

Greetings from Earth Day Hamilton

Christmas 2006

It's been almost eight months since the Earth Day Eco-Festival brought 1000 students to the Royal Botanical Gardens .

Over thirty volunteers helped the Earth Day Hamilton committee put on a great day of environmental



learning and fun. The air was full of the excitement and noise of non-stop activity .

At the end of

the day there was a feeling of a job well done.

The event's success was a result of careful planning and

our wonderful volunteers who gave their time and who worked so hard to ensure that the day ran smoothly.

We look forward to another great event on April 27, 2007 and to seeing our volunteers again, the lifeblood of this organization.

[For more pictures go to page 2,3,4]



Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season

Sincerely,

Laurel



Eco-Festival Volunteers bring sunshine, fresh air, and nature to inner-city and suburban kids for a day...



One
of the
many
guided
hikes
taking
place
throughout
the day

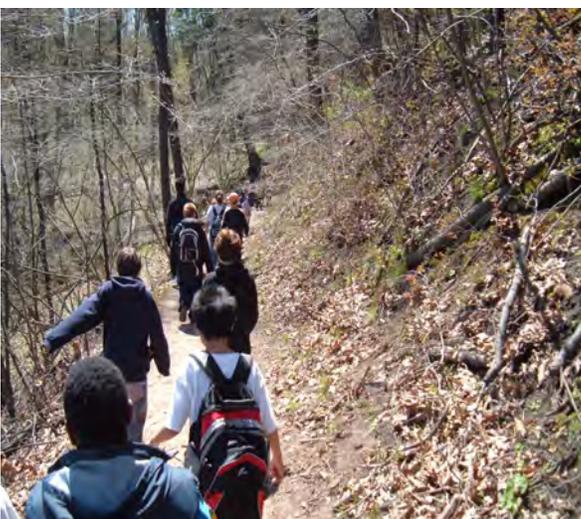


Outdoor sessions gave students an appreciation for what else shares the world we live in...

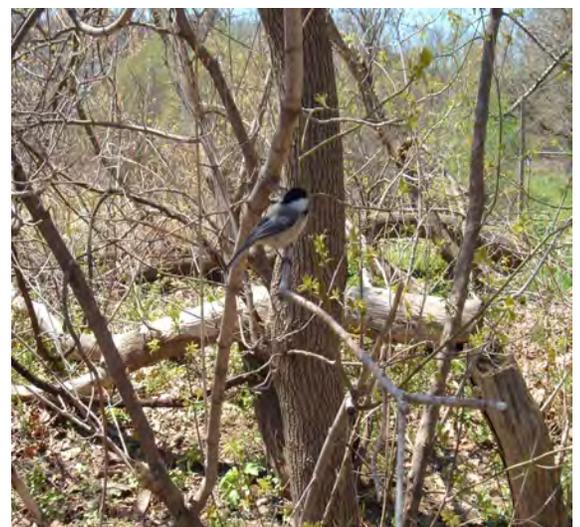
Students
saw water
snakes,
swan nests,
and other
creatures



"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children"
Native American
Proverb



On the
"Chickadee
Walk"
students
were
thrilled to
feed
chickadees
out of their
hands!



Earth Day Hamilton's Eco-Festival at the RBG offered lots of interactive learning about the environment!



Interactive Environmental Displays



“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

~ Chief Seattle

Indoor and Outdoor Workshops



and Entertainment Too!





EARTHDAY
HAMILTON

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“When we heal the earth,
we heal ourselves”

David Orr

Over the last 10 years over 20,000 students have taken part in the Earth Day Hamilton Eco-Festival. It is one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in Canada. The Eco-Festival is run by a volunteer committee and a part-time paid coordinator. Along with the committee and staff, the Eco-Festival depends on volunteers to staff the event. Our volunteers are citizens with diverse backgrounds, ages, skills and time.

The Eco-Festival is an interactive and fun full-day environmental learning experience for grade 4,5,6, students from across the Hamilton region. Over the last 10 years 20,000 students have taken part in our Eco-Festival. The goal of the event is to ‘empower youth to take action on the environment’. Through taking part in workshops, visiting interactive displays, going on guided nature walks, enjoying terrific entertainers, and hearing inspiring keynote speakers, students minds are opened to not only the environmental challenges that face us, but they are shown what they can do and how to do it.

The Eco-Festival will return to its new and wonderful home, the Royal Botanical Gardens on Friday April 27 and bring in 1000 children to “empower them to take action on the environment”. To date our event has been free— due to the generosity of local businesses and individuals, and in particular to Larry Pomerantz of “Recycling Service” who loans his employees, his time, gives freely of his money, and single-handedly masterminded the event in its first five years of operation. In the past we have also received generous funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Our Keynote Speakers:

Canadian Astronaut, Chris Hadfield

Author, “Fly Away Home” Bill Lishman

Professor, Skid Crease

President Earth Day Canada, Jed Goldberg

Local environmental watchdog, Dr. Lynda Lukasik

Young cancer-survivor and successful pesticide by-law campaigner,
Jean-Dominic Levesque-Rene

Award-winning scientist, author, and host of TV’s “The Nature of
Things, Dr. David Suzuki

Former head of Sierra Club Canada, Leader of the Green Party,
activist, Elizabeth May

United Nations expert on water, Dr. Velma Grover

Clean Air Champion, Wanita Dykstra-May

High school student and successful environmental campaigner
who fought to get the first “green subdivision” in Canada in her
community, Katie Gardner



Keynote Speaker 2006, high school student Katie Gardner, who convinced her town (against their original decision) to choose a “green developer” to buy their building site