



GARDEN OF CHAMPIONS

Celebrating conservation action



Over 1,100 students from 47 classes in Albertan schools participated in the Conservation Champions Festival program. From September 2022 to May 2023, students led conservation action projects at their schools. This journal features each school's conservation action video and celebrates the work of the dedicated Conservation Champions that made a difference for wildlife and wild places.

CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS FESTIVAL



WEBSITE

bit.ly/CZConservationChampions

[Learn More](#)

MISSION

The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo's Conservation Champions program invites young people to join us in our mission to sustain wildlife and wild places.

Incorporating aspects of field study, inquiry and service learning, this program gives young people the opportunity to explore their passion and take action for the natural world around them.

PROGRAM

The Conservation Champions Festival is a hybrid program that provides educators with access to a virtual classroom complete with conservation resources, videos from experts, and optional lesson plans or activities that they can do with their students to enhance their understanding of the natural world and conservation literacy. Access to the virtual classroom is available from September to May. Throughout the year, students engage in inquiry-based learning and complete a conservation action project that they will then showcase to the public in May of each year.

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A.E. BOWERS SCHOOL

CADGER-PAGE

GRADE 4 FRENCH IMMERSION



NOUS RECYCLONS LE MÉTAL! WE RECYCLE METAL!

Une classe de 4e année dirige notre école dans une nouvelle initiative de recyclage des métaux à l'école A.E. Bowers.

Our grade 4 class is leading our school in a new metal recycling initiative at A.E. Bowers Elementary School.



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A.E. BOWERS SCHOOL

FRIESEN

GRADE 4



BURROWING OWLS

Have you ever heard of the Burrowing Owl? Just Whoooo are they? Students in 4F have learned all about this unique bird and what the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo are doing to help. Come see what we have learned and what you can do to support wildlife conservation!



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BELVEDERE PARKWAY SCHOOL

GRONEBERG

GRADE 2



AYE AYES

We studied the Aye Aye from Madagascar. It is the only mammal that uses echolocation. We learnt that all 100 species of lemurs live there. Aye Ayes have some really cool adaptations!



BELVEDERE PARKWAY SCHOOL

KONSMO
GRADE 2



MOUNTAIN BONGO

Our class studied the mountain bongo from Kenya. We learned about where they live, their diet, and that they are critically endangered. Watch this video to learn about this amazing antelope species!

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BELVEDERE PARKWAY SCHOOL

SCHMIDEDER
GRADE 2



THE AMUR TIGER

Our class loves the amur tiger! We wanted to share some cool facts and information so that people can better understand the tiger and do their part to save them. Our class created research booklets and tiger art. We are officially tiger experts!



BRIAR HILL SCHOOL

ELOHO

GRADE 5/6



SUPPORT GORILLAS ON THE LINE

Students studied the different types of gorillas and their habitats. They learned about habitat loss due to coltan mining, and after hearing about the Gorillas on the Line campaign, they decided to do something to help. They designed flyers to post around the school and send to our parent community. They also raised donations for the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo.



CLEAR WATER ACADEMY

DOOLEY, LEMA, & MARCHIN
KINDERGARTEN



PENGUINS

Kindergarten students at Clear Water Academy learned all about penguins! They learned about their habitats, life cycles and body parts, and met the penguins at the Calgary Zoo on a virtual field trip. Penguins inspired their art and writing, and students now know many ways to protect these amazing birds!

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DR. ROBERTA BONDAR SCHOOL

ROBERTS (AM & PM) & PAYETTE
KINDERGARTEN



PROTECTING BIRDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our inquiry question was "How can we protect birds in our community?"
We were inspired by the burrowing owls and researched how we can help protect them and other birds that live around us.



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GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL

ACHESON
GRADE 1



PROTECTING WILD BEARS

Our class explored how our actions can help protect wild bears.



GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL

DICK

GRADE 1



HELPING THE PENGUINS BY REDUCING PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN

Our grade 1 students learned about penguins. Then they hosted a waste free lunch to reduce plastic in the ocean. As a baseline, they collected the garbage generated after a normal lunch. They created a garbage penguin!
On the day of waste free lunch, there was much less plastic collected.



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HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL

LEAHY & MILLER
GRADES 1-3



WEASELS OF WESTERN CANADA: THE FISHER

The Grade 1-3 classes at Huntsville School researched the threats and conservation of Fishers. The students have created dioramas to raise awareness of this animal and the environmental impacts on its wellbeing.



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IAN BAZALGETTE SCHOOL

WONG, VLAAR, LEANEY, OGLE,
DUFFY, & ALDRIDGE
GRADE 7



THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION

Six grade 7 classes from Ian Bazalgette School were inspired to learn about species-at-risk and conservation efforts to support them in human care. Multiple groups from each class selected an endangered animal species and explored their needs. They then became habitat designers and built 3D models of a habitat that is ideal for their species in human care.



MEADOW RIDGE SCHOOL

KELLER & MCDONALD
GRADES 7 & 9



POLLINATOR CONSERVATION

Three grade 7 classes at Meadow Ridge School focused on pollinator conservation and what our community can do to increase the presence of pollinators in urban communities. The grade 9's created an activist Instagram page that outlines the environmental (and social) impact of products on animals. They made conservation-based recommendations to industry, and provided information on what we can do locally to protect animals and humans from the harmful chemicals that exist in the products we use daily.



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MONSIGNOR A.J. HETHERINGTON SCHOOL

KOWBEL & WROE

GRADE 3



SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

For our Sea Turtle Conservation Project, we collected plastics around our community and transformed them into beautiful Turtle Art. We also created commercials to show on the school TV's to raise awareness about the harm plastics are doing to our oceans.



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MOUNT VIEW SCHOOL

LEMIEUX

GRADES 1-3



EARTH RANGER'S TURTLE ISLAND

After studying more about Traditional Knowledge in one of our Earth Ranger's missions, we decided to construct a giant turtle that depicts North America on top of its shell. Informing others about Traditional Knowledge is a way of conservation action by learning the importance of the land, nature, and believing that everything has a spirit. We must take care of Turtle Island for future generations of all species.



ROYAL OAK SCHOOL

DANIELS & YOON
GRADE 1



BATS

For our inquiry in grade 1, students have been investigating bats in Alberta. Their wonderings about bats have included questions about where they live, what they eat, impacts to their habitat, and their importance in the local ecosystem.



ROYAL OAK SCHOOL

HARRISON
GRADE 1



BURROWING OWLS

Our class researched burrowing owls and explored the conservation initiatives being done to protect them. For our conservation action project, our class is fundraising for conservation initiatives.



ROYAL OAK SCHOOL

LASER

GRADE 1



BURROWING OWLS

Burrowing owls are endangered in Canada! Find out some important information and conservation efforts that are happening to help protect this beautiful bird.



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ROYAL OAK SCHOOL

PLAXIN

GRADE 1



BOBCATS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Bobcats are in our neighbourhood! Royal Oak and Rocky Ridge are at the northwest edge of Calgary. We are exploring how we live with these wild animals within our neighborhood. Bobcats are living alongside us in our neighborhoods and we have many wonders of how to successfully live with them.



SADDLE RIDGE SCHOOL

KOOISTRA & SMITH
GRADE 3



HELP US SAVE THE GORILLAS

After reading "The One and Only Ivan", we were inspired to learn about gorillas. We were shocked discover that our phone and electronic devices contain and ore called coltan. Mining for coltan is harming gorillas and destroying their habitat. We decided to take action by collecting electronic devices to recycle through the Gorillas on the Line campaign.



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SILVER SPRINGS SCHOOL

DOWNEY
GRADE 3/4



NATIVE WILDFLOWERS OF ALBERTA

Students noticed that some of areas of Bowmont Park had few wildflowers. They decided they wanted to grow wildflowers to plant in Bowmont Park to increase their number. After researching and choosing native wildflowers, students started growing them to either plant in Bowmont or in their own home gardens.



SILVER SPRINGS SCHOOL

DRYSDALE & MARKLE
GRADE 3/4



RAISING AWARENESS OF CARIBOU AT RISK OF EXTIRPATION

Grade 3/4 of Silver Springs School is learning how Caribou are at risk of extirpation due to climate change. Climate change is affecting their habitat and introducing new predators. We are researching lichen (a mainstay of the Caribou diet) and how pollutants affect the health of this unique species.

A large graphic with a blue-to-white gradient background. On the left, there is a white owl logo with a leaf-like shape below it. To its right, the text "conservation champions" is written in a sans-serif font, with "FESTIVAL" in a smaller font below it. Below the owl logo is the "Wilder Calgary Zoo INSTITUTE" logo, which includes a paw print icon. On the right side of the graphic, there is a circular inset image of a caribou head with large antlers, similar to the one in the top right. At the bottom center, the date "MAY 3 & 4, 2023" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The background of the graphic shows a scenic view of a forest and mountains under a blue sky with white clouds.

SILVER SPRINGS SCHOOL

TEIXEIRA

GRADE 3/4



BURROWING OWLS AND SWIFT FOXES

The students researched these two animals and learned about the damage and widespread loss of prairie habitat. They interviewed and met with a conservation biologist to understand the issues and actions that need to be taken. They are writing letters to farmer and government groups to advocate for these animals. They are also writing to parents and community members to raise awareness and request that they also petition the government for change.



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SOMERSET SCHOOL

JONGELING & SPILLMAN

GRADE 1



OPERATION SAVE THE POLAR BEARS!

The grade one classes at Somerset School embarked on a conservation rescue mission to help protect the polar bears. They taught the school community about the threats facing polar bears as a result of global warming and organized a successful fundraiser for Polar Bears International.



ST. JOHN XXIII SCHOOL

WANG

GRADE 2/3



WE ARE THE WHOOPING CRANES

Our class explored the conservation story of whooping cranes and Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park.



VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL

HICKERTY
GRADE 1



MAKOYI - THE GRAY WOLF A KEYSTONE ANIMAL

Students researched the Gray Wolf (Makoyi) and its impact on the ecosystem in the Rocky Mountains. Students found that the interconnected web of all the living and non-living beings are largely dependent on the presence of Makoyi. Students also learned the traditional story of Makoyoohsokoyi - The Wolf Trail (Milky Way).



VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL

MEIL

GRADE 1



THE BEAVERS' ANCESTORS

We need be a good ancestor to all living things. We are all connected to nature. Beavers help other animals by giving them a place to live. Beavers help people by cleaning water with their dams. Watch this video to learn more about the importance of beavers.



WILDWOOD SCHOOL

BAKER

GRADE 3



ALBERTA BATS

After researching about the issues affecting Alberta bats, we decided to build and provide bat boxes in our school community as a safe place for bats to roost and hibernate. Bats are not scary, but a very important part of our ecosystem.



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WILDWOOD SCHOOL

RYLAND
GRADE 3



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