



A Natural Place for Learning

Killarney-Shebanoning
Outdoor Environmental
Education Centre



SUDBURY
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

Schools to believe in.

Introducing an Innovative



**The Killarney-Shebanoning
Outdoor Environmental
Education Centre is the
newest addition to the
Sudbury Catholic District
School Board: a school
that connects the mind,
body and soul to the world
around us.**

This new initiative will seek to support and expand the environmental, educational, cultural and historical aspects of the town of Killarney, St. Joseph Catholic School and the whole of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board by establishing an outdoor education centre in the heart of the community. The Board owns 7.24 acres of property associated with St. Joseph Catholic School and this will serve as the host site for the Centre. It is only 8 kilometers from one of the most prestigious parks in the world—Killarney Provincial Park that boasts an average annual visitation of approximately 100,000 people.

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board is partnering with the Municipality of Killarney, Killarney Provincial Park and the “Friends of Killarney Park” to offer exciting, exhilarating and very diversified activities. All programming is based on the Ontario Ministry of Education school curriculum with the added bonus of the unique Killarney experience. At the elementary level we will offer students the opportunity to learn about: authentic Aboriginal culture and teachings, ecological and environmental studies, sustainability of resource use, healthy living, child and youth stewardship, values of faith, community studies and much more. The ecological focus will

Educational Initiative

extend across elementary through to secondary and even post-secondary learning. We will be developing an educational facility that will focus on the latest innovative “green” technologies and practices.

Secondary school opportunities will permit biology, geography and geology students to partake in practical field course experiences. This will blend the theory of the classroom with the reality of the outdoors and better prepare them for making post-secondary and

career choices. Activities would be developed to support university/ college courses and research in a broad range of disciplines, most notably ecology, biology and geology. There will be practicum and internship opportunities for many students at the Centre.



*Learning opportunities
for everyone*

The School

St. Joseph Catholic School is a crucial part of the Killarney community. Major components of the school will remain fully functional. The students will still utilize the gymnasium and other areas. Their education will be enhanced by an increased variety of available activities and facilities. The Municipality enjoys access to the school for numerous community activities and this relationship will continue.



The Outdoor Education Area

The Centre will be using both the school grounds and a large adjacent woodland, as well as the nearby Killarney Provincial Park, as its classroom. Designed as a dormitory style accommodation, it will be able to handle up to 36 students plus teachers at any one time. The Centre will have separate rooms for live-in staff as well as visiting teachers.

Care and wide consultation with many users has been taken in the redesign of this facility to ensure that it can accommodate the needs of many diverse groups. It is anticipated that organizations such as Scouts, Guides, wilderness survival courses, programs geared to seniors, art and photography classes, etc. will be using the facility, particularly during non-school times. The Centre is expected to be self-sustaining within three to five years.

The Community Library

This room is to be jointly utilized by the community, the school and the Centre for a variety of activities. The community will play a key role in the organization and daily operation of the library and the resources housed within it.

The Community Heritage Museum

The Municipality of Killarney and the Heritage Society have proposed moving their log building (used as a museum in the summertime) to the Centre's property. The Centre will compliment the log structure by providing a climate-controlled space to showcase local artifacts. It is proposed that the log building will exhibit many historical items, dating back to the early 1800s, owned by the Killarney Heritage Society and members of the community. It is hoped that ancient artifacts excavated from within the town's site will be eventually returned and displayed here.

Aboriginal Teachings

The Centre will have a large Aboriginal component with authentic programming developed and delivered under the guidance and support of the Centre's local Elder. The Municipality (mainly First Nation and Métis) and the Heritage Society have partnered with the Sudbury Catholic District School Board in support of this endeavour. They are committed to expanding the uses of the facility, particularly as a visitor and education centre in the summertime. This component of the Centre will allow the community to celebrate and showcase their culture and history. There is enormous potential to increase the tourism base with this initiative.

*local history and
Aboriginal culture*



The latest in innovative "green technology"

The Green Initiative

A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Energy by the Dearness Environmental Society, supported by the Ontario Power Authority, to establish two Green Energy Centres. Killarney will be the focus for Northern Ontario. The Centre would showcase relevant energy-related technology as powerful teaching tools for both students and the general public.

It has been proposed that teams of students from across the north would visit the Centre for five-day periods.

During this time the students would learn about the environment, energy usage/impact and how to conduct a full energy audit. They would then design an energy campaign which would be implemented in their school/community. The resulting savings would be applied to financing the subsequent team of students the following year. The goal of this program is to reduce both the energy consumption and the carbon footprint of the schools that participate.





The Benefits: Educational and Economic

The components of the Killarney-Shebanoning Outdoor Environmental Education Centre initiative will create a uniquely integrated, educational and community-based facility. Once completed, the project is expected to create employment for eight to eleven people. While more than 100,000 people visit Killarney Provincial Park each year, few actually visit the community. It is anticipated that the Centre will help to stimulate economic development, increase tourism and promote job creation.

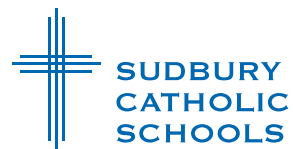
Economic potential

PHOTO: SCOTT CARD



The Killarney-Shebanoning Outdoor Environmental Education Centre project has the support and partnership of many different organizations:

Municipality of Killarney, Killarney Heritage Society, Killarney Provincial Park, "Friends of Killarney Park", Science North, Laurentian University, Dearness Environmental Society, Nickel District Conservation Authority, City of Greater Sudbury Tourism Sector, Killarney Mountain Lodge, Killarney Bay Inn and Herbert Fisheries. This list continues to grow daily.



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