

**Lesser Slave Forest Education Society
Annual Report
September 2007 – August 2008**



“Forest Focused Environmental Education”



LESSER SLAVE
**FOREST
EDUCATION
SOCIETY**

Lesser Slave Forest Education Society Synopsis

The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society was founded in 1999 by a group of educators, forestry professionals, government representatives and concerned citizens. The Society is committed to forest focused environmental education and public awareness of forestry in the Lesser Slave Lake Region. The Society's mandate is to provide bias-balanced information to the public, particularly the youth, on forestry and environmental matters. It has been successful in reaching over 25,000 students through the use of more than 1100 curriculum related school programs. It has organized teacher workshops and several high profile events, along with 14 successful weeklong summer Boreal Forest Discovery Camps. The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society is proud to have inspired the youth of our community in becoming responsible stewards of the environment.



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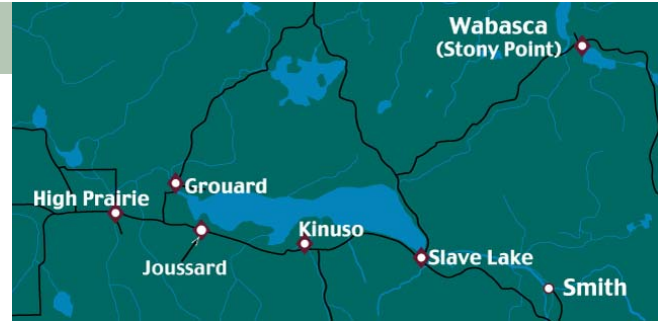
M.J. Munn-Kristoff - Executive Director

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Our Region

The LSFES covers a fairly extensive area. There are seven school boards operating in this region with 22 schools currently being serviced by the Society, many of them in aboriginal communities. The LSFES has future plans to expand their boundaries geographically within Northern Alberta, including into many First Nation communities.



The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society recognizes a need to provide environmental resource materials and personnel for the schools within the region. Lesser Slave Lake is located within an actively managed boreal and foothills forests with a wide array of commercial and recreational uses. The need to present bias balanced information to the youth became paramount in the promotion of forest and environmental sustainability. The achievements of the society since 2000 exemplifies its organizational strength.



Dear friends and supporters,

The pictures in this report tell the whole story of the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society! In this case, a picture definitely says a thousand words. Through them you can see that we inspire, teach, learn, encourage, discover, create, investigate and have fun! We are growing! The statistics tell the story! In the year 2000, when the forest education society started we saw 1200 students. In 2001 that number doubled to 2400 and last year we saw over 4500 students! In the past 8 years we have seen close to 25,000 students. This translates to over 1100 classes, in 22 schools, in 9 communities.

Our success is due to many people and a diverse group of organizations and we say THANK YOU! We especially need to thank all the teachers for inviting us into their schools and classrooms. Every year our programming grows because you invite us back.

Yours truly,

M.J. Munn-Kristoff
Executive Director



OBJECTIVE ONE

To create, develop & implement curriculum based forest education programming from K to Grade 12.

What is Forest Education?

- Studying plants and animals
- Learning about rocks and minerals
- Discovering wetland ecosystems
- Exploring trees and forests
- Seeing a variety of ecosystems
- Understanding biological diversity
- Encountering forest industry
- Planning for careers
- Practicing sustainable forest management



2007 – 2008 Total

- 4560 students
- 36 classroom presentations
- 183 fieldtrips
- 16 forestry school tours

8 Year Grand Total

- 25,000 students
- 312 classroom presentations
- 700 fieldtrips
- 110 forestry school tours



New this year was a Biology 20 fieldtrip where students explored a forest ecosystem and did a plot study to identify both the biotic and abiotic components of this unique environment.

“The Bio 20 fieldtrip was excellent— it fit the curriculum perfectly. My students had fun”



“Students were actively engaged ! It was very hands on and age appropriate.”



Also new was a classroom presentation for Grade 9's on Biodiversity. Students investigated different tree species and inferred how each is adapted to life within the boreal forest ecosystem.

“We’ve got fun down to a science!”

OBJECTIVE TWO

To promote forest education and public awareness with special event programming throughout the year.



16 forestry school tours with 340 Grade 6 students learning about forestry



Focus on Forestry Careers saw 13 classes for a total of 292 students



Special Event Programming

- Annual Fundraising Dinners
- Provincial Forest Week School Tours
- Provincial Forest Week Poster Contest
- Career Fairs; Trade Shows
- Focus on Forestry Careers
- Wildlife Discovery
- Logger Sports Competition
- Lesser Slave Lake Forest History book
- Science in a Crate via Science Alberta

Alberta Forestry Week Poster Contest Winner, Tristan Laderoute from Gift Lake School, got a free helicopter ride compliments of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. During his ride, the helicopter got called out to a fire so Tristan got "the full meal deal!" The three other winners were DeLauren Anderson, also from Gift Lake School; as well as Holly Rafuse and Taylor Halbert from EG Wahlstrom School in Slave Lake.

Check out our website at www.lsfes.org

OBJECTIVE THREE

To develop summer day camp programming for communities operating youth programs.

The Boreal Forest Discovery Camp provides hands-on, interactive learning programs, where youth have the opportunity to participate in various environmental activities in the boreal forest. During their time in camp participants will learn about the forest itself, some of the plants and wildlife that make it so unique and why we need to manage the forest in a sustainable manner.

Boreal Forest Discovery Camp 2008



SURVIVAL

Campers learned what to do if they get lost in the bush & how to make a shelter



ECOLOGY

Campers identified plants of the boreal forest and discovered the wildlife that live there



INSECTS

Campers collected a variety of bugs and explored this unique micro-habitat

BFDC 2008 SUCCESSES

- Increased participant numbers for a total of 74 campers
- Attracted participants from more communities
- New partnerships were formed with other camps
- Over 30 individuals from 12 organizations provided expertise
- Staff provided exceptional environmental programming
- Campers were enthusiastic, positive and energetic



FBI MYSTERY

The FBI or the Forest Bureau of Investigation had a double homicide to solve at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation. Both Sammy and Sally Spruce were dead and Tim the Conservation Officer wanted to know why! The campers eyes bugged out of their heads when Tim drove up the road with his siren and lights wailing away and then recruited the campers to become agents of the FBI to solve this heinous crime.

Joint Project

The Boreal Forest Discovery Camp is a joint project between the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society, Northern Lakes College, Town of Slave Lake and the High Prairie and District Regional Recreation Board.

OBJECTIVE FOUR

Host workshops for teachers interested in enhancing their environmental and forestry curriculum.

- Wood Science workshops
- Forest Education conference
- Annual workshops for Professional Development days for teachers
- School Staff meeting presentations
- Provide resource material
- Assist with Forestry 1000 fieldtrips through Northern Lakes College



OTHER SUCCESSES



The LSFES continues to partner with **Inside Education and Ducks Unlimited** to provide boreal wetlands education programming for grades 3, 5 & 8.



The LSFES has a unique relationship with the **Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation** where the boreal educator, **Cori Klassen**, (disguised as Charlie the Carpenter Ant) works jointly for both organizations.



The Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence is pleased to recognize the **LSFES as a finalist for the 2008 Emerald Awards.**

LSFES Scholarship

The LSFES has collaborated with the Boreal Forest Research Centre to provide two \$500 scholarship to students interested in pursuing careers in forestry, natural resources or environmental sciences. Successful applicants are also eligible for an additional \$500 from Northern Alberta Development Council. The winners for 2008 are **Dylan MacIntyre** going into Environmental Sciences and **Matthew Kristoff** going into Forestry.

Accomplishments

1. **Students** - benefit through hands on interactive outdoor experiences, fun and adventure, as well as scholarships.
2. **Teachers** - have access to unique resources, better fieldtrips and access to professional expertise.
3. **Industry** - benefits through interaction with local communities, opportunity to share knowledge, future employees, demonstration of stewardship, networks and affiliations.
4. **Communities and families** - benefit with family leisure opportunities, current forest information and community spirit.

THANK YOU TO OUR:

Membership



Supporters



Carson Forestry
Services



- EG Wahlstrom School
- CJ Schurter School
- St. Mary of the Lake School

Individual Supporters

- Darcie Acton & Nelson Lutz
- Chris & Chrissy Schischikowsky
- Edith Mackenzie & Pat Potvin

Valuable Resource Organizations

- Alberta Camping Association
- Alberta Environment
- Alberta Forest Products Association
- Boreal Forest Research Centre
- CAREERS: The Next Generation
- Fish and Wildlife
- Grande Prairie and Area Forest Education Society
- Junior Forest Wardens
- Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory
- Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park
- Mackenzie Forest Education Society
- Northern Alberta Development Council
- Science Alberta Foundation
- WOLF (Woodland Operations Learning Foundation)

Your donation is key to our success!

To make a donation, please contact:
Chris Schischikowsky ph : 780-805-3069
Or email: chris@vanderwell.com