

## **DREAMACRES COMMITTEE MEETING, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2003**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Karen Brock, Maggie Linton, Jane Thompson, Marius de Bruyn, Sharon O'Donnell, Danielle Schaad, Mona Garde and Ruth Borst

### **CONTRIBUTION COUNT**

Meeting Hours: 2 x 7: 14 hours

Professional Meeting Hours: 2 hours

### **Guest**

A warm welcome was extended to Mary-Lee Chisholm, a former parent at Sunningdale, who gave a short presentation on the company she works for, Energy Advantage ([www.energyadvantage.com](http://www.energyadvantage.com)). The company assists corporations in managing and controlling their energy use and is actively seeking to develop an environmental profile in the community, by donating time to help local environmental projects, such as Dreamacres.

Maggie mentioned Evergreen's "City Stewarts" program. The goal of the program is to protect and renew nature in cities. Sunningdale was involved in this in 2003 when the Grade 4s and parents planted trees at 6<sup>th</sup> Line and Glenashton Boulevard.

Mary-Lee was invited to attend the next Dreamacres meeting in January when the two National Film Board videos featuring Dreamacres will be shown.

### **Newsletter**

Mona has taken on the task of writing a section about Dreamacres for each school newsletter and has already done a great job. Mona asked for ideas for the ("Did you know.....?") section.

Some brainstorming brought up the following:

- Awards won by Dreamacres
- Its use in the curriculum
- Traditional use of native plants
- Future plans – our dream.
- "Shopping list" of needs – this should go in the February newsletter. We should also put a call out for individuals who are interested in supporting our fund-raising efforts.

### **2004 Events**

Earth Day is **22 April** and we will plan some special events for the whole week. These could include guest speakers (Suzuki Foundation, Ontario Science Centre, Halton Conservation, Centre for Peace and Ecology, environmental engineers from Energy Advantage??), and possibly films with an environmental theme. We could show the two NFB videos, have Dreamacres quotes read, and organize clean up in and around the school grounds.

The spring "Dig-In" will be on Thursday, **6 May**.

Grade 3's will plant the Three Sisters (beans, squash, corn) in the spring.

Grade 1s will plant potatoes and carrots.

### **Spring projects and their funding**

The water management project at the back of the school will require considerable funding. We need a bulldozer for landscaping (possibility of getting one for free?). We will need orange fencing and T-bars, and a permanent chain link fence to close off some areas and establish perimeters.

Hydroseeding will also be very costly.

Where can we find the funds? Possibilities could be Canada Trust, Friends of the Environment Foundation. We last applied for money in 2001, so perhaps we would be eligible again (Karen to contact CT). We could also try the Shell Environmental Fund again. Other possibilities are the University of Guelph and the Trillium Foundation. We could apply for money for a storage area for tools, and perhaps for fencing.

\$3,000 is to come from the Sunningdale School Council.

### **Woodchips**

Marius will order 3 loads of woodchips, to be distributed at the back of the school.

### **Bulb Sales**

Thanks were extended to Karen and Ruth for a successful bulb sale in the fall. All the 840 bulbs were sold and a profit of \$240 made.

### **Evergreen Website**

Maggie has reregistered Dreamacres on the Evergreen site and is attempting to get a link directly from their website to the Dreamacres website

### **Other business**

Karen reported on the follow-up to the Toyota/Evergreen grant. The only thing remaining to be done is to send in all receipts for materials purchased.

Sharon will call the contractor about removal of the concrete barriers at the front of the school.

### **Next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 15 January at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.