

Catalogue of Programs, Personnel, Sites and Services in Outdoor Education in Ontario

2019



By Chris Shibley & LeAnne Petherick

Submitted to Council of Outdoor Education of Ontario

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Introduction

Statement of Intent:

The intent of this document is to provide as complete a listing as possible of programs, personnel, sites and services operating in the Province of Ontario at the time of compilation (Spring 2019). The project that informed this document was part of my Masters of Education degree and the knowledge gathered is intended for information only. The purpose of this document is to encourage the sharing of ideas, resources, and information amongst outdoor educators across the province. By making readily available the contact information, and descriptive details about OE courses, centres, ICPs (integrated curriculum programs) and wilderness trips the document shares timely and relevant knowledge about OE. If you are reading this document, you are encouraged to reach out to the people listed in this report (all of whom have consented to have their contact information published). The intent of this report is to create a “community of sharing” amongst outdoor educators across the province, strengthens the field of OE as a whole, while attempting to support fellow OE practitioners.

This document is not to be used as a mailing source for commercial purposes.

Focus:

The focus of the project was to gather and share information about programs, personnel, sites and services offered in Outdoor Education in English, Public Secondary School Boards in Ontario. Highlighting English, Public Secondary School Boards was strategic in that the data generated could inform one of the key organizations, the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario, supporting secondary school OE in Ontario. This research builds upon previous iterations of similar studies published by COEO in 1992, 1986 and 1979. The data presented in this document covers OE programs, personnel, sites and services in the 2018/2019 school year.

Endorsements:

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (C.O.E.O.) does not presume to endorse any program, personnel, site and/or service as listed in this catalogue.

Please address any errors, omissions, revisions and/or additions to:

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Photo Credit: Alex Hanes

Defining Key Terms:

Outdoor Education Courses - Outdoor Education courses are offered in individual schools based on teacher availability and student interest. These courses are offered through the Physical Education departments under the course code PAD 30 or PAD 40.

Board Operated OE Centres - Board operated Outdoor Education Centres are centres offering OE programming to students from multiple school in the school board. These centres are funded, owned and operated by the school boards.

Privately Operated OE Centres - Privately operated OE centres are privately funded and operated, often for profit. Schools and school boards contract OE programming out to these centres.

Integrated Curriculum Programs (ICPs) – An integrated curriculum program (ICP) is any program where a cohort of students remain together for an entire semester or school year. The programs usually contain two to four secondary school credits, taught in a holistic, interdisciplinary manner. ICPs focus on learning through a specific lens (construction, music, computers). In this case the focus for the programs is Outdoor Education. Students from multiple schools across the school board will often come together to participate in these programs.

Wilderness Based Learning Trips – Wilderness Based Learning is education that takes place on trips to wild or back country spaces. These trips often include camping, hiking, paddling in remote locations such as provincial parks. These trips are usually multiple days in duration.

Literature

Outdoor Education is clearly defined by both its attributes, and its stated goals. OE includes personal growth, environmental awareness, and hard skill development (Gilbertson et al., 2005). Extending beyond the compartmentalization of traditional subject areas Outdoor Education can build trans- and inter- disciplinary connections while also being a unique subject of study (Robbins, 2015). Outdoor Education occurs in the out-of-doors, whether that is in schoolyards, or the remote wilderness (Donaldson & Donaldson, 1958). Outdoor Education is experiential. It involves direct, hands on experiences. It is closely related to, and yet still distinct from Environmental Education, Adventure Education, and Outdoor Recreation (Robbins, 2015). In addition, Outdoor Education can fall into any of the three categories of Formal, Informal, or Non-Formal education, depending on how it is delivered (Eshach, 2007; Gilbertson et al., 2005; Loredana Tudor, 2013). The field is broad and diverse but historically, research into OE in Ontario has been limited to a single area such as OC centres (Borland, 2015), or ICPs (Henderson et al., 1996; Valkova, 2017).

After canvassing the research literature, with a central emphasis on Canadian studies of OE, it became evident that updated information is needed about OE in Ontario. More can, and should be, written about the connections between OE programming, school curricula and OE sites across the province. Furthermore, producing a collective database of all OE centres, courses, ICPs, and other OE programs in Ontario English Public Secondary schools, was deemed valuable in maintaining or advancing the field. At the same, the collation of information was viewed as a repository that could support members of the Ontario OE community as an attempt to build a “community of sharing”.

Methods

A questionnaire was designed to collect data from people who work in OE programs across the province of Ontario asking about their program models and delivery methods. In particular, the design of the questionnaire was modeled after the Catalogue of Programs and Personnel Sites and Services in Outdoor Education in Ontario, published by the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO) in 1992 (Kelly et al., 1992).

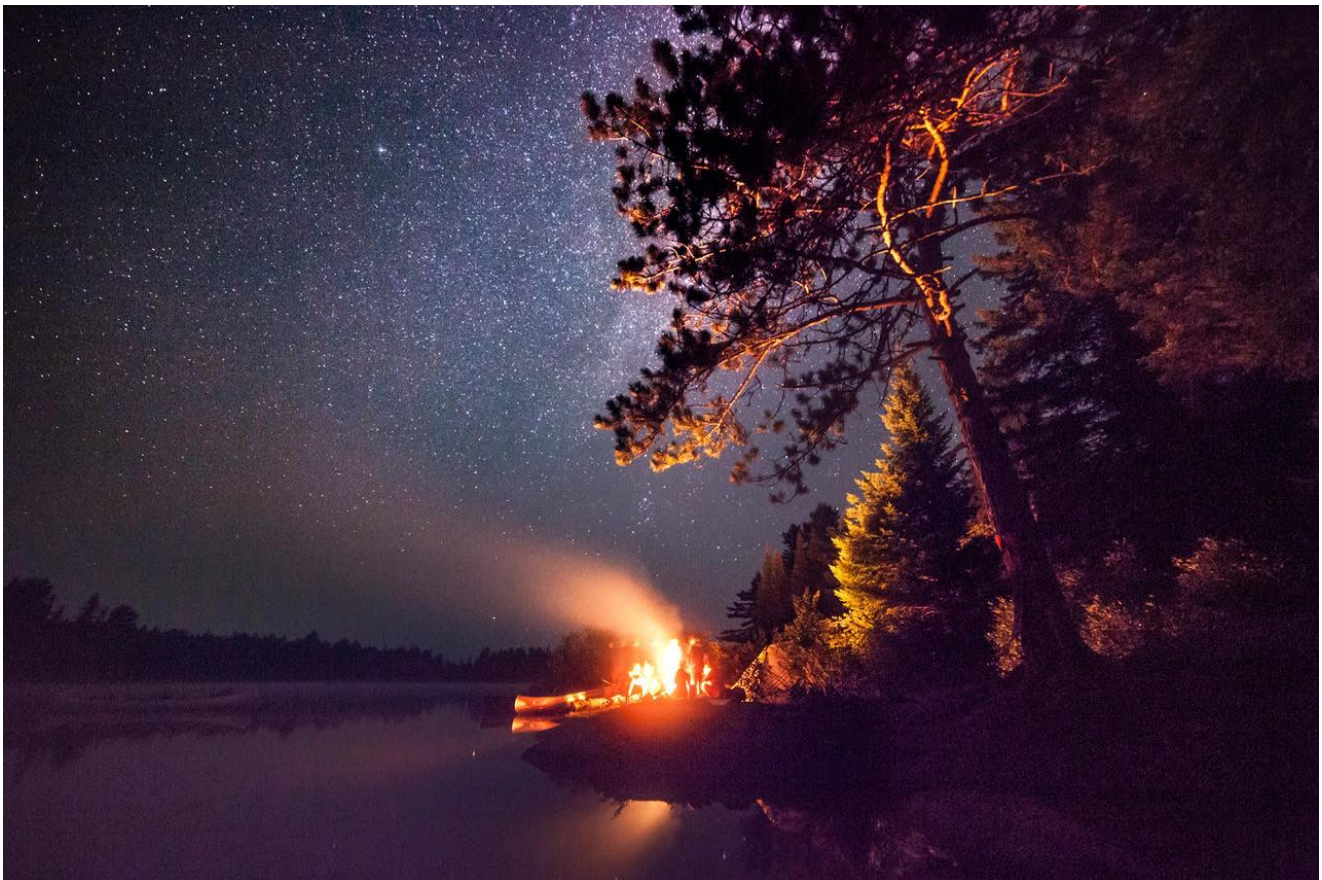
Data was collected in March and April 2019, based on the September 2018 to June 2019 school year in Ontario. The questionnaire was designed to provide details about the type of programming, the duration and timeframe of programming, and the credit value associated with OE courses across secondary curricula.

A link to the questionnaire was posted in the February 2019 and March 2019 monthly e-newsletter of the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO). The link to the questionnaire was posted along with the Participant Recruitment

Advertisement, which identified ideal participants as “teachers, administrators and instructors from all 32 public, English secondary school boards across the province” or anyone involved in privately operated Outdoor Education Centres that cater programming to any of these 32 school boards. A web search was also conducted using the name of each school board, and outdoor education, as the key words (e.g. Upper Canada District School Board Outdoor Education).

Individuals involved with, or responsible for OE, who were identified within each school board using this web search, were classified as prospective participants. Prospective participants were then emailed a recruitment letter, asking them to consider filling out the questionnaire.

A descriptive analysis of participants’ responses involved first grouping data into representative clusters from the various school boards and in relation to questionnaire questions. Second, data was collated based on the type of programming offered (e.g. OE Centres, OE courses, OE ICPs etc.). Third, the data was visually represented to be able to see differences among various topics identified in the questionnaire. For example, all data describing OE courses was divided based on school board, and displayed in a table format.



Summary of Findings

The following table summarizes responses from 20 of a possible 32 school boards. Some respondents were from the same school board thus a total of 41 people participated in the survey.

Table 1. Summary of Participants

School Board	# of Survey Responses	OE Course	Board Operated OE Centre	Private OE Centre	ICPs	Wilderness Based Learning Trip
Algoma DSB	0					
Avon Maitland DSB	1	x				
Bluewater DSB	3	x	x	x	x	x
DSB of Niagara	1	x	x			
DSB Ontario North East	1					x
Durham DSB	1	x	x			x
Grand Erie DSB	1	x		x	x	x
Greater Essex County DSB	0					
Halton DSB	0			x		
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	1	x		x	x	x
Hastings & Prince Edward DSB	0		x			
James Bay Lowlands Secondary SB	0					
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	4	x	x	x	x	x
Keewatin-Patricia DSB	0					
Lakehead DSB	0		x			
Lambton Kent DSB	0					
Limestone DSB	2	x	x	x	x	x
Near North DSB	1	x		x		x
Ottawa-Carleton DSB	2	x	x			x
Peel DSB	0					
Rainbow DSB	0					
Rainy River DSB	1	x				x
Renfrew County DSB	1	x		x	x	x
Simcoe County DSB	3	x		x	x	x
Superior-Greenstone DSB	0					
Thames Valley DSB	1	x	x		x	x

Toronto DSB	8	x	x	x	x	x
Trillium Lakelands DSB	0		x			
Upper Canada DSB	1					x
Upper Grand DSB	1	x		x	x	x
Waterloo Region DSB	2	x	x			x
York Region DSB	5	x	x	x	x	x
TOTALS	41	18	13	12	11	18



Outdoor Education Courses

Table 2. A summary of OE Courses offered within participating school boards

School Board	When is the course offered?	Contact People	Email	Phone Number	Notes
Avon Maitland DSB	Within the standard timetable				
Bluewater DSB	Within the standard timetable	Gregg Mackay	mackgre@bwdsb.on.ca	(519) 376-6050	
DSB of Niagara	Within the standard timetable				
Durham DSB	Within the standard timetable				
Grand Erie DSB	Within the standard timetable	Mark McCormack	mark.mccormack@granderie.ca	(905) 774-7401 x 730419	Offered as part of Wilderness Trail Blazers ICP
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	Within the standard timetable	Paul Guagliano	pguaglia@hwdsb.on.ca	(905) 385-5395	Offered as part of Wilderness Integrated Leadership Development (W.I.L.D.) ICP
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	Within the standard timetable				
Limestone DSB	Within the standard timetable, and summer programs				

Near North DSB	Within the standard timetable	Dan Webb	danny.webb@nearnorthschools.ca		
Ottawa-Carleton DSB	During lunch period				
Renfrew County DSB	Within the standard timetable	Krista Petrie Wallace	petriewallacek@rcdsb.on.ca		
Simcoe County DSB	Within the standard timetable, during Lunch period, after school, before school	Bonnie Anderson, James Creech	banderson@scdsb.on.ca jcreech@scdsb.on.ca	(705) 241-2006	
Thames Valley DSB	Within the standard timetable				
Toronto DSB	Within the standard timetable, after school				
Upper Grand DSB	Within the standard timetable	Matt Timberlake	matthew.timberlake@ugdsb.on.ca	(519) 323-3430	Offered as part of Community Environmental Leadership Program (CELP) Program
Waterloo Region DSB	Within the standard timetable				
York Region DSB	Within the standard timetable	William Schoenhardt	william.schoenhardt@yrdsb.ca	(905) 833-5332 x 468	

School Board Operated Outdoor Education Centres

Below is a list of School board operated OE Centre and key contact information (provided when available). All OE centres are listed alphabetically by school board.

Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Bluewater DSB
Location:	Warton
Category:	Board Owned OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

DSBN Adventure Campus	
School Board:	DSB Niagara
Location:	Fonthill
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year round (minus August)
Phone Number:	
Email:	colleen.fast@dsbn.org
Contact Person:	Colleen Fast
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, teambuilding, survival skills, skiing and other activities and programming.

Walker Living Campus	
School Board:	DSB Niagara
Location:	Glendale
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year round (minus August)
Phone Number:	
Email:	colleen.fast@dsbn.org
Contact Person:	Colleen Fast
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, teambuilding, survival skills, skiing and other activities and programming.

Nonquon Environmental Education Centre	
School Board:	Durham DSB
Location:	Port Perry
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(905) 985-2612
Email:	peter.johnson@ddsb.ca
Contact Person:	Peter Johnson
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, teambuilding, survival skills and other activities and programming. Assists SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) ICP programs with delivery of GPS, bird identification, tree identification, leadership/communication, watershed management, no trace camping, and assorted outdoor skills. Some of these programs include a certification component.

H.R. Frink Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Hastings Prince Edward DSB
Location:	Belleville
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Goodrich-Loomis Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
Location:	Brighton
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(613) 475-0790
Email:	Leeann_hickerson@kprdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Lee Ann Hickerson
Info:	Offers day programs including hiking, leadership, team building and survival skills linked to K-12 science, social studies, math and art curriculum.

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
Location:	Coburg
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(905) 372-3923
Email:	mark_rupke@kprdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Mark Rupke
Info:	Offers hiking programming with direct links to various curriculum.

Warsaw Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
Location:	Warsaw
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(705) 652-3243
Email:	kim_dobson@kprdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Kim Dobson
Info:	Offers programming in leadership, team building, survival skills and skiing.

Wilmot Creek Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
Location:	Clarington
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills and other activities and programming. Delivers programming linked specifically to K-12 science and social studies curriculum.

Kingfisher Lake Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Lakehead DSB
Location:	Thunder Bay
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Gould Lake Outdoor Centre	
School Board:	Limestone DSB
Location:	Sydenham
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year Round
Phone Number:	(613) 376-1433
Email:	outed@limestone.on.ca
Contact Person:	Nate Zahn, Dan Moser
Info:	Offers curriculum-based programming including paddling, camping, hiking, leadership, team building, and survival skills. Operates as a day use centre during the school year. During the summer offers credit based out tripping courses.

Bill Mason Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Ottawa Carleton DSB
Location:	Dunrobin
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year Round
Phone Number:	(613) 833-2080
Email:	outdooredcentres@ocdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Kevin Wallace
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing and other programming. Curriculum based programs in science and history.

MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Ottawa Carleton DSB
Location:	Cumberland
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year Round
Phone Number:	(613) 833-2080
Email:	outdooredcentres@ocdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Kevin Wallace
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing and other programming. Curriculum based programs in science and history.

Jaffa Environmental Education Centre	
School Board:	Thames Valley DSB
Location:	Aylmer
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

London Environmental Education Centre	
School Board:	Thames Valley DSB
Location:	London
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Vansittart Environmental Education Centre	
School Board:	Thames Valley DSB
Location:	Woodstock
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(519) 467-5468
Email:	vansittartEEC@tvdsb.ca
Contact Person:	
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, geocaching, low ropes and wellness programming for K-12 students. Programming linked to science and geography curriculum, with math and literacy components.

Etobicoke Field Studies Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Brampton
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year (with limited weeks in summer)
Phone Number:	(905) 794-2171
Email:	michelle.blackie@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Michelle Blackie
Info:	K-12 site offering hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing and other OE opportunities. Environmentally-based, curriculum linked programming.

Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Caledon
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	(416) 395-3408
Email:	toes@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	David Hawker-Budlovsky
Info:	One of 10 centres operated by the TDSB. These 10 centres have various programming opportunities and specific models. Programming includes paddling, camping hiking rock climbing, high rope, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, Indigenous programming, maple syrup, urban studies, mapping/orienteering/GIS and much more. Programming is curriculum linked. Limited out trips are also supported. Some of the centres offer limited summer programming.

Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	North York
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	(416) 395-3408
Email:	toes@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	David Hawker-Budlovsky
Info:	One of 10 centres operated by the TDSB. These 10 centres have various programming opportunities and specific models. Programming includes paddling, camping hiking rock climbing, high rope, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, Indigenous programming, maple syrup, urban studies, mapping/orienteering/GIS and much more. Programming is curriculum linked. Limited out trips are also supported. Some of the centres offer limited summer programming.

Hillside Outdoor Education School	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Toronto
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School year (with limited summer operation)
Phone Number:	(416) 396-6963
Email:	krista.kilian@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Krista Kilian
Info:	Offers hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills, snowshoeing, stream studies, Indigenous ed, maple syrup, orienteering/mapping, early settlers and kindergarten programming. Day trips involving 2-3 classes per day. Some programming takes place off site.

Island Natural Science School	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Toronto
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	(416) 395-3408
Email:	toes@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	David Hawker-Budlovsky
Info:	One of 10 centres operated by the TDSB. These 10 centres have various programming opportunities and specific models. Programming includes paddling, camping hiking rock climbing, high rope, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, Indigenous programming, maple syrup, urban studies, mapping/orienteering/GIS and much more. Programming is curriculum linked. Limited out trips are also supported. Some of the centres offer limited summer programming.

Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Orangeville
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year round
Phone Number:	(905) 452-0505
Email:	James.graham2@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	James Graham
Info:	Offers mountain biking, endangered species, fire making, early settlers, maple syrup, nature interpretation, hiking, rock climbing, high ropes, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, and other opportunities. Overnight centre primarily geared towards grade 7 students.

Scarborough Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Kearney
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year round (OE centre during school year, camp during the summer)
Phone Number:	(705) 636-5384
Email:	graham.brown2@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Graham Brown
Info:	Offers programming including paddling, Camping, Hiking, Rock climbing, high ropes, Leadership/Team building, Survival skills, Skiing, Biodiversity programs, Indigenous Education, Maple Syrup, Snow Shoeing, Skating, Sledding, and more! Most programming for grade 6 students, but also includes opportunities for 7-12.

Sheldon Centre for Outdoor Education	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Mono
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	(416) 395-3408
Email:	toes@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	David Hawker-Budlovsky
Info:	One of 10 centres operated by the TDSB. These 10 centres have various programming opportunities and specific models. Programming includes paddling, camping hiking rock climbing, high rope, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, Indigenous programming, maple syrup, urban studies, mapping/orienteering/GIS and much more. Programming is curriculum linked. Limited out trips are also supported. Some of the centres offer limited summer programming.

Toronto Urban Studies Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Toronto
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	Year Round
Phone Number:	(416) 393-0661
Email:	Matthew.Brundle@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Matt Brundle
Info:	

	Operates in multiple urban settings across the city. Includes programming such as paddling, hiking, rock climbing, high ropes, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, amongst others.
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Warren Park Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	York
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	(416) 395-3408
Email:	toes@tdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	David Hawker-Budlovsky
Info:	One of 10 centres operated by the TDSB. These 10 centres have various programming opportunities and specific models. Programming includes paddling, camping hiking rock climbing, high rope, leadership, team building, survival skills, skiing, Indigenous programming, maple syrup, urban studies, mapping/orienteering/GIS and much more. Programming is curriculum linked. Limited out trips are also supported. Some of the centres offer limited summer programming.

Yearley Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Trillium Lakelands DSB
Location:	Huntsville
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Blair Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Waterloo Region DSB
Location:	Cambridge
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Camp Heidelberg Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Waterloo Region DSB Waterloo Board Operated OE Centre
Location:	
Category:	
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Huron Natural Area Outdoor Environmental Education Centre	
School Board:	Waterloo Region DSB Kitchener Board Operated OE Centre
Location:	
Category:	
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Laurel Creek Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Waterloo Region DSB
Location:	Waterloo
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(519) 885-1480
Email:	sean_mccammon@wrdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Sean Mccammon
Info:	Mostly science-based curriculum programming including skiing and other options.

Wrigley Corners Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	Waterloo Region DSB
Location:	Ayr
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School year
Phone Number:	(519) 632-7503
Email:	Levi_moore@wrdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Levi Moore
Info:	Environmental education programming which includes skiing, links to science and geography curriculum content.

Burlington Outdoor Resource Centre	
School Board:	York DSB
Location:	Kleinburg
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Sibbald Point Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	York DSB
Location:	Georgina
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre	
School Board:	York DSB
Location:	Richmond Hill
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Info:	

Vivian Outdoor Resource Centre	
School Board:	York DSB
Location:	Stouffville
Category:	Board Operated OE Centre
Operation:	School Year
Phone Number:	(905) 473-2156
Email:	georgina.marucci@yrdsb.ca
Contact Person:	Georgina Marucci
Info:	Offers curriculum linked, experiential learning programs such as hiking, leadership, team building, survival skills, snowshoeing, and kicksledding.



Privately Operated Outdoor Education Centres

School boards that use private OE centres for OE programming are alphabetically listed below. A blank space indicates the School board does not, or failed to report, using private OE centres.

School Board	Private OE Centres
Avon Maitland DSB	
Bluewater DSB	Kimbercote Centre
DSB Niagara	Camp Marydale
DSB Ontario North East	
Durham DSB	
Grand Erie DSB	Blue Springs Scout Camp, Long Point Eco-Adventures, Grand River Rafting, Camp Marydale
Halton DSB	Camp Arowhon, Camp Marydale
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	Dundas Valley Conservation Area, Eramosa Karst, Camp Marydale
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	Camp Kawartha
Limestone DSB	RKY Camp, Camp Oconto
Near North DSB	Spirit Point Wilderness Academy and Camp, Canadian Ecology Centre
Ottawa-Carleton DSB	
Renfrew County DSB	Shaw Woods Outdoor Centre
Simcoe County DSB	Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, Highlands Nordic
Thames Valley DSB	
Toronto DSB	Lake St. George Field Centre and Kortright Centre for Conservation (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), Muskoka Woods, Camp Manitou, Crawford Lake Conservation Area, Camp Arowhon
Upper Grand DSB	Camp Kawartha, Mansfield Outdoor Education Centre
Waterloo Region DSB	
York Region DSB	Lake St. George Field Centre (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, Camp Kawartha, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area (Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority), Camp Wanakita (YMCA), Cold Creek Conservation Area, Seneca College King Day Camp, Camp Arowhon, Scanlon Creek Nature Centre

Integrated Curriculum Programs (ICPs)

The following is a compilation of OE ICPs listed alphabetically by school board.

Bluewater DSB ICP	
School Board:	Bluewater DSB
Location:	Owen Sound District Secondary School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Second Semester
Phone Number:	(519) 376-6050
Email:	mackgre@bwdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Gregg Mackay
Attached Credits:	Environmental Science (SVN), Resource Management (CGR), Outdoor Activities (PAD), occasionally Co-op (DCO) and college credit at Georgian College.
Info:	Multiple programs offered across the board, depending on teacher availability and student interest.

Wilderness Trail Blazers	
School Board:	Grand Erie DSB
Location:	Dunnville Secondary School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Second Semester
Phone Number:	(905) 774-7401 x 730419
Email:	mark.mccormack@granderie.ca
Contact Person:	Mark McCormack
Attached Credits:	Resource Management (CGR4M) and Outdoor Activities (PAD4O)
Info:	

Wilderness Integrated Leadership Development (W.I.L.D.)	
School Board:	Hamilton-Wentworth DSB
Location:	Waterdown Secondary School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Year round
Phone Number:	(905) 385-5395
Email:	pguaglia@hwdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Paul Guagliano
Attached Credits:	Unspecified
Info:	

Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB ICP	
School Board:	Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
Location:	Multiple schools
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Entire School year
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Attached Credits:	Environmental science, physical education, English, biology, guidance (GLS), geography
Info:	Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs

Environmental Leadership Focus Program	
School Board:	Limestone DSB
Location:	Bayridge Secondary School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	unspecified
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Attached Credits:	unspecified
Info:	Has not been offered in 2-3 years, but there is a desire to bring it back

Renfrew County DSB ICP	
School Board:	
Location:	School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Second Semester
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Attached Credits:	Rec Leadership (PLF4M), Resource Management (CGR4M) and others
Info:	Includes 2 and 4 credit options

Enviroventure	
School Board:	Simcoe County DSB
Location:	Nantyr Shores Secondary School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	
Phone Number:	(705) 770-3220
Email:	mgaynik@scdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Mark Gaynik
Attached Credits:	English (ENG4U/4C), Rec Leadership (PLF4M), Nutrition (HFA4U), and Resource Management (CG 4M)
Info:	Accepts applications from other schools for this SHSM program.

Timberwolf Recreation and Environment Course (TREC)	
School Board:	Simcoe County DSB
Location:	School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	First Semester, Second Semester, Entire School year
Phone Number:	
Email:	jcreech@scdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	James Creech
Attached Credits:	Outdoor Activities (PAD30), Environmental Science (SVN3M)
Info:	

Thames Valley DSB ICP	
School Board:	Thames Valley DSB
Location:	Multiple Schools
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Second Semester, Entire School year
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Attached Credits:	unspecified
Info:	Various programs operate primarily out of schools, but make use of multiple Board OECs.

Toronto DSB ICP	
School Board:	Toronto DSB
Location:	Multiple Schools
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Entire School year
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Attached Credits:	Outdoor Activities (PAD), Science, Geography, English
Info:	Various programs operate primarily out of schools, but make use of multiple Board OECs.

Community Environmental Leadership Program (CELP)	
School Board:	Upper Grand DSB
Location:	Wellington Heights Secondary School
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Second Semester
Phone Number:	(519) 323-3430
Email:	matthew.timberlake@ugdsb.on.ca
Contact Person:	Matt Timberlake
Attached Credits:	Environmental Science (SVN3M), Outdoor Activities (PAD20), Civics (CHV20), Careers (GLC20), First Nations (NAC10)
Info:	The program operated primarily out of its own two-story building, leased from the local Conservation Authority.

York Region DSB ICP	
School Board:	York Region DSB
Location:	unspecified
Category:	ICP
Operation:	Entire School year
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Contact Person:	
Attached Credits:	unspecified
Info:	

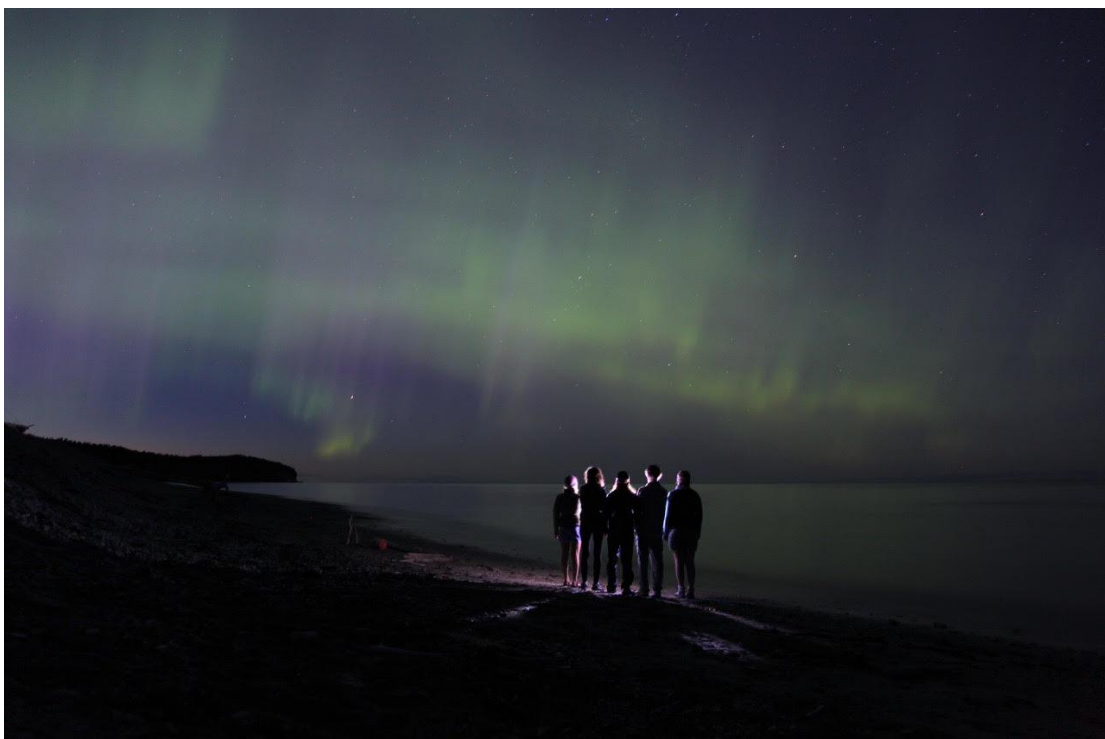
Wilderness Base Learning Trips

School boards that offer Wilderness Based Learning Trips are alphabetically listed below, along with a brief description of the trips. School boards not listed either do not offer Wilderness Based Learning Trips or failed to report offering wilderness trips.

Table 3. A summary of Wilderness Based Learning Trips offered within participating school boards.

School Board	How are they delivered?	Notes
Bluewater DSB	School courses, ICPs, school trips	Various out trips offered by individual schools, ICPs, and facilitated by the OEC. Includes 5- and 8-day canoe trips to Algonquin Park, 3-day winter camping trip at Bluewater OEC, 2-day river paddling trip, 5-day canoe trip to Killarney, and a 3-day backpacking trip on Bruce Trail.
DSB Ontario North East	School courses	
Durham DSB	School courses, Board OE Centre, Private OE Centre	Various 2-3 day canoe trips offered as part of Environmental SHSM ICP programs, often facilitated through the OEC.
Grand Erie DSB	School courses, ICPs	2-day winter camping trip at Blue Springs Scout Camp, 3-day hiking trip on the Bruce Trail, 3-day canoe trip down Grand River. All offered as part of the Wilderness Trail Blazers ICP program.
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	School courses, ICPs	2-day trips involving Indigenous learning and paddling on the Grand River. 3-day paddling trips to the Algonquin Park backcountry. All offered through the WILD ICP.
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	School courses, ICPs	Multiple back country canoe trips to Provincial Parks up to 5 days in length. Offered through various school courses and ICPs.
Limestone DSB	School courses, Board OE Centre	Gould Lake OEC offers curriculum-based credit programs for students delivered through canoe, hiking and kayak trips. The age/grade of the participating students range from graduates of grade 6 to graduates of grade 12. These programs are all offered during the summer months. Trips range from 8-32 days in length. Trips include: Frontenac Park (canoeing), Algonquin Park (canoeing), Temagami Park (canoeing), Missinaibi River (canoeing), Madawaska River (canoeing), Georgian Bay (kayaking), Adirondack State Park (hiking), Killarney Park (canoeing), Green Mountain Ridge (hiking), and Anticosti Island (kayaking).
Near North DSB	School courses	Various canoe and winter camping trips ranging from 2-5 days long. All offered as part of school courses.
Ottawa-Carleton DSB	School courses	Various canoe, and winter camping trips. Trips offered as part of credits or OE clubs. Many schools offer these trips, but all schools offer slightly different types, and durations of trips.
Rainy River DSB	School courses	Single-day to multi-day trips involving hiking, camping, canoeing, skiing, snowshoeing, and dogsledding activities. Largely take place in various provincial parks. All seasons.
Renfrew County DSB	School courses, ICPs	4 day back country canoe trip in Algonquin Park, 2-day Crotch Lake canoe trip, various overnight hiking trips on crown land.

Simcoe County DSB	School courses, ICPs	Hiking on Bruce trail, biking, paddling, all wilderness based and several days and seasons, including winter camping.
"	ICP - Enviroventure	These trips are offered within the Enviroventure ICP and not necessarily by all programs offered in the board. 4-day winter camping in Haliburton Forest, 3-day canoe trip in Algonquin Park. 9-day hiking trip on Appalachian trail. Several day trips including mountain biking and rock climbing/caving amongst others more locally.
"	ICP - TREC - Timberwolf Recreation and Environment Course	3-day hiking trip in Bruce Peninsula National Park. Multi day canoe trips to various locations in Ontario.
Thames Valley DSB	unspecified	unspecified
Toronto DSB	School courses, Board OE Centre, Private OE Centre, ICPs	Trips offered through SOES Kearney to one specific school to Algonquin Park: 8 day and 5-day hiking trips, 5-day winter camping trip, 5-day and 3-day canoe trip in the spring.
Upper Canada DSB	unspecified	Canoe trip to Crotch Lake. 3 days of river and lake paddling.
Upper Grand DSB	School courses, ICPs	PAD30/40 is offered in both semesters - culminating in a 5-day Algonquin canoe trip. CELP ICP offers a 3-day canoe trip from 6 Mile Park to McCrae lake, and another trip to Rockwood Conservation Area.
Waterloo Region DSB	School courses	Courses running out of multiple schools that offer 3-5 day trips to various parks. Hiking, canoeing, winter camping.
York Region DSB	School courses	Approximately 7 schools across the board have an OEE class that include various wilderness trips including canoe trips, and overnight hiking and base camping in assorted provincial parks.



Key Findings

Outdoor Education Courses:

- 94% of school boards that provided data indicated offering at least one OE course
- Most OE courses are offered within the standard school timetable, rather than before/after school or at lunch

Board Operated OE Centres:

- 41% of school boards that provided data indicated they operated at least one of their own OE centre
- Direct links to various Ontario Curriculum documents (science, geography, history, math and literacy) were found to be a distinguishing factor between Board operated, and privately-operated OE centres
- Board operated OE centres were identified as being beneficial in terms of providing support, resources, and educated staff to assist OE courses being run out of schools, OE ICPs, and various Wilderness Based Learning Trips

Privately Operated OE Centres:

- 67% of school boards that provided data indicated they use at least one privately operated OE centre to provide programming to their students

Integrated Curriculum Programs:

- 61% of school boards that provided data indicated they offer at least one Outdoor Education ICP
- There were several common courses offered as part of many of the OE ICPs: Environmental Science (GCR), Outdoor Activities (PAD) and Resource Management (SVN)
- Many OE ICPs have organized themselves under the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) umbrella within the Ontario education system

Wilderness Based Learning Trips:

- 89% of school boards that provided data indicated they offer at least one Wilderness Based Learning Trip
- Significant variance in terms of type, length and method of delivery of Wilderness Based Learning Trips

Miscellaneous:

- 85% of participants indicated a desire to contact fellow OE practitioners to develop a “community of sharing” and support

Conclusions and Recommendations

The current state of OE in Ontario is difficult to comment on, without a complete picture from all 32 school boards. Comparisons with previous research are also difficult because of the amount of time that has passed since that research was completed. In that time, school board districts have been reorganized, new OE centres have opened, while some have shut their doors. Still others have been transformed, or been taken over by new operators or school boards.

The data and contact information gathered in this project and published in this report is a valuable contribution to the field of OE in Ontario, yet the project remains half-finished. Data was obtained from 20 of the 32 English, Public secondary school boards in the province. Recognizing that some of this data may be fragmented and the fact that several school boards did not participate suggests there is much more to learn about OE in Ontario. These findings are nonetheless valuable to illustrate a partial picture of OE in the province as it contributes to the work of the COEO published in 1992, 1986 and 1979. Based on the data collected in the project, there are four key recommendations to be made and calls to action for both researchers and practitioners of OE in Ontario.

1. OE teachers and educators across the province should look for ways to share their experience, resources, knowledge and support with others in their field. An easy way to do this is simply having contact information and details of your program available to anyone who may have questions, or who may be trying to develop comparable programming. Attending various conferences, or becoming a member of a group such as the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario are other strategies for sharing knowledge, resources, and information. Together these activities create communities of educators supporting OE. Continuing to building a community of sharing across Ontario will serve to enhance the education of students as well as build a robust professional group committed to sustaining OE.
2. OE teachers and educators should continue to draw direct links between their programming and various areas of curriculum. When OE is grounded in curriculum, it provides validation and serves to remind administrators of its importance. Otherwise, those who are not knowledgeable or experienced with OE can take for granted what transpires within OE programming.
3. Researchers have a responsibility to focus on real, concrete issues (i.e. funding models, increasing safety concerns, educator burnout, etc.) facing OE in Ontario, and not just the abstract, theoretical ideas of OE that may not be applicable to current programs in operation. These topics were beyond the scope of this study but are significant areas of research to be considered in the future.
4. Members of the public, including: parents, students, administrators, school council members and board members should seek to promote OE and its values as important, and vital to the overall education system. This is done through the investment of time, money, political attention and advocacy. If OE is something our

educational system is to value as part of a well-rounded education, the OE community and its supporters must actively sustain and protect the field through the sharing of stories, using our voices and our votes.



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