



CELEBRATING OUR PLACE

RIGHT HERE
IN BRENTWOOD

A host of local outdoor projects undertaken by our community and its schools are celebrated in the current issue of Connections, the journal of the Alberta Teachers' Association's Global, Environmental and Outdoor Education Council (GEOEC). You can access the full and previous issues online at <http://www.geoec.org/newsletter/back-issues.html>.

We've also posted a pdf of the individual article on the Resources & Links page on Natureground.org: <http://www.natureground.org/resources.html>. Much of the text actually premiered in various issues of the Brentwood Bugle, and is now being shared more widely throughout the province!

Excerpt: "recent autumnal adventures are just a few of the outcomes of over two decades of building school and community connections within Brentwood's outdoor spaces. Many of this residential community's schools – Brentwood, École St. Luke, Captain John Palliser, Simon Fraser, and Dr. E.W. Coffin – have schoolyard naturalizations and/or gardens, each different from the other.

"Also local, Sir Winston Churchill High School's Biology 20/30 classes use Nose Hill Park for ecosystem and biodiversity studies. A cooperative community garden has just been established. Anti-graffiti murals have been

painted by youth on strip mall walls at busy intersections and playgrounds have been erected by teams of volunteers and corporate partners.

"The local public library has hosted meetings and partnered for events. Jane's Walks have been led to promote walkable and sustainable neighbourhoods. Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market was established with proceeds supporting EE initiatives. A bridge and a park have been named by students. Trees have been planted; outdoor ice rinks – free and accessible to all - have been maintained. Community celebrations, often supported by in kind donations from local businesses, have been held with neighbours, new friends, and passersby."

Celebrate local places this Earth Day

Earth Day comes on April 22 every year, with global activities galore. Perhaps you'll climb the Calgary Tower's 802 steps for the Alberta Wilderness Association's 20th Anniversary Climb Day on April 16th to help protect our glorious ecological heritage. Perhaps you'll do a little cleanup in a nearby back alley or front hedgerow. However you take up the day here in Brentwood: Happy Earth Day!

Environmentally yours,
Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett
environews@shaw.ca