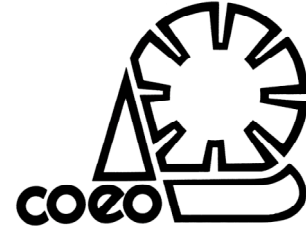


FRIENDS OF COEO NEWSLETTER

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario

www.coeo.org

Editor: Grant Linney
April 29, 2007



UPCOMING EVENTS

COEO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

**Fri. Sept. 28th to Sun. Sept. 30th
YMCA CAMP WANAKITA**

The dates are set. A great Haliburton location in full fall colours is booked. And, some key COEO folks are in place with President Shane stepping forward to chair the conference, Pam Miller acting as registrar and Judy Kramer as treasurer. Our next newsletter will see a call for presentations for “**an old fashioned COEO conference,**” ... a great chance to enjoy the autumn at its peak, to reconnect with kindred folk, to learn new and neat stuff about outdoor and experiential education, and to have a blast doing so. **Stay tuned for more details!**

MARK WHITCOMBE'S RE-TIREMENT

**Saturday June 23, 2007 11:30 am to 4 pm
Sheldon Centre for Outdoor Education**

Yes, that icon of outdoor education centres in Ontario, that paragon of all things OEE and COEO, has decided that it's high time to re-tire (i.e., get a new set of wheels) and to see what ripples he can create in endeavours of his own choosing. This gathering will feature a deluxe BBQ buffet lunch followed by presentations, cake, and an old-fashioned barn dance. So, don't be left out standing in some field. Go to <http://toes.tdsb.on.ca/retirement>, download the flyer with full details, and be sure to register before this June 1st.

The Third Annual RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE for Outdoor Education

Mon/Tues. May 28-29, 2007

Go to <http://www.riskmanagementconference.ca> to learn details about and to register for this national conference set in eastern Ontario.

O BARK LAKE, HOW GRACEFUL ...

**The Friends of Bark Lake Reunion
Fri. May 18th to Mon. May 21st**

COEO member David Spencer asks you to go to <http://www.barklake.ca/reunion> to find out more about this on-site gathering for former staff and participants at the Ontario Camp Leadership Centre.

ADVENTUREWORKS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS SPRING & FALL

Go to www.adventureworks.org for full information concerning the following courses now offered both in Ontario and British Columbia:

- Low Ropes Facilitator Ancaster, ON: May 1-2
- Assistant High Ropes Instructor Ancaster, ON: May 3-6; May 24-27
- Climbing Wall Facilitator Baysville, ON only: May 25-27
- Ropes Course Instructor Ancaster: May 10-13; May 31-June 3
- Rigging for Rescue Ancaster, ON only: Nov. 10-16
- Intro to Climbing Milton, ON only: May 12; Aug. 18; Sept. 22
- Top Rope Basics Milton, ON only: May 12-13; Aug. 25-26

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

RECONNECTING CHILDREN Through Outdoor Education: A Research Summary

Have you ordered your copy yet?

Can you think of others who need to see this document in order to understand the great potential of outdoor and experiential education in today's world?

For full details about COEO's landmark publication, go to: www.coeo.org/news.htm

Recent testimonials:

Reconnecting Children Through Outdoor Education deserves a spot on every outdoor educator's bookshelf! This is a great synopsis of the state of current research in outdoor education, and will prove invaluable as a tool for anyone who is an advocate for outdoor education. The recommendations are very timely – contemporary research from a variety of disciplines suggests that we need to dramatically change how we educate students today. As demonstrated by the research highlighted in this report, outdoor education is particularly well-suited to address many of the problems in our existing education system. Governments, school boards, and parent organizations must act upon these recommendations if they wish to secure a healthy and sustainable future for our kids.

Tim O'Connell, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies, Brock University
Co-Editor – *Journal of Experiential Education*

Concise, direct and timely: Reconnecting Children Through Outdoor Education is a bold affirmation of education for the whole child in the outdoors at a time when this is needed more than ever before. With the wise use of well chosen pull quotes, effective themes, compelling visuals and a text that summarizes a wealth of international literature, one becomes well armed with the conceptual tools to re-energize a commitment to the vital work of outdoor education. The relevance and succinct nature of this research summary will both surprise and satisfy administrators, parents, practitioners and researchers all.

Bob Henderson, Ph.D.,
Department of Kinesiology, McMaster University
Long time Editor – *Pathways: The Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education*

LAST CHILD IN THE SUNSHINE:

INDOOR KIDS & VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY

There is now growing and startling evidence that the increased amounts of time kids are spending indoors, in combination with our application of sun block lotions before going outdoors is leading to a severe deficiency of Vitamin D. Further, this deficiency is now considered a major cause of cancer as well as being linked to a number of other serious ailments including multiple sclerosis, juvenile diabetes, bone loss and osteoporosis. See the front page of The Globe and Mail for Saturday April 28, 2007, and go to the following link to the Children's Hospital in Boston: http://www.childrenshospital.org/dream/dream_fall06/bones_in_the_balance.html
Thanks to EEON researcher and reporter extraordinaire Elise Houghton for this Children's Hospital link.

SHARKWATER: A Documentary Film with the Punch of *An Inconvenient Truth*

A highly compelling and damning documentary about human greed along with ignorant misperceptions that could lead to the collapse of our ocean ecosystems. For a trailer, reviews, and a host of supporting materials, go to www.sharkwater.com

A NEW GREEN SEARCH ENGINE

www.thegreensearch.ca

Through the power of Google, thegreenpages.ca network has created a specialized search engine that searches Canadian environment-related web sites. Rather than searching the entire web, its search yields "green" results from across Canada and around the world. It includes environment-related web sites and resources from all levels of government, NGO's (e.g., World Wildlife Fund), research institutions (e.g., Pembina Institute), environmental programs at academic institutions (e.g., U of T; UBC), international organizations (e.g., UNEP), magazines & journals (e.g., Alternatives Journal), and major news outlets (e.g., CBC, Globe and Mail).

NEW ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT WEBSITES FOR SCHOOLS

Check out two new resources for Ontario's students, teachers and parents: <http://obviously.ca/> and <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca>. The first site appears to be designed for older teens and appears to include a variety of interesting topics and information. The latter site appears to be more for the pre and early teen set. Thanks to COEO Board member Kyle Clarke for forwarding these links.