

A hand reaches down from the top left, with the index finger pointing towards a reflection in a body of water. The reflection is a darker hand reaching up. The background is a blurred green, suggesting reeds or grasses.

THE  
**CAMP  
KAWARTHA**  
*Environment Centre*

[www.campkawartha.ca](http://www.campkawartha.ca)

Camp Kawartha, in partnership with the  
Gainey Foundation, proudly presents...

*Get in Touch with Nature...*

**Environmental Arts Programming**

A creative way for your students to connect to nature

Special thanks to our partners and funders:  
The Gainey Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Kawartha Credit Union



# Get in touch with Nature...

## How the program works:

Thanks to a generous donation from the Gainey Foundation, Camp Kawartha is pleased to offer a unique environmental arts program called Get in Touch With Nature. A special rate is available when teachers select one of the arts programs outlined below. A bussing subsidy is also available. Teachers may also select one additional environmental program as described in our Environment Centre Brochure ([www.campkawartha.ca/environmentcentre/programs](http://www.campkawartha.ca/environmentcentre/programs)). This special offer is available for a limited time only. To find out more please call Camp Kawartha at 705 652-3860 or visit our website [www.campkawartha.ca](http://www.campkawartha.ca). Our thanks also to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Kawartha Credit Union for supporting this project.

## Art and Nature: Making ecological connections through creative expression

"In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth." – Rachel Carson

Our arts-based programming is designed to foster a bond between students and their local environment. By enhancing sensory awareness and by practicing nature appreciation through art, we deepen a child's connection to the living systems that sustain us all. Artistic expression helps children focus their observation in a way that inspires curiosity, wonder and joy. We integrate science and natural history into each of our art activities, helping to bring life and colour to the structures and functions of the natural world. Please see how art and ecology connect in our new: "Get in Touch with Nature – Environmental Arts Programming."

## Program Descriptions:

### Dancing Hands: The Art of Puppetry

*Fall, winter, spring*

For thousands of years, cultures from around the world have told stories to their children. Scientists believe that a young brain is hardwired to remember the narrative form – and telling stories is how knowledge was passed down from one generation to another. One of the most popular forms of storytelling uses puppetry. In this interactive program, students make their own puppets from material found around any home. They create and present a brief puppet show drawing on themes from nature and the environment. The program culminates in a colourful puppet show presented by our staff.

#### Ecological Connections

Examples of themes used in our puppet shows: habitat loss, energy conservation, sustainable living and endangered species.



### The Magic of Felting

*Fall, winter, spring*

Felting is an ancient craft that transforms the fibers of wool into a dense, water resistant mat. Wool changes into felt when it is subjected to moisture, heat, and pressure. Tiny scales on each wool fiber expand. With agitation these scales interlock. When cooled and dried each scale closes and binds the wool into the tough, durable material we call felt. Beginning with raw wool, students create colourful felted finger puppets or small containers while enjoying the tactile beauty of this natural material.

#### Ecological Connections

Humans have relied on the insulating properties of animal hair for thousands of years. Students explore what makes fur and feathers such an effective barrier against the cold temperatures of a northern climate.



# Environmental Arts Programming

## Drawing Inspiration: A Journey with Journals



*Fall and spring only*

Well known artists such as Catherine Parr Trail, Suzanna Moodie, Robert Bateman and the Group of Seven expressed their fascination with the natural world through detailed drawings and paintings rendered in their own journals. Drawing inspiration from works by these great Canadians, students learn about local ecology as they note and illustrate their observations in a sketch book they take home. Drawings may be detailed as we view natural process up close, or they may involve sweeping vistas as students focus on the landscape around the Environment Centre.

### Ecological Connections

Classes may focus on landscapes and study the ecological communities residing in distinct habitats. Or, a class may investigate plant and animal morphology, linking form to function.

## Bring Colours to Life through Natural Dyeing



*Fall, winter, spring*

Several hundred years ago settlers made their own dye by harvesting roots, plants, nuts and flowers. In this hands-on program, students dye fabric, wool or other natural materials to create colourful art pieces.

### Ecological Connections

Colour plays many important roles in nature including mating displays, camouflage and photosynthesis. Students participate in age appropriate games and activities that explore these concepts.

## The In's and Out's of Nature: Natural Weaving



*Fall and spring only*

We often forget that humans aren't the only creatures that can weave. Think of intricately woven birds nests, such as those made by orioles, or the symmetrically formed orb webs created by garden spiders. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, students harvest natural materials, and create multi-textured, hand woven art. Examples of projects include baskets, bird houses or colourful, free form pieces depending on age and materials selected.

### Ecological Connections

Animals such as birds and squirrels weave natural material warm protective homes. Students investigate the form and function of these structures.

## The Singing of Leaves: Exploring Nature Music



*Fall, winter, spring*

There is music in the woods! From the haunting song of the common loon to the rustling of wind brushed leaves, there are a variety of musical tones to discover in the natural world. By experimenting with the sound qualities of found natural materials, and by listening to and emulating animal sounds, students discover the complex soundscape of nearby nature.

### Ecological Connections

Animals use sound for a variety of reasons such as mating, issuing warnings, establishing territory etc.

## From Wood to Words: The Joy of Papermaking



*Fall, winter, spring*

Many of us take for granted a material on which the wisdom of cultures has been written and shared for generations ...paper. This simple age old process of paper making is both fun and educational. Students learn how paper is made from crushed cellulose wood fibers called pulp. By shredding used paper and adding plant material, students create beautiful, handmade paper that they can use for letters, cards or journals.

### Ecological Connections

This program may focus on recycling and waste reduction, an investigation of the ecological and commercial importance of trees or on insects that make paper.

## Finding Forms in the Forest



*Fall, winter, spring*

From the sweeping curve of a frozen waterfall to the intricate patterns found on a butterfly's wings, the natural world is filled with beautiful and inspiring forms. Based on the work of Andy Goldsworthy, students create 3-dimensional sculptures using only found materials. Students stretch their creativity, solve problems, and hone their observation skills to create sophisticated sculptures inspired by the natural world.

### Ecological Connections

In a time when almost every product used by humans is synthetic, students rediscover the qualities, strength and versatility of natural materials.





# City of Peterborough



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