

Ecolacy

“There is something bigger than fact:
the underlying spirit, all it stands for,
the mood, the vastness,
the Western breath of
go-to-the-devil-if-you-don't like it,
the eternal big spaceness of it.
Oh the West! I'm of it and I love it.”
Emily Carr
Hundreds and Thousands, 1966

Emily Carr has loomed large in 2007-2008 for me. I have been entranced by her search for integration between the colonial, Victorian world in which she was raised and the sacred, place-based spirituality of the West Coast and its original inhabitants who she so passionately wanted to celebrate in painting. On top of that, she fought stifling provincial ideals of art in the face of a modern movement, and restrictive notions of what a woman ought to be. She felt most alive the closer she came to the wilderness and took amazing lengths to get herself there. She was a visionary, an individual, a genius and a fighter. Check out her diaries, letters and short stories, and of course her painting, when you need an injection of what we are doing here as environmental educators. Her wisdom is timeless.

To stay connected, and read some timely details, if not timeless wisdom, check out EEPSEA's [website](#).

Upcoming Events

April 14, 2008. Next EEPSEA executive meeting.

Email Patrick for details if you'd like to come and check out our next executive meeting. Maybe you're looking for a driving purpose to unite your teaching, or maybe you're just curious about who the EEPSEA executive are. We'd love to meet you!

May 2-4, 2008. Interpretation Canada Conference, Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education Centre.

BC Stories, 150 years and beyond. Go to www.interpcan.ca for more details.

October, 2008. EEPSEA is presenting our fall conference to highlight and share success stories around sustainability in BC schools.

We want to share what is working in schools to promote sustainability. Earth Clubs, field trips, community connections, administrator initiatives, board-wide plans, parent-inspired action, student ideas, lesson plans, unit ideas, rich resources. **What is out there that we could make available as a model to everyone in the province?** EEPSEA hopes to create a web-based collection of success stories to link to the revised Ministry Document "Environmental Learning and Experience". Please respond with a brief idea of what you are doing that's working. From the responses we will draw one winner to attend the conference for free. More information and registration will be available soon on the EEPSEA website.

Fall, 2008. EECOM is presenting their inspiring annual conference at Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland.

Check out www.eecom.org for more details.

Recent Events

North Vancouver Outdoor School, McQueen Lake Outdoor Education Centre, Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education Centre..

- Various EEPISA members have been travelling around the province delivering workshops to teachers about the central ideas of direct experience learning and the CARE acronym from the ELE document. They have been exciting, inspiring, fun, weekends with great people.

What's EEPISA up to these days?

- David Zandvliet has driven an update of the Ministry of Education's Environmental Education Curriculum. The new document, titled "Environmental Learning and Experience", connects sustainability to all subject areas from K-12. Read it yourself at bced.gov.bc.ca/environment_ed/
- We are collecting success stories in of educators who are encouraging sustainability in their lessons, classrooms, schools, communities and regions to highlight at our fall conference.
- Patrick, Darlene, Bruce and I represented EEPISA and our school districts with a dozen other teachers, administrators, and two representatives from the Ministry of Education to discuss opportunities to integrate sustainability in the public school system. Paul Lukaszek, the manager of Green Schools Education Programs for the Ministry, showed us a nice vision statement they recently produced.
- We on the EEPISA executive would love to help you start up a Local Specialist Association outside of the Lower Mainland to share ideas, inspire each other and make connections with like-minded teachers. There is a movement afoot to get groups going in Courtenay, the Kootenays, Smithers, Prince George, Victoria and the Sunshine Coast. Email Patrick for more information pabrobo@shaw.ca.

Featured Links

<http://www.Adbusters.org>

Freerice.org

Storyofstuff.com

Albanyfreeschool.com

Seedsfoundation.ca

<http://www.r4r.ca>

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools/>

Please feel free to reply to this newsletter with any information you would like to share with EEPsA members, and send me an email at ecolacy@telus.net with ideas, suggestions or hellos. ☺

Selina Metcalfe
Ecolacy editor

“We do not inherit this world from our parents, rather we borrow it from our children.”