

North Bay-Mattawa Regional Envirothon 2007

On April 23rd and 24th, 2007 the F.J. McElligott Envirothon team from Mattawa attended a training session and competition day at the Canadian Ecology Centre. This team was particularly excited, since several of the team members were returning to the competition for the 4th consecutive year and each year they had also competed at the provincial level! The “Tree huggers” team this year included, Jason Lacelle, Keith Barrer, Miriam Pineau, Brittany Whalley, and Bonnie Trudel.

During the first day, students listened to several guests speaking about topics including wildlife and forestry. The highlight of the day was traveling to the home of the Peavoy’s in Mattawa to visit their “Eco-house”. They produce all of their own electricity through solar and wind power and heat their home and water with a woodstove. This visit also gave our team ideas to incorporate into their presentation on competition day, since the special topic this year was renewable resources. After returning to the Ecology Centre, the students participated in team-building activities, despite the rainy weather.

On competition day, the team competed strongly and enthusiastically throughout the day. The most stressful event was preparing a presentation on the special topic in a mere 20 minutes to present in front of a panel of judges! The team was a little disappointed that they did not make it to the provincials this year, but all considered it a great experience. We are grateful to the Forestry Research Partnership for sponsoring our team and giving us the opportunity to make the connections between our learning in the classroom and our environment.



By Martha Mayfield (F.J. McElligott Science teacher and Envirothon staff advisor)