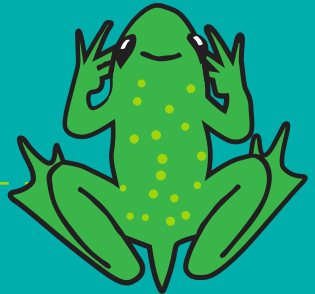


Make a Stand for Tailed Frogs!

When a group of kids in West Vancouver discovered that a prime piece of Tailed Frog habitat was about to be turned into a housing development, they got active! Tailed frogs are on the Blue List of threatened species, and these kids found that McDonald Creek, a fast-flowing mountain stream, had a dense tailed frog population. After doing research into the frogs' habitat needs, students contacted the Ministry of Environment and made presentations at West Vancouver City Council meetings. They met with people from the development company and got on the radio and TV. The result of their work: the creek and trees around it were made into a protected park and the development company is doing a 5-year monitoring study on the tailed frogs.

(WEST VANCOUVER, BC)



VIP's Make a Difference!

Students attending a middle school near a regional park in Surrey became concerned about vandalism in the park. Some students from the middle school and a neighbouring high school were part of the problem, and both schools were getting a bad reputation with the local community. Working with parks staff, Grade 8 students formed a VIP or Volunteers in Parks team: students who regularly hung out or biked in the park received training, formed teams and designed special VIP armbands to wear on informal park patrol. Interest in the VIP teams was high, attracting many students from both schools. The student patrols got recognition and status, and their presence in the park dramatically reduced the vandalism problems.

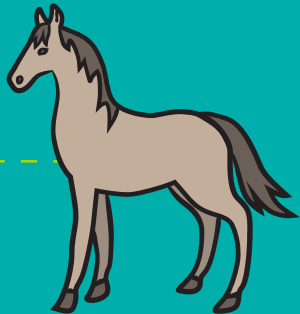
(SURREY, BC)



Talking Horse Sense

Langley elementary school students used a nearby regional park as a short cut to get to school, and a favorite spot for science projects and after-school gatherings. Local horseback riders often strayed off the horse trails, damaging the walking trails and stream edges, and making them so muddy as to be unusable. Parks staff could not patrol the park all the time to keep riders on the proper trails, and signs didn't seem to be working. The kids took matters into their own hands. A Grade Five class formed a Friends of the Park group and made posters, pamphlets and presentations to the local riding club members. Riders listened to the students' needs and everyone benefited, especially the park!

(LANGLEY, BC)



Taking the Water Board to Task

High school students in Australia were concerned about their water quality, because the local water reservoir was also used for wind surfing. The students conducted water quality tests and discovered a high coliform count – their water really wasn't healthy to drink.. The local water utility refused to act, so the students went to the press with their data. When people learned about the problem in newspaper articles and TV programs, the water treatment plant was forced to upgrade its facility.

(AUSTRALIA)



Community Wildflower Garden

Partnering with businesses, community members, and service clubs, several schools worked to change a grassy field into a beautiful wildflower and butterfly garden that everyone can enjoy. Nurseries donated trees and shrubs, students grew many plants from seed, and service clubs funded benches and walking/wheelchair paths for seniors who lived in a nearby residence. Some of the seniors became key consultants, lending their gardening and landscaping expertise to the project.

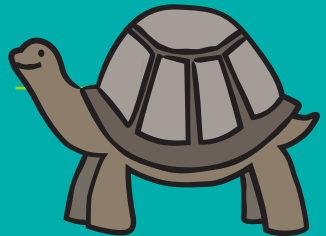
(SURREY, BC)



Let's Talk Tortoise

After hearing that their state reptile, the desert tortoise, was endangered because of loss of habitat and respiratory problems, grade 6 students launched a major public education campaign. They designed posters for display at area businesses, submitted articles to the local newspapers and developed a video. They also raised funds through T-shirt sales, and "tortoise cans" to collect donations at local merchants. Finally, the class developed a proposal for the local government suggesting an "open-use" area for off-road, all-terrain vehicles so the ATV's wouldn't further damage the desert tortoises' habitat.

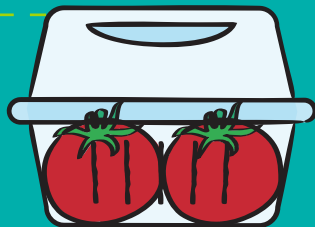
(CALIFORNIA)



Over-Packaging Attack!

Grade Four students near Kelowna went on a field trip to their local grocery store. They were recycling in their classroom, and noticed that a lot of the food sold at the store was overpackaged, especially fruits, vegetables and cookies. The class decided to write to the store with their concerns, and collected samples of the excess packaging material to send along with their letters. The store manager personally visited the class and discussed ways that the packaging could be reduced, which the store eventually put into practice.

(KELOWNA, BC)



Yellow Fish Road

Elementary students in Delta, BC wanted to let people know that that whatever they put into their storm sewers flows directly into local streams. With the help of Trout Unlimited Canada, they painted yellow fish beside storm sewer entrance drains, and hung yellow fish-shaped information pamphlets on neighbourhood door handles.

(DELTA, BC)



It's a Rat's Life

Grade 8 students in California were concerned that more and more housing developments were being built, ruining the habit of the endangered Stephens Kangaroo Rat. They created a puppet show and a study sheet to inform others about the plight of the rat. They also sponsored a kangaroo rat art contest, wrote songs, poems, and essays about various threats facing the kangaroo rat population, and designed a trail guide for a local wildlife preserve.

(CALIFORNIA)



Way to Go! Bike Path Partners

Middle school students developed a petition to lobby their municipal government for a bike path on a busy road near their school. Assisted by the Way to Go! Program run by ICBC, they partnered with an elementary and secondary school located close by, and organized students from all three schools to circulate the petition. City council asked the students to make a presentation and have considered budgeting for the bike path in the next planning year.

(VICTORIA, BC)



Get Out the Trowels

Elementary school students from General Gordon Elementary in Vancouver, with the help of Eco Education BC staff created an outdoor classroom with butterfly and bird habitats, a grassy meadow and a place for kids to play in the shade of trees. An information board in the schoolyard provides information about the project, tips on how to green urban backyards, and facts about the plants and animals that share the space with the students.

(VANCOUVER, BC)



Earth Day Celebration

As a special Earth Day Celebration, students at Beach Grove Elementary in Delta, BC developed and hosted a special Embracing Our Environment conference. In preparation for the event, students created art work, poster displays and information packages. Students invited Simon Jackson as their keynote speaker, a young activist who has been instrumental in raising awareness about the future of the Kermode "Spirit Bear". Each class attended two workshops on such subjects as ecoactivism, ecological footprints, wetland 'critters' and creative recycling. Guests from municipal, provincial and federal governments helped host workshops and participated in the conference. Nine community businesses and the municipality were involved in donating trees, gifts, prizes and organizational support.

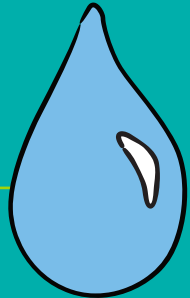
(DELTA, BC)



Water, Water Everywhere...

In culmination of a school-wide study of water, students invited the Eco-Education BC's water crew to Discovery Elementary School in Surrey, BC. Workshops were held for all K – 7 students on water use and conservation actions. Primary students went home able to make and install a toilet water saver from a pop bottle. Intermediate students studied precipitation and learned ways to reduce water use in gardens through mulching, allowing grass to grow a little longer, and growing native plants. Each class had a native plant donated to them from the T. Buck Suzuki Foundation, which they planted on their school grounds to create a native plant garden of their own. This may serve as a reminder to students for years to come of why we need to conserve and take care of our water!

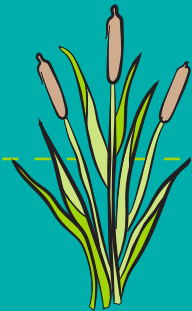
(SURREY, BC)



Take Back the Wetlands!

Black Mountain Elementary School in Kelowna sits on the hills overlooking Okanagan Lake and right next to the Gopher Creek wetland. In Spring 2000, the grade 6 class participated in a wetland stewardship project. The students and their teacher, Reg Volk, restored wetland habitat by planting about 100 native riparian shrubs and trees including willow, alder, saskatoon berry and birch. They also hung birdhouses around the area. Funding for the project was provided by the City of Kelowna and the Canadian Wildlife Fund. Now the wetland is used as an outdoor classroom to introduce students to the world of pond life using magnifying glasses and microscopes.

(KELOWNA, BC)



Other Action Projects

