.ca/conf2/conference.php>

Teaching Resources for Environmental Education

Free Teaching Resources for Grades 4 – 6 From David Suzuki Foundation

Thank-you to Elanor Waslander of Ontario Eco-Schools for this information

"The David Suzuki Foundation has created a brand new education guide for students in grades four to six called, Connecting with Nature. There are 16 cross-curricular lesson plans full of fun activities that get kids outside to explore issues like biodiversity, where our food comes from and how to conserve energy. It also comes with evaluation and Ontario curriculum grids. It's free to download off of their website at www.davidsuzuki.org/youthandnature

FREE HARD COPIES! They have a limited number of free hard copies to give away to EcoSchool board reps and teachers. Copies will be given away on a first

come, first served basis with a limit of 4 per board. Each board is welcome to keep one copy at the board level. They will be mailed out at the end of August. In return, recipients will be asked to fill out a short feedback survey later in the fall in order to help them improve future guides.

All you have to do is email the following information before August 1:

- i. 1. Name (teacher who will receive the guide in September)
- ii. 2. Position
- iii. 3. email address (of teacher)
- iv. 4. mailing address (of school where teacher works)

For more information, and to sign up, visit <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/youth/stay-up-to-date-on-the-david-suzuki-foundations-work-with-young-canadians/>

Community Environment Fund Accepting Applications

The Community Environment Fund through Sobeyes and Earth Day Canada is once again accepting applications for school environmental projects.

The deadline is October 31, 2012.

Up to \$20,000 in funding is available.

For more details, visit: http://www.earthday.ca/envirofund/how_apply.aspx

NATURE-DEFICIT DISORDER

WHAT IS IT?
The combined psychological, physical and cognitive costs we suffer due to our alienation from nature, especially affecting children in vulnerable developing years.

CAUSES

- Parental fears
- Restricted access to natural areas
- Increasing consumption of electronic media

COSTS

- Attention and mood disorders
- Lower grades
- Obesity
- Limited respect for the environment

WHAT CAN WE DO?

GO WILD!
IGNITE CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN THE OUTDOORS
ENCOURAGE NATURE EXPLORATION

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
WILDERNESS.ORG

From: Nature's Backpack, Facebook Page



Dear Teachers & Educators

Hello!

My name is Kaoruko. I am a recent graduate of Political Science and Environmental Studies at University of Toronto. I have been enjoying volunteering with Trees for Life Canada to promote environmental education for kids across Canada. Today, I am contacting you on behalf of Trees for Life Canada. We are a not for profit organization dedicated to helping teachers provide fun, hands-on early environmental education. www.trees4life.ca

We would like to offer you the opportunity for your school to participate in our highly acclaimed "Grow a Tree" Project" and new program "Clean Air by Kids". These projects focus on environmental education for students from kindergarten to grade six by providing them with activity books, regional tree seeds, biodegradable growing cartons and curriculum-based teacher's manuals. Students at your school will learn about trees while growing their very own tree at home or in the classroom.

We have been going strong since 1991 and have already reached thousands of students. Our vision is to have hundreds of thousands of students across Canada participate in the project. We believe that children are the key to a greener future and with the help of schools and teachers like you we will be able to educate students and get them interested in the environment at an early age which is critical to their positive impact in the future.

Please take a moment and read the attached info on our project and the order form.

Please share the Grow a Tree Project with any teachers at your school who you feel may be interested in this great environmental education opportunity!

Thank you for your interest in environmental education for your students!

Sincerely,

Kaoruko

The "Grow-A-Tree" project for grade levels kindergarten through grade 6 includes:

- Biodegradable planting cartons for each student
- Regional tree seeds for each student
- A teacher's manual with background material and many classroom activities that are both educational and enjoyable
- A workbook for each student, including grade-appropriate lessons in science and ecology

"Grow-a-Tree" Project Online Order Form:

Volunteer: Kako

Name _____

Email _____

School/Organization Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone _____ ext _____

	Classes	# of Students	Choose Language
Kindergarten	_____	_____	English - French
Grade 1	_____	_____	English - French
Grade 2	_____	_____	English - French
Grade 3	_____	_____	English - French
Grade 4	_____	_____	English - French
Grade 5	_____	_____	English - French
Grade 6	_____	_____	English - French
	Subtotal	_____	@ \$3.00/student.
	Shipping:	\$15.00	flat rate across Canada
	Total	_____	

To order via fax: FAX 647-347-3903 (mail cheque & order sheet following your fax)

To order online: www.trees4life.ca