



1969-2009

EDUCO™

Adventure School

Celebrating 40 Years

After Thousands of Courses, a Major Milestone

Stuart Clark
Executive Director

Educo has reached a major milestone! It was 40 years ago this summer, in August, 1969, that the first program took place at our site under the name of Educo. After thousands of courses and countless life-changing experiences, the Educo spirit is thriving here in B.C. and in five other countries around the world.

The history of Educo and the lives it has touched is an incredibly rich and important story, told by people from all walks of life and from many places on the planet.

This year I am writing from the Educo Germany school in the Bavarian Forest. Educo Germany is providing leading-edge experiential outdoor education for youth and adults around the country.

My visit to Educo Germany has reminded me of how important it is for organizations and individuals to work together and share resources and knowledge in this new period of uncertain economic stability. It has also



High-altitude hiking in 2008 for students enrolled in the Intermediate Boys course.



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Educo Executive Director

helped to remind me of the power and importance of wilderness education programs for youth today, wherever they take place in the world.

Educo Canada is in a period of growth and change. We are working hard to help the organization grow meaningfully.

Many people are stepping forward to support Educo, such as volunteering on building projects, supporting our board, consulting on business practices and finances, or joining in a program to work

with the youth and participate in a wilderness adventure.

We are grateful for the support, and we recognize how our success today is due to the countless generous and selfless acts of support we

receive from our members and supporters.

To all the students, staff, board members, volunteers and other supporters over the years: you are invited to a celebration in your honour from July 9-12. Please see the enclosed insert for further details.

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B.C. Gaming Grant Gives Programs a Boost

Educo thanks the B.C. Gaming Branch for the 2008 grant of \$22,740. These funds were for three specific areas of Educo activities:

- The Schools Program funding assisted hundreds of students coming to Educo in the spring and fall.
- The Community Initiatives Program provided funding for the Peter Skene Ogden School Leadership Program and the Canim Lake First Nations Integrated Leadership Program.
- The Mentorship Program funding allowed the continuation of this valuable program which brings 100 Mile Junior youth and community adults together in a powerful day of relationship building.



CKNW Assists Students

The CKNW Orphans' Fund awarded a \$6,000 donation to the Educo Scholarship Fund in 2008. This generous donation assisted 11 students to attend Educo in 2008. Thank you CKNW Orphans' Fund!

Are You a Member Yet?

Your membership is important to us! As a non-profit society we must have a voluntary and broadly based membership involved in the management and control of the society. Cost of yearly membership is \$2.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. All members of the Educo School society are eligible to vote in person at the AGM.



For Renee Hall (middle row, centre), the Educo experience is a combination of spectacular settings, personal discovery and developing great new friendships.

Answering This Question Isn't Easy

*Renee Hall
Educo Senior Girls, August 2008
(from open house speech)*

Hi everyone; my name is Renee Hall, I'm 15 years old, I'm from Kamloops, B.C., and this is my fourth year at Educo.

I often find that people who are unfamiliar with the course will ask me the simple question: what is Educo?

Although it should be a fairly easy question to answer, I always seem to find myself at a loss for words. You see, Educo is not just about rock climbing or hiking or canoeing. It's about something deeper, something more personal. And how can you describe what it feels like to accomplish things that, moments before, did not seem possible?

How can you explain the breathtaking view of glacier lakes, snow-capped mountains and beautiful sunrises? How do you put into perspective the experience of spending hours on end with yourself, with no distractions, and peering into the depths of your soul?

How can you do justice to the bond that you form with 12 girls, who, in a span of 10 days, go from strangers to best friends. There is no simple way to describe the warmth in your heart and the fullness of your soul after experiencing this course.

So what is the answer to the question, what is Educo?

The answer is simple: you'll have to see for yourself.

Sign Up for Annual Site Cleanup

May 2 & 3, 2009 are the dates for the annual Educo site spring clean. Bring your boundless energy and enthusiasm along with your sleeping bag and warm clothes. Join with friends to help wake up the site by cleaning, raking, checking over equipment and a variety of other jobs!

If you plan to arrive on Friday, May 1, please come after 6 p.m., having had

dinner. Food will be supplied Saturday and Sunday along with accommodation. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Please CALL the office at (250) 395-3388 or 877-245-9191 if you are coming so we have enough food for everyone. We look forward to seeing you in May!

This Land is Our Land

Brian White
President, Board of Directors

Educo achieved a major milestone last May. We were able to match a generous donation from a retiring board member, Sandi Sovio, and as a result we now own our 150-acre site.

We thank Sandi, not only for this donation, but for all her many contributions to Educo during her 10 years on the board. While Sandi was stepping down from the board we added a new member, Ben Harapat. Ben, aka The Granola King, has been involved with Educo for many years

and operates his granola business in North Vancouver.

This past year saw a decline in our overall revenue from the previous year. The spring and summer were very strong.

Some summer programs had waiting lists, but the fall numbers were less than the previous fall. We are encouraged that enrollments for this spring's school programs are strong and we are starting to receive summer program registrations.

As a non-profit, we rely very heavily on "word of mouth" marketing to fill our courses. Any assistance that you can give in promoting Educo to friends or family

would be appreciated.

In the past couple of years we have talked about constructing a new main building at the site. Planning continues for that endeavour but we have other, more urgent, site projects. They are to get the high ropes zip line back in operation, complete the climbing wall and finish installing the composting toilets. These projects, along with the ongoing site maintenance, will consume a lot of our energy and resources in the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support of Educo Adventure School.

Learning to Jump in with Both Feet

Daniel Sallaway
Intermediate Boys, July 2008

Educo is one of the most amazing places in the world and I look forward to coming back year after year. It challenges me physically, mentally, and emotionally, whether I am overcoming my fear of heights on the high ropes, or trying to keep up while hiking in the beautiful mountains.

The wonderful thing about Educo is that you don't have to do anything by yourself. You have friends and staff supporting you the whole way, urging you to take one more step out of your comfort zone.

For some, stepping out of their comfort zone means climbing the rock wall with their eyes closed. For others it is simply trying a new food. But no matter what it is, everyone is supporting you the entire way.

In my first year of Educo everyone got special names, and mine was Shining Shadow because I never really jumped into activities, but I always had a sort of shine of happiness.

Educo really helped me to come out of my shell and be less shy by putting me in situations where I had to work with people that I had only known for a day or two. For me, that was taking a step out of my



Opportunities abound for 'stepping out of your comfort zone,' says Daniel Sallaway, shown here during a course in 2005.

comfort zone and I am glad I did because some of them are now my best friends.

Also, the wonderful places I have seen canoeing and in the mountains will stay with me for the rest of my life. Above all, Educo has taught me to let my spirit soar.

AGM Slated for May 3

The Educo School Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2009 after breakfast at the Educo site. All members of the Educo School society are eligible to vote in the AGM. For more information contact the Educo office or come to the site cleanup that same weekend and talk directly to one of the board members.

Activities Galore at Annual Open House

The Educo 5th Annual Community Open House will be held Sunday, May 24, 2009. Come visit the beautiful Educo site, have lunch, play some games and try the highs and climbing wall. Contact Educo by phone or email for details and registration.

Enroll Now For Summer Programs

Just a reminder that it's never too early to enroll for a summer program at Educo. You can download our application form at: www.educo.ca/enroll.html

Bringing Our Unique Gifts Keeps Educo Strong

Brodie Drake Program Director

In some of my recent reflections, I have come to understand that my well-being as a human being is simply the balance of what I give and what I receive. I think Educo works in this way too.

I am happy to report that Educo's well-being is alive and vibrant, even at the ripe old age of forty. It is mesmerizing to watch: all season long, year after year, people bring life to Educo.

You might be a student who found the courage to be yourself among your peers; or a volunteer who flew across the country to share the mountains with the students.

You might be a staff member who shared your expertise to keep the site youthful; or a teacher who spent time and effort fundraising so your own students could witness you on the high ropes.

Maybe you're a parent or guardian who made the long journey from Vancouver or Prince George or Fort St.

James to your child's open house; or a friend who came up for a celebration. You might be a board member who was on Stuart's email list and responded with diligence and care.

We all come together to keep Educo strong. We give something different and in return receive something that is distinctly unique to each one of us.

I extend a sincere thank you to all of you for your own well-being and contributions.

A Big Round of Applause for Our 2008 Supporters

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Connie Hull & Greig Crockett
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Geoff Tisch
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Donna VanWalleghem
Brian White
Robert Winge

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CKNW Orphans' Fund
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Thank you to all the adult and youth mentors who participated in the Educo Mentorship Development Program in 2008. You are terrific!

Educo School's Volunteer Board

Gavin Clark
David Critoph
Ben Harapat
Don Munsell
Teresa Rowley
Adam Sanders
Rick Sheppard
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