

FRIENDS OF COEO NEWSLETTER

May 30, 2005
Editor: Grant Linney

CONFERENCE 2005: **THURS. SEPT. 29TH TO SUN. OCT 2ND**
www.eecom.org/ripples2005

Join us for ***Creating Ripples: Education, Environment, and Culture***, an exciting opportunity for forging new connections, staying current with on-going research, and sharing our experiences related to outdoor and environmental education. Surrounded by the natural beauty of Camp Tawingo and the vibrant fall colours of Ontario's Haliburton Highlands, this year's joint conference (co-sponsored by COEO, EECOM (The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication), and OSEE (The Ontario Society for Environmental Education) promises to be a huge success.

Creating Ripples will give delegates the opportunity to take part in lectures, activities, field trips, and presentations organized along the following strands: Ethics, Leadership, Community Engagement, Outdoor Experiences, Critical Reflection, and Global Education. Sessions will be rounded out by an exciting line-up of social activities and an exhibit hall that will showcase the latest products, programs, and not-for-profit organizations.

COEO MEMBERS BEWARE: This BIG conference has **LIMITED SPACE**. If you are in the habit of last minute registration, you may find that the conference is full. There are options to come for just a day, for the Friday night to Sunday closing, or full the full conference. But, I would highly recommend that you **register now**, before the end of the school year ... and before the expiry of the early bird discounts this June 15th. You can do so by downloading the registration form from the above-mentioned web site. Hope to see you there!

P.S. Please help to spread the word about this great conference ... refer friends and colleagues to the COEO web site ... download a copy of the conference flyer and forward to those with an active interest in outdoor and environmental ed.

COEO WEB SITE UPDATE: **INTEGRATED OUTDOOR/ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

Over the course of the summer, COEO Western Region Rep Mike Elrick will be doing an update on the secondary school integrated outdoor and environmental education programs offered in Ontario. This list is posted in the Links section of **www.coeo.org**, and it was last updated in November 2003.

If you can provide any updated information re currently listed programs, or new information about unlisted programs, please contact Mike at:
Michael.Elrick@ugdsb.on.ca

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE GROWING NUMBERS IN SUPPORT OF THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRESCRIBING ITS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

You know how we always tell young people about what a difference one voice can make? Well, here's a chance to practice what you preach.

The Ontario government is due to make a decision by this June 15th as to whether or not its Ministry of Education should be prescribed under the provincial Environmental Bill of Rights. If you go to www.coeo.org and click on the News link, you will see how - and why - COEO has joined several other organizations (including, quite recently, The Toronto District School Board) in vocal support of this initiative.

So, here's what you can do:

Under our News link, click on **The letter that COEO and several other organizations sent to the Ontario government** to read why this is important. Then, click on **What you can to do support this initiative before June 10th ...** and, given the tight time frame, send an e-mail to the politicians listed. This is important.
This is one more example of how you can make a difference.

POLITICIANS RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION??

Mark Whitcombe found this gem, as reported last month by the BBC News in the run-up to the British election:

"The Scottish Liberal Democrats pledged new investment in activities and leisure for children, funded by the extra resources available to Scotland from the party's proposals for "fairer tax". They said there would be a new entitlement to free swimming in public pools, a week's free outdoor education during secondary school and a new fund to provide more affordable activities through clubs, offering sport, leisure, music, art and environmental events."

Mark goes on to comment: "Imagine that!!! Outdoor education opportunities being part of an election platform!!! (Note, too, that regional factionalism exists in places other than Canada ..."

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF OE??

Saturday May 28, 2005, page F7: The Globe and Mail publishes a sizeable excerpt from a book entitled **Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder**, written by Richard Louv, an advisor to the U.S. National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. Additional information on this book can also be found at: www.connectforkids.org/node/173