

ECOLINKS 2019

Thursday, May 16th 2019 - High Park Nature Centre, Toronto

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT ECOLINKS!

Conference tips:






- Bring a travel mug, water bottle, plate, fork and spoon.
- Dress for the weather (bring rain gear and footwear that you don't mind getting muddy).
- Parking is very limited at High Park – please take transit or carpool if you can. See www.osee.ca for travel suggestions.



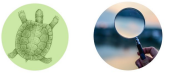
Conference Schedule





Important note for all attendees: Due to City of Toronto permitting, there is limited capacity in each workshop (25 people). To support this several workshops are offered twice. To best facilitate your workshop selection and sign-up process please arrive at 8:30am and plan your 1st, 2nd & 3rd choices for each session ahead of time.

Workshop Themes Legend

 1) Inquiry-based learning	 2) Makerspaces and loose parts play	 3) Exploring food systems through environmental education	 4) Indigenous perspectives & environmental education	 5) Environmental justice
---	---	--	--	--

8:15-8:50	Arrival & Check-in - - - Workshop Sign-up, Refreshments & Exhibitors - Main Room
8.50-	Conference Welcome - Main Room

9:00				
9:00-10:10	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Session 1</p> <p>Place-based Learning in High Park <u>Mallory Parks and Magali Meagher (High Park Nature Centre)</u></p> <p>Themes: Other: place-based learning, hands-on stewardship</p> <p>What do you think came first, the nature or the city? Explore how place-based education connects students to the land in this hands-on workshop that incorporates skits, hikes, and games to teach about the natural and human history of High Park's Black Oak Savannah, an endangered ecosystem. You will learn about the First Nations history of savannah management and the current practices in High Park that help bring back this sensitive ecosystem, then get your hands dirty to help the savannah yourself!</p> <p>Primary; Junior; Intermediate; General interest/Personal development</p> <p>Outdoors Meet outside South doors by circle of Austrian pines <i>*If heavy rain meet on East side veranda</i></p>	<p>Natural Curiosity: The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children's Environmental Inquiry <u>Haley Higdon and Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity - Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, Lab School)</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>This workshop explores environmental inquiry through an indigenous lens, and is founded on the 2nd edition of the Natural Curiosity guide. The workshop will support educators in exploring how we can help children develop an ongoing, intimate, and deeply informed relationship with their environment.</p> <p>Primary; Junior</p> <p>Indoors and Outdoors Meet in Chipmunk Burrow</p>	<p>Imaginative Games & Loose Parts Play <u>Peter Demakos (Evergreen)</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>Other: placed-based learning, mindfulness & well-being</p> <p>Join Peter Demakos from Evergreen for a creative and curriculum-connected experience, where you will learn how to incorporate nature-focused and experiential approaches into your classroom. You will experience inquiry and play-based activities that are easy to implement, and will inspire you to get outside with children and youth!</p> <p>*Intermediate; Senior; General Interest/Personal Development</p> <p><i>*Will lead the workshop for Primary and Junior in Session 4</i></p> <p>Indoors & Outdoors Meet in main room</p>	<p>Global Meal <u>Teresa Rigg (YMCA - Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre)</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>Can you combine social justice, food systems, and environmental education? Channel your inner Iron Chef to create a meal from a set of supplied resources. Designed to stimulate creative collaboration amongst intermediate elementary to high school-age participants, Cedar Glen's Global Meal gets students to reflect on sharing environmental resources such as food, fuel and water. Support student to work together to decide how to use their resources to make a meal while problem solving, experimenting and sharing knowledge and life experiences with each other. This workshop will provide a "taste" of this half-day outdoor education program.</p> <p>Intermediate; Senior; General Interest/Personal Development</p> <p>Outdoors Meet in OURSpace <i>*If heavy rain meet in cloakroom</i></p>

10:10-10:15	Travel to next workshop				
10:15-11:25	Session 2	<p>Education tools to bring Indigenous Knowledge into the classroom</p> <p><u>Ludiwine Clouzot (EcoLoodi) & Amber Sandy (Ryerson Univ.)</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>Set up your classroom outside and incorporate indigenous knowledge into your teaching. From storytelling to nature exploration, sharing circle, inquiry-based learning, group artwork and water song, this workshop will provide educators and teachers with indigenous education tools that can easily be applied to any age range.</p> <p>Primary; Junior; Intermediate; Senior; General Interest/Personal Development</p> <p>Indoors & Outdoors Meet outside South doors by circle of Austrian pines <i>*If heavy rain meet on East side veranda</i></p>	<p>School Watch: Green Spaces as Learning Places</p> <p><u>Sara Bowman & Carina Nunes (EcoSpark)</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>Teachers participate in a School Watch workshop to learn about leading citizen science projects with classes on school grounds for students in grades K-12. EcoSpark presents curriculum-linked environmental monitoring projects such as plant inventories and bird surveys. The projects allow students to contribute meaningful data while learning about ecosystem health, positive actions, and environmental science in the community. Teachers can earn points toward EcoSchool certification and gain hands-on resources for animating school ground greening spaces.</p> <p>Junior; Intermediate</p> <p>Indoors & Outdoors Meet in Chipmunk Burrow</p>	<p>Garbage To-Go!</p> <p><u>Ali Stankiewicz (Junction Creek Stewardship Committee)</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>One coffee and a muffin to go please! How often do we hear this when we enter into a fast-food restaurant? The problem with this fast-paced lifestyle is that we do not stop to think about the garbage we are accumulating and whether or not we are disposing of it appropriately. As a result, urban centres are littered with remnants of fast-food waste. This workshop will highlight some of the common problems faced by grassroots organizations who are trying to maintain and restore healthy ecosystems within an urban centre.</p> <p>Junior; Primary</p> <p>Indoors Meet in main room</p>	<p>Choosing Hope from the Menu</p> <p><u>Sabrina Chiefari, BES</u></p> <p>Themes:</p>  <p>Humans, whether we like it or not, universally connect over two things: food and telling stories around food. Ecological Grief is a pending reality for many people, as Climate Change progresses. With it, changes to traditional foods, ecological knowledge, and more begin to change our collective narrative to one decidedly grim. Environmental Educators are invited to participate in this hands-on workshop that will explore how to keep hopeful messages through stories and changing food systems.</p> <p>General Interest/Personal Development; Primary; Junior; Intermediate; Senior</p> <p>Outdoors Meet outside North doors on lawn area <i>*If heavy rain meet in cloakroom</i></p>
11:25-11:45	Break: Exhibitors and Refreshments				

11:45-12:55

Session 3

Education tools to bring Indigenous Knowledge into the classroom

[Ludiwine Clouzot \(EcoLoodi\) & Amber Sandy \(Ryerson Univ.\)](#)

Themes:



Set up your classroom outside and incorporate indigenous knowledge into your teaching. From storytelling to nature exploration, sharing circle, inquiry-based learning, group artwork and water song, this workshop will provide educators and teachers with indigenous education tools that can easily be applied to any age range.

Primary; Junior; Intermediate; Senior; General Interest/Personal Development

Outdoors

Meet outside South doors by circle of Austrian pines
**If heavy rain meet on East side veranda*

Growing Health & Taste at the Doorstep

[Robert Patterson \(The Growing Connection\)](#)

Themes:



The Growing Connection has built sustainable vegetable gardens at schools around the world since 2003 – first as part of a United Nations anti-hunger effort and, since 2011, as a social enterprise. The priority goals are: (1) engage children in sustainable food production, (2) demonstrate to families and communities the rewards of innovative horticulture/agriculture, and (3) solidify the functional links between our internal environment (health & nutrition) and our external environment (production with organic, re-usable materials).

Primary; Junior; Intermediate Senior; General Interest/Personal Development

Indoors & Outdoors

Meet in the Chipmunk Burrow

Inquire and Create in the Early Years

[Donna Indrakumaran, DPCDSB](#)

Themes:



Want to help your students to make their thinking visible in creative and authentic learning invitations? Hands on explorations with clay, watercolour and fine art materials along with loose parts will be provided to explore theories. Learn and delve deeper into using materials to tell stories about wonders Outdoors. Inquiry binders and other forms of documentation will be shared.

Kindergarten; Primary

Indoors & Outdoors
Meet in main room

Picking up Litter: Pointless Exercise or Powerful Inquiry Tool?

[Bonnie Anderson \(SCDSB\) & Pam Miller \(TDSB\)](#)

Themes:



Other: Global Competencies

“Globally competent individuals are aware, curious, and interested in learning about the world and how it works. They also have the capacity and disposition to understand and act on pressing issues of local and global significance” ([Mansilla & Jackson, 2011](#)).

Join us to explore how we can leverage litter clean-ups to investigate personal and cultural perspectives, take actions based on evidence and seek to make true impacts on local and global waste issues.

Junior; Intermediate

Outdoors

Meet outside North doors on lawn area
**If heavy rain meet on West side veranda*

12:55-
2:00

Lunch by [Flying Chestnut Kitchen](#) & OSEE AGM - All attendees welcome

****We will be recruiting new board members for 2019/20! If you are interested click here and apply by May 12th.***

2:00-3:10

Session 4

The Great Canoe Journey

[Danyka Leclair](#)
(Waterlution)

Themes:



The Great Canoe Journey workshops are part of the nation-wide Great Canoe Journey school program by Waterlution. Students and teachers learn waters and indigenous cultures through the lens of traditional canoes. Workshops include hands on learning about local traditional canoes and construction materials, a local traditional water story or prayer. Students then brainstorm how water is connected to all cultures, and then work together to plan an event at their school to celebrate water and cultural diversity.

Junior; Intermediate

Indoors & Outdoors

Meet outside South doors by circle of Austrian pines
**If heavy rain meet on East side veranda*

Imaginative Games & Loose Parts Play

[Peter Demakos](#) (Evergreen)

Themes:



Other: placed-based learning, mindfulness & well-being

Join Peter Demakos from Evergreen for a creative and curriculum-connected experience, where you will learn how to incorporate nature-focused and experiential approaches into your classroom. You will experience inquiry and play-based activities that are easy to implement, and will inspire you to get outside with children and youth!

***Primary; Junior; General Interest/Personal Development**

***Will lead the workshop for Intermediate & Senior in Session 1**

Indoors & Outdoors

Meet in Chipmunk Burrow

Community Mapping of Sustainability Issues: Using Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Program to inspire inquiry-based learning

[Lauren Saville](#)
(Jane Goodall Institute)

Themes:



This presentation will take educators through the Roots & Shoots 4 steps: 1) Engage and inspire through the story of Jane Goodall, 2) Observe and map their community for sustainability issues, 3) Take action to make change and 4) Celebrate their impact. Educators will learn how the program helps to encourage inquiry-based learning by allowing students to be the ones to lead, choosing the issue and action they want to do to help people, animals and the environment. [Read more...](#)

Primary; Junior; Intermediate; Senior

Indoors & Outdoors

Meet in main room

Place-based Learning in High Park

[Mallory Parks and Magali Meagher](#)
(High Park Nature Centre)

Themes:

- Other: place-based learning, hands-on stewardship

What do you think came first, the nature or the city? Explore how place-based education connects students to the land in this hands-on workshop that incorporates skits, hikes, and games to teach about the natural and human history of High Park's Black Oak Savannah, an endangered ecosystem. You will learn about the First Nations history of savannah management and the current practices in High Park that help bring back this sensitive ecosystem, then get your hands dirty to help the savannah yourself!

Primary; Junior; Intermediate; General interest/Personal development

Outdoors

Meet outside North doors on the lawn
**If heavy rain meet on West side veranda*

3:10-3:25

Break - Exhibitors & Prize Draw

3:25-4:35

Session 5

Picking up Litter: Pointless Exercise or Powerful Inquiry Tool?

[Bonnie Anderson \(SCDSB\) & Pam Miller \(TDSB\)](#)

Themes:



Other: Global Competencies

“Globally competent individuals are aware, curious, and interested in learning about the world and how it works. They also have the capacity and disposition to understand and act on pressing issues of local and global significance” ([Mansilla & Jackson, 2011](#)).

Join us to explore how we can leverage litter clean-ups to investigate personal and cultural perspectives, take actions based on evidence and seek to make true impacts on local and global waste issues.

Junior; Intermediate

Outdoors

Meet outside North doors on lawn area

****If heavy rain meet on West side veranda***

School Watch: Green Spaces as Learning Places

[Carina Nunes & Sara Bowman \(EcoSpark\)](#)

Themes:



Teachers participate in a School Watch workshop to learn about leading citizen science projects with classes on school grounds for students in grades K-12. EcoSpark presents curriculum-linked environmental monitoring projects such as plant inventories and bird surveys. The projects allow students to contribute meaningful data while learning about ecosystem health, positive actions, and environmental science in the community. Teachers can earn points toward EcoSchool certification and gain hands-on resources for animating school ground greening spaces.

Junior; Intermediate

Indoors & Outdoors

Meet in Chipmunk burrow

Community Mapping of Sustainability Issues: Using Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots Program to inspire inquiry-based learning

[Lauren Saville \(Jane Goodall Institute\)](#)

Themes:



This presentation will take educators through the Roots & Shoots 4 steps: 1) Engage and inspire through the story of Jane Goodall, 2) Observe and map their community for sustainability issues, 3) Take action to make change and 4) Celebrate their impact. Educators will learn how the program helps to encourage inquiry-based learning by allowing students to be the ones to lead, choosing the issue and action they want to do to help people, animals and the environment. [Read more...](#)

Primary; Junior; Intermediate; Senior

Indoors & Outdoors

Meet in main room

4:35- 4:45	Final Prize Draw & Closing Remarks
4:45- 5:00	Networking and snacks

Click here for the compact [at a glance conference schedule](#)