

Skippers jump for heart

April 12 saw over 70 students from Schreiber Public School participate in Jump Rope for Heart, a cardiovascular health program sponsored by the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Jump Rope for Heart promotes cardiovascular fitness through

jumping rope while raising funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation through a non-competitive jump event.

Students skip in teams with team members taking turns skipping. Team members secure pledges for the time skipped by their team.

The students in Schreiber raised \$4,456.33. Mrs. Brend's grades five and six class raised \$1,572.62 making them the "top class" fundraisers.

The top team was the "Flying Kangaroos" with Scott King, Roy Power, Chris Jordans and Liam

Waters raising \$499.15.

The "top student" fundraisers were: grade 3, Clinton Berthelot; grade 4, Cherie Costa; grade 5-6, Liam Waters; and grades 7-8, Martin Waters.

Honorable mentions go to the following fundraisers: Nicholas Godin, Harry Tymko, Kerry

McBride, Wendy Morrison, Roy Powers, Kyle Long, Evan McEwen, Steven Hart, Scott King and Andrew Adey.

Congratulations to all the skippers and thanks to the generous people who sponsored this worthwhile event.

Terrace Bay - Schreiber

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Johnny Biosphere has a serious message

By Dave Chmara

Donning his alter ego, Dr. Jack Vallentyne transformed himself from an internationally renowned scientist to Johnny Biosphere.

Vallentyne, senior scientist with Fisheries and Oceans at the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario, uses his split personality, Johnny Biosphere, to give presentations to elementary school students and to make them more aware of the world in which we live.

Biosphere, who has a backpack with a globe on the top strapped to his back, gave presentations to students at Terrace Bay Public School and St. Martin School on Tuesday, May 2.

He carries the globe on his back to remind him he is part of the world's environment. It also reminds him his actions affect the environment and in turn, the environment affects him.

"It gives me a sense of being in and part of the ecosystem instead of just looking at it," said Vallentyne.

Vallentyne explained the biosphere is the outer shell of the earth - the oceans, land and atmosphere.

The backpack also contains a tape recorder which plays sounds of whales, birds, elephants and other animals of the world.

His presentations are geared to specific grades. For the older grades (7 and 8), he speaks about acid rain, the depletion of the ozone layer, and industrial pollutants (in both the environment and in our bodies).

By discussing these topics, he hopes the students will raise questions with their parents about the state of our environment.

The presentation for the younger grades is not quite as

serious and ominous and allows for more participation by the students.

Vallentyne touched upon the subject of the harm being done to the earth's ozone layer. He asked the grade 7 and 8 students how many had heard of the problem

and well over half the children had heard something about it.

He told the students if the world stopped using all the chemicals that harm the ozone layer, it would take one to two centuries for the damage to be reversed.

Dividing the students into two

groups, he told one side they were the United States, and the other was Canada.

Telling them pollution from Ohio falls in Canada, he "sent the pollution back" by spraying the United States side with some "acid rain".

Students on the Canadian side loved it - until they were told acid rain from Ontario falls in New York. Accordingly, they were sprayed with some "acid rain".

Of course, teachers drive cars, which adds to the acid rain problem, so they too were squirted with some of the "acid rain".

It seemed like all fun and games until Vallentyne told everybody it was real acid rain he was spraying them with.

"So if you go to comb your hair tomorrow and it falls out, or your skin starts to turn black and peel off, blame the acid rain," he said.

Vallentyne continued, "actually, if acid rain falls on you, it won't hurt you," but when it gets into the environment it kills lake and fish and trees.

He told students by using cars less and conserving energy, acid rain could be reduced.

Concluding one of his presentations, Vallentyne told a story of his grandfather canoeing on Lake Superior about 60 years ago. His grandfather then went swimming and the sweat from his body went into the lake.

"How long do you think it takes for 90 per cent of the salt in his sweat to be removed from the lake?" he asked.

The guesses from the students ranged from two months to five years.

"It takes about 500 years for the salt to be removed," Vallentyne said.

This simple illustration showed the students how mankind affects the environment.

Vallentyne left the students with this message. "Saving and protecting the environment begins in Terrace Bay and all the Terrace Bays in the world. It starts in your own back yard."



Jack Vallentyne (alias Johnny Biosphere) gave presentations about the environment to students at Terrace Bay Public School and St. Martin School. Students heard about problems with acid rain, the ozone layer, and how our actions affect our environment.
Photo by Dave Chmara



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