



Thursday, February 24, 2011

Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund  
111 Peter Street, Suite 503  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2H1

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the application by the Green Team at Roden Public School and Equinox Alternative Holistic School for their three garden projects as well as the stone seating and outdoor mural project.

Evergreen staff has interacted with the Green Team over the course of the past two years. Through Evergreen's partnership with the Toronto District School Board and its EcoSchools Program, Evergreen has provided advice and support through workshops, site visits, written reports and over the phone. What is immediately impressive about the Green Team is the fact that they have brought two schools together for the first time to work on environmental initiatives and in one year became a Silver EcoSchool. This is no small achievement and is indicative of the terrific commitment of parents and teachers.

In consultation with both TDSB and Evergreen staff, the Green Team has come up with an excellent plan for the grounds that creates new learning opportunities as well as enhancing social and play value of their school ground. The design is practical, builds on the existing assets of the site (such as the well shaded asphalt area) and matches the stated goal of increasing the quantity and quality of outdoor play and learning.

It is worth noting that the Green Team has a group of excellent parents including two trained landscape architects that the plan has benefited from.

I encourage the review committee to give the Green Team's application its full consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Cam Collyer  
Program Director, Evergreen

[evergreen.ca](http://evergreen.ca)

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111 Peter Street, Suite 503  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2H1

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of the Roden Public School (RPS)/Equinox Alternative Holistic School's (EHAS) Green Team's application to your Community Environment Fund. Friends of the Rouge Watershed (FRW) has been partnering with EHAS since 2008.

The students, parents and teachers at EHAS have helped to restore the Rouge valley through numerous planting events with FRW. During this time, we have had the opportunity to watch this community in action. Their holistic approach provides rich experiences to students and allows them to interact with the natural world, creating important environmental connections. The staff at FRW greatly looks forward to every event with the students of EHAS. Their learning culture, provided by dedicated teachers, has allowed them to easily understand the lessons we teach about the Rouge watershed and its ecosystems.

It is our experience that EHAS and the parent community demonstrate a strong commitment to developing a curriculum that teaches sustainable stewardship and student mentorship to ensure children grow up to care for the natural environment from a position of responsibility.

FRW is honored to be partners with EHAS and we believe that support and resources that you allocate to grounds enhancements at RPS/EHAS will deeply enrich the experience of the students, school community and neighbourhood.

The Friends of the Rouge Watershed enthusiastically encourages Earth Day Canada to support the RPS/EHAS Green Team Grounds Enhancements. The grant from Earth Day Canada will support both EHAS and RPS to integrate their environmental objectives, experientially teach TDSB curriculum and foster holistic approach to land stewardship on their own school yard; providing rich experiences and understandings (of the earth – environmental frame of mind).

Yours in Conservation,

Evelyn Lurz  
Environmental Education Coordinator

*Giving Nature a voice and a helping hand.*  
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Jackman Avenue Public School  
79 Jackman Avenue  
Toronto, ON M4K 2X5  
(416) 393-9710

February 28, 2011

To whom it may concern:

Re: Greening Outreach from Jackman Public School to Roden Public School

I understand that Roden and Equinox Schools would like to further enhance their school yard, build an outdoor classroom and create flower/vegetable gardens. I provide the following information as some background to some excellent greening work that they have already completed in their schoolyard.

The Gardening Committee at Jackman Public School was awarded \$5000 in 2004 at the opening ceremony of the Jackman Green Roof. The award was in recognition of Jackman's greening projects and the mandate was that it be used for further greening and sustainability work.

The Garden Committee decided in 2007 to extend this benefit into the community by supporting the greening plans of other schools. A program was set up in which ten schools were awarded \$500 each. The successful proposals submitted a plan and a budget and were required to submit documentation and photos of their completed project.

Roden Public School was one of the schools to receive funding. Their plan was a "Beautification of the School" for the school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The money was used to create a flower bed in the front and also the back of the school. Large rocks were added to provide seating. Their work involved teachers, students and parents who collaborated to create a beautiful space that continues to be well maintained and enjoyed.

The Jackman Gardening Committee is committed to providing for students all of the benefits of being immersed in their natural world, and are proud to have supported Roden Public School in its pursuit of the same.

Please feel free to contact me for any further details.

Regards,



Michelle Wolfenden  
Jackman School Council Co-Chair  
Former Jackman School Council Outdoor Environment Chair