

CFO helps support Mountsberg's Floating Classroom

Kids will be able to get up close to nature in the new floating classroom at Mountsberg Conservation Area when classes begin next September.

It's thanks to funding for the Floating Classroom project by the Community Foundation of Oakville (CFO) and the Shell Environmental Fund.

The floating class will give kids a new way of learning about critters that live on, above and below the waters with the project.

Starting in August, a new floating classroom will be built at the Mountsberg Reservoir, in the headwaters of the Bronte Creek. It will be

ready for children's visits later that month.

The structure will be wheelchair accessible, and will allow students to take water samples, and observe plants, aquatic insects, fish and birds in their natural habitat while minimizing shoreline damage.

The project is being funded by grants to the Conservation Halton Foundation that raises funds to enhance and protect the natural environment in Halton.

Two organizations – the Shell Environmental Fund and the Community Foundation of Oakville – have provided grants for this project.

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The project costs \$10,000 total, including labour costs.

The Shell Environmental Fund is contributing \$5,000 while the CFO has given \$3,000.

The Shell Environmental Fund has granted more than \$12 million to environmental projects across Canada.

Meanwhile, the CFO links people and causes and has supported environmental projects in partnership with Conservation Halton Found-

ation.

Among these projects includes making the Mountsberg Discovery Centre wheelchair accessible, facilitating the 'greening' of local schoolyards, and partnering in the 2007 Halton Children's Water Festival, which is coming up.

"This is an exciting project that will benefit over 35,000 children from area schools and community groups who visit Mountsberg each year" said Jim Faight, Chair of the

Conservation Halton Foundation.

Conservation Halton is the largest provider of outdoor education in Halton with close to 80,000 students participating in curriculum-based programs at the Crawford Lake and Mountsberg Conservation Areas.

Conservation Halton is the community-based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in its

watershed.

The organization has staff that includes ecologists, land use planners, engineers, foresters and educators along with a network of volunteers who are guided by a board of directors comprised of municipally elected and appointed citizens.

Conservation Halton is recognized for its stewardship of creeks, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands through science based programs and services.

Seven schools complete fitness challenge

Seven Oakville schools have completed the Go Active! Fitness Challenge to earn \$500 in Wintergreen phys-ed credits to use towards new gym equipment for their school.

The participating local schools include: Holy Family School (four classes), Pine Grove School (three classes), Post's Corners Public School (four classes), St. Matthew Catholic School (one class), St. Michael Catholic School (three classes), Sunningdale Public School (three classes), Wildwood Academy of Oakville (two classes).

The Go Active! Fitness Challenge is presented by McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited and the Canadian Olympic Committee, and aims to promote physical activity in students.

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