



Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario

March 2009

Attached to this newsletter:

EASO Promotional Brochure

OTF Summer Camp flyer

David Sheridan's presentation: ESD in Canada from a facilitator's perspective



The Days are Getting Longer - Spring is Almost Here!

EASO NEWS

The last **EASO meeting** held at York University on March 5, 2009. We enjoyed two excellent presentations by David Sheridan and Dr. Peter Victor. David has been the facilitator working with LSF, EASO and NESDEC (now ESD Canada) for the past three years, and he presented his perspective on the progress of ESD in Canada (presentation attached). Dr. Victor is the celebrated author of *Managing Without Growth, Slower by Design, not Disaster*. He discussed his rationale behind a zero/low growth model as a means of promoting positive environmental and social change. Dr. Victor's presentation can be viewed on his website at www.managingwithoutgrowth.com (click on Speeches, and then RCI Speech).

The Ministry of Education's **Environmental Education Symposium** (February 24-26, 2009) was a tremendous success, with over 600 participants and 75 workshops. The *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow* Environmental Education Framework was officially launched, providing guidance for the integration of environmental education into all aspects of the formal education system. Dr. Roberta Bondar's speech emphasizing the cross-curricular nature of environmental education was also a highlight. The framework can be downloaded from the Ministry website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/curriculumcouncil/shapingSchools.html>. All resources from the workshops were made available electronically to participants; some presentations are still available online at www.eeontario.ca (click on Resource Centre).

At the annual meeting of the National ESD Expert Council (NESDEC) in late January, the name was officially changed to **ESD Canada**. ESD Canada is the national network that supports the provincial working groups. A website is being developed, and the URL will be circulated soon. ESD Canada is also now on Facebook – join our growing network!

Merebeth Switzer attended the **UNESCO-IHE Water Workshop** for Europe and North America in late February. There is a great deal of concern and support for issues of international water sustainability. Workshop notes and recommendations will be circulated to members as soon as they are available.

EASO **promotional brochure** is now ready for distribution! A pdf of the brochure is attached – please circulate it throughout your networks. If you would like paper copies to hand out, please contact Samantha Moser at esd_ontario@lsf-ist.ca, or 647 281 2590.

Op-Ed Published! David Bell's op-ed entitled: *An outdated economic prescription for Ontario* was published on February 23, 2009 in the Toronto Star. Congratulations, David!
<http://www.thestar.com/comment/article/590633>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

UNESCO World Conference on ESD, Bonn, Germany (March 31 – April 2). David Bell is one of the few delegates representing Canada. His workshop addresses the relationship between environment and economy.

Earth Hour – is coming up on Saturday, March 28th from 8:30-9:30pm. Switch off your lights to show your support for this global initiative. www.earthhour.org.

OISE Sustainability Fair (April 7, 2009, 12pm-6pm). Share your ideas for sustainability education with teacher candidates and graduate students! Contact Jane Forbes for more details.

OSEE 60th Anniversary Conference (May 7-9, 2009), Ontario Institute of Technology, Oshawa. This environmental education conference is for K-12 educators and other educators. See www.OSEE.org for details.

International Conference on Environmental Education, Montreal, (May 10-14).
http://www.5weec.uqam.ca/EN/presentation_introduction.asp

International Biodiversity Day is coming up on May 22. All public school boards have been informed of the event, and will hopefully join us in promoting the importance of biodiversity to Ontario's students.

Join the Great EcoKids Challenge! Dream up an amazing eco-project for your class or club and enter Earth Day Canada's Great EcoKids Challenge for a chance to win amazing prizes from Sony of Canada Ltd.! Visit <http://ecokids.ca> to sign up for free access to the EcoKids Teachers' Lounge and find out more about this exciting contest. Deadline for entries is May 31st, 2009.

OTF Going Green Summer Camps – This year the OTF Teacher PD Summer Camps will have two foci: "Going Green" in general, and subject specific camps. (Flyer Attached)