

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: June 5 every year **www.unep.org/wed/2007/** **Melting Ice – A Hot Topic?** **Brentwood Goes GREEN and EMERALD!**

GREEN SCHOOL

Simon Fraser Junior High School has recently celebrated receiving a GREEN School Environmental Award from the SEEDS Foundation in recognition for completing well over 100 environmental projects over the last three years, not an easy accomplishment in a secondary school. The GREEN School program is run through the SEEDS Foundation, a national environmental education organization based right here in Calgary: www.seedsfoundation.ca.

SFJH is not only engaged in whole school programs such as recycling, but it runs many environmental field trips e.g. RiverWatch, has an active gardening club, and a multi-grade Environmental Action Club – EAC. Among other things, SFJH and EAC students encourage awareness and participation through school announcements, poetry writing, dramatic skits, organizing contests using recyclable materials, and rewarding the homerooms with the best recycling records.

The EAC also participates in Destination Conservation and has promoted water and energy saving measures at the school. As well, several SFJH teachers actively integrate curriculum and community projects, such as weeding out invasive alien plant species in nearby Nose Hill Park, all the while combining math, science, social studies, and language arts components. Thus, global biodiversity issues are addressed in meaningful, hands-on ways within the community, within the curriculum, and in partnership with The City of Calgary. Congratulations to Simon Fraser students and staff!

TWO EMERALD FINALISTS

In a previous issue, we announced that Brentwood-based Grassroots N.W. Environmental Awareness Society has been nominated for an Alberta Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence in the Community Group category. Grassroots N.W. also runs Brentwood's nonprofit Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market. Proceeds from the

Market are reinvested into the community for numerous environmental education initiatives, such as water conservation measures at Simon Fraser Junior High.

Also nominated for an Emerald Award, in the Youth category, is Rowan Cockett, in part for his 2006 science fair website, Aliens Amongst Us!, which details his three-year study of invasive plants in Whispering Woods: www.virtualsciencefair.org/2006/cock6r2/. Rowan Cockett first learned his website building skills while a student at Simon Fraser JHS under the supervision of Mrs. Jacqueline Martin.

Both Grassroots NW and Rowan Cockett are now Finalists in their respective categories, and will find out the results on June 6 in Calgary. For further information about these two Brentwood-based projects and other amazing environmental work being done in Alberta, and to find out more about the Awards Ceremony and results, check out the Alberta Emerald Foundation's website: www.emeraldawards.com.

Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market Reopens on June 12

Our very own Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market will begin again on the east side of the Northland mall parking lot, starting Tuesday, 12 June 2007 from 3:30-7 p.m. NOTE: new times. Mark your calendars now!

Community Gardening Bees

You are heartily encouraged to join our fun and festive community gardening bees throughout the growing season. The Friends of Dr. Coffin Society will be hosting regular gardening bees throughout the growing season in Whispering Woods and the Centennial Natureground. To be notified about the schedule, to learn more about native plants, weeds, and grassland conservation, and to keep up with impromptu gatherings, please sign up for our list-serve. Contact Polly, as below.

*Environmentally yours, Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett,
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Mayor's Environment Expo 2007

'Step Up to Green'

Date: June 5-7, 2007 – Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Municipal Building Atrium

On Thursday, June 7, Grade one to six students from Dr. E.W. Coffin School's Environment Club will be manning a display at the Expo all about WEEDS! Visit these local experts to find out more about invasive alien plants in your neighborhood and local natural areas!