

Educator Events:

Interested Eco-Educators: "Certification"/ Network

The next meeting is Thursday June 24th, 2010 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. at Allco Park (248th Street and Alouette Road) with dinner provided. Kindly RSVP to Jodi MacQuarrie at jodimacquarrie@shaw.ca if you are planning on attending any of these meetings and/or events. Please also pass along any dietary requests. As the date approaches, reading materials will be distributed. At these "certification" and networking meetings, we hope to model what place-based, ecological, imaginative education might look like and help educators connect with others interested in reading and thinking about, questioning and practicing in ways informed by these approaches. In addition, a summer 'workshop' is planned for August 30th - September 1, 2010. This session will involve some local hiking and overnight camping. As the dates draw nearer, more details will be forthcoming. Meeting will continue again in September on the 4th Thursday of every month. The recent May 27th meeting was also held at Allco Park. It was greatly appreciated that Alouette River Management Society (ARMS) helped to host the event at the Rivers Heritage Centre. Two pieces that were used on May 27th included an article from the *Walrus* and an interview of Barry Lopez:

<http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2009.11-health-global-impositioning-systems/>

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/04302010/profile.html>

Images from:

Rivers Heritage Centre: <http://www.alouetteriver.org> and Allco Park Map:

http://www.mapleridge.ca/EN/main/residents/935/trails_walkways_paths.html

**Allco Park****Recent Parent Events:**

Parent Information Session for Proposed Environmental School

Tuesday, April 27th and Wednesday, May 19th 7 P.M. - 8 P.M. Meetings were held at Yennadon Elementary School. These two sessions were an opportunity for the community to learn more about the proposed "environmental school," ask questions, and contribute to an ongoing dialogue about the possibilities. Two parent contacts for the project are, Todd Hill (District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Co-Chair, boomer25@telus.net) and Cheryl Nelson (loonlake@intergate.ca).

For additional information see attachments at:

<http://www.sd42.ca/environmental-school>

(photo by Rebekah Maitland)

**Recent Community Events:**

April 27th, 2010. The SFU research team and several community partners and collaborators met to engage in a dialogue on ways the proposed place-based ecological learning centre could support and collaborate in research efforts, share resources, and engage in the learning of the K-7 grade students. Special thanks to Christian Cowley, the executive director of the Community Education on Environment and Development (CEED) Centre Society for hosting the event at the historic CEED Centre.

Participants in the recent dialogue included: Doug Hoey (SD42 District Principal, Aboriginal Education), Rosemary Hanna (KEEPS), Cheryl Power (UBC-Malcolm Knapp Research Forest), Abby Cruickshank (ARMS), Christian Cowley (CEED), Val Patenaude (Maple Ridge Museum and Haney Historical Society), Chris Beeman (SFU Research Team), Veronica Hotton (SFU Research Team), Dave Smith (Haney Horseman's Association, KEEPS), Ross Davies (KEEPS), Dave Clarke (Blue Mountain Woodlot), Gerry Pinel (GETI), Clayton Maitland (SD42 and SFU Project Coordinator/Community Liaison), and Jodi MacQuarrie (SD42 and SFU Research Team). Other Supporters and Collaborators include: Cheryl Gabriel (Kwantlen First Nation Council Member), Len Pierre (Katzie First Nation Education Council Member), Jonathan Smyth (BCIT-Maple Ridge Woodlot 0007), and Sean Blenkinsop (SFU Research Team).



CEED Centre:

<http://www.fraserinfo.org/index.html>

Recent Educator Events:

April 23rd, 2010. The MRTA and Eco-School Project collaborated to offer a professional development opportunity, "Place-Based Ecological Education: An Integrated Activity in the Field for Educators."

The Alouette River Management Society (ARMS) partnered with Pitt Paddling Club to offer an engaging and interpretive approach to learning on April 23rd. The day was an opportunity for participants—teachers, parents and children, and eco-school project team members—to learn more about educating in ecological, sustainable and imaginative ways. Carleigh Smart of AMRS recounted several stories and legends that have helped to shape the current-day Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Carleigh also had an interactive lesson on how to identify some of the trees and birds along the Alouette River and participants learned played a traditional Aboriginal game called Slahal. Pitt Paddling Club brought participants onto the water to experience dragon boat paddling along the Alouette and Pitt Rivers to observe the natural processes of the river and its ecosystems while paddling.

Curricular connections to Language Arts (English), Social Studies (History and Geography), Math, Science, and P.E. were discussed.



Alouette River (photo by Jodi MacQuarrie)

Recent Community Events:

April 8th, 2010 Celebration. The Presentation and Announcement of "Aligning Education and Sustainability in Maple Ridge, BC: A Study of Place-Based Ecological Schooling"

At Eagles Hall a community event was held to announce the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) funding a five-year, \$1,000,000 grant to study the possibility of placed-based ecological schooling in Maple Ridge. Speakers at the event included the Natural World, Sean Blenkinsop SFU lead researcher, Cheryl Gabriel and Lekeyten of Kwantlen First Nation, Randy Kamp MP, Marc Dalton MLA, Michael Sather MLA, Ernie Daykin Mayor of Maple Ridge, Kris Magnusson SFU Dean of Education, and Laurie Meston of SD42.



Planting seeds with Lekeyten, Jesse Jorgensen, and Rebekah Maitland (photo by Seamus Nesling)

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