



# Youth Engagement Snapshots Summer/Fall 2009

The Palisades Stewardship Education Centre (PSEC) in Jasper National Park is a youth education centre run by Parks Canada. Set in the heart of the largest Rocky Mountain Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its objective is to cultivate stewards of the future for the national parks and national historic sites of Canada. We promote innovation and excellence in stewardship education and training. This season provided us with new partnerships and new programs. Here is a brief glimpse of some recent successes.

## New Canadians CONNECT!



Outward Bound CANADA



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Parks Canada is targeting its education outreach on three major segments of the Canadian population: youth, urban and new Canadians. In partnership with Outward Bound, a program was created to reach all of these audiences at one time. The Calgary Foundation selected and paid for twelve youths residing in the city between the ages of 16 to 18 years old to spend a week at the Palisades Centre. All of them



had immigrated to Canada within the last 2 years. They came together and overcame cultural and language differences to spend an unforgettable week in Jasper National Park. They learned first-hand about Canada's National Parks and participated in activities including: alpine hiking, rock climbing and canoeing. For most, it was the first time that they had participated in any type of mountain recreation. This program has received national media attention and is scalable and repeatable in many National Parks near urban centres.



## Robert Bateman Get to Know Your Wild Neighbour Art and Nature Camp



The winners of a national art, photography and writing contest sponsored by Robert Bateman's charity: "Get to Know Your

Wild Neighbour" were invited to a week-long residential camp at the Palisades in September. This partnership with GTK helped to spread the message that the Palisades centre is for ALL

Canadians as there were youth from Saanich, B.C. to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The kids honed their creative skills with workshops on acrylics, mosaics, pottery, nature writing and photography run by local artists and Robert Bateman's son, Alan. They also had a chance to participate in mountain recreation and to learn about wildlife in JNP. The week culminated in a show of their work to kick off Alberta Arts Days in Jasper.



## Canadian Parents for French Summer Camp



Palisades' staff worked with the Canadian Parents for French this summer to add Parks Canada messaging, ecology-based games and outdoor recreational opportunities to their summer day camp. PSEC offers programming in both French and English. The camp culminated with a sleepover in the historic buildings of the Palisades Centre.

## Teacher's Day

Twelve teachers from the Grand Yellowhead Public School Division spent a day at the Palisades Centre discovering the unique facility and programs. This is the fourth year that PSEC has held this open door event. The teachers learned about the opportunities for outdoor education that the Palisades offers and were able to connect with PSEC staff. Programs such as Winter Travel, Water Navigation and Stewardship of Protected Lands are now approved high school credit courses.





## Stewardship of Protected Lands

For the sixth year, the Palisades Centre offered its Stewardship of Protected Lands course to the grade ten class at Jasper High School. This required course introduces youth to the importance of protecting wild places and the unique management issues that this presents. With the participation of a range of citizens such as the mayor, chamber of commerce and Parks Canada as well as members from the aboriginal and seniors' communities, a broad range of viewpoints is represented.



## Wildlife Forensics

A consistent favourite among its many participants is the one-day Wildlife Forensics course offered at PSEC. The course was offered three times in November. Designed in partnership with the Friends of Jasper National Park and run with the gracious assistance of members of Resource Conservation and the Warden Service, this course provides a hands-on approach to science. The participants get to be members of "CSI Jasper" while working as a poaching investigative team with real evidence such as shell casings and animal parts.

