

The River Current

Summer 2007



Our Mission: Promoting watershed sustainability through awareness, linkages and stewardship.

Moopher's Amazing Journey to the Sea ...games now available

The Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is pleased to announce the launch of a new board game that is now available for children. Moopher's Amazing Journey to the Sea is an innovative and fun board game that challenges players to assist Moopher in travelling the river basin to reach the sea.



Moopher is a mischievous gopher who duct-tapes moose antlers to his head so that he can travel the watershed safely. Moopher has many adventures during his journey along the watershed with his friends Moose and Trout.

While the board game is designed for youth age 7 – 12, the game can be enjoyed by children of all ages as there are different ways, depending on skill levels, to assist Moopher with his travels. Younger students can use the matching cards or the dice to move their marker along the game board, while older students can answer the trivia questions.

The back of the game is a large diorama of the different ecosystems that make up the river basin. The instruction booklet contains several additional activities relating to this diorama, "Moopher's Amazing Travels Through Time" and "Moopher's Visit to Different Ecosystems". This all new game is a spectacular way to learn more about the Saskatchewan River basin we live in.

Thanks to the wonderful sponsorship of numerous organizations, the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is able to make this game available to teachers and parents at no cost. If you would like to receive one of these educational and fun games, please contact our office.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada



Red Deer and District Community Foundation



SASKATOON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Winnipeg Foundation
Established in 1921



Other Exciting Programs Available

Water Watchdog is a program that requires students to become "stewards of the river", encouraging hands-on activities during a field trip to a body of water. Students evaluate their site focusing on the wildlife, vegetation and the water quality. The program is designed to offer students an education in water quality and water management while teaching that one individual can help to shape a better and healthier ecosystem.

Click on Climate is a program that seeks to educate youth about the importance of climate change, its effects on ecosystems, and what an individual can do to limit the impacts of climate change. The program focuses on interactive learning, challenging participants to collect "carbon credits".

We are All Upstream Conference

Victoria Inn and Conference Center, Winnipeg MB

November 5-7, 2007



We are all upstream of somebody else. The Red, Saskatchewan, and Winnipeg Rivers all contribute to Lake Winnipeg. Scientific evidence accumulated over the last 70 years now reveals that Lake Winnipeg is approaching a state of deterioration that may affect ecosystem sustainability. We can all do our part! Come help us determine what can be done and how it can be accomplished!



Conference Overview

- Understanding Lake Winnipeg and the impacts from the Saskatchewan River Basin
- Interesting and 'outside of the box' stewardship activities
- Workshop sessions
 - Seeking your input and comments concerning the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin
 - Working to determine what stakeholders in the Red, Winnipeg, Assiniboine, and the North and South Saskatchewan River Watersheds can do to help improve Lake Winnipeg.
 - Determining the next steps towards in a basin wide collaborative effort.

For further details on the "We are All Upstream" conference, please visit www.saskriverbasin.ca. This conference is being hosted by the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin and the Red River Basin Commission.

We are All Upstream - Application for Conference Attendance

November 5-7, 2007 - Winnipeg MB

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____, _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Conference Fees:

Registration: \$175 +GST = (\$185.50)

Extra Banquet tickets: _____ \$25.00 +GST = (\$26.50)
(note 1 ticket is included with registration)

TOTAL:\$ _____

GST Exempt #: _____

Payment may be made by Cheque or Credit Card

(Circle One): Cheque VISA MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Please fax or mail the form to:

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
402 Third Avenue South
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G5
Fax: (306) 665-6117

Please make cheques payable to:
Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin

Alternatively, you may register online at
<http://www.saskriverbasin.ca>

Envirothon in the Prairies

This month will signal the end of another season of Envirothons on the Prairies. More than 40 teams participated in Envirothons across the three Prairie Provinces in 2007.

Envirothon is a competition that blends trail tests, oral competitions and experiential learning opportunities centered on environmental topics. The focus topics include aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife and an environmental theme that changes yearly. This year's theme was renewable energy.

The winners of each of the provincial Envirothon competitions will advance to the Canon International Envirothon in Geneva, New York in July 2007. This event is the largest natural resource competition in North America with more than 70 states and provinces across North America competing for thousands of dollars in prizes.

Manitoba Envirothon



Students from 29 Manitoba high schools competed on May 25 and 26, 2007 at the Brandon Discovery Centre and the University of Brandon to decide the winner of this year's Manitoba Envirothon. One of the teams from Swan Valley Regional School, sponsored by Northwest Soils Management, won this year's event with a strong finish in the Trail Test, bolstered by a solid Orals Presentation score. Tyler Burnside, Amanda Hardie, Savanna Webb, Marcie Schabert and Michael Johnston were advised by Alex Verbo and Shawn Stankewich.

More than 100 volunteers devoted countless hours to this year's event.

The Manitoba Envirothon was possible because of the financial support from a variety of sponsors including Manitoba Forestry Association, Canadian Forest Service, Canon Envirothon Diversity Program, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Conservation, Louisiana-Pacific Canada, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, Manitoba Hydro, Algonquin Power, Sequoia Energy, Jiffy Canada, Tembec-Pine Falls Operations, Manitoba Model Forest, TD Friends of the Environment, and Canadian Institute of Forestry - Manitoba Section.

Saskatchewan Envirothon

Preparing for an Envirothon is no small feat. Planning for a first ever Envirothon is even more demanding. Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin took a lead role in planning the 2007 Envirothon by chairing the planning committee.

The decision to have an Envirothon competition in Saskatchewan resulted from several years of lobbying by teachers, parents and industry partners. With the success of the competition in Manitoba and Alberta, it seemed odd that Saskatchewan would not develop its own Envirothon.



The event took place on May 24 and 25 at Blackstrap Provincial Park, near Dundurn Saskatchewan. The event brought together students and teachers from 7 different schools from across Saskatchewan. The design of the competition was supervised by an organizing committee from various agencies. The first day of the two day competition was a trail test. This marathon consisted of students on a nature trail answering a written exam using information and challenges found at different stations along the trail.

The second day of competition was an oral test. Students received a challenge that they developed a solution for and then presented their solution to a panel of volunteer judges. After the first round of oral competition, the oral scores were added to the trail test scores, and the total score determined the placement of the top teams. These teams presented for a second time to an audience of peers and judges and a winner was determined.

After the grueling test of environmental knowledge, the Saskatchewan Envirothon crowned their first champion: a team from Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The five students from Walter Murray were: Howard Meng, Bobby Xiao, Elizabeth Miazga, BJ Bodnar, Rocky Wang and teacher advisors Claire Cook and Cathi Johnston.

The Saskatchewan Envirothon was possible because of the support from EcoAction Canada, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, TD Friends of the Environment, Cameco Caring Campaign, Canon, the University of Saskatchewan, Ducks Unlimited, the Meewasin Valley Authority, and the Saskatchewan Science Teachers Society.

Alberta Envirothon

The Alberta Envirothon, this year in Grand Prairie, takes a different approach to the competition than Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Rather than simply participating in a trail test and oral competition like in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the Alberta participants attended a field day to hear speakers from the environmental industry. The students were then required to write a detailed exam based on that information. Students were challenged to design a sustainable village to be located in an area containing a grizzly bear population and oil deposits to complete the competition.



The winners of the 10th Annual Alberta Envirothon were from Grande Prairie Composite High School. Team members included Kase de Vries, Crystal Spilchen, Erich Anderson, Jessica Fritzke, and Krista Bruce. The team competed against four other teams to win the honour of becoming provincial champions.

According to Grand Prairie team coach Katie Drummond, "The second place team was not far behind the first place team, it could have been anyone's game." This is the second time that this team has won the Alberta Envirothon.

The Alberta Envirothon receives support from sponsors such as Agricore, TD Friends of the Environment, EnCana and the Province of Alberta, in addition to several others. The first, second and third place students receive a cash prize for their hard work during the competition.

For more information regarding Envirothon please visit
<http://www.envirothon.org>

For information about specific Envirothons, visit:
<http://www.mbenvirothon.com/> (Manitoba)
http://www.saskriverbasin.ca/Envirothon_index.htm (Saskatchewan)
and contact: dlucas@telus.net (Alberta)

Conference and Events Listings

World Rivers Day
September 30, 2007

<http://www.worldriversday.bcit.ca/>

Environmental Excellence - 2007 WCWWMA Annual Conference Trade Show
October 23- 26, 2007

<http://www.wcwwa.ca/2007/2007wcwwa.htm>

Edmonton, AB

Climate 2050 Technology and Policy Solutions
October 24-26, 2007

<http://www.climate2050.org>

Montréal, QB

We are All Upstream!
November 5-7, 2007

<http://www.saskriverbasin.ca>

Winnipeg, MB

If you have an event you would like to include under our listings, please email us at partners@saskriverbasin.ca

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