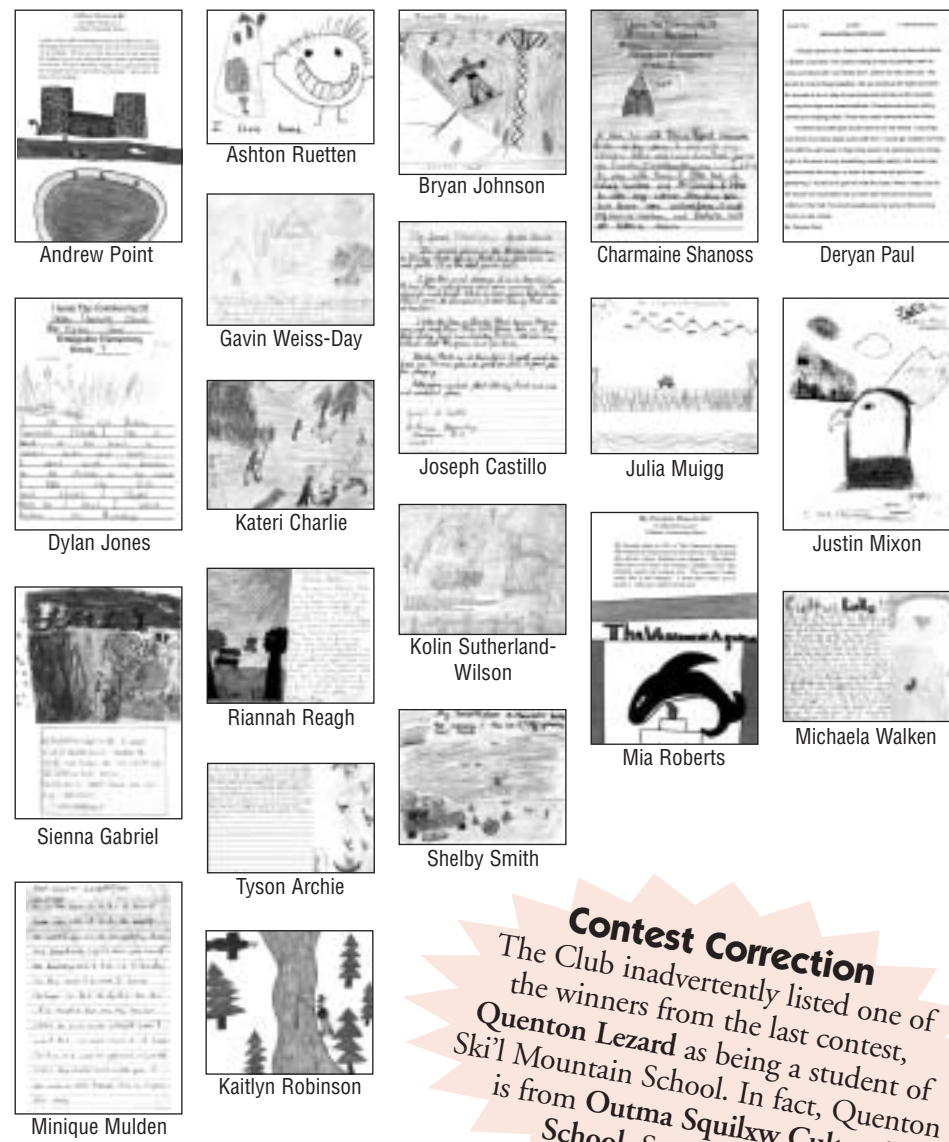


# Congratulations!!

Congratulations to all the winners from our January contest on "The Place You Love in BC and Why". All contest entries were fantastic to read. Keep up with the great work!

Joseph Castillo, Kaitlyn Robinson & Riannah Reagh, Britannia Elementary; Michaela Walker and Tyson Archie, Sardis Elementary; Charmaine Shanoss & Dylan Jones, Gitsequkla Elementary; Bryan Johnson, Gitanyow Independent School; Kolin Sutherland-Wilson & Shelby Smith, John Field Elementary; Julia Muigg, Monique Mulden & Ashton Ruetten, Kispiox School; Mia Roberts, Andrew Point & Kateri Charlie, Chehalis Community School; Gavin Weiss Day, Telkwa Elementary; Sienna Gabriel, Outma Squilxw Cultural School; Deryan Paul, Frank J. Mitchell; Justin Mixon, Hudson Road Elementary



**Contest Correction**  
The Club inadvertently listed one of the winners from the last contest, **Quenton Lezard** as being a student of **Ski'l Mountain School**. In fact, Quenton is from **Outma Squilxw Cultural School**. Sorry Quenton!

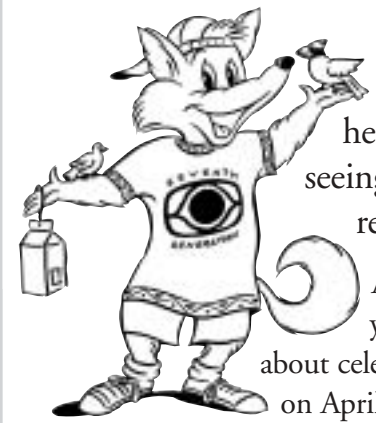
## You Can Be an Activist for the Earth with a Few Simple Steps

The David Suzuki Foundation ([www.davidsuzuki.org/kids](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/kids)) has researched the most effective ways to help conserve nature. Here are some ideas the Foundation has to offer.

- **Turn things off!** TV's, computers, stereos, and video game units all draw power, even when they're not being used. By attaching your electronic devices to power bars and turning them off when they're not in use, you'll help reduce your impact on the environment.
- **Play outside.** By exploring the great outdoors you'll get exercise, learn about nature, and save electricity at the same time.
- **Be an energy detective!** Is valuable heat escaping from your home? Find ways to stop wasting energy and tell your family what you've discovered. Saving energy saves money, too!
- **Learn which types of cars and trucks** use less gas and share what you've learned with other people.
- **Use kid power to get around!** Walk, bike, skateboard, scooter, or carpool. You'll have fun and get some exercise too!
- **Express yourself!** Write, paint, draw or make a video – use your imagination to share what you know about the environment and encourage your friends and family to take the Nature Challenge!



## Spring Is Here...A Great Time to Think About the World Around You



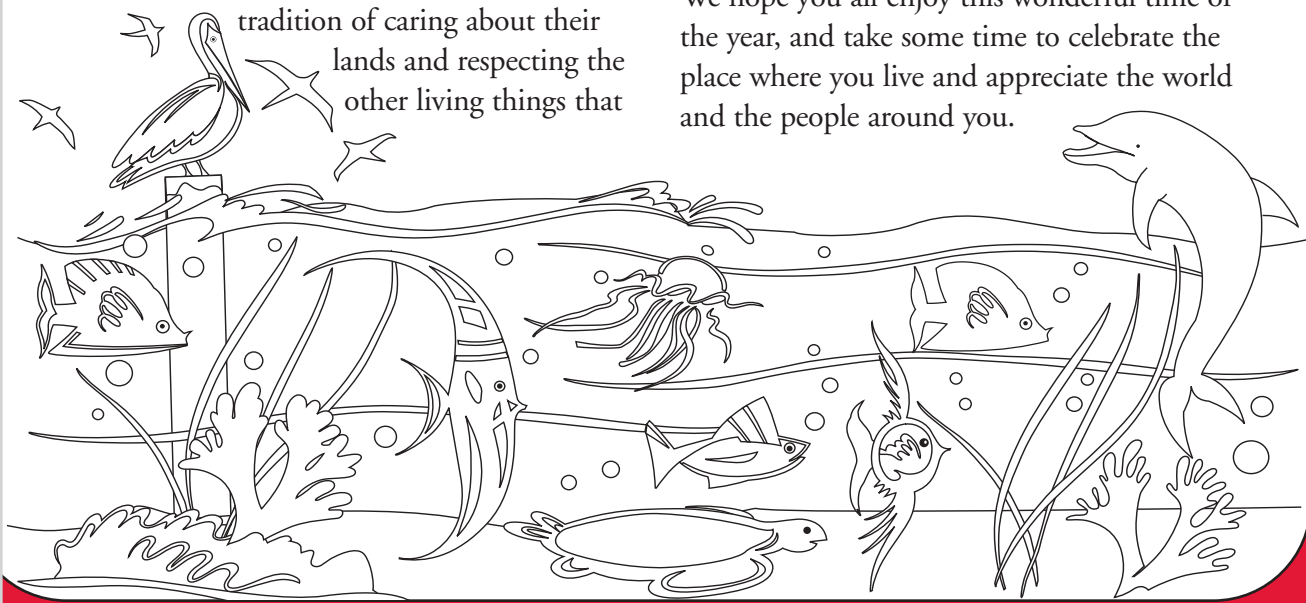
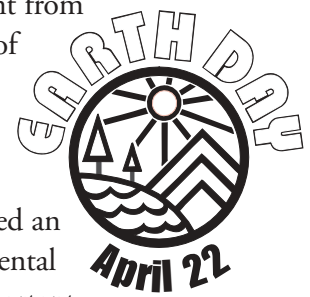
March 21 is the first day of Spring, which sure makes me happy! Spring as is one of my top four favourite seasons (hee hee)! I love getting outside to enjoy the warmer weather, and seeing the melting snow, budding plants, and returning birds reminds me that fun changes are ahead.

At this time of the year I also get excited about celebrating **Earth Day** on April 22. The first Earth Day was organized in the United States in 1970, and it did not take long for people all over the world to take notice of that great idea. By 1990, two million Canadians and 200 million people in 141 different countries took part in the first *International Earth Day*! That day is now the largest, most celebrated environmental event in the world.

share this world with us. Today, we *all* need to remember those values more than ever in order to protect our environment from pollution and an overuse of resources.

In recognition of Earth Day, in this edition of the newsletter we have included an article about an environmental issue that is especially important to many British Columbians – the health of the world's oceans. We've also included some trivia about the oceans and a fun ocean-related experiment that we think you will find fun and interesting.

We hope you all enjoy this wonderful time of the year, and take some time to celebrate the place where you live and appreciate the world and the people around you.



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Canucks Corner
- Ocean Trivia
- Protecting Our Oceans
- Contest
- The Nook
- Contest Winners
- You Can Be an Activist for the Earth with a Few Simple Steps

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The Seventh Generation Club is created in partnership with:





# CANUCKS CORNER



## Keeping Our Environment Clean

Keeping our environment clean is important because we want to protect our planet and make sure our schools, communities, and cities can be used and enjoyed by others for generations to come. In school we learn about the three "R's": Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. But did you know the Canucks follow these steps as well so that they can keep their environment clean?



a game, and the fewer mistakes the team makes, the better they will do in the game. The Canucks also re-use objects thrown on the ice. If a big-scorer like Markus Naslund scores a hat-trick, the Sports Action ice-team come in and pick up all the hats that "litter" the ice. The Canucks then "re-use" these hats by giving them to deserving charities. And just like your school, the Canucks also recycle a variety of products. GM Place has many workers who collect pop cans and paper left in the stadium and recycle them into new products, which can be enjoyed again by all of us.

So that's how the Canucks work hard to keep the stadium clean and the team strong. It takes an effort to keep a building like GM Place clean, just like it takes an effort to keep our planet clean. But going that extra step, such as picking up a pop can you see on the ground, or putting old papers into a recycling bin can go a very long way. And in the end, we all are the ones who benefit. What can you do to make your schools and communities a better, cleaner place?

In fact, many people work for the Canucks to keep GM Place clean so that Canucks players and fans who attend home games have the best time possible. The Zambonis, which are called the "Olympia Ice Resurfacers" keep the ice clean and smooth so that players have a fresh surface to play their best. Have you ever seen the Olympias cleaning the ice before the games and during the first and second intermissions?

As for reducing, re-using, and recycling, the first "R" for the Canucks is "reducing" errors. The Canucks work on their skills and fundamentals at practice to reduce mistakes during

## Ocean Trivia

### What Is That Giant Slimy Stuff on the Beach?

Well if it isn't a sea monster, it just might be giant kelp – one form of seaweed. Seaweed is vital to the health of the world's oceans. It helps many baby animals stay safe when they are first born. It is also an important source of food for many creatures, such as baby green sea turtles.

Here is a quiz to see how much you know about slimy seaweed. True or false?

1. Seaweed is used to make ice cream.
2. There are about 900 different kinds of seaweed in the world.
3. Giant kelp is the largest seaweed in the world.

### What's in Sand, Anyway?

Sand is a very interesting substance. When it is dry it pours like water. When it is wet it holds together like a solid. That is because the water molecules in wet sand are drawn together, and that holds the sand molecules together, as well.

Sand is made over hundreds of years. Wind and waves gradually grind rocks, minerals, shells, and coral into tiny, tiny grains. The next time you are at the beach, try using a magnifying glass to see if you can find some different substances in the sand.

### I've Heard of Driftwood, But Driftshoes??

When wood and other objects are washed down rivers into the ocean, currents can carry them thousands of miles away. In fact, scientists use floating objects to study the ways in which the ocean's currents move. For example, in 1990 a large wave swept 80,000 pairs of shoes off of a cargo ship travelling from South Korea to the United States. Those shoes eventually turned up all along the coast of Vancouver Island, Washington, and Oregon! (Family Fun Magazine, June 2005).

*Answers:*  
1. True. It is also used to make a variety of lotions and fertilizers.  
2. False. There are actually about 9,000 different kinds of seaweed in the planet's oceans.  
3. True. Giant kelp can actually grow as much as 0.6 m per day.

## Protecting Our Oceans

The ocean is a critical part of life in British Columbia (BC). That's not surprising, given that the mainland of BC has 8,458 km of coastline. In fact, if the perimeters of BC's many islands are included, our province's coastline equals 22,894 km. That is about ten percent of Canada's total coastline, and the third highest of the Canadian provinces and territories (only Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut are higher; Atlas of Canada, [www.atlas.gc.ca](http://www.atlas.gc.ca)).

Many people make their living from the oceans. Fishers, marine biologist, fisheries guides, conservationists ... those are just a few of the jobs that depend on the oceans. Also, thousands of people come to BC every year to enjoy recreation on the water, including kayaking, sport fishing, sailing, and cruises. That tourism is vital to our province's economy. And it is very likely that at some point you and your family will enjoy the ocean and its beaches – often, if you live near the water, and occasionally if you just visit once in awhile.

Did you know that the oceans provide much of the food we eat and a large percentage of the oxygen we breathe? The world's oceans are also home to 97 percent of all living matter on the Earth!

That makes it pretty scary to think that the world's oceans are actually in danger. The oceans are so huge it may

seem like they can withstand any kind of problems, but many things are actually causing great harm to the waters and the creatures that live in them. Tons of pollution is dumped into the oceans every year, including discharge from large cruise ships, oil spills, and run off from industries that are located near waterways. Some companies around the world practice poor fishing practices, which kill many, many animals. Also, air pollution is falling into the waters, killing plants and animals and making fish dangerous for people to eat.

The good news is that people all over the globe are working hard to make people aware of these problems and to change the way people think about the oceans. Even more people need to value our oceans, not only for their importance to us but also for their beauty.

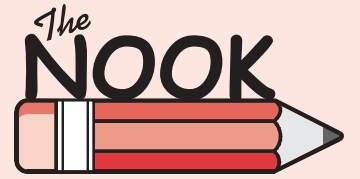
In fact, June 8th has been designated as World Ocean Day! First celebrated in 1992, World Ocean Day is an opportunity to recognize our world's oceans. Each year, events and activities are held worldwide with aquariums, zoos, and museums. This summer, take note of World Ocean Day and think about ways you can help to protect the oceans, such as not polluting, using resources wisely, and learning more about this important issue.



## Our Oceans Contest

For this Seventh Generation Club contest, we'd like you to send us a picture or a short essay sharing how you feel about the world's oceans. You can tell us about a nice time you've had at the ocean, what you like to do at the beach, or what you want to do to help protect the oceans from harm.

**Contest Deadline: April 8, 2006**



Did you know that the sun can be used to separate salt from seawater? This experiment will show that happen.

### What you'll need

- a cookie sheet
- 2 sheets of black construction paper
- 2 tablespoons of table salt
- 1 cup of tap water
- a spoon

### What to do:

1. Cover the bottom of the cookie sheet with the black paper.
2. Add the salt to the water in the cup and stir. Most but not all of the salt will dissolve.
3. Pour the water over the paper. Try not to pour any un-dissolved salt onto the paper; allow it to remain in the bottom of the cup.
4. Place the cookie sheet in a sunny place where it will not be disturbed for several days, such as by a window or outdoors if the weather is warm and dry. Observe the paper daily until it is dry.

### What you should see:

At first, a thin layer of white crystals will form on the paper. Later, a few small, separate, white crystals will form.

### Why did this happen?

As the sun heats the salt water, the water evaporates but the salt does not. That's why the salt is left on the paper.

This experiment is similar to a method used by some salt companies to get salt out of seawater. This method is known as the "solar process" and the product is called "solar salt." In many countries, solar salt is produced in large amounts.