

Halton students create new interpretive signs for Beauvais Lake



By Caitlin Clow, Pincher Creek Echo
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:04:32 MST AM



Jillianna Hammond reviews the new interpretive sign that she helped design with her Grade 10 English class. The new interpretive sign stands on the trails of Beauvais Lake Provincial Park and it is the first new sign in “I don’t know how long,” Beauvais Lake’s visitor services supervisor Heidi Eijgel said. | Caitlin Clow photo/Pincher Creek Echo

Beauvais Lake Provincial Park has a new interpretive sign that will educate its visitors through facts, videos and written projects by the Grade 10 English Arts class at Matthew Halton.

Through the Alberta Council for Environmental Education, the Alberta Green School Project and a number of organizations including Alberta Parks, the Oldman Watershed Council and the Waterton Biosphere Reserve, students from Matthew Halton worked collaboratively on a project that took them beyond the classroom.

And this is just the first of many projects to come Beauvais Lake’s visitor services supervisor Heidi Eijgel said.

“Two years ago, a group of us passionate about teaching outdoors got together and said how do we bring 1,000 students outside next year,” Eijgel said.

It was decided that student-led activities would be best because the students could really become engaged in their work.

“The theme was having student-led learning, community led-learning and having everyone involved,” she said. “I can’t believe how amazing this little project has been and how many different learning opportunities have been involved.”

Not only did the students research, write, direct and produce a number of creative pieces that explore the history, recreation and wildlife of the park, but they also assisted in the installation of the sign.

Matthew Halton’s Mr. Clair Hockley said it was a treat to witness his students’ hard work has come together to produce a functional, tangible final product.

“This is special for me,” he said. “I think the kids had a good time ... To be able to make something that is real, it’s not just a book, or a piece of paper that sits on my shelf — this is pretty cool.”

Grade 11 student Jillianna Hammond told the small crowd of about 10 at the unveiling ceremony on Friday afternoon that the most interesting part of the interpretive sign project was that they were getting a glimpse of real work experience.

“How we tied in English Language Arts with climate change as well as tying it into real life situations that people really do this for a job,” she said. “It’s not just an L.A. project. People actually come out and make new signs.”

The students started working on the project last year by researching a variety of aspects about the provincial park. They visited with Farley Wuth at the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village to learn more about historical research and went to the Pincher Creek Library to learn how to use databases before recording their findings.

Topics covered by the students range from wildlife, to plant life, to exploring Beauvais Lake in the winter.

The interpretive sign is just a gateway, Eijgel said, as more information and projects can be found online.

Find out more online at abcee.org/high-school-english-and-environmental-education

cclow@postmedia.com

[@echo_cclow](#)