

ABOUT THE 2007 CONFERENCE

Trails to Sustainability is an environmental education conference designed for ALL teachers and educators, whether you teach in a school or elsewhere! This event will help you learn more about the many paths to environmental stewardship and a vibrant society and economy. Join us in the spectacular setting of the Rocky Mountains' Kananaskis Valley to improve your professional practice and become enriched and revitalized as you spend time in nature and with friends and colleagues...

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Education for sustainability includes education about the environment, society, and economy. Our speakers will deliver on these three concepts:

Environment: **Dr. David Schindler**, an internationally renowned scientist, will help us look at our impacts on Alberta's environment through a science lens. **Karsten Heuer**, environmentalist, explorer, and author of *Being Caribou* and *Walk the Big Wild*, will talk about our connection to wildlife and wild spaces and help us understand the special nature of the Kananaskis Valley.

Society: **Stephen Lewis** is the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa and is a Companion of the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour for lifetime achievement. Passionate and determined, Stephen Lewis is a gifted orator and humanitarian who has worked to improve the human condition, both at home and abroad.

Economy: **Hunter Lovins** is recognized worldwide in helping organizations and communities profit from more sustainable practices. Hunter has consulted for governments and the private sector, and was named as Time magazine's "Hero for the Planet" in 2000. Hunter will share with us some success stories and teach educators what they can do to make a difference.

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, MAY 24

- Pre-conference full-day event: "Alberta Summit on Environmental Education – a Call to Action."
- Conference registration opens at 4:00. Greet old friends and make new ones at the no-host wine and cheese reception.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

- Conference opening and keynote by Dr. David Schindler.
- Full-day thematic 'Trails' sessions (please see overleaf).
- Exhibits and silent auction open at 4:30.
- After supper, Karsten Heuer's spine-tingling presentation *Being Caribou*, and live, homegrown entertainment at the annual GEOEC coffee house.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

- Annual General Meetings over breakfast.
- Morning address by Stephen Lewis.
- Full day of concurrent one to three hour Workshops (please see overleaf).
- After supper everyone is invited to our closing celebration: inspirational keynote by Hunter Lovins, awards, and fabulous dance band TR3.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

- 'No Notes Required': a showcase of the Rockies' best outdoor activities and adventures.

REGISTER TODAY!

It's as easy as one, two three...

- 1. Get our special conference rate.** The first 150 registrants pay just \$99, plus \$35 for membership and benefits from three organizations. Register for the conference on-line at www.trailstosustainability.ca
- 2. Arrange your accommodations and meals.** Book this immediately to obtain our special rate at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis: just \$158.50/day gets you three sumptuous meals per day AND luxury accommodation (based on double occupancy). Please call 1-866-432-4322 and quote group code GF410 ('Trails to Sustainability conference').
- 3. Sign up for your Trail and Workshops.** You can pre-register today for a Trail; all conference registrants will be prompted to pre-register for Saturday workshops in late 2006.



Please note: This conference is not on the 'May long weekend.'

CONTACT

conference@geoec.org
tel: (403) 678-5500 x 279
(Toll free in Alberta: dial 310-0000 first)

www.trailstosustainability.ca



TRAILS TO SUSTAINABILITY

AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

MAY 24 – 27, 2007 > DELTA LODGE AT KANANASKIS > ALBERTA



STEPHEN LEWIS, U.N. SPECIAL ENVOY
HUNTER LOVINS, SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT
DR. DAVID SCHINDLER, SCIENTIST
KARSTEN HEUER, BIOLOGIST AND EXPLORER

EDUCATION TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, OR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – WHICH OF THESE TRAILS TO SUSTAINABILITY IS THE BEST ONE FOR YOU? COME EXPLORE YOUR TRAIL...

REGISTRATION \$99 (FOR FIRST 150 REGISTRANTS) MEMBERSHIPS \$35 WWW.TRAILSTOSUSTAINABILITY.CA



TRAILS > FRIDAY, 25 MAY, 2007

Using the metaphor of ‘Trails’ to Sustainability, Friday offers you a full-day, in-depth exploration of a theme that is of interest to you. On Friday morning you’ll meet your ‘Trail Leader,’ who has arranged for key resource people to offer their viewpoints along the trail. The trail leader will also help you and your group to process what you learn and explore implications for your classroom or workplace. Trails may be indoors or outdoors, and a small materials or travel fee may apply: please see the website for more details.

#1. Sustainability through biodiversity education: meanings, models, and metaphors. Biodiversity means different things to different people. From our trailhead at Kananaskis Field Stations we will explore the scientific, emotional, ecological, and ethical foundations of biodiversity with trail leader Mike Mappin, environmentalist Karsten Heuer, ecologist Dr. Kathreen Ruckstuhl, and educator Dr. Susan Barker. Come prepared for outdoors hands-on learning, and leave with new biodiversity education strategies and resources.

#2. Of Water and Watersheds. The Elbow River Watershed Partnership, the Friends of Kananaskis Country, and Danielle Droitsch, Bow Riverkeeper will help you get to know the Elbow River, a small river doing more than its fair share to meet the needs of a growing population. From the Kananaskis Country headwaters downwards, you’ll assess the physical, chemical and social characteristics of the Elbow River watershed and better understand the connection between land use and water quality and quantity.

#3. Trails, Parks, and Automobiles: The challenge of playing, working and living in a protected landscape. On private property, public lands, or protected areas, nature is under pressure from competing interests. You will explore the multi-use Kananaskis Country area by van and of foot, learning from the perspectives of conservation officer Steve Donelon, forester Gord Lehn, and conservationist Jim Pissot. The day will culminate in a land management simulation activity that can be used in your classroom.

#4. Global Climate Change – A Local Issue. David Suzuki calls climate change “the mother of all environmental issues.” How can we work on this issue in our own backyard? On this trail, Dave Lunn of SEEDS will help you learn about the science and possible indicators of climate change, as well as the potential impact of oil sands and other emissions. Finally you’ll turn the spotlight on yourself as a teacher, mentor, and consumer, and examine the options available to us.

#5. Human Population. Sandy Adamson of Population Connection will lead you through some outstanding, made-for-classroom, multi-grade activities that will help you explore the dynamics and implications of human population growth, while local teacher Brenda Davison will help you explore connections between human population pressure and classroom environmental projects. This trail includes a free CD-ROM of over 50 activities.

#6. Many users, One forest. This trail introduces participants to diverse uses – and users – of Alberta’s forested landscape. From industrial to recreational uses, Alberta’s forests are an increasingly busy place! Staff from Inside Education will take you on a tour of Alberta’s boreal forest to explore sustainability, caribou, science, environment and economy. We will also manage to squeeze in a little fun along the way! Come explore the issues as we explore the forest.

#7. Quest for Fire: Exploring the Energy Trail. What is our sustainable energy future? Dave Mussell and the Pembina Institute team will take you past key milestones in our million-year quest for energy. As you navigate this trail you’ll encounter top-quality energy education resources, try out several learning activities you can take directly to your classroom, and meet experts who will address conventional energy issues and the role renewable energy and energy efficiency.

#8. What the heck is Sustainable Agriculture? Agriculture affects everyone. This industry strives to increase productivity through improved technology and management practices while practicing environmental stewardship and sustainability. Brent Andressen and partners from government, university, and NGOs will lead you through practical classroom-ready activities that will contribute to your agriculture literacy and help you learn and teach about sustainable agriculture.

#9. Planning for Organizational Sustainability. Organizations that fail to plan... plan to fail. Carlo Jensen of CentrePoint will teach you the why and how of creating a successful strategic plan for a small organization. You’ll learn the theory behind effective strategic plans and work with practical planning tools such as mission, vision and values statements, development of a ‘strategic filter,’ measurement indicators, and implementation considerations. Leave knowing what to do when you get back to work!

#10. Business, Education and the Environment – making it work. What does true sustainability look like, and how do we get there from here? Small and large corporations alike are considering “triple-bottom-line” accounting that measures environmental, social and economic impacts. On this trail Bart Robinson from Natural Step – Canmore, and business owners Suzanne Fielden and Gini Dalgas will help you discover the implication of this approach for business, education, and youth.

#11. Youth in environmental education: creating connections that lead to action. Ever wonder if your education program or classroom initiative actually connects with the youth it is trying to reach? Join Sierra Club’s Jenn Hoffman and our panel of experts – youth environmental leaders from across Canada – to learn how to break down the barriers to effectively working with youth. Along the way you’ll discover the importance of effective youth engagement, how easy it can be, and how deep and long-lasting the impacts are!

#12. Spirituality – Exploring the Inner Trail. How do we help those we teach develop self-knowledge and an authentic feeling of connection to the environment? In order to guide our students we must first explore where we are on our own personal journey of self-understanding. Come join teacher Rita Poruchny and environmentalist Chris Reynolds for a day in which we explore some hidden trails in the mountains and some hidden trails in ourselves. Activities will be conducted in the beauty of nature; please dress accordingly.

#13. Rediscovering the original School. This trail will share indigenous perspectives and lessons on Mother Earth. Ghost River Rediscovery’s Sonya Kobelsky will share an activity-based curriculum that bridges gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and teachers, while First Nations leaders will address the importance of their connections with the land. Come discover how indigenous voices from the past and present can help us move into the future.

#14. Globalization in the new Social Studies Curriculum. Welcome to the new Social Studies! CBE’s Dr. Noel Jantzie will help you explore how multiple perspectives can be used to bring the issues of Globalization to life in your classroom, and how to choose and integrate environmental and social issues that lend themselves to the new Social Studies perspectives. Links to environmental and global education resources will be highlighted.

#15. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for: creating change through global citizenship education. Join U of A’s Dr. Lynette Shultz on a creative journey in which you’ll explore the basics of creating a classroom, school and community where students experience their role as global citizens. Stops along the global citizenship trail include education about peace, human rights, diversity and inclusion, and environment. Examine the interconnection and interdependence of these strands of education for sustainable development.

#16. Outdoor Play with a Purpose. This is a trail over more rugged terrain that will allow you to develop your outdoor education “hard skills” while teaching environmental ethics and enhancing students’ connections to natural places! Through activities such as mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing and paddling, experienced teachers Jeff Reading, Tim Kitchen, and Nancy Pollard help you explore risk management, student reflection, and group management and leadership skills.

#17. Interpreting your Schoolyard. Turn your schoolyard into a nature park, complete with interpreters and campground programs! Evergreen Theatre directors Sarah Smith and Mariee Devereux will join interpreter guru Tara Ryan to help you learn some easy, fun facts about nature and put together a toolkit of interpretive skills – including theatre techniques - that you can use with your students. Get your kids looking at science from an unforgettable new perspective.

#18. Naturalist 101: a crash course in environmental education. Hit the trails of the Kananaskis Valley for a full-day exploration of classic environmental activities, curriculum links, great resources, and much more. CPAWS educators Kim Kiel and Anne-Marie Syslak will help you create your own Naturalist Bag, and arm you with some terrific resources to spice up your classroom programs or to become the neighbourhood Nature Nut.

#19. Building Sustainable Communities from the Inside Out. Community-based environmental education is a powerful approach that helps people identify the needs of their community and what can be done locally to achieve sustainability. Chinook Institute’s Carole Stark, together with local resource people, will share a series of practical activities that can help community groups or schools collaboratively deliver on their goals for environmental stewardship.



WORKSHOPS > SATURDAY, 25 MAY, 2007

Saturday will be devoted to a ‘smorgasbord’ of dozens of short (one to three hour) concurrent workshops that will showcase hands-on, user-friendly programs and techniques that teachers can use on Monday morning to teach to the curriculum.

WORKSHOPS WILL FOCUS ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Global Citizenship: These workshops will feature education about peace, development, human rights, environment, globalization – and the interconnections between these topics.

Business and Education: Workshops that profile new business practices and bias-balanced educational programs offered by the business sector: agriculture, forestry, energy, etc.

Engagement and Action: Innovative approaches to involving youth and other audiences in environmental citizenship initiatives.

Turning Research Into Practice: What current research says about environmental education, and what it means for your teaching or program.

Climate Change: programs and approaches that help audiences act to counter ‘the mother of all environmental issues.’

Connecting People to Nature: A kaleidoscope of approaches and techniques: outdoor education, spirituality, monitoring, indigenous perspectives, interpretation, etc.

Innovation Within Schools: Energy efficiency, whole-school initiatives, integrating environmental learning into curriculum, and linking to the surrounding community.

Organizational Development: Helping your group build capacity, skills, and competencies to ‘be the best that it can be.’

Interested in delivering a workshop? Download our ‘Request for Proposal’ form and send us your proposal by Oct. 1st.

