



“Building Environmental Leaders”

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“When we heal the earth,  
we heal ourselves”

David Orr

Over the last 11 years almost 30,000 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 organized by a volunteer committee and a part-time paid coordinator and depends on its army of volunteers to make this day a success. A group of enthusiastic student volunteers and teachers from a local High School made wonderful role models for the grade 4,5,6 elementary students attending the event.



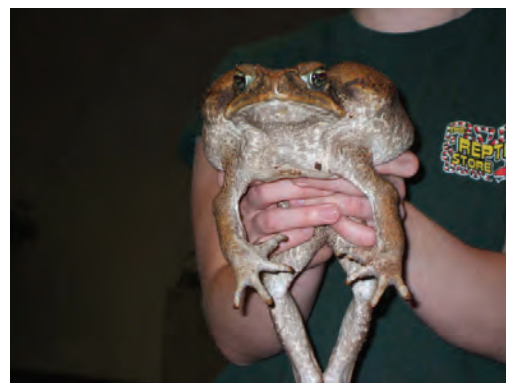
Local high school Environmental Club with their volunteer certificates

The Eco-Festival is an interactive and fun full-day environmental learning experience ‘empowering 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.

To date our event has been free— due to the generosity of local businesses, individuals, and grantors such as the TD Friends of the Environment. Thank you so much for helping us bring nature, knowledge, and new inspiration to the youth of the Hamilton area to help improve our environment.

### Our Keynote Speakers over the years:

- Canadian Astronaut, Chris Hadfield
- Author, “Fly Away Home” Bill Lishman
- Professor, Skid Crease
- President Earth Day Canada, Jed Goldberg
- National environment award-winner, Hamiltonian , Dr. Lynda Lukasik
- Young cancer -survivor and pesticide by-law activist J-D. Levesque-Rene
- Award-winning scientist , author, and TV host, Dr. David Suzuki
- Head of Sierra Club (now leader of the Green Party), Elizabeth May
- United Nations water expert, Dr. Velma Grover
- Clean Air Champion, Wanita Dykstra-May
- High school student and successful environmental campaigner, Katie Gardner, who fought to get the first “green subdivision” in Canada in her community
- Reptile expert presenting, ‘Creatures in need of habitat’, Steve Featherstone



One of the stars of the Reptile expert’s talk

## Thank you to TD Friends of the Environment from Earth Day Hamilton



Through the generosity of the TD Friends of the Environment, Earth Day Hamilton was able to bring the Earth Day Eco-Festival to 2,000 area students over two days. Sixty volunteers helped the Earth Day Hamilton Com-



mittee put on these days of environmental fun and learning at the Royal Botanical Gardens . The air was full

of excitement and the day full of non-stop activity . At the end of the day there was a feeling of a job well

done, knowing that students were leaving energized and inspired to work on improving the environment.

We look forward to another great event this year while we continue to “build environmental leaders of tomorrow”.

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. ~

Thomas Fuller,  
Gnomologia, 1732



Thanking TD Friends for bringing nature to our children so that they learn to respect their earth.



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



Happy kids surrounded by the colour and scents of nature in the Royal Botanical Garden's bulb room

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

Students fed chickadees out of their hands!!



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



Popular guided hikes.

Teacher with student poster thanking TD



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

*Interactive Environmental Displays*



*Indoor and Outdoor Environmental Workshops*



*and Entertainment Too!*



"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