

A BEAVER'S TALE

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Preface

The two most important investments Canadians can make are the education of our children and the protection of the environment. The Bluewater Recycling Association (B.R.A.) holds both of these investments in the highest regard; education and environmental consciousness are integral parts of the association's mandate. We, at the B.R.A., also see the interdependence between teaching and the better stewardship of the earth.

Environmental education is not simply training individuals to use a Blue Box, it is the changing of attitudes and the re-evaluation of knowledge. The crisis we face today is not the result of some sinister master plan but a side effect of mankind's evolution. In a push to broaden our understanding in more and more areas, we have forgotten to maintain some of our basic needs and there is nothing more basic than a healthy planet. We have developed a bad habit of forsaking the past as we look to the future. Recycling is merely one of the cures for the Earth's waste problem. Educating future generations to avoid creating the same problems, or indeed new ones, is a long term, pro-active solution.

In November of 1989, Mr. Francis Veilleux envisioned a system whereby the education of students and the protection of the environment could be accomplished simultaneously. After two years of planning and preparation the project got underway in February 1992. The result lies in front of you.

A Beaver's Tale was carefully produced to meet the needs of today's educators and their education systems. Curriculums already deal with a wide variety of subjects; there is little or no room to introduce additional topics. Realizing this limitation, the education team responsible for A Beaver's Tale have designed the package to be a curriculum supplement. The goal is to allow educators to teach waste management and similar environmental concerns within the context of existing subjects. For example, a family studies class discussing proper purchasing decisions could use the section of the Recycle chapter dedicated to symbols. Students would not only learn to shop wisely but be capable of avoiding products that falsely claim to be "green".

In each chapter background information, activities and handouts are easily discerned from one another through the use of coloured pages. Glossaries, resources, endnotes and bibliographies are included in each section eliminating the need to flip to the rear of the package. Tabs clearly distinguish one chapter from the next. In general, A Beaver's Tale was written and formatted to be user friendly, making the most of the educators time as opposed to taking up his or her time.

Much of the existing waste management information available focuses on urban centres or is American in origin. A Beaver's Tale strives to represent Canadian waste issues especially those facing smaller communities and rural areas. The facts and figures presented in the text are the most accurate and contemporary available. This is a critical step in counteracting the misinformation that has come to dominate reporting of waste management and environmental problems. Both sides of each issue are discussed allowing the students to make an informed decision; the B.R.A. does not advocate one form of handling waste over another.

In keeping with the national focus of the supplement, the binders and the 100% post consumer recycled paper used in printing A Beaver's Tale were manufactured by and purchased from Canadian companies. On the cover and throughout the pages that follow a beaver appears. Its name is Brewster. While the animal itself is a symbol of Canada the name has a more local origin. The B.R.A. is located just south of Grand Bend, Ontario. The settlement from which modern Grand Bend grew was called Brewster's Mill.

The Bluewater Recycling Association will continue our efforts to improve and help others improve the environment we all share. Any comments or suggestions you may have are welcome. We wish you and your students well in your efforts to better the Earth.

Acknowledgements

The Bluewater Recycling Association wishes to express its appreciation for the contribution the following individuals, organizations, businesses and resources have made towards A Beaver's Tale. While the list is extensive it is by no means exhaustive and our apologies to contributors who have inadvertently been missed.

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Employment and Immigration Canada
Environment Canada
Environmental Choice
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy (M.O.E.E.)
Ontario Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Manitoba Environment
Saskatchewan Environment and Safety
Alberta Environment
British Columbia Environment
Northwest Territories Public Affairs
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Pollution Probe
Greenpeace
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Ontario Soft Drink Association
Canadian Soft Drink Association
Global Action Plan
QUNO
Worm Works
K.E.Y. Foundation

AWay With Waste
Washington State Department of Ecology
4350 - 150th Avenue N.E.
Redmond, Washington, 98052

The Keep America Beautiful System
Multi Material Recycling Manual
Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
9 West Broad Stret,
Stamford, Connecticut, 06902

Waste: A Hidden Resource
Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
9 West Broad Stret,
Stamford, Connecticut, 06902

Trash Today, Treasure Tommorow
Govenor's Recycling Program
Office of State Planning
2 1/2 Beacon Street
Concord, New Hampshire, 03301

The School Board Green Guide
Ontario Public School Board Association
439 University Avenue, Suite 1850
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Y8

Acknowledgements (cont.)

Eco Education Program
British Columbia Environment, Lands and Parks
Municipal Waste Branch
3rd Floor, 777 Broughton Street
Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X5

Waste Away
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
P.O. Box 86
Woodstock, Vermont, 05091

Garbage In America
Refuse Industry Productions, Inc.
P.O. Box 1011
Gross Valley, California, 95945

Keep Mississauga Clean
Mississauga Clean City Campaign
Clarke Hall, 161 Lakeshore Road West
Mississauga, Ontario, L5H 1G3

Waste Reduction and Recycling Curricular Package
Recycling Council of Ontario
489 College Street, Suite 504
Toronto, Ontario, M6A 1A5

Solid Waste Activity Packet for Teachers
Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources
325 West Adams Street, Room 300
Springfield, Illinois, 62704-1892

Lastly, we would like to thank all our friends and family. While not directly involved with A Beaver's Tale they listened when we had something to say, provided wisdom when we asked, offered support and encouragement when needed and shared in our excitement. In particular, we wish to express our appreciation to Charles and Olive Archibald, Greg O'Brien and Ted Rotteau. The final acknowledgement goes to the one individual who has been with us since the beginning, silently watching over the proceedings; thanks Fred.

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User Guide

Each chapter of the B.R.A. Education Package has been carefully designed to be user friendly. By producing a package useful to educators and students alike, it is hoped that we can reach the provincial goal of 50% waste reduction by the year 2000.

Chapters are comprised of three types of pages. They are as follows:

1. Background Information Pages

These pages explain a particular aspect or problem of waste management (e.g. Hazardous Waste). Included in the text are important vocabulary (signified in italics), facts, figures and illustrations. Background information pages useful in completing activity pages and supporting handouts. The information provided will hopefully serve as a catalyst for deeper investigation.

2. Activity Pages

In conjunction with the other pages, activity pages allow students to participate in the identification and solution of waste management problems, using theoretic and practical skills. Activities are signified by a "dog eared" page.

3. Handout Pages

As extensions of the first two types of pages, handouts are designed to complete an activity, put background information into specific use or to help further interest and study of a particular issue.

The title of the chapter and the type of page can be found at the top of each page. Pages are further identified by a letter (chapter) and number (sequence) in the outer corner.

In order to assist the educators in their search for a suitable activity, symbols are provided on the activity pages. The eight symbols suggest in which subjects an activity might be applied.

SCIENCE
(chemistry, biology, physics)

GEOGRAPHY
(social studies, environmental studies)

BUSINESS
(economics, accounting, marketing)

TECHNICAL
(drafting/design, woodworking)

LANGUAGE ARTS
(English literature, creative writing)

ART
(visual art)

MATHEMATICS

FAMILY STUDIES
(sociology, home economics)

Please note that the symbols are merely guidelines. Ideally, individuals will adapt and modify the activities to fit their needs; there is no reason why a geography class could not use a "business" activity.

We hope the package and its chapters will be informative so it can be used, malleable enough to be adapted and interesting so it may help save the planet.

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Hughdir T. Rat

This is Hughdir T. Rat

His name is pronounced by saying "hue-dur-tee rat". He likes garbage. He thinks the world should be full of garbage. He doesn't know that too much garbage is bad for the environment.



Brewster Beaver

This is Brewster William Beaver.

He is the official mascot of the Bluewater Recycling Association. He is a native Canadian and he cares about the environment. Brewster needs your help to make our Earth a better place to live.

