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Environmental Education since 1997!

Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter

Education Program E-news

October 2007 Edition
www.sierraclub.ca/bc/programs/education



Now that we've settled in, let's kick off the Sierra Club BC 's Education Program in classic *sierra*-style by celebrating something near and dear to our hearts. We think **every day** should be **World Habitat Day** (see *Green Calendar below*), so let's celebrate the place where we live, and the homes of living things everywhere!

By enjoying natural habitat, we become more inclined to protect and preserve these special places. We experience special moments in nature, learn interesting things, and develop in us also, a sense of wonder for the natural environment.

In his book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv discusses concerns that children these days are growing up with little opportunity for nature experiences. In celebration of **World Habitat Day**, we suggest you take your students (your children, yourself!) to visit a favourite nature spot sometime this month. Use your senses to be truly in the moment and give thanks that we have access to the wonders of nature!



Read on to learn how walking to school and other "human-powered" activities contribute to the health of our planet.

Featured Resources

The **Walking Tour of Canada** program tracks the total kilometres your students have walked to and from school. Distances are tracked on a map across Canada and students are rewarded as they "walk" through each province/territory. To learn more about this super fun activity that rewards students for their environmental achievement visit [Go for Green](#).



Funding Opportunities

The Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds Program was designed to transform Canadian school grounds into natural learning environments.


Since 2001, more than 265,000 students have participated in greening projects at over 600 schools across Canada . For more information or to access school grant applications [click here](#).

Announcements

Kudos go out to **Sharon Mackenzie** at Kidston Elementary for the launch of the documentary film, *Whose Grandma Are You?*, based on her Meadows School Project. The project, which had Sharon and her students moving their classroom into the Coldstream Meadows Retirement Community for two months, was started in response to her desire to address the alienation between generations. Today it has garnered the attention of



Green Calendar

Be sure to check our online calendar for upcoming events!  And please contact us if you have an event for posting.

- The 1st Monday of every October is **World Habitat Day** (but just because the day has passed, doesn't mean you can't celebrate!). Learn how...
- **International Walk to School Week/Month** is Oct 1st-5th, and all month long. Schools all over are getting active!
- **Homeless Action Week** is Oct 15th-21st. Learn more!
- October 16th is **World Food Day**. This year's theme is *The Right to Food*.

Shelagh Rogers, Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Iona Campagnola, and mentorship by the late June Callwood. *Congratulations on your success, Sharon!*

Join the Club Are you a Sierra Club BC member? Consider becoming one today – your support helps us develop and maintain our school programs. Click here for more info.

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Feature Donor

Special thanks to **BC Hydro**. BC Hydro has a Community Investment group that is responsible for providing donations to support the well being of BC's communities. Thank you for supporting the Education Program!

BC Hydro 

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This program is accredited by [Green Street](#).



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Did you know...

With only eight breeding pairs left in the wild, the Spotted Owl has become the most endangered bird in all of Canada! Considered an 'indicator species', this owl's well-being directly reflects the status of the ecosystem it inhabits – temperate old growth forests.



For more information on endangered species and what you can do to help, see the Sierra Club BC's recent publication, [The Endangered Species Toolkit](#)