

# Ecology

Welcome to summer! Is there anything sweeter than the first morning of summer holidays? Summer is a time of lazing, a time of wandering and a time of dreaming. As we head out to enjoy this beautiful province for the next two months, let's remember that its beauty is something we need to keep ourselves beautiful and healthy as well. Every religion, philosophy or form of spirituality ultimately has in common the belief that, "I am I plus my surroundings and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself." So, together, as a community of like-minded educators, let's wander off the beaten path and dream big plans these next few months to save the humans! Then, let's connect with each other and share good times planning ways to make it happen.

<http://psas.bctf.ca/EEPSA/>

## Upcoming Events

**September 15-23, 2007. TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.**

Kick off the new school year by taking your classroom outdoors! Engage your students in a dynamic, hands-on conservation activity by registering your class, grade, or whole school for one of Canada's largest environmental events: the TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Getting involved is easy. Just choose a nearby lake, river, creek, wetland or ocean shoreline, select a date during the third week of September and register all of the details at [www.vanaqua.org/cleanup](http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup). Shoreline cleanup supplies, educational activities and support materials are all provided free of charge. It's easy, it's fun, and it's a great way to teach your students about environmental stewardship. To get involved go to [www.vanaqua.org/cleanup](http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup) or call (toll free) 1-877-427-2422.

**October 19, 2007. EEPSA is presenting our fall conference "Get to Know Nature and the Outdoor Classroom" with keynote Robert Bateman at the Pavilion in Stanley Park.**

Experience hands-on sessions by the GVRD, SPES, Wild BC, NVOS, Environmental Youth Alliance, Ducks Unlimited, Evergreen, the Vancouver Aquarium, Green Timbers Heritage Society and more; and expand your repertoire of outdoor teaching tools that link to the revised Ministry Document "Environmental Learning and Experience". Registration information will be available soon on the EEPSA website.

**Fall, 2008. EECOM is presenting their inspiring annual conference at Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland. <http://www.eecom.org/english/index.html>**

## Recent Events

**May 24-27, 2007, GEOEC, Friends of Kananaskis Country, & EECOM presented "Trails to Sustainability" in Kananaskis, AB.**

Johan Stroman, Patrick Robertson, David Zandvliet, Bruce Ford and I represented the EEPISA executive in Kananaskis for three days of inspiring workshops, powerful keynote speakers, engaging workshops, good food, stunning scenery and invigorating networking. Please visit the conference website to view workshop topics, see photos, download Hunter Lovin's powerpoint presentation on Sustainable Business Practices, and download Dr. David Schindler's powerpoint presentation on water scarcity issues in Canada (so powerful and frightening)! These two PowerPoint presentations would be perfect for Marketing 11-12 and senior Biology or Geography classes, respectively. EECOM's yearly conferences are always a reminder of why we care about these issues, and a great opportunity to connect and build capacity with like-minded educators from across the country. Please try to make it to Newfoundland for next year's conference!

## 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. It will soon be available on our website to peruse and distribute widely. Patrick Robertson is currently working on connecting the pedagogical framework to PLOs and resources with other PSA members.
- Bruce Ford and Diane Ehling are cooperating with the Robert Bateman foundation, the GVRD and SPES to plan our fall conference.
- EEPISA has recently affiliated with NAAEE, the North American Environmental Education Association.
- We are communicating with Liza Ireland and other Eeducators in the Kootenays to set up a local EEPISA chapter (LSA) up there.
- 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 [pabobo@shaw.ca](mailto:pabobo@shaw.ca).

## Featured Links

[Walking the Talk](#) recently produced British Columbia Principles for Sustainability Education. Maybe we should all print these up and put them at the front of our daybooks! Their website is always a great source.

1. **Sustainability education is about good education.** It is learner focused and incorporates the stages of action...reflection...action...praxis.
2. **Sustainability education commits to new ways of thinking about – and being in – the world.** This means understanding and incorporating the concepts of "enough" and of "living like we plan on staying here."
3. **Sustainability education needs to be integrated, not inserted.** It is not a subject but the lens through which all subjects need to be understood and taught.
4. **Sustainability education demands both leadership and collaboration.** Educators need to model the change we want to see. We cannot realise sustainability in education without support and leadership from faculty, staff,

administration, and community. We need to participate in the valuable work that is going on, support and improve existing projects, and create meaningful partnerships. Working across sectors is challenging but worthwhile.

5. **Sustainability education encourages us to take risks and to address the hard questions.** Experimentation with uncertainty, ongoing discussion and adaptation, and critical thinking are all important. In our resource-based province, it's vital to address directly the personal risk felt by those who fear loss of their livelihood due to an increased focus on sustainability.

6. **Sustainability education draws from all cultural traditions.** BC has a wealth of cultures and traditions. We need to create education that acknowledges, learns from, and incorporates the sustainable practices of all of our cultural groups.

7. **The language of sustainability education must be simple and transferable.** Language reflects values. It's important that we all "use the same language to mean the same thing" across sectors and across disciplines.

8. **Sustainability education is about the individual and the collective.** It involves establishing a relationship between self and community. Through community-building, educators can facilitate learning experiences that will lead to individual self-actualisation and will help us connect more deeply to our surroundings.

9. **Sustainability education includes arts and culture.** The arts can play an important role in promoting reflection and messages that address both the individual and the collective.

10. **Sustainability education is dynamic, positive and contains hopeful messages.** An attitude of hope and excitement will spur people to change more than guilt or fear. We need to give people concrete tools they can use, and to celebrate our successes.

[EECOM](#), Canada's national Environmental Education organization has recently hired an executive assistant to help facilitate capacity building with people like us across the country. Visit their website to see what is new and read their latest newsletter.

[Sierra Club of Canada](#) has good classroom resources and programs.

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](mailto: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."