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PROJECT STONEY LAKE



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Project Stoney Lake was the brainchild of several staff members from the Humboldt Collegiate Institute. The teachers behind the Project felt that the current structure of secondary schools in Saskatchewan did not permit an interdisciplinary approach to learning. They also felt there was a need to integrate skills learned in various subject areas and to create situations in which students could apply these skills in meaningful, practical ways. In addition they believed that most students, especially those of high school age, felt that they did not belong to, or that they could contribute to, their community. They also strongly believed that there was a need for environmental education in Saskatchewan if students were to meet the problems of the future. The Project was an attempt to satisfy these needs by providing leadership and financial assistance to a group of local high school students. (the entire Project was funded by an Innovative Project Grant provided by the Saskatchewan Department of Education.) The Project was conducted as a case study of a local nonrenewable resource, specifically Humboldt Lake, locally known as Stoney Lake.

At present there is a great deal of local interest in Stoney Lake, a fresh water lake located approximately 6.5 km. south of the Town of Humboldt. In the past the Lake was used extensively as a recreational resource. However, the water quality has steadily deteriorated to the point where it is now seldom used for swimming and is unofficially a "fish for fun" area. At present the Lake is used by the water ski club during the summer and by the cross-country ski club during the winter. Cabin owners make use of it year round.

Many unique aspects of the Lake contributed to the Study. The town's sewage treatment plant is situated at the head of Humboldt Creek which drains directly into the Lake. Also, at present there is a huge feedlot at the west end of the Lake. As a result of these recreational and water quality aspects, problems associated with Stoney Lake concern most people in the Humboldt area. The teachers involved in the study felt that by capitalizing on such a local situation a Project could be designed in which an interdisciplinary approach to environmental education could become a reality. The project was also intended to become a model on which other schools could base similar environmental studies in the future.

There were nine staff members involved (from nine different subject areas) and sixteen students from grades nine to twelve. These students were picked from 65 applications that were submitted. These sixteen students were then placed into the following groups:

1. Historical Research Group - these students collected existing data on the Lake.
2. Water Analysis Group - this group collected and analyzed data on existing conditions of the Lake (extending over a period of two years.)
3. Public Relations Group - the people in this group were in charge of issuing press releases and preparing quarterly newsletters which were placed in each post office box in Humboldt. All the correspondence was handled by this group.
4. Sewage Treatment Group - this group researched the past and existing methods of sewage treatment in Humboldt.
5. Drainage Group - this group dealt specifically with the collection of spring "run-off" data.

The documentation and presentation phase involved:

- a) the writing of a formal report documenting all research findings and recommendations.
- b) presentation of a formal report to the Town Council and citizens of Humboldt.

The Humboldt Regional Library has acquired a copy of the Project Report. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy may do so at the Humboldt Collegiate (available in hard cover or paperback.) Copies of the Stoney Lake Report have been sent to the following:

Saskatchewan Department of the Environment
Saskatchewan Department of Education
Saskatchewan Teachers Federation
Humboldt Town Council

A copy is being taken to an Environmental Education Symposium in the Soviet Union.

We would like to thank all the people who made this study possible.