



Enviro Web

Newsletter of the Manitoba Envirothon

Mark your calendar!!
May 21st to 23rd, 2009

Coordinator's Corner by Andrea Swain

We currently have 34 teams registered for the Manitoba Envirothon. The steering committee is working hard on getting all of the details worked out for the workshops and the event. We look forward to meeting all of the new faces this year and seeing all of our returning friends!

Buses

Please take note that JH Bruns advisors Jennifer Sloan and Tim Beyak have organized one bus leaving Winnipeg. They are looking for teams to share the bus. Cost/person is \$55 round trip. To book your spot on the bus contact Jennifer at jennifer.sloan@lrsd.net

Workshops

We are hosting two spring workshops this year. The details about these workshops can be found in this newsletter. There will be one workshop on Thursday, April 16th at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and a second workshop on Friday, May 1st at University College of the North. We have a full day of activities planned to help students learn more about the theme topic and about what they can expect on the field test.

New to Envirothon?

If you are new to Envirothon you can find additional information about getting started on our website at www.mbenvirothon.com or you can call me at 453-3182.

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in" -Rachel Carson

A big thank you to the advisors who dedicate time and energy to keeping the sense of wonder alive in their students! We appreciate you and we applaud you!

Thank you to our Funders!

We would like to thank our funders for the 2009 Manitoba Envirothon. Without these organizations we would not be able to continue this program!

Manitoba Agriculture, Rural and Food Initiatives
Manitoba Energy, Science, Technology & Mines
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Manitoba Water Stewardship
Manitoba Conservation
Manitoba Aboriginal & Northern Affairs
Fisheries Enhancement Fund
Manitoba Hydro
Jiffy Canada
McKenzie Seeds
Manitoba Model Forest
Canon Inc.

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Meet your competition

The following 34 teams have registered for 2009. We look forward to meeting all of you over the next few months!

1. Baker School
2. College Jeanne-Sauve Team #1
3. College Jeanne-Sauve Team #2
4. Cormorant Lake
5. Fairholme
6. Fort Richmond Collegiate
7. Gimli High School Team #1
8. Gimli High School Team #2
9. Grant Park High School Team #1
10. Grant Park High School Team #2
11. Grant Park High School Team #3
12. Helen Betty Osborne Ininev Education Resource Centre
13. J.H. Bruns Collegiate Team #1
14. J.H. Bruns Collegiate Team #2
15. Kelvin High School
16. Maple Grove Colony School Team #1
17. Maple Grove Colony School Team #2
18. Morden Collegiate
19. North West Soil Management
20. Pembina Valley Conservation District
21. Pinawa Secondary School
22. RD Parker Collegiate Junior Team
23. RD Parker Collegiate Senior Team
24. Selkirk High School Team #1
25. Selkirk High School Team #2
26. Shaftsbury High School Team #1
27. Shaftsbury High School Team #2
28. Springfield Collegiate
29. St. Boniface Diocesan High School
30. Steinbach Regional Secondary School (welcome new team!)
31. Swan Valley Regional Secondary School
32. Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District
33. Vincent Massey Collegiate
34. Westwood Collegiate

Although the deadline for registering has come and gone there is still room for more teams! If you are interested in registering a team please contact Andrea Swain as soon as possible to indicate your interest. You can reach Andrea at 453-3182 or envirocoordinator@mts.net.

Orals Update

The Orals Competition is a large part of the overall Envirothon program. The volunteer committee that works on preparing the Orals Competition each year has made one major change to the program this year. The judges score sheet will be changed so that 50% of your team's score will be based on knowledge of the topic and 50% of your score will be based on presentation quality.

As you train for the Envirothon don't forget to train for the Orals Competition! The overall Envirothon scores are allocated at a ratio of 2:1 for the Field Test and Oral Presentations respectively. So not only does the Oral presentation play a key role in determining the winning team, the team with the highest score in the preliminary oral presentation will be invited to do their presentation in the Final Orals Competition with the top three teams.

Tips on preparing for the orals:

- We will be posting a practice scenario on our website after the workshop. You and your team can use this to help prepare for the actual competition.
- Your team will only have 2.5 hours to prepare your 10 minute presentation at the event. Teamwork is key!
- Your team will receive the judge's score sheet at the same time you receive the scenario so you can use this as a guide to ensure you are covering the topics judges will be looking for.

Glenn's Joke Corner

**Why can't you play jokes on snakes?
Because you can never pull their legs**

**What do ducks watch on TV?
Duckumentaries**

**What do you call a mosquito with a tin suit?
A bite in shining armour**

Get your funny bones ready! In the next newsletter I will be including the official Joke Submission Form. Remember all of you who enter an environmentally themed joke will be entered to win a special prize at Envirothon.

2009 Manitoba Envirothon-Team Details and Workshop Registration

School/Team Name: _____

Emergency Contact Number: _____

Please submit this form to Andrea by **April 7, 2009**

Fax: 204-477-5765

Our team will attend the workshop at:

- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre on April 16, 2009
- University College of the North in The Pas on May 1, 2009

Please print clearly.

This information will be used to help with the final preparations for the workshop and the Envirothon.

Names	Expertise (wildlife, aquatics, soils & land use, forestry, theme)	T-shirt Size (S, M, L, XL, XXL)	M/F	Vegan/Vegetarian/ Celiac/Diabetic/ Other	Mobility or other Health Issues
Advisors:					
1.					
2.					
Team Members:					
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

Workshop details

This year we are hosting two workshops. Each team may choose to attend one of the workshops. The information presented at each workshop will be as close as possible in content and we will be training the students on the same equipment.

Workshop #1

Date: Thursday, April 16th, 2009

Time: 9:30-3:30

Location: Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Directions: The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is located just off Hwy 67, between Hwy 7 and 8. The Centre is approximately 20 minutes north of Winnipeg. Just follow the signs along Hwy 7 or 8.

OR

Workshop #2

Date: Friday, May 1st, 2009

Time: 9:30-3:30

Location: University College of the North

Directions: University College of the North, 436 - 7th Street East, The Pas, Manitoba

- Registration Fee: \$15/person
- Lunch and snacks are included
- You will be outside for as much time as weather permits so please dress appropriately!

1. Can we bring an alternate team member to the workshop?

No. This year only 5 team members and 2 advisors can attend the workshop. This will reduce the number of students in each session and allow everyone to use the equipment provided.

2. Will all team members attend all five discipline training sessions?

No. Once again, based on feedback from last year's workshop, we are trying to reduce the number of students per session so that it is possible for everyone to use the equipment. Each team member will attend one of the discipline training sessions. All team members will attend a session on the theme of biodiversity and will participate in a mini-field test.

3. Why do we ask you to identify the team member's "expertise"?

In order to reduce confusion on the day of the workshop we are asking each team to decide who will attend which training session. There are 5 disciplines and 5 team members therefore your team needs to decide who will attend which session and become the "expert" in that discipline. Please note that the 5th discipline is GIS/GPS not biodiversity. All team members will receive training in the theme of biodiversity.

4. Will our team benefit from attending the workshop?

YES! We do not have any equipment demonstrations at the provincial competition therefore the workshop is your only chance to practice using the equipment for the field test. You will also have a chance to learn more about the theme topic, ask questions about the field test and oral presentation, and meet your competition!

If you have other questions about the workshop please email Andrea Swain at envirocoordinator@mts.net .

Workshop Agenda

	9:30	Teams Arrive	
9:30	10:00	Team Registration & Snacks	
10:00	10:15	Welcome and Introduction to the day	
10:15	12:15	<u>Discipline Topic Training:</u> soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, GIS/GPS <i>1 student per team receives training</i> Group A (Each team sends 1 student to each topic.)	<u>General Training:</u> biodiversity, Mini-field test <i>All team members receive these sessions</i> Group B (Students will travel as teams to the sessions)
12:20	1:10	Lunch (students, volunteers, presenters)	
1:15	3:15	<u>General Training:</u> biodiversity, Mini-field test <i>All team members receive these sessions</i> Group A (Students will travel as teams to the sessions)	<u>Discipline Topic Training:</u> soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, GIS/GPS <i>1 student per team receives training</i> Group B (Each team sends 1 student to each topic.)
3:15	3:30	Closing Remarks & Snacks to go	
	3:30	Teams Leave	

PLEASE NOTE: This agenda may change slightly as we work out the final details for the event.



A big thank you to Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and University College of the North who are helping to make these workshops possible!

Upcoming Events

Learning Opportunity for Students

Schools on Board is now accepting applications from schools for the 2009 Field Program – a very unique and authentic science experience for Canadian high school students and teachers!

The 2009 expedition will take place in the last segment of the 2009 ArcticNet science expedition at the end of October, 2009 (exact dates to be confirmed). Schools on Board participants will join the ArcticNet science teams on board the CCGS Amundsen (Canada's state-of-the-art research icebreaker), in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and will become integrated in the research activities of this multidisciplinary research program. The onboard program will take participants through Frobisher Bay, across the Hudson Strait, along the Labrador Shelf and into the fjords of northern Labrador, proceeding into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and ending at the Coast Guard port in Quebec City. Schools can apply today to send one of their students or teachers on board this unique experiential science expedition. Join the team of 2 program leaders, 8 students, and 2 teachers from across Canada. Preliminary schedule, costs, and application information are all available on the website: www.schoolsonboard.ca or www.arcticnet.ulaval.ca

Deadline for Applications – May 15th – Successful schools will be notified by June 1st. Selection of students will be done by schools - deadline September 10, 2009. For more information contact Schools on Board at: info@schoolsonboard.ca

Example of Local Activism

World Water Day

- UN's World Water Day is coming up on March 22nd, 2009.

Across Canada citizens are gathering at their City Halls on Friday, March 20th to celebrate by making a Toast to Public Water, in honour of our municipal water systems. Water is one of our most precious resources. Winnipeg City council is taking steps that could put our water and water treatment facilities in private hands. Please join in to express your views by attending to make a TOAST TO PUBLIC WATER.

WHEN: Monday, March 20th at 12:00 to 1:00 PM

WHERE: In front of Winnipeg City Hall, 510 Main St

INFO: 942 0343, cupemb@mts.net or www.cupe500.mb.ca

Sponsored by: the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition, Council of Canadians, Winnipeg Labour Council and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 500.

- Vast quantities of water are used to produce the products we consume, for example, 3900 litres of water for 1 kg. of chicken meat and 10 L for a sheet of paper. Wow! Explore www.waterfootprint.org
- Bottled water use is often unnecessary and counter-productive. See how you can take action on the Council of Canadians site, www.canadians.org/water/issues/Unbottle_It
- Find out how to conserve and preserve water quality by reducing runoff in this video: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/video.html>

For further information on Manitoba Envirothon, contact:



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