



# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | Facts & Figures

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

### Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

In the early 14th century, the first Parliament was established in France to provide the king with advice and information from his subjects. Derived from the French word, "parler" (to speak), a "Parlement" provided an opportunity

for people to meet to discuss matters and come up with suggestions and solutions.



In the mid-1800's, British member of Parliament, Edward

Bulwer-Lytton, wrote that "the pen is mightier than the sword". The notion that words and talking might bring about a better result than war was revolutionary in its time and today remains a very challenging concept.

The commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the senseless and inexpressibly horrific events of September 11, 2001, remind us that there is much to be gained in this world if we can find ways to avoid conflict and resolve our differences through greater understanding, better communication and unwavering commitment to negotiated outcomes.



This week's **Chalk Talk** provides information on how your students can participate in this year's **Canada's Youth Eco-Parliament**, an initiative which encourages high school students to change their world by becoming involved in national discussion groups which debate environmental issues and work together to devise innovative and practical ways to solve these challenges.



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### Register for Canada's Youth Eco-Parliament

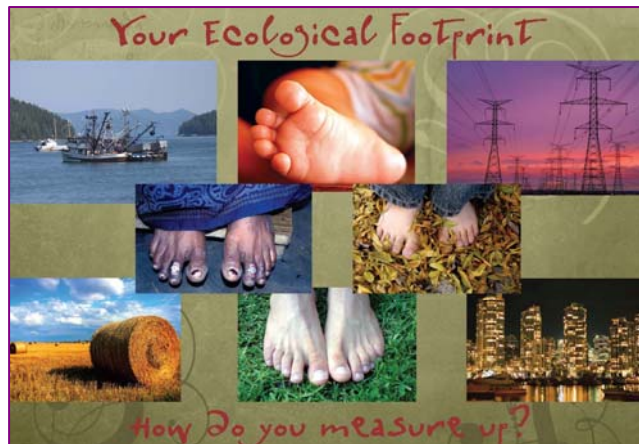
Canada's Youth Eco-Parliament

Eco-Parlement Canadien des jeunes

Check out Canada's Youth Eco-Parliament for the 2006-2007 school year!

School groups — be it class, club or committee — are invited to participate in this program that engages youth in national discussions and local actions on environmental issues. They use the [ecological footprint](#) concept to analyze issues of sustainability in their school or community and carry out a local action project based on the results.

Schools that participated in the pilot program in the 2005-2006 school year loved that it fit into the curriculum, that they had free reign to choose the issue and project they worked on, and that the ecological footprint gave them a measure for illustrative purposes to show others.

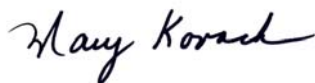


Visit our website at [www.yep-canada.ca](http://www.yep-canada.ca) to discover how your school group can participate in discussion forums with students, teachers and guest experts; calculate your ecological footprint; and access a program guide with helpful case studies.

There is also information on the website on how students can win national prizes, such as the opportunity to take part in a Canadian stewardship conference. To register your class or after-school club online, [click here](#).

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.

[Let us know what you think!](#)



Mary Kovack

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*Watch your thoughts, for they become words.  
Watch your words, for they become actions.  
Watch your actions, for they become habits.  
Watch your habits, for they become character.  
Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.*

— Author unknown

*Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate.*

— **John F. Kennedy**, 1917-1963, Thirty-fifth President of the USA

### Facts & Figures — Reducing your Ecological Footprint by Saving Energy



- Walk whenever possible; ride a bicycle for longer distances; car pool with friends or work colleagues; use public transit; fully inflate the tires on your vehicle (soft tires consume more gas and energy); drive slower to conserve fuel (90 kph uses 10 per cent less energy than 100 kph); drive a well-maintained, fuel-efficient car
- Don't run the water until it is hot or cold; repair leaking faucets (a single tap dripping once every second wastes 800 litres of water per month); collect rainwater to water plants and lawns; water during the coolest part of the day and don't water on hot or windy days; choose showering for a maximum of 5 minutes over taking a bath; turn the tap off when brushing teeth, shaving or washing your hands
- Use a manual push reel lawn mower; turn off the lights when not in use; use natural sunlight as much as possible; use motion sensor lights for outdoors instead of leaving them on all night; use energy efficient lights (i.e. compact fluorescent lights use less energy and last ten times longer); shift energy use to off peak times, i.e. do laundry/run dishwasher/water your lawn in evenings; hang laundry to dry outside or in the basement; set the temperature in your hot water tank to a maximum of 48° C/120°F; turn the thermostat down at night or when you are not at home
- Reduce, reuse and recycle; compost; give away, don't throw away; take care of your things so they last a long time; buy previously used items; add compost to your garden instead of using chemical fertilizers; share newspapers and magazines; borrow magazines/books from the library instead of buying them; hang a sign on your door rejecting junk mail; buy products that contain recycled materials

[Source: [City of Toronto, Environmental Assessment and Policy Development](#)]

### News

[Climate change demands action. GLOBAL ISSUES | Solutions require drastic measures and time is running out](#) — David Crane, *The Toronto Star*, September 10, 2006

Perhaps no issue will challenge the world more over the next decade than how to deal with climate change. The science is real, the threat is significant; solutions require dramatic change and time is running out. The U.N. Population Fund has just published its latest forecast for population growth to 2050. It shows world population growing from 6.5 billion people now to 9.1 billion people by 2050, which in itself could lead to an enormous increase in the greenhouse gas emissions that trigger climate change.

[Teachers fret. Students aren't the only ones who panic before school starts](#) — Monique Polak, *The National Post*, September 1, 2006

"We hear about youngsters who are anxious about the upcoming school year, worried about getting along with their teachers and making friends. But when the days get shorter and school supply sections start sprouting in drugstores, teachers get anxious, too. And for many of them, that anxiety takes the form of bad dreams."

[Learning students' names new challenge for teachers](#) — Kerry Williamson, *The StarPhoenix* [canada.com], August 28, 2006

"As cities continue to grow along every changing cultural boundaries -- and as parents find stranger and stranger names for their children -- the job of remembering a classroom full of kids is becoming more and more difficult."

[Summer our second warmest since 1948](#) — Dennis Bueckert, *The Toronto Star*, [Canadian Press]

[Summer our second warmest since 1948](#) — Dennis Bueckert, *The Toronto Star*, [Canadian Press] Sep. 13, 2006.

“Yes, it was hot. Environment Canada says the summer of 2006 was the second-warmest since national record-keeping began in 1948. Average temperatures nationally were 1.4 degrees above normal during June, July and August, continuing a warming trend that has been evident every season but two over the past nine years. The national trend is consistent with projections of what will happen under climate change, says Environment Canada scientist Bob Whitewood.”

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### Facts & Figures

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