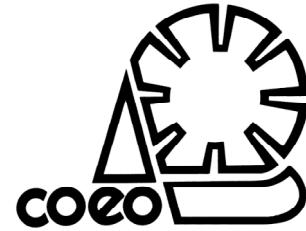


COEO NEWSLETTER

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario

www.coeo.org

Editor: Grant Linney
Date: December 18, 2006



DOROTHY WALTER CELEBRATION

(Note change of date)

When: Saturday January 13, 2007 2 p.m.
Where: Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. East (near corner of Leslie & Lawrence)
What: Presentations followed by reception
Anyone having memorabilia or an interest in helping to organize this celebration in memory of Dorothy's illustrious life can contact Rob Heming: rheming@sadiemoranis.com 705-321-4924 (cell) or 705-549-1710 (home)

If you have a personal recollection / tribute to share:

Please forward to info@coeo.org before December 31st, and these will be shared on the COEO web site. They will also be made available for the January 13th gathering.

COEO RESEARCH BRIEF re VALUE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

One of the major outcomes of our one-year Trillium Grant will be the publication of a 50+ page document summarizing current (and impressive) research into the value of outdoor and experiential education. The text is organized according to our four identified values for OEE: Education for Environment, Character, Wellbeing and Curriculum. It will include a number of recommended actions for both government and universities to take. This publication will be sent to all MPPs and school boards in Ontario as well as a number of other key decision makers. The straight text will also be posted on the COEO web site and the publication (including many photos and an attractive layout) will also be for sale through COEO. Stay tuned for more news; publication will be in early 2007!

A GREAT WAY TO KEEP TABS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The EEON (Environmental Education Ontario) list serve sends out a variety of timely and informative notices and articles related to environmental issues and environmental education. To join, send an e-mail to majordomo@icomm.ca with "subscribe eeonlist" written in the body of your message.

EEON has also published *Greening the Way Ontario Learns: A Public Strategic Plan for Environmental and Sustainability Education*. For more info about this landmark document, contact www.eeon.org.

THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION AND THE PARTY LEADER DEBATES

It is not within COEO's mandate to advocate for one political party over another, however, given that:

- Education for Environment is one of our key values, and
- The soon-to-be published COEO Research brief makes a compelling case for this being the educational priority of our times, and
- Recent opinion polls indicate that environmental issues are quickly becoming a major public concern, and
- Stéphane Dion has been elected as the federal Liberal leader on a strong environmental platform, and
- Former PM Brian Mulroney is urging the Conservative party to adopt a much stronger pro-environmental stance, and
- Green Party Leader Elizabeth May placed a strong second in a recent federal by-election in the London area, and more than 660,000 Canadians voted for the Green Party in the last federal election,

it is therefore this editor's humble opinion that, regardless of which party you personally support, the single most positive step you can currently take to raise environment to the top of the Canadian political agenda is to convince the media consortium controlling party leader debates that the time has come for the Green Party to be included in any leader debates for the next federal election. There is little doubt that this addition will have a major impact on the content of these debates.

If you agree (or you would like to read further arguments in favour of this position), please go to www.demanddemocraticdebates.com and sign the online petition. While this is a site run by the Green Party of Canada, the petition is sent directly to the media consortium, and the site states that your personal information will not be used for any purpose other than needed identification for the petition, i.e., the Green Party will not, as a result of this petition, contact you to become a member or to donate funds.

And, if you agree, carry this a step further, and pass this information on to friends and colleagues. If more than one million Canadians sign the petition, it is hoped that the six media executives comprising this consortium will finally do the right thing.

AND, DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT COEO IN WHATEVER WAY YOU CAN

Now that I have uttered some potentially controversial remarks, I will proceed to thank you for renewing your membership in COEO. Given the disappointingly low turn-out at our fall conference, our membership numbers are down and we would appreciate anything you can do to get our numbers back up, e.g.,

- Encourage friends and colleagues to join an organization that has advocated for outdoor and experiential education in Ontario since 1972
- Encourage people to visit our web site www.coeo.org to find out more about us, to download a membership form and, if preferred, to pay online.
- Please let us know if you have any time (large or small) to help COEO.