

Light of Christ students, Beacon Hall team up for Earth Week



By Jeff Doner

Beacon Hall golf course did its part in celebrating Earth Week, inviting the Eco Team from Light of Christ Elementary School to come out and plant trees, learn about duck nests and help add 300 brook trout to the course's ponds.

"They're all really keen and we've taught them about the environmental benefits of the golf course," said Paul Scenna, golf course superintendent at Beacon Hall.

"We have planted trees, they've learned about native trees: white pines, sugar maples and red maples and everyone had a chance to plant a couple trees. The course is currently in the process of planting 950 small trees this spring. We also put 300 brook trout in our ponds."

The students spent a few hours at the course, helping out and learning about the golf course as a green space. They also learned how to build a mallard duck nest.

The Eco Team at Light of Christ consists of students from grades four, five and six who plan and participate in various green initiatives throughout the year.

Teachers Ms. McCammon and Mrs. DeZorzi said the team has to be certified annually and has won gold merits the past two years.

"One of the things we have to do is be involved in greening initiatives, so when we were called by Mr. Scenna we thought this was a great opportunity," said Ms. McCammon. "We've done a lot of greening around the school, but we're sort of at the limit of trees that we can plant around the school, so we're trying to branch out."

The group meets at school once a week throughout the whole year and plans green strategies and events to create eco-awareness around the school. "It's been great to give them this opportunity," Ms. McCammon added.

The students themselves had a lot of great things to say about the importance of getting out for earth week and helping the environment.

Grade four student Sandra Raooof, who planted about five trees and helped transfer a few trout into the pond, said she was happy to participate.

"It was fun. I want to help the environment," she said, adding that the tree planting was her favourite part.

Stefan Fazari (grade five) agreed with his Eco Teammate.

"What was my favourite part? Probably planting the trees," he said with a grin. "Because trees help us breath."

Grade six students Otilia Fedrigoni and Alexia Mereuta said it's everybody's job to get out and do their part.

"We have to do this, because trees help us breathe oxygen and now there aren't as many and Earth Week is all about helping the environment and raising awareness," said Fedrigoni.

Added Mereuta: "I think it's important because it helps the environment. There's a lot of pollution going around and trees help us a lot and give us better air to breathe," she said. "I think people should help out, like we did here. Go out and help plant trees everywhere. I think that would be really good."