

The West Interlake Watershed Conservation District (WIWCD) held a Water Festival on September 18, 2014. The Festival took place at the Lundar Arena, about 160 students Grade 3-8 from École Communautaire Aurèle-Lemoine from St. Laurent, Grade 1&2 from Lundar and Grade 1-6 from Eriksdale School attended the Water Festival.

Throughout eight stations students were able to learn about water quality, pollution, ecosystems and biodiversity of wild life habitat. “Enviroscape” station was run by high school students, EICD staff and Shane Robins, who is executive director of Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA). At this station students learned how different types of pollution can affect the quality of the water through streams and ground water run offs. “Stream table”, which was kindly provided and represented by the East Interlake Conservation District (EICD), allowed students to see the impact of soil erosion on our land and presented multiple approaches on how to control the erosion. The Macro – Invertebrate Game showed students that there is different species with different tolerance to pollution. Intolerant species will need our protection, as they have no ability to survive on their own.

Oak Hammock Marsh had a station named “Critter Dipping” where students learned about ecosystems, the other two stations were represented by Nature Conservancy and Trapper’s Association. Students from Lundar High School and Communautaire Aurèle-Lemoine were helping to run a Water Relay. Provincial appointee to WIWCD, Pat Dunlop, was educating students about different stages and water processes through creating bracelets where each bead represents a different form of water.

The WIWCD partnered with Lake Winnipeg Foundation and covered all the costs for the Water Festival, including the cost of the buses that transported students to and from the Lundar Arena. The Arena was provided free of charge for this event by the community organization “Grettir”. Each student left the Water Festival with a nutritional snack, a children’s educational coloring and activity book: “Wise about Water Conservation”, and a Large Eco Bookmark “Plant Me” made from plantable paper. The WIWCD would like to thank the Lake Winnipeg Foundation for their monetary contribution. However, without help from volunteers this event would not be possible. The WIWCD is very grateful to East Interlake Conservation District, Oak Hammock Marsh, Nature Conservancy, Manitoba Trapper’s Association, Grettir Board, Shane Robins from MCDA, Pat Dunlop, high school students from Ecole Communautaire Aurele-Lemoine and Lundar School for all their help in organizing this event.

Next year The West Interlake Watershed Conservation District will be hosting a Water Festival in the northern part of the district, so that students from Ashern and Grahamdale can take part in this fun and educational festival.

