

## Exemplary Environmental Leadership/Sustainability Program or Initiative

School Board: Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

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Name of Program/Initiative H.R. Frink Outdoor Education Centre

Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative

<http://www.hpedsb.on.ca/ec/frinkcentre/index.html>

### Description of Program/Initiative

#### **H.R. Frink Outdoor Education Centre**

HPEDSB has established Outdoor Education programs at the H. R. Frink Outdoor Education Centre for all grades. In partnership with Quinte Conservation, The Friends of the Frink, and our coterminous board the site provides outdoor education learning for all our schools. We have 3 classrooms and an outdoor learning pavilion to provide indoor and outdoor space for learning. The Frink Centre offers over 500 acres of diverse topography and ecosystems and over 14 km of trails

Our Outdoor Education Liaison, works with Curriculum Services staff and teachers from our schools to facilitate programming. Programs are developed for Kindergarten through Grade 12 and cover many curricular areas of study. The Frink Centre has equipment, displays, and resources to support student learning.

The Frink Centre provides opportunities for environmental studies, data collection and management, mapping, team building and Leadership programs, Advanced Orienteering and Wilderness survival. At Maple Sugar Bush students learn about traditional First Nations methods and more modern local methods of production. Secondary students provide leadership to assist running the tours.

In a learning partnership with Green Learning, Wilfred Laurier University, local producers, and local Engineers, the Frink Centre will work with several of our schools in a Climate Change Inquiry based on maple syrup production. Secondary School Restoration Construction classes have designed many projects at the Frink Centre (i.e., outdoor pavilion, firewood shelters, canoe racks, out houses).

Feedback forms are used to provide indicators of success and assist with monitoring of programming and student learning. Educators frequently comment on the importance of hands on experiential learning and the impact it has on student engagement and learning. Most responses rate the programming and experiences as excellent and the feedback is used to inform next steps for improvement.

### What has been the Impact on Student Learning?

The H.R. Frink Centre is an amazing facility that provides our students with outdoor education learning experiences that inform and promote environmental awareness. Students learn about the environment in the environment through rich hands on experiences. They develop an appreciation for nature, the interrelationship between humans and nature, and our responsibility to the environment. Students develop knowledge and skills that encourage environmental awareness and stewardship. The programming seeks to develop a love of nature, an awareness of our environmental impact, and a sense of environmental responsibility.