

COMMUNITY STEWARDS: WANTED, WELCOMED, HONOURED

Thank you, all.

On June 7, Dr. E.W. Coffin Elementary School became the recipient of an Alberta Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence in the Education: School or Classroom category for its ongoing environmental program, recently culminating in a prairie 'rescue, reclaim, and restore' project associated with Whispering Woods Natural Area Park. (www.emeraldawards.com)

Darryl Senholt, Grade 4, and Lucky Innis, Grade 3, were delegated to speak for all the students at their school. An extraordinarily well-spoken young lad, Darryl confidently and clearly addressed the assembled crowd at Jack Singer Concert Hall.

"On behalf of the school, we would like to thank all of the teachers, staff, parents, students and community members who've worked so hard over the last 13 years on all the many environmental projects at our school, especially our new Prairie Amphitheatre and Centennial Natureground. Thank you, all."

Thank you, indeed! If you attended, supported, worked or volunteered at Dr. Coffin School in any way or at any time over the last decade, especially in the last few years, then this award absolutely belongs to you as well. With an enduring foundation, a small community has been able to tackle a huge venture.

Extra special thanks are due for the committed leadership shown by current principal, Juane Priest, and former principal, Joy Chadwick. Rob Biegun and Sonia Gonsalves of the City of Calgary Natural Areas have, through joint stewardship of Whispering Woods, shared and supported the school's outdoor endeavors. With neighbors and friends like Jill Kirker of Grassroots Northwest Environmental Awareness Society, Pat Fedkenheuer of ALCLA Native Plants and Bernie Amell of Riparia, we were together able to achieve an evolving shared vision that continues to inspire this prairie reclamation and restoration mission.

Collaborations with other city and provincial departments, the Calgary Zoo, Olds College, the University of Calgary and many others, as well as support from sponsors such as Alberta Ecotrust, The Calgary Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, Parks Foundation – Calgary, Alberta Community Initiatives Program and Evergreen Foundation, together provided

the means to bring vision to realization.

It has indeed been my personal honor and privilege to dig together in community with all these neighbors. The circle of learning at Dr. Coffin School casts a wide circumference and is not merely for the young. We set about to make a prairie space our children could immerse themselves in, not because we already knew how, but because we recognized the importance of doing so. The students and public will have numerous opportunities for close encounters with our native fescue grassland ecosystem for many years to come.

Make this project yours as well!

Join our contact list to be informed about workbees (refreshments!), volunteer opportunities and celebrations. We welcome you to our growing circle of neighbors as stewards of our local environment. Please try any or all of these people to find out more:

Gisele at 289-9603 or dumaines@shaw.ca;

Debbie at 226-3524 or debbiehall@shaw.ca;

Polly at 282-2014 or plknowlton.cockett@shaw.ca;

Attack those invasive species!

Whether toiling in your own garden or when helping in the Natureground or Whispering Woods, there are several plant species that you are encouraged to pull out at will.

Thistles, smooth brome, goat's beard and dandelions are just a few. There's also the troubling scentless chamomile, oxeye daisy, toadflax and creeping bellflower to deal with and a host of less pesky annual weeds like stinkweed and shepherd's purse. All are threats to the well-being of our native species.

Truly Fresh Tuesdays are back again!

Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market opens every Tuesday from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Northland Drive N.W. This nonprofit market is sponsored by Grassroots Northwest Environmental Awareness Society and all proceeds go back into the community through educational initiatives, including support for the Natureground.

Calling all youth painters!

With your help, a second anti-graffiti mural in our

neighborhood will soon be appearing at the southwest corner of Charleswood and Northmount Drives. The Brentwood Community Mural Team is organizing the painting spree to happen during the second half of July. Just turn up to see how you can help, provide encouragement, volunteer or make a donation.

Join your neighbors this summer in supporting your local environment through any of these community building endeavors. All efforts, large and small, are welcomed and wanted. And soon, we may just be able to walk across Whispering Grasses Walkway together, over John Laurie Boulevard to Nose Hill Park. Stay tuned!



*Environmentally yours,
Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett,
282-2014 or
plknowlton.cockett@shaw.ca*

*Rescue, Reclaim and Restore:
3Rs of Environmental Education*

Lin Callow, of ConocoPhillips Canada, presents the 2005 Alberta Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence in the Education: School or Classroom category to Dr. E.W. Coffin Elementary School, represented by Lucky Innis, Grade 3, Darryl Senholt, Grade 4, and Polly Knowlton Cockett, community volunteer.

“Phishing” in Your Backyard

Beware of Giving Personal Information Over the Internet

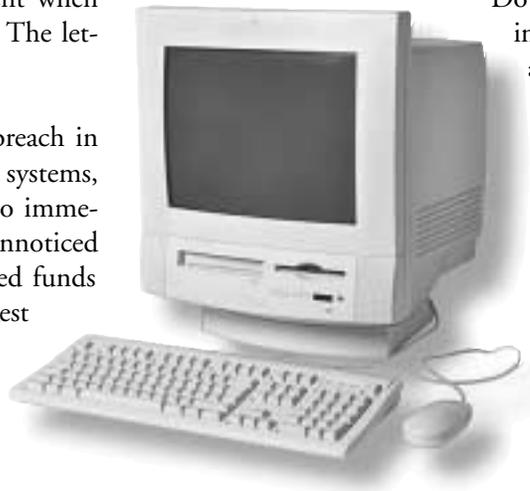
Don't be fooled by incoming e-mails that have letterhead that appears almost identical to a bank or financial institutions. These e-mails are an attempt to get your personal and financial information. “Phishing” is the term used by law enforcement when describing this kind of scam. The letters may start like this:

“Dear Valued Customer,

Due to a recent security breach in the (name of bank) computer systems, we are asking all customers to immediately login and report any unnoticed password changes, unexplained funds depletion or the likewise. Rest assured that we have the safety and privacy of our customers as our top priority.”

The letter goes on to say not to contact the bank through your normal contact channels but reply through a special security e-mail address and your information will be protected.

Do not give out your personal or financial information to this kind of request. Banks and other financial institutions do not collect your personal and financial information in this manner.



**For more information
on this or other business
issues contact the Better
Business Bureau at
517-4BBB (4222)
or visit the website at
www.betterbusinessbureau.ca**

Brentwood Community Mural Project 2005

A Final Design is Chosen!

Wow, things are really starting to come together.

A total of eight mural design submissions were received for this summer's project from kids, teens and adults, amateurs and professionals alike. Four of these designs were selected as finalists and once again, when we asked for community input, the response was enthusiastic.

Almost 200 community members stopped by to chat with us at the Nose Hill Library and the Farmers' Market at North-land Village and share their thoughts on the designs. Based on our selection criteria, community input and conversations with the business owners at the mural site, Aaron Petruic's design was chosen to go to the wall.

Congratulations, Aaron!

We would like to offer a huge thank you to all who participated in this process, whether by submitting a design or sharing your thoughts with us.

Now it's time to really get messy!

Neighbourhood youth ages 12 to 18 years who would like to roll up their sleeves and grab a brush are invited to contact Kim or Lisa at Urban Youth Worx at 974-4980. Work on the mural will begin July 18, 2005 (weather permitting) and will continue afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. for approximately two weeks.

And last, but not least, we could really use some additional volunteers to help with administrative details. The community has been very supportive of the project so far but you know what they say: many hands make light work! Even an hour of your time would be appreciated.

We also invite community members or business owners to make a donation to this project. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more and all major sponsors will be recognized by name in the mural. Contact Lee at 284-1083 to volunteer or make a donation.



Get involved in the project! Contact Lee at 284-1083 to volunteer or make a donation.