



Whispering Signs Goes National

By Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

If you are passing through the tiny village of Cow Head in Gros Morne National Park on the rugged west coast of Newfoundland, and you stop into the library there, do not be surprised to see one of the colorful posters representing our Whispering Signs.

In late September, over two hundred environmental educators from across the country, and from three other countries, gathered in Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland for the 2008 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication conference, (EECOM08). I was fortunate to be able to join them, thanks to support from the Alberta Teachers Association, and I was privileged to be able to present a paper as well as a poster session about the amazing outdoor public environmental education (EE) projects right back here in Brentwood.

There was great interest in the Whispering

Signs project, which arose out of Dr. E.W. Coffin School's partnership with the City of Calgary Adopt-a-Park program, and went on to become a model for successful school and community collaboration. The project is also a model for incorporating integrated curriculum content and broad environmental concepts into a coherent ecological context. As well, Whispering Signs honors both individual and communal engagement on both local and global issues situated at the precarious intersections of our natural and built environments.

Posters went home with delegates from Newfoundland, Quebec, the Northwest Territories, and are in the United States. Anyone can view the signs and posters online at www.natureground.org – soon to be updated with details of last June's Grand Opening. The posters will also soon be on display at the community centre and in Nose Hill Library. Although you can view the signs and posters in Brentwood yourselves, should you wish



Top: An Ecological Abecedarium: Whispering Signs on display in Newfoundland and Labrador; Bottom: Whispering Signs on display at the Brentwood Street Party, with project manager and two of the community artists whose works are featured on the signs.

to obtain posters, please contact either me, as below, or Dr. E.W. Coffin School at 403-777-6190. All donated proceeds go to support ongoing environmental education initiatives.

Stay tuned in a future Brentwood Bugle for more about EECOM08, and visit www.eecom.org and www.eecom2008.com for details about this national forum for EE.

