



# Chalk Talk

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**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

At the eastern end of False Creek in Vancouver stands a geodesic dome of high polished steel, current home of Science World. In 1985, it was EXPO Centre, the largest theme pavilion of EXPO 86, a World's Fair dedicated to Communications and Transportation. The EXPO Centre opened a full year before the rest of the exposition and boasted the world's largest OMNIMAX Theatre and an exhibit called "Design 2000", which, as is customary with this kind of Fair, hypothesized about the world of the future.

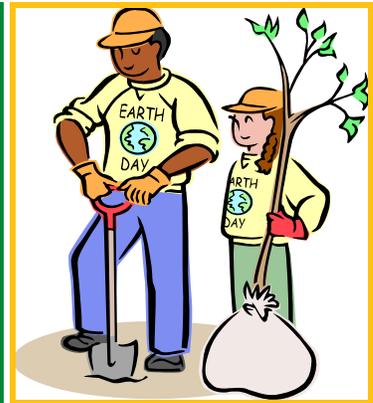


"Design 2000" offered three distinct possible futures for life on Planet Earth. The first was a dark 'Blade Runner' world of technological dominance marred by over-population, energy and food shortages, and ecological mayhem. [Sound familiar?] The second option was a modern utopian Garden of Eden where humanity lived in harmony with nature. And the third offered a 'Star Trek' vision where human beings had prevailed over war, overpopulation, famine, having discovered bountiful, environmentally friendly energy sources which would allow travel into space.

With the year 2000 come and gone, we face great environmental challenges. While it may be too late to create a utopian "natural" world, many scientists and environmentalists believe there is a real opportunity to set a course of action that will conserve our planet for future generations.



## Plant a Tree, Save the Planet



**Earth Day 2006** takes place on Saturday, April 22. Young and old will be out in full force to celebrate our planet and try to make a difference in conserving its beauty and natural resources. Plant a tree, pick up litter, walk instead of driving — get involved!

Check out the [Earth Day Canada](#) website to find out about events and activities that are being planned across the country. The [World Wildlife Fund Canada \(WWF\)](#) website has much useful information on global warming, wildlife conservation, [educational resources](#) and tips on how to "[Go Green](#)". To learn more about the founder of Earth Day, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, who died last year, [click here](#).

More links to sites containing environmental educational resources can be found at:

- [Environment Canada's 'The Green Lane'](#)
- [The Government of Canada's 'Take action on climate change'](#)
- [The David Suzuki Foundation](#)
- [EcoMentors: Helping kids help the Environment](#)
- [EcoVoyageurs: Reduce your Ecological Footprint](#)



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"It was obvious that we were headed for a spectacular success on Earth Day. It was also obvious that grassroots activities had ballooned beyond the capacity of my U.S. Senate office staff to keep up with the telephone calls, paper work, inquiries, etc. In mid-January, three months before Earth Day, John Gardner, Founder of Common Cause, provided temporary space for a Washington, D.C. headquarters. I staffed the office with college students and selected Denis Hayes as coordinator of activities. Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the*



This week's issue of *Chalk Talk* is the first of two issues dedicated to Planet Earth and features Earth Day information and links that may be of use to educators and students.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [4edu.ca](http://4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

*Mary Kovack*

Mary Kovack

**Have your students come up with a great way to mark Earth Day? Write to us at [maryk@coedcomm.com](mailto:maryk@coedcomm.com) describing the activities you have planned. We will post these emails on our website to give schools an opportunity to share their ideas. We'll revisit Earth Day 2006 in an upcoming issue of *Chalk Talk* and feature some of the interesting ways young people made a difference.**

## News and Links

**[On the brink of famine](#)** — Karen Palmer, The Toronto Star, February 22, 2006

"Nairobi — More than 6 million people across East Africa are facing starvation in a worsening drought that has already killed at least 80 people and destroyed nearly half the livestock in some areas."

**[Studies fuel Kyoto hope for Tories--Greenhouse gas targets within reach, reports say--Switching to bioenergy touted as one solution](#)** — Peter Calamai, Science Writer, The Toronto Star, April 10, 2006

"Two new scientific reports have thrown the Harper government lifelines to possibly meet Canada's greenhouse gas target under the Kyoto Protocol and also to negotiate a better deal in any follow-up treaty. Environment Minister Rona Ambrose has already announced she intends to challenge the international focus on setting emissions targets and said Canada has no hope of living up to its Kyoto commitments."

**[Traffic jams cost Canadians \\$2.3B-\\$3.7B/year: Study](#)** — Canadian Press, The Toronto Star, March 22, 2006

"Worsening urban congestion is costing Canadians billions of dollars a year and the waste is likely to compound with a growing population, more cars on the road, and the urbanization of towns, according to a new Transport Canada study. The study is the first national analysis of congestion and estimates that the cost of bad traffic in Canada's nine biggest cities ... is between \$2.3 billion and \$3.7 billion a year. More than 90 per cent of the waste is the value of time lost in traffic, seven per cent is the cost of fuel consumption, and three per cent is associated with increased greenhouse gas emissions."

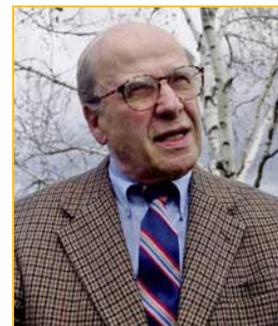
**[Ten Ways You Can Make Earth Day Matter](#)** — WWF Canada website, 'Get Involved — Earth Day'

"As we celebrate Earth Day's 37th year on April 22, WWF challenges everyone to try some of these small changes to make a big difference."

selected Denis Hayes as coordinator of activities. Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither

the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself. "

— U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, Conservationist and Founder of Earth Day, commenting on the lead-up to the first Earth Day in 1970.



Senator Gaylord Nelson



As we celebrate Earth Day each year on April 22, we challenge everyone to try some of these small changes to make a big difference.”

## Facts & Figures—Our Planet



- Earth is part of a solar system on the outer edge of our galaxy, called The Milky Way, that includes eight other known planets and the only known planet with the ability to sustain life as we know it.
- The Milky Way is one of billions of spiral galaxies in the universe.
- The Earth is located about 93.1 million miles from the Sun.
- There are approximately 6.2 billion people on Earth, with a current growth rate of about 50 million people per year.
- Some scientists estimate that only 2.1 million of the about 10 million species of organisms, including humans, that live on Earth have been classified to date.
- Some estimates suggest that 100 species become extinct every day due to tropical deforestation.
- The leading environmental issues are Global Warming, Deforestation and Habitat Loss, Water Pollution and Potable Fresh Water, Air Pollution, Energy Resources, Population Growth, Species Protection (Plant and Animal), Food Production.

[Source: [Ecology.com](http://Ecology.com) — [The Earth at a Glance](http://The Earth at a Glance)]

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