

COEO NEWSLETTER

www.coeo.org

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THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE EBR: YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

On October 19th, Dr. Tom Puk received word that his second application to bring the Ontario Ministry of Education under the purview of the province's Environmental Bill of Rights had been approved. Two days later, the government again contacted Dr. Puk to report an error in the information they had first provided. While the Ministry of Education is to follow the EBR, its Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) will **not** be subject to the "notice and comment" process (a.k.a. Environmental Registry) that all other prescribed ministries must follow. This exemption from the public reporting requirement is unprecedented and significantly weakens the whole idea of having this ministry prescribed under the EBR.

This is an important issue that could well impact "education for the future."

NUMBERS COUNT.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

PLEASE TAKE TIME FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO REVIEW THE FIRST ITEM POSTED IN THE "LATEST NEWS" COLUMN OF

www.coeo.org/news.htm

THEN, PLEASE WRITE A LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS INEFFECTIVE HALF STEP.

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14TH

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Last Friday and Saturday, 15 outdoor enthusiasts participated in a Wilderness First Aid Course run by Wilderness Medical Associates and sponsored by COEO at the Norval Outdoor School.

Participants found the 18 hour course and its instructor (a paramedic with extensive outdoors experience) to be highly informative and interesting. The fellowship of kindred spirits was also much appreciated. In addition to first aid and CPR certification, a workshop was offered on anaphylaxis.

Dependent upon interest, COEO may offer this workshop again in the spring, as well as a 40 hour Wilderness Advanced First Aid Course over the summer.

It is also worth noting that 10 of the participants are new COEO members!

LOOKING FOR AN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE TO RUN?

Ontario Nature (formerly known as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists) is hoping to lease the Cawthra-Mullock Nature Reserve, a 108 hectare property located on the Oak Ridges Moraine north of Newmarket.

Longtime COEO member Clarke Birchard also sits on *Ontario Nature's* Board of Directors, and here's his assessment of what he considers an ideal opportunity for the development of an outdoor education centre:

The property includes two houses - a small bungalow near Bathurst Street (the gate house), a very large, very beautiful, architect-designed and environmentally attractive (wood, slate, etc.) main house located well within the property and a barn. The main house has 6 large bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, very large dining area (big enough to easily accommodate meetings of the board of directors of ON (20 + people), kitchen, etc. The gatehouse is presently rented as a residence, the main house rented to Conservation Ontario as temporary office space.

My assessment of the main house and the property is that it would make an ideal outdoor education centre, nature centre, retreat, field station, etc. We hope that we might attract an agency that deals with smaller groups such as a private school, college, church, etc. and that the property might be used for purposes consistent with the mission, vision, and goals of ON. We have advised the listing agent of these preferences. She would welcome any leads so that her marketing might be targeted as well as general (Globe and Mail, etc.).

For listing details (Coldwell Bankers York Professionals in Newmarket), go to:
<http://www.yorkprofessionals.com/ezweb/index.php?current=list&dbloc=rem&lstd=15148>

For a description of the property, go to:
http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/reserves/res_cawthra_mullock.html

AND, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TELL YOU YET (because it's not totally official), BUT STAY TUNED FOR SOME MOST EXCELLENT NEWS FOR COEO AND FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION IN ONTARIO ...