

EASO

EDUCATION ALLIANCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE ONTARIO

Formerly the "Ontario Education For Sustainable Development Working Group"

APRIL 2008

SIGNS OF SPRING & HOPE!

Listed below are some inspiring and important actions in the community, which show that "hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up" - David Orr.

Saskatchewan RCE Conference of the Americas "[Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainability: Assessing and Adopting Beneficial Practices](#)", May 25 – 27th, 2008

Brickwork's & Evergreen's [Open Doors Event](#) May 24th & 25th

[Windfall Ecology Festival](#) in Newmarket - June 7th & 8th

Premier Dalton McGuinty marked Earth Day by announcing a [province wide ban](#) on the sale and use of lawn and garden pesticides.

EASO member Sophia Chan-Combrink was interviewed on a weekly [webcast called Your Voice](#). She spoke about how to talk to children about environmental issues.

Attached to this newsletter:

- Minutes from EASO's meeting on March 27th.
- The Living City—TRCA's Work in Sustainability presentation, given by Renee Jarrett on March 27th (File size 4 MB)
- Final Report for the Centre of Sustainable Life and Learning to be established at the Toronto Zoo

EASO in Action

- EASO working with LSF has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Research and Innovation for a multi-credit experiential Science and Technology secondary course in which youth will be mentored by staff of Ontario's leading edge research institutions. This multi-credit program is intended to inspire youth to choose careers in science and technology by providing hands-on and face-to-face interactions with scientists and technologists in a wide range of endeavours relevant to Ontario's sustainability!
- Co-Chair of EASO, Dr. David Bell, met with Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair for Reorienting Teacher Education, and Cameron Smith, an environmental reporter in late March. This successful meeting resulted in an [excellent article](#) being published in the Toronto Star about the closed Boyne River Natural Science School.
- The Formal Education subcommittee has engaged 35 health-related organizations and coordinated 14 submissions to the Ministry of Education for the Physical Education & Health curriculum review. Next the Formal education subcommittee will begin the curriculum review process for Social Sciences and Humanities (Gr. 9 –12).
- EASO's Biodiversity Environmental Awareness Network (BEAN) subcommittee has partnered with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education, and the Ontario Teachers Federation (OTF) to focus Camp OTF, a teacher professional development course, on the theme of biodiversity. The proposal involves 9 regional training institutes for K-8 with an estimated 90 teachers at each camp with biodiversity as an overarching theme and sustainability and stewardship as sub themes. For further information and dates, go [here](#).
- [International Biodiversity Day](#) is May 22. BEAN is working with agriculture partners to develop and distribute theme-related educational resources for this year's theme agriculture and biodiversity.
- EASO's co-chair, Merebeth Switzer, gave a presentation to Ontario Park Interpreters on Education for Sustainable Development.
- EASO's new website is now up and running: [<http://sustainable-ontario.org/>](http://sustainable-ontario.org/) There are still a few minor changes, but please go and check it out! Our webhost is also run completely on Bull Frog Energy!

Upcoming meetings

To help members schedule for EASO meetings, we have set the following dates for our 2008 meetings:

June 5th

November 6th

September 18th

December 12th