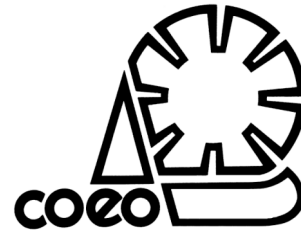


## **FRIENDS of COEO NEWSLETTER**

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario

[www.coeo.org](http://www.coeo.org)

Editor: Grant Linney  
June 6, 2009



*Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.*

## **COEO NEWS**

### **COEO President's Report:**

**Zabe MacEachren**

Environmental education is picking up speed in Ontario it seems. Beyond doing the routine COEO admin work like filling out insurance forms and paper work so Pathways is available through ERIC a research engine for libraries, there have been numerous conferences and meetings. First, like a few other COEO members, I attended the **Ontario Society for Environmental Education (OSEE) conference** last month. It had a good turn out as it was located near Toronto and it featured keynote speakers such as Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party. I then moved on to Montreal to attend the **World Environmental Education Congress**. It is always fascinating to hear what types of things other countries are doing in the name of environmental education. At both of these conferences, I sold T-shirts with a front logo that said ***"Ask Your Teacher to Take You Outside"*** and a back design that includes tidbits of research for reasons we need to be outside as well as the COEO logo.

After a panicky few minutes with a computer technician trying to figure out how to get on line and wired with a headphone set, I participated in a web conference through the **Ontario College of Teachers** that allowed me to vote in regards to changes in the way they will promote and offer Environmental education courses and related additional qualification courses. I have learned through my work here at Queen's and by attending the Environmental Education Symposium that some of the difficulties in introducing environmental education to teachers resides less with the Ministry of Education and more within the structure of the Ontario College of Teachers. As the Ministry of Education's new policy is based upon more teachers offering environmental education throughout all subject areas it is imperative that teachers who are not familiar with environmental education be somehow exposed or offered this education. Awareness of this issue has led me to wondering what role COEO can aid in educating all teachers to be comfortable taking students outdoors to learn.

One COEO member who has already arisen to this challenge is Stan Kozak who is working with the Ontario Federation of Teachers to offer **a summer institute designed to promote integrated programs with an environmental emphasis.** If you yourself or any teachers you know are interested in attending this camp and learning more please contact Stan. He needs 20 participants by June 20th to ensure the program is offered at Bark Lake at a very reasonable cost. So please do not hesitate to contact him. He is doing this initiative under COEO's name. He can be contacted at [skozak@sentex.net](mailto:skozak@sentex.net)

Also, do not forget to sit out on the back porch this summer and read **Pathways Summer issue** pertaining to food education as a means of outdoor education. I worked with two Queen's OEE students to put together this issue. Unfortunately I will not be around this summer to watch my garden grow (or mow my lawn) as I will be continuing my trip across Canada by canoe. Well actually only part of it will be by canoe. I just purchased a new boat that I call a penguin boat for you can paddle it like a kayak but also have the option of peddling it with your legs to work two penguin wing like flippers underneath it. I immediately fell in love with this boat as it is a great example of biomimicry as penguins are some of the fastest swimmers in the water. If all goes well I will try and bring it for others to try to the COEO conference in the fall.

And, being privy to some of the details about the **COEO annual conference**, I am well aware that it is shaping up to be a great conference you will not want to miss. There is an early bird rate so don't forget to check out COEOs web page soon for details. Meanwhile I hope you all have a fabulous summer and are able to take fine adventures on some Canadian waters or enjoy watching the carrots grow in your garden.

At the **World Environmental Education Congress** I also met a representative for NAAEE which is running its conference in Buffalo in 2010 so you might want to mark your two year calendar for this event. See the info she sent me below:

*Interested in learning what others in your field from all over North America are doing? Come find out in 2010! Buffalo, NY, is hosting the **2010 North American Association for Environmental Education Conference** on 28 September through 2 October 2010. Save the date and come explore environmental education research and best practices. Also, keep an eye out for the call for proposals in autumn and come show off your own programs, research, and lessons learned! Email [naaee2010@gmail.com](mailto:naaee2010@gmail.com) for more info or with questions.*

## **COEO NEWS** (continued)

### **ANNUAL COEO CONFERENCE: “Connections & Directions”**

**Friday September 25 to Sunday September 27, 2009**

**RKY Camp, Parham, Ontario (1.5 hours from Ottawa; 3 hours from Toronto)**

Once again, it will soon be time for COEO members to gather together, build new connections and renew old ones while exploring new directions in our field.

Our excellent line-up of diverse presenters and workshops includes the following:

- **Terrance Dickinson**, a world renowned astronomer, will deliver one of his engaging presentations on Friday night and will lead a small group outdoor workshop on Saturday night
- An **Environmental Lawyer** will join us for several reflections based around COEO's four pillars from a whole new perspective. He will assist us in examining the newly released Ministry of Education environmental education documents. This will certainly have us all motivated, engaged and thinking in new ways about our future directions.
- Our Eastern Region's special talents and programs will be showcased in programs on **Eco Schools, Integrated Programs, Local Food, and Sustainability**.
- Other great highlights include **Environmental Puppetry, Primitive Skills, Sense of Place, Field Naturalists, Teaching with Games, Canoeing** and more.
- Our great traditional conference activities will continue with a **Saturday night dance**, an **auction**, a **campfire** and countless opportunities to connect with colleagues at a wonderful fall retreat.

*If you are interested in helping in any small or large way, or if you have any questions, contact [walt.sepic@yahoo.com](mailto:walt.sepic@yahoo.com) or [katehumphrys@hotmail.com](mailto:katehumphrys@hotmail.com).*

**Full conference details to be posted on the COEO website later this month.**

# **OTHER OEE NEWS**

## **NATIONAL CANOE DAY:**

**JUNE 26, 2009**

Sponsored by: The Canadian Canoe Museum, Nova Craft Canoe, The Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association (ORCKA), CHEX Television, The David Thompson Brigade, and Caneroots Magazine.

For more information, go to: [www.nationalcanoeday.net](http://www.nationalcanoeday.net)

## **BOYNE RIVER NATURAL SCIENCE SCHOOL**

### **Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI: CF09 - 153EOI)**

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from groups, organizations, companies and/or individuals reflecting a broad range of educational, environmental, recreational, sporting and, arts and cultural mandates to undertake the redevelopment and programming of the Boyne River Outdoor Education Facility. Located in Shelburne, Ontario, this former outdoor education facility is situated on a 402.71 acre site within the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. The 22 acres containing the Boyne River Outdoor Education Facility including all 15 buildings is the focus of this REOI.

TDSB is seeking submissions which respect the exceptional nature context of the site, its legacy as an innovative center for environmental education and, ideally, which secure access to the site for TDSB students for some part of the school year.

A detailed description of the opportunity, parameters, full site descriptions, submission requirements and Submission Review Guidelines are available in PDF format at:  
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=173&menuid=21301&pageid=18572>

Respondents to the EOI must register with full contact information by June 12th at [reoi@torontoartscape.on.ca](mailto:reoi@torontoartscape.on.ca) to receive additional updates and / or amendments to the process. Requests to join Site Tours should be made at time of registration.

All respondents who intend to submit an Expression of Interest must also fill out and include, in their submission, the Information Form, available at:  
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=173&menuid=21301&pageid=18572>  
Sealed submissions must be received by 10:00 a.m. Friday June 19th, addressed to:

Boyne River Outdoor Education Facility REOI  
Attn. Chris Ferris, Manager, Purchasing Services  
Toronto District School Board  
Purchasing and Distribution Services  
5050 Yonge Street, 3rd Floor  
Toronto, ON M2N 5N8

# UPCOMING P.D. OPPORTUNITIES

## Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve [www.haliburtonforest.com](http://www.haliburtonforest.com)

Haliburton Forest offers a number of summer program options providing opportunities for active learning and fun in the forest. Develop your skills, confidence, physical health and sense of community as you join a group of people that share your love of adventure and the outdoors.

Each camp program incorporates activities suitable for the age and skill level of the group – safety is our main concern. Programs may include the following:

Wilderness navigation skills (GPS, map & compass)	Survival skills (fire and shelter building)
Mountain biking	Astronomy
Rock climbing	Camping and camp craft skills
High and low ropes courses	Wolf howls and education
Canoeing/ kayaking	Team building games & initiatives

Children's programs are listed on the website. Adult programs include the following:

**Family Adventure Camp (all ages)**, July 17 – 19, 2009, (Friday 3:00pm until Sunday 4:00pm.) Fee: \$165.00 per adult, \$155.00 per youth under 16

**Women's Adventure Weekend (adult women and female youth accompanied by parent/guardian)** July 24 – 26 & August 21 – 23, 2009, (Friday 3:00pm until Sunday 4:00pm.) Fee: \$225.00 per person.

### **August 20-23, 2009 - The Forest Festival**

This season's **Forest Festival** will run from Thursday evening August 20 to Sunday evening, August 23. Important Canadian musicians (go to the web site for details) will dazzle the audience with their work, presented in a natural environment unrivalled in its natural and acoustic appeal. Concerts will be held at two venues; the stunning **Amphitheatre** that overlooks serene and isolated Bone Lake and the historic **Logging Museum** located at **Base Camp**.

Enjoy art installations of The Landart Project along forest trails, and join a chorus of wild wolves on our **Opening Night Wolf Howl**. The **Forest Festival** offers an unforgettable experience. Please join us.

For a detailed schedule of performances as well as arrangements and pricing, please visit the website for the **Forest Festival** at: [www.theforestfestival.com](http://www.theforestfestival.com) or contact the main office at:

**Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve Ltd.**

RR# 1, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

Phone: (705) 754-2198

# UPCOMING P.D. OPPORTUNITIES

(continued)

## HOW TO START A SECONDARY MULTI-CREDIT INTEGRATED PROGRAM

This is an invitation to participate in a special PD event to advance multi-credit integrated programs (2 to 4 credits), one of Ontario's most progressive and dynamic learning models.

- When: July 20-22, 2009  
Where: Bark Lake Leadership Centre (north of Peterborough)  
Who: Open to all Ontario secondary school Teachers  
What: A three-day professional learning experience focusing on all the issues relevant to multi credit programs and with a environmental/sustainability focus. The program will follow a professional inquiry model directed by the participants, namely current multi-credit practitioners and those who wish to join them.  
Cost: \$50 all-inclusive  
Sponsors: This event is taking place with **Ministry of Education** funding through the **Ontario Teachers Federation**, under the auspices of **The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO)** and with the support of the **Gosling Foundation** and **Learning for a Sustainable Future**.

To register: Sign up online by June 19 on the OTF site: enrolment is limited  
<https://eventwizard.com/secured/EWV3.01/Forms/req1.asp?ClientCode=otffeo&Ecode=campotf2009&Lang=English>

This will be a great outdoor experience in itself but it is going to be so much more. Teachers involved in multi -credit programs demonstrate a level of leadership and expertise that puts them in the highest level of practice in the profession. Put them together for three days and look out!

The program will include the following:

- Issues in launching new programs
- The benefits and challenges of integrated learning
- Options available through the High Skills Major program
- Planning and assessment of integrated learning projects
- Marketing and administration
- Securing resources
- Using community and regional opportunities for engaging learning
- Wilderness tripping
- Common Course packages
- And, the program will take full advantage of the Bark Lake site, both its natural (lake, woods, night sky) and built facilities

For any questions, contact Stan Kozak: 519 826-0408

[skozak@sentex.ca](mailto:skozak@sentex.ca)

# UPCOMING P.D. OPPORTUNITIES

(continued)

## SPRING PROGRAMS @ THE WYE MARSH

Contact: (705) 526-7809 or [info@wyemarsh.com](mailto:info@wyemarsh.com)

**FULL MOON CELEBRATION:** Celebrate each Full Moon with a very special late night adventure. Come enjoy a peaceful guided walk and canoe through the Marsh and witness the spectacular landscape and wildlife at night. ***Pre-Registration Required\****

**Dates:** Friday, June 5, 2009 **Time:** 8:00pm - 10:00pm

**SPRING ECOTOURS:** Starting Saturday, May 16th you can participate in Spring Ecotours. These outings include a 3-4 hour canoe or kayak ride into the far reaches of Wye Marsh. You can learn about waterfowl habitat, indigenous plant species, and the many benefits of wetlands. ***Pre-Registration Required\****

**Date:** Saturdays Kayak **Time:** Timed according to sunsets  
Sundays Canoe **Time:** 7:00am - 10:00am

**LATE NIGHT THURSDAYS:** The Wye Marsh now remains open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Its at the end of the day is breathtaking. Climb the observation tower and watch the sunset. Our extended hours offer a unique opportunity for nature photographers to utilize the perfect light of dusk to photograph the landscape and wildlife that can be seen only at this time of day. We've added some evening activities as well! At 5:30pm participate in a guided canoe or wait until after dinner to enjoy a guided kayak at 7:00pm. Take a paddle through the canals and witness the soft evening colours reflecting on the water. A wonderful end to your day.

**WYE MARSH SUMMER DAY CAMPS FOR KIDS:** For full information regarding a wide range of programs (Kinder Camp; Camp Marshes & Moccasins; CSI Survival Camp, Falconry Camp), go to [camp@wyemarsh.com](mailto:camp@wyemarsh.com)

**PAINT YOUR OWN PADDLE:** Wye Marsh is a natural, relaxed setting for letting your creativity flow. This workshop includes a paddle for you to paint and take home, all required painting materials, three hours of instruction followed by a forty-five minute canoe trip through the Marsh. To create your painting from one of three images that will be provided, bring your own photo to work from, or let your surroundings inspire you as you work straight from the best that Wye Marsh has to offer. Minimum: 5 participants; Maximum: 15 participants. Reserve your spot no later than Wednesday, June 3, 2009 as space is limited.

**Date:** Saturday, June 6, 2009 **Time:** 1:00pm-5:00pm

**FALCONRY WORKSHOP:** Spend an exciting day learning and handling birds of prey with one of our expert falconers. This program will provide participants with an overview of the history of falconry, how to work with Birds of Prey, falconry apprenticeship requirements, as well as equipment, health and food requirements of these incredible birds. In addition, you will learn traits and behaviours specific to each of the different species. Prepare to be entertained by spectacular aerial displays and enjoy the thrill of flying a bird yourself as well as having one on your fist. It's an experience you'll never forget. Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** Saturday, June 6, 2009 **Time:** 10:00am

# UPCOMING P.D. OPPORTUNITIES

(continued)

## OUTDOORS IN THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS THIS SUMMER:

**Yours Outdoors**, in partnership with [Out to Learn](#), has a busy summer ahead in the Haliburton Highlands. We will be planning and/or offering outdoor experience packages for tourists (Pedal Your Arts, Tastes of Haliburton, Haliburton Rocks!, and Steppin' Out in the Highlands), [Stewardship Discovery Days](#), [Junior Naturalist Camp](#), [Naturally Kids Discovery Day Camp](#) and the [Muskoka Haliburton Children's Water Festival](#). **Yours Outdoors** is also responsible for coordinating the [Celebration of Trails](#) throughout the Haliburton area.

Some of the experience packages offered by Yours Outdoors are excellent professional development opportunities for educators. For example, the one day and multi-day [Haliburton Rocks!](#) packages are a great introduction to the world of rocks and minerals.

For more information or to make a booking, go to [www.yoursoutdoors.ca](http://www.yoursoutdoors.ca) or call Barrie Martin at 705-754-3436.

## ADVENTUREWORKS: JUNE CERTIFICATION COURSES

[www.adventureworks.org](http://www.adventureworks.org)

877-311-5683

- June 3-4: Low Ropes Facilitator
- June 3-7: Assistant Ropes Course Instructor - level 1 (full)
- June 3-7: Ropes Course Instructor - level 2
- June 7th: Re-certifications both ARCI and RCI (levels 1&2)
- June 17-21: RCI @ Camp Sunrise in BC
- June 19-21: Climbing Wall Facilitator at Canterbury Hills, Ancaster

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

*I think again over my small adventures  
My Fears,  
Those small ones that seemed so big  
For all the vital things  
I had to get and to reach.  
And yet there is only one great thing  
The only thing  
To live to see the great day that dawns  
And the light that fills the world.* Old Inuit Song

## RESOURCES

### CLEAN AIR ACHIEVERS:     **Athletes Inspiring Youth to Take Action for the Environment**

HSBC Clean Air Achievers (CAA) is a program of Clean Air Champions, a national charity with a mission to employ high profile athletes to educate and inspire Canadians to adopt practices and lifestyles that enhance both environmental and personal health.

CAA is a curriculum-based program for students in Grades 6-9. This unique program explores transportation choices and its impact on air quality, climate change and health. Students use a sophisticated website to enter travel trips which calculates the greenhouse gas emissions they have prevented by choosing sustainable modes of travel. Teachers are provided a comprehensive Teachers Manual with a range of curriculum linked activities. Best of all, our Champions, National team, Olympic and Paralympic athletes deliver two inspirational presentations to your class.

CAA is offered at no cost to schools and is now taking registration for the 2009-2010 school year in the following areas of Ontario: Guelph, Hamilton, St. Catharine's, London, Toronto, Barrie, Ottawa, and Kingston. To register, go to [www.cleanairachievers.ca](http://www.cleanairachievers.ca), choose "Schools" and the "Register Now for the 2009-2010 school year" link. Spaces are limited, so do not miss out on this excellent opportunity!

For more information, visit [www.cleanairchampions.ca](http://www.cleanairchampions.ca) and choose "Programs" or email us at [info@cleanairchampions.ca](mailto:info@cleanairchampions.ca).

## WORTH REPEATING:

### **Paul Hawken Commencement Address to the Class of 2009 University of Portland, May 3rd, 2009**

*Paul Hawken is an internationally-respected environmentalist and author of several best-selling books including, **Blessed Unrest**, **The Ecology of Commerce**, and **Natural Capitalism**. Thanks to Franke James for posting this on the EEON list serve.*

When I was invited to give this speech, I was asked if I could give a simple short talk that was "direct, naked, taut, honest, passionate, lean, shivering, startling, and graceful." Boy, no pressure there.

But let's begin with the startling part. Hey, Class of 2009: you are going to have to figure out what it means to be a human being on earth at a time when every living system is declining, and the rate of decline is accelerating. Kind of a mind-boggling situation – but not one peer-

## **PAUL HAWKEN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

(continued)

reviewed paper published in the last thirty years can refute that statement.

Basically, the earth needs a new operating system, you are the programmers, and we need it within a few decades.

This planet came with a set of operating instructions, but we seem to have misplaced them. Important rules like don't poison the water, soil, or air, and don't let the earth get overcrowded, and don't touch the thermostat have been broken. Buckminster Fuller said that spaceship earth was so ingeniously designed that no one has a clue that we are on one, flying through the universe at a million miles per hour, with no need for seatbelts, lots of room in coach, and really good food – but all that is changing.

There is invisible writing on the back of the diploma you will receive, and in case you didn't bring lemon juice to decode it, I can tell you what it says: YOU ARE BRILLIANT, AND THE EARTH IS HIRING. The earth couldn't afford to send any recruiters or limos to your school. It sent you rain, sunsets, ripe cherries, night blooming jasmine, and that unbelievably cute person you are dating. Take the hint. And here's the deal: Forget that this task of planet-saving is not possible in the time required. Don't be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done.

When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world. The poet Adrienne Rich wrote, "So much has been destroyed I have cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world." There could be no better description. Humanity is coalescing. It is reconstituting the world, and the action is taking place in schoolrooms, farms, jungles, villages, campuses, companies, refuge camps, deserts, fisheries, and slums.

You join a multitude of caring people. No one knows how many groups and organizations are working on the most salient issues of our day: climate change, poverty, deforestation, peace, water, hunger, conservation, human rights, and more. This is the largest movement the world has ever seen.

Rather than control, it seeks connection. Rather than dominance, it strives to disperse concentrations of power. Like Mercy Corps, it works behind the scenes and gets the job done. Large as it is, no one knows the true size of this movement. It provides hope, support, and meaning to billions of people in the world. Its clout resides in idea, not in force. It is made up of teachers, children, peasants, businesspeople, rappers, organic farmers, nuns, artists, government workers, fisherfolk, engineers, students, incorrigible writers, weeping Muslims, concerned mothers, poets, doctors without borders, grieving Christians, street

## **PAUL HAWKEN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

(continued)

The first living cell came into being nearly 40 million centuries ago, and its direct descendants are in all of our bloodstreams. Literally you are breathing molecules this very second that were inhaled by Moses, Mother Teresa, and Bono. We are vastly interconnected. Our fates are inseparable. We are here because the dream of every cell is to become two cells. In each of you are one quadrillion cells, 90 percent of which are not human cells. Your body is a community, and without those other microorganisms you would perish in hours. Each human cell has 400 billion molecules conducting millions of processes between trillions of atoms. The total cellular activity in one human body is staggering: one septillion actions at any one moment, a one with twenty-four zeros after it. In a millisecond, our body has undergone ten times more processes than there are stars in the universe – exactly what Charles Darwin foretold when he said science would discover that each living creature was a "little universe, formed of a host of self-propagating organisms, inconceivably minute and as numerous as the stars of heaven."

So I have two questions for you all: First, can you feel your body? Stop for a moment. Feel your body. One septillion activities going on simultaneously, and your body does this so well you are free to ignore it, and wonder instead when this speech will end. Second question: who is in charge of your body? Who is managing those molecules? Hopefully not a political party. Life is creating the conditions that are conducive to life inside you, just as in all of nature. What I want you to imagine is that collectively humanity is evincing a deep innate wisdom in coming together to heal the wounds and insults of the past.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked what we would do if the stars only came out once every thousand years. No one would sleep that night, of course. The world would become religious overnight. We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead the stars come out every night, and we watch television.

This extraordinary time when we are globally aware of each other and the multiple dangers that threaten civilization has never happened, not in a thousand years, not in ten thousand years. Each of us is as complex and beautiful as all the stars in the universe. We have done great things and we have gone way off course in terms of honoring creation. You are graduating to the most amazing, challenging, stupefying challenge ever bequested to any generation. The generations before you failed. They didn't stay up all night. They got distracted and lost sight of the fact that life is a miracle every moment of your existence. Nature beckons you to be on her side. You couldn't ask for a better boss. The most unrealistic person in the world is the cynic, not the dreamer. Hopefulness only makes sense when it doesn't make sense to be hopeful. This is your century. Take it and run as if your life depends on it.

## **ABOUT THIS ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

For consistency, the COEO electronic newsletter is published on the first of each month. Friends of COEO can receive this newsletter free of charge however, as non-members, they will not receive the outdoor education job postings or parts of the resources sections. The newsletter will also arrive a few days later.

Anyone having an item of interest to outdoor & experiential educators and desiring publication in this newsletter needs to submit to the editor at least two days before the publication date. If your organization wishes to post information (e.g., job postings, notice of upcoming events), it needs to be an organizational member of COEO.