



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE *CHALK TALK* WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

In the spring of 1845, the American author and naturalist, [Henry David Thoreau](#), built a one room cabin in a wooded area surrounding Walden Pond. He contemplated his life while living alone in those woods for two years, two months, and two days. The fruit of his ponderings became his best known work, [Walden](#), published in 1854.



He went to the woods “to live deliberately”, he says, “to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life”. Thoreau’s words have inspired thousands to develop a closer relationship with the natural world. His message is as important today as it was then, given the increasing mi-

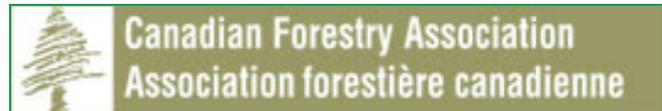
gration to urban centres.

As Canadians, we enjoy an embarrassment of riches when it comes to forests and access to nature. At this time of the year I find myself seeking out even the most modest trail, along a creek or ravine, to observe nature renew itself. The “spring green” of the leaves and multi-coloured burst of wildflowers and tree blossoms, are a feast for the senses and serve to re-connect us with the miracle of life.



Inspiring young people to develop and maintain a life-long interest in nature is critical to the preservation of our forests for future generations. This week’s *Chalk Talk* features information on a competition for high school students which encourages hands-on participation in the conservation and protection of Canada’s forests, water, and wildlife and provides links to a series of excellent free educational resources for all age levels to support the

ENVIROTHON 2006 nears the Finish Line



Since its inception in 1979, the [Canon Envirothon](#), originally known as the ‘Environmental Olympics’, has been North America’s largest high school environmental education competition. Reaching more than 500,000 students across North America annually, Envirothon, administered in Canada under the auspices of The Canadian Forestry Association, promotes environmental education based on teamwork, collaboration and competition.

The competition, which combines in-class curriculum with hands-on experiences, involves students in teams of five from grades 9-12 to prepare group oral presentations on four environmental themes: aquatic ecology, forests, soils and wildlife plus a fifth



topic selected on an annual basis. This year’s topic is Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate.

All teams compete regionally, with local educators and professionals leading workshops and field trips. Winning teams proceed to the provincial and international team competitions. Manitoba has won the right to host the 2006 international competition where qualifying high school student provincial/state teams from across North America will compete for recognition, prizes and scholarships, in a week-long competition to be held at the University of Manitoba from July 23-29.

For more information on **Envirothon 2006**, [click here](#).

[Source: [Canadian Forestry Association online](#)]

Founded in 1900, the Canadian Forestry Association is Canada’s oldest conservation organization. For over 100 years it has advocated the protection and wise use of Canada’s forest, water, and wildlife resources through public awareness and education programs. By promoting sustainable forest development, management and conservation, the CFA helps shape the future of Canada’s forest and nurtures our economic and environmental health.

provides links to a range of excellent free educational resources for all age levels to support the teaching of these important conservation issues.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at 4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

As always, your feedback is important to us.

[Let us know your thoughts.](#)



Mary Kovack

the future of Canada's forest and nurtures our economic and environmental health.

The **CFA Teaching Kits Series** provides educators with the tools to help young people better understand the value of forests and the importance of protecting and conserving them. Each kit includes detailed lesson plans, practical information on forest issues, and examples of relevant recovery, conservation and stewardship programs. The lessons incorporate interactive, hands-on activities that reflect science and geography based learning outcomes and expectations in Canada's provincial and territorial curriculum guidelines. They also encourage exploration through language and visual arts, social studies, drama and other subjects.

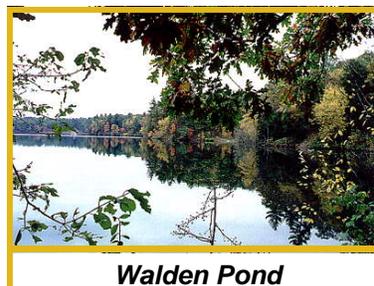


To order CFA educational resources, [click here](#).

[Source: [Canadian Forestry Association Online](#)]

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practise resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion." — Henry David Thoreau, 1854, [Walden, "Where I Lived and What I Lived For"](#) [Chapter 2, paragraph 16].



Walden Pond

Facts & Figures — Seeing the Forest for the Trees



Students from Charlottetown Rural High School Participate in Envirothon 2003

- Trees reduce carbon by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and storing carbon in their trunks, branches, leaves and roots.
- One large healthy tree can lift up to 4,000 litres of water from the ground and release it into the air, absorb as many as 7,000 dust particles per litre of air, absorb 75% of the CO₂ produced by the average car and provide a day's oxygen for up to four people.
- Trees shade soil, protect it from drying out, keeping it from washing away.
- Trees help beautify our communities, absorb the noisy sounds of a city and can help us save on heating and cooling bills.
- The average Canadian uses one 30-metre tree each year for lumber, plywood, particle board, cardboard and paper products.
- The construction of the average Canadian home requires 47 cubic meters of wood or a little more than a full truck load of wood.
- Each year Canada loses enough wood through fire, insects and waste to build 125,000 bungalows.
- One cord of wood can yield 7,500,000 toothpicks, 4,384,000 postage stamps or 89,870 sheets of 8 ½ x 11 bond paper.
- Whereas in a natural forest, the chances that a seed will grow into a mature tree are about 1 in 1 million, about 500 trees will reach maturity out of a stand of 20,000 seedlings.

[Source: [Canadian Forestry Association Online](#)]

Education News

['Degree creep': Why a BA won't cut it anymore. Many post-secondary grads top up arts degrees with MAs to compete.](#) — Alexandria Zabjek, The Ottawa Citizen, May 15, 2006

[to compete.](#)— Alexandria Zabjek, The Ottawa Citizen, May 15, 2006

“It’s no secret that a high school diploma isn’t enough to break into many fields these days. Statistics Canada estimates a 70-per-cent jump, between 1990 and 2004, in the number of employed Ontarians who have post-secondary diplomas. For many university graduates, even their initial degree isn’t enough and they’re topping up their BAs with master’s courses or technical diplomas.”

[Province reaches out to youth struggling with bullying. A new campaign and helpline are making it easier for youth to stand up and stop bullying.](#)— Alberta Government News Release, May 12, 2006

“The Government of Alberta launched a new 24-hour helpline for youth as part of a bullying awareness campaign. Young people who are struggling with bullying and are in need of help can call 1-888-456-2323 for support and referral.”

[New Class-Size Limits Help Improve Student Achievement](#) — Ministry of Education, BC Government, News Release, April 27, 2006

“The Province introduced legislation today establishing new class-size limits, accountability measures and requirements for consulting with parents and teachers to help improve student achievement.”

[Province helps School Boards fight Pine Beetle](#) — Ministry of Education, BC Government, News Release, April 29, 2006

“The Province will provide school boards with \$1 million to help offset the costs of removing trees on school grounds affected by the mountain pine beetle, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today. “For safety reasons, many school boards have had to remove trees that have been damaged or killed by the mountain pine beetle,” said Bond. “This funding will help boards deal with the costs they’ve incurred as a result of the damage to trees on school property.”

[Path at Walden Pond dedicated in Thoreau’s Honour](#) — Boston.com News, May 15, 2006

“Conservationists led by rock singer Don Henley honored the legacy of Henry David Thoreau by dedicating a path bearing his name near the pond where the 19th century author undertook an experiment in simple living, helping inspire generations of environmentalists.”

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416.955.9526
416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • www.coedcomm.com • info@coedcomm.com

