



The Bluewater Education Foundation enriches our rural community by creating opportunities for learning beyond the classroom for children, youth and adults.

This goal is attained through fundraising efforts, volunteerism, partnerships, and networking.



Our Goals With You Today Are To...

- Raise awareness of, and appreciation for, the Bluewater Education Foundation and the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre,
- Explore how we may contribute to Grey/Bruce community development activities,
- Seek input into future BOEC site development plans,
- Engage local stakeholders in a discussion regarding financial sustainability, especially in the context of constrained government funding.

About Bluewater Education Foundation

Bluewater Education Foundation (BEF)

- Not-for-profit charitable organization,
- Mission is to support environmental learning opportunities to benefit the Grey Bruce Community.

Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre Trust

- Created with the sole purpose of maintaining the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre for future generations.

BEF Volunteer Directors:

- A representative group of volunteers from the area who apply their specialist skills to maintaining and developing the centre

About Bluewater Education Foundation (BEF)

Relationships

The BEF has been highly successful in establishing relationships with key financial, community and program partners including:

- Bruce Power, Bruce Telecom, Pelee Island Winery, The Society of Energy Professionals, Foundation for Rural Living, Bluewater Astronomical Society, ES Fox, Masons of Bruce District, Ducks Unlimited, Viking Cives

Fundraising activities:

Through generous support of partners and community fundraising, the BEF has raised over \$1.5 million for improvements at the Centre, including:

- Dormitory and Dining Facilities, Bruce Power Environmental Learning Centre, ES Fox Observatory , Mason Family Farm House, The Mason Barn, Campground, Canoe Shed

The Importance of Outdoor Education

The BOEC facilitates:

- Time to nurture an increased comfort level in, and connection with nature,
- Opportunities to learn and use outdoor skills,
- Team work & leadership, problem solving, independent thinking,
- Room to breathe - disconnection from technology and hectic schedules,
- Exposure to pressing environmental issues... and solutions,
- Connection to friends and classmates,
- Promotion of health and well-being,
- Active living and healthy meals.



FUN!

The Impact

- Open 47 Years, Estimated 174 000 students served (grades K – 12)
 - Every Bluewater student has at least one outdoor education visit – all students of BWDSB have this common thread that ties them = local identity/pride
- Countless groups have used the facilities, including:
 - exchange programs, service clubs (i.e., Lion's Club, Chambettes), Indigenous services (i.e., youth & adult conferences), university field courses, canoe courses, music camps, naturalist groups, etc.
- Tourists from around the world have learned about our region while staying on-site at the BOEC
- BWDSB has a high number of graduates entering environmental professions
- The BOEC's facility renovations have contributed to the local economy
- The feedback from previous students has been universally positive. Have you visited?!

2019 Summer Programs

Three Weeks of Summer Day Camps, 2019

- July 15-19, 22-26 - Wiarton, Saugeen Shores
 - Sponsored bussing from Port Elgin
- July 29 – Aug 2, Town of Meaford
- Leaders: Professional Outdoor Educators

Please help us spread the word: tell your friends and contacts, share our FB posts!



Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre

ECO-ADVENTURER DAY CAMP

July 15 - 19**
July 22 - 26

**Bussing available from Port Elgin (Lakeshore Recreation) for an additional \$50 for the week (\$225 total)

Ages 8–12 years



- Outdoor Skills
- Exploring in Nature
- Free Play
- Team Games and Leadership
- Crafts
- Drama
- and More!

Daily programming
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Early Drop Off
Late Pick Up available
at a nominal cost

Cost is \$175
Space is limited

Payable by cheque to: Bluewater Education Foundation

or e-transfer to:
bluewatereducationfoundation@gmail.com



3092 Bruce County Rd. 13
South Bruce Peninsula, ON
Ph: 519-534-2767
www.oec.bwdsb.on.ca
Deborah_Diebel@bwdsb.on.ca

Thanks to our bus sponsors: Bruce Power, MacKay Family Dental (Port Elgin), Maples Dental Clinic (Port Elgin), Port Elgin Home Hardware

Moving Forward...BEF is...

- Working with the BWDSB to explore ways to ensure the Centre is financially sustainable and extends its reach....
- Consulting with BWDSB and BOEC staff, examining other facilities, piloting 2019 ECO-Adventurers Summer Day Camp, etc..
- Exploring enhanced Adult/Continuing Education opportunities
- Seeking input from community partners on ways to compliment regional tourism planning, support local community initiatives, etc..

Summary

- The mission and work of BEF and BOEC continue to be relevant and pressing,
- Outdoor education is a BWDSB/BEF priority, however, fiscal pressures challenge us constantly improve the model and partnership approach
 - Quality curriculum & student experiences, a pristine natural ecosystem on the property, and safety are top priorities,
- Accountability and governance approaches must be appropriate and efficient,
- Enhanced facility and site utilization should maximize business potential, while carefully and intentionally preserving the natural features of this unique property.

Contact Us or Find Out More...

The Bluewater Education Foundation

<http://www.bluewater-edfoundation.org/>

On Facebook

[@bluewateredfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/bluewateredfoundation)

The Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre

www.oec.bwdsb.on.ca

On Facebook

[@BluewaterOutdoorEducationCentre](https://www.facebook.com/BluewaterOutdoorEducationCentre)

Thank You.....

