

Edmonton Public School Board, who helped us identify birds, animals and plants.

-Canoeing and observing waterfowl habitat on Hastings Lake, led by Bruce Bembridge, past president of the Edmonton Natural History Society.

-A study of three pond systems: acid, alkaline and neutral. The study consisted of pH readings, depth measurements, a census of vegetation, aquatic life and map making.

-Capturing, identifying, and mounting of insects by Dr. Jim Ryan.

-Individual ecology projects which were done in groups of two or three. A short investigation into some aspect of ecology which interested them was carried out by each group. Our group did a study on pocket gophers including their habitat, choice of foods, breeding habits, and the inner structure of their tunnels.

During the last week of our camp, we set off on a five-day camping trip to the grasslands of southern Alberta and Dinosaur Provincial Park. While at Dinosaur Park, we were taken on a special tour of several dinosaur digs in the badlands. We also had the opportunity to hike around the Hoodoos and do some investigating on our own. The last day of our camping trip was held at a typical prairie cattle ranch near Medicine Hat. The owners, the Hargraves, were kind enough to put us up for the night and give us a roast beef dinner and breakfast. They had all 20 of us seated at an enormous dinner table. In the morning we left to go back to the field study center.

The final event of the camp was a farewell dinner at the local community hall, followed by a square dance, which everybody enjoyed.

During my three-week stay at the camp, I was well received and easily fitted in with the others. I made 24 new friends including the participants of the camp and the leaders. During my visit there I developed a new respect for natural wildlife and the environment it lives in. I also realized how each member of the environment depends on each other and how easily the natural balance can be upset. We learned how to observe, enjoy and conserve our surrounding wildlife and environment without harming it any more than necessary so that other generations can enjoy it.

My opinion was that the camp was well organized and well conducted. I sincerely hope that other camps similar to this will be held in the near future so that other young people from across Canada will have the same opportunity that we had.

I want to express my appreciation to the P.E.I. Natural History Society for selecting me as their representative for P.E.I., and the CNF and the Muttart Conservatory for sponsoring the camp. I would also like to give my thanks to Chester Gillan, my high school conservation teacher, who gave me help and support prior to my trip.

David L. MacLeod  
P.O. Box 1210  
Charlottetown, P.E.I