

Earth Week in Halton Hills



Centennial Public School made its pitch to the world to save the rainforests during last week's celebration of Earth. Earth Week has created a bet-

ter awareness of the environment for students is the general consensus of opinion of elementary school principals. (Herald Photo)



Mrs. Linda Skoropad's Grade 8 class at Stewarttown Public School will be treated to free pizza after winning the Litterless Lunch contest organized by the student council all last week. The class had a totally litter-free lunch on Friday afternoon. The school managed to reduce its regular output of garbage

from nine bags to two bags during the best day of the lunch. Here, from left, Mike Bahr, Kevin Willett, Kevin Glaser, Curtis Behnke, Matt Brain and Dave Wallbridge enjoy a litterless lunch. Oh yes, the students plan to return the pizza boxes when they're done. (Herald photo)



Doing their part for the environment the students of Acton District High School gave the Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) group a cheque for \$300 to help battle a proposed landfill site at the Acton Quarry. The students raised the money through various environmental programs such as environmental bingo. Accepting the award

for P.O.W.E.R. was (from left to right) David Noble, Barbara Halsall and Ruth French. The high school group that presented the cheque were (from left to right) Chris Pulford, Shannon Burrell, Dave Boyle, Dave Thorpe, Heather Dubuc, Tamara Reynolds, Wendy Perkins, Garath Marks, Thanh Nguyen and teacher Jane Forbes. (Herald Photo)

Students studied their environment

By ALAN MACKIE

The Herald

Planting trees and cleaning up the environment around Halton Hills schools during Earth Week celebrations created a better awareness level among students, five Halton Hills elementary school principals say.

Mackenzie-Smith Public School principal, Lillian More, said the students are planning to plant one tree per grade level early next week in Acton.

A science class will be transplanting flower seeds, she said.

She explained Earth Day as a creation of awareness of the environment and then "taking action" in a positive way.

Rick Nodwell, principal of Park Public School, said "What I'd like to do is run it (Earth Day) as an annual event."

Park School has already planted a sugar-maple tree and Mr. Nodwell said he would like to plant a tree every year.

The school ran announcements about what Earth Day means all last week, and has begun ordering recycled garbage bags, he added.

Another school to run announcements throughout the week was Stewarttown Public School.

Stewarttown ran a "Think Green" competition, principal Ray Morrison said. The competition consists of groups of four students who would work on a solution to an environmental problem and present it in a skit form in front of their classes. The best group from each class presented their skit to their grade level. The best from each grade level presented their

skit to the school Thursday. Garth Turner, member of parliament for Halton-Peel, was expected to speak to the students when they performed their skits, Mr. Morrison said.

The school has also been cleaning up the school yard and going on nature walks, he added.

Bob McCaw, principal of Harrison Public School, thought Earth Week was a good time. His entire school planted a flowering Crab Tree and every class planted a tree. "It was great," he said.

The students cleaned up the yard and put the garbage in the gym to see how much there was, he said. They also saved their garbage on one day and tried to bring in non-throw away lunches the next day and saved the garbage. Both of the days' garbage was weighed and the students realized they could save half the amount of garbage they throw away if they want to, he said.

The students also wrote letters to put in a time capsule, at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, he said. This capsule will be opened in the year 2010. The question it asked students was what they would like themselves and the environment to be like in 20 years, he said.

Joseph Gibbons Public School's Bruce Trail hiker's club will be cleaning up a section of the Bruce Trail, principal Arlene Callaghan said.

The school is also planning to build a habitat for wildlife by planting trees and shrubs, she said. The habitat will be home for rodents, birds and snakes, Ms. Callaghan said.

Pre-school children can learn about the environment

By JOHN and DONNA KUENZIG

Georgetown Day Care Centre

We would like to tell you about our ongoing focus on environmental issues, and the degree to which pre-school children are able to understand the problems and be involved in the problem solving.

We recycle our tins and glass, and have cut our paper consumption by at least 50%. We have a pattern for making envelopes from scrap paper. The parents are very supportive of our efforts to teach the children to use less, and to cut our waste. They bring in paper and cardboard, which would have been discarded at their workplace, and save egg cartons, meat trays, wrapping paper and scraps of wool for our creative shelves.

This will be our second year to have a garden. The children were actively involved in the whole process from the beginning, and started by bending pieces of sod and shaking off the earth when we first opened up our garden plot last year. They planted, weeded, watered and watched over the plot, and then had the pleasure of harvesting and eating the produce. We also had a lovely

patch of wildflowers, as one child provided the seeds.

All of our compostable material goes into a compost container in the day care kitchen, and we get finished compost back for our garden. When we have lunch or a snack the children know what goes in the compost container and what does not, e.g., no meat, but all of the egg shells, fruit and vegetable waste and any piece of read which might fall on the floor.

At lunch time, we teach the children to take a moderate portion of food, and to ask for second servings if they are hungry. They know that this prevents waste.

The week prior to Earth Day our learning theme was "Taking Care of the Earth". We learned about the real necessities of life - clean water to drink, and trees and plants to keep the air clean.

On May 5 (Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon) we are having an Open House, and our active learning displays will help children become environmentally aware. Everyone is welcome, there will be activities for all ages. We are located in the Norval School, in the Village of Norval.

Organic compost

Made from vegetable scraps, unsprayed grass clippings, leaves, fruit peelings and cores and other yard and garden waste.

USES:

- An excellent slow release fertilizer for indoor or outdoor plants.
- Helps soil to remain loose and crumbly for good root development and drainage.
- Encourages beneficial (and necessary) insects and micro organisms.
- Retains moisture.

Try some on your indoor plants; top dress with a little in each pot.