

**Lesser Slave Forest Education Society
Annual Report
September 2008 – August 2009**



“Forest Focused Environmental Education”



LESSER SLAVE
**FOREST
EDUCATION
SOCIETY**

Lesser Slave Forest Education Society Synopsis

This year marks a milestone for the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society (LSFES) as we embark on our 10th year of operation. Our original members are still active and we would like to welcome the new organizations that have joined us – Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA), Inside Education and most recently, the Lesser Slave Watershed Council and the Community Development Trust Fund. With everyone's continuous support, our 10th year will be spectacular.

The LSFES is a non – profit organization that is committed to “forest focused environmental education”. We offer curriculum related programs through interactive fieldtrips and classroom presentations to schools and community groups. We have successfully reached over 30,000 students through 1350 curriculum related school programs and over the summer we have delivered programming for 16 successful week-long discovery camps. We are extremely proud to have inspired the youth of our community in becoming responsible stewards of the environment.

Forest Educators



Cori



Tanis



MJ

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M.J. Munn-Kristoff - Executive Director

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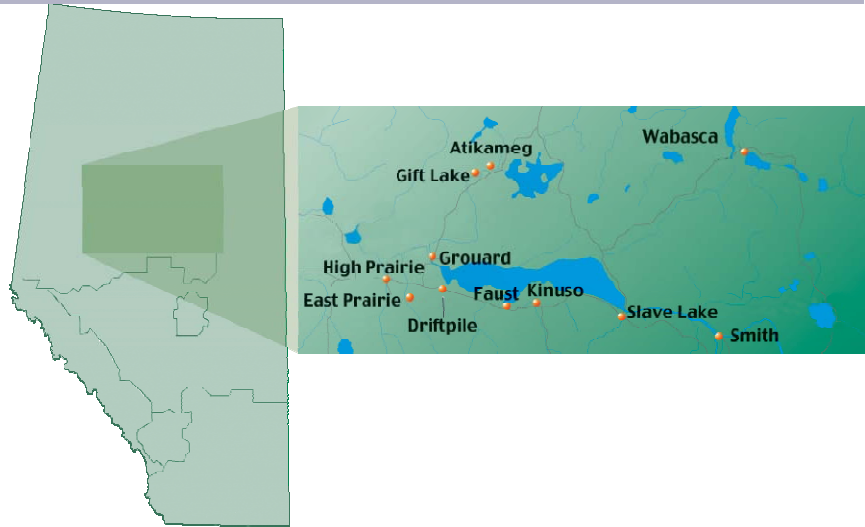
Phone: 780-849-8627 or email: kristoffm@northernlakescollege.ca

Our Region

The inspiring work of the LSFES reaches out to an extensive area.

There are seven school boards operating in this region with 24 schools currently being serviced by the Society, many of them in aboriginal communities.

The LSFES has future plans to expand its boundaries and include many more First Nation communities.



A big THANK YOU to all the other environmental educators who helped us out last year!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Wow! We are starting our 10th year as a non-profit business and despite the economic climate, it looks like we are going to be OKAY! Our thanks go out to the Community Development Trust fund for providing both the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society and the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation with a grant of \$300,000 to aide both organizations through to March 2011. Our two groups joined forces to promote stewardship of the boreal forest by creating early environmental connections with students living in this unique ecosystem. We are thrilled to have this opportunity and are looking forward to providing hands-on, interactive educational activities that get students excited about the importance of the boreal forest.

We are also pleased to announce another new sponsor, the Lesser Slave Watershed Council, whose generosity will assist us in encouraging students and teachers to explore the science and issues surrounding water ecosystems.

The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society is also proud to announce that we are now a Registered Charity and can now provide charitable tax receipts to all of our donors. Your support is as important as ever!

Remember "we've got fun down to a science! "

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



2008 – 2009 Total

- 4291 students
- 37 classroom presentations
- 170 fieldtrips
- 14 forestry school tours



New! A Grade 5 Natural Resources and Electricity presentation where students learn what electricity is, where it comes from, how it is distributed and the importance of conserving energy.

9 Year Grand Total

- 30,000 students
- 349 classroom presentations
- 870 fieldtrips
- 124 forestry school tours

"I personally was impressed with both outings as they included all aspects of learning-visual, auditory and kinesthetic."

Grade 5 teacher's evaluation on Wetlands and Natural Resources and Electricity

New! A classroom presentation for Grade 4's on Natural Resources and Energy where emphasis is placed on renewable and non-renewable natural resources and how these energy

"Instructors are very passionate about what they do. Students are completely enthralled. Excellent Programming!"

Grade 3 teacher's evaluation on Animal Life Cycles

"We've got fun down to a science!"

OBJECTIVE TWO

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



Alberta Forest Week 2009



During Alberta Forest Week, Fish and Wildlife Officers talked to 300 students about being **Bear Smart!**

Alberta Forest Week Poster Contest Winners! Lindsay Gambler, Mercedes Auger, and Santana Jackson won a free helicopter ride compliments of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development . (missing from photo-Rita Gullion)

Wildlife Discovery



*"I really like everything about the bears !"
"It was a really good review! I remember more now than I did at the start of the year"*

Grade 6 students on Alberta Forest Week

"Wildlife Discovery was excellent! We just completed a unit in Social Studies on the Boreal Forest Region. This was a great follow up."

Grade 3/4 teacher

Wildlife Discovery was presented to 200 enthusiastic students in High Prairie and Grouard!

Special Event Programming included:

- Provincial Forest Week School Tours
- Provincial Forest Week Poster Contest
- Career Fairs (Job World 2008)
- Wildlife Discovery
- Lesser Slave Lake Forest History Book
- Natural Resources and Energy—Grade 4
- Natural Resources and Electricity—Grade 5



Job World 2008

Check out our website at www.lsfes.org

An exhibit by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development at Job World 2008 proved to be popular. Over 1000 students attended Job World!

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 are immersed in various environmental activities on location in the boreal forest. Campers learn about ecology, the plants and wildlife that make the boreal forest so unique. They also experience the reasons why we need to manage the forest in a sustainable manner.

Boreal Forest Discovery Camp 2009



MARSH MONSTERS

Campers learned about the critters that live in the water and their life cycles.



WETLAND CONSTRUCTION

Campers built two different types of wetlands and tested their ability to hold water.



RIPARIAN HIKE

Campers explored the shoreline and a river bank to discover the variety of wildlife that reside there.

BFDC 2009 SUCCESSES

- Created and developed a new FBI mystery about the murder of Wally the Walleye
- Increased participation for a total of 76 campers
- Attracted participants from other communities
- Formed new partnerships 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 Forest Bureau of Investigation was called in to solve the murder mystery of Wally the Walleye. Wally was found dead on the beach under suspicious circumstances and junior agents had to solve the crime. Was it Ozzie the Osprey, Annie the Angler or Pete the Pike, to name a few? Campers investigated the crime scene, interrogated the suspects and analyzed the autopsy reports. The campers explored 3 stations on bird identification, fish classification and water quality testing before solving the crime.



Joint Project The Boreal Forest Discovery Camp is a joint project between the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society, Lesser Slave Watershed Council, 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.

Last year, the LSFES provided resource materials to over 120 teachers and developed new programs that were used as templates for other environmental organizations across Western Canada. In the future, we will strive to strengthen our role in assisting teachers with their environmental curriculum.

To strengthen our role we are committed to:

1. Attending school staff meetings in the region and promoting programs for both the LSFES and the BCBC.
2. Developing a professional development workshop for teachers.

OTHER SUCCESSES



Last year, the LSFES partnered with **Inside Education** to provide Grade 4 and Grade 5 classes with special programming on Natural Resources, Energy and Electricity. Over 250 students participated.



The LSFES has a unique relationship with the **Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation**. The staff, resources and professional expertise are shared and utilized for the ultimate benefit of both organizations.



Our newest partner, the **Lesser Slave Watershed Council**, helped us to teach over 1800 students about the importance of healthy water ecosystems.

LSFES SCHOLARSHIP

The LSFES has collaborated with the Boreal Forest Research Centre to provide scholarships 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 winner for 2009 was Scott Brewer who is majoring in Biological Sciences at Selkirk College in B.C.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **4300 Students and 260 Teachers** were involved in programming plus **1000 people participated in Job World 2008**, for a **Grand total of 5560 participants** .
2. **2 New Funders** have come on board:
 - Lesser Slave Watershed Council
 - Community Development Trust
3. **5 New Programs** developed:
 - Grade 4-Natural Resources and Energy
 - Grade 5-Natural Resources and Electricity
 - General Public-FBI-The Murder Mystery of Wally the Walleye
 - General Public- Water Quality Testing
 - General Public-Wilderness Survival
4. **The LSFES qualified as a Registered Charity** in Feb. 2009.

THANK YOU TO OUR:

Membership



**Government
of Alberta**



Supporters



- Community Development Trust
 - Nash and Company
 - Carson Forestry Services



- EG Wahlstrom School

- CJ Schurter School

Individual Supporters

- Darcie Acton & Nelson Lutz
- Ronda Groom
- Chris & Chrissy Schischikowsky
- Edith Mackenzie & Pat Potvin
- Sarah Carson

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 Environmental Sciences 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)

The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society is a non-profit educational organization.

Your donation is key to our success and is tax deductible.

Send your gift to: Lesser Slave Forest Education Society, 1201 Main Street SE, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A3

Or contact: Chris Schischikowsky ph :780-805-3069 or email: chris@vanderwell.com