

Elizabeth Harvey Memorial Sustainable Development Student Internship

Fall 2012- Winter 2013

By: Theresa Comeau

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Thank you,

It has been an honor and my pleasure to work with the faculty and staff at Bishop's University. Most importantly I must mention how much the students have taught me, full of passion and knowledge they inspired me and helped me to be the best I could be to make their school a better place. The opportunity to work within a field which I am passionate about at such a young stage in my career is truly a blessing and I am very grateful for it. Through this position I have been able to gain valuable knowledge about the field Sustainability and the environment in which it exists. My eyes have been open to the importance of economic and social pillars which collectively along with the environment join together establishing all that embodies sustainability as a whole. Through this experience I have gained insight to what goes on behind the scenes and have found hope in those I have met who work very hard every day to make this world a better place for us and for generations to come.

Our very own Clarke Kent, Michel Caron, thank you for being the most resourceful and inspiring mentor that anyone could ever wish for. He has taught me that with patience but persistence come results. Sustainability requires patience, and as long as something may take to happen it will last even longer because it has been thought out long enough to see that it does last.

I would like to also say thank you to the Sustainable Development Committee, I really felt that you do care for the students and at Bishop's students have the chance be heard and make a change.

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1.0 Brief Summary of the Bishop's University Sustainable Development Structure

Sustainability at Bishop's begins with the students at the grassroots stage through student engagement and interaction in the Bishop's University Environmental Club (BUEC). These ideas are then brought to the Sustainable Development Action Group (SDAG) a composition of student leaders and staff members working for sustainable change on campus. The SDAG also allocates the Student Representatives Council (SRC) Sustainable Development Action Fund (commonly known as the Green Levy), which is collected through a student service-fee of \$2.50 per semester and is given back to the students for grassroots sustainability projects. Thirdly, the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) comprised of alumni, volunteers, staff, faculty and student representatives, which reports to the Board of Governors of the university.

The Sustainable Development Student Intern position ensures communication between these groups and the rest of the Bishop's community to raise awareness of the various sustainability projects happening at Bishop's.

2.0 Brief Summary of Committees and Student Groups

2.1 Tierra Del Fuego

Tierra del Fuego is located on 19 Church Street in Lennoxville, Quebec. It began in 2008 as a sustainable community learning centre. Their main objective was to try "to figure out how to deal with the socio-economic and ecological concerns of our Time", (Tierra del Fuego). Tierra includes a library, patch & craft room, zine bistro, music space, open kitchen, guest room, a vegetable garden, and computers & wireless

2.2 Sustainable Development Office

Is located in the basement of the Student Union Building (SUB) in the Diversity Centre. There is not a lot of foot traffic other than the other clubs which also call the Diversity Centre home. It is somewhat difficult to find and the door is only open between 9am and 5pm for those who do not have access keys. Location aside, this space is a great place for students to come together. There is a conference room and a lounge. The groups work with one another sharing resources, ideas and simply good conversation.

2.3 Eco Floor

The eco- floor is located in Abbott, a residence which does not have a kitchen and is more designed as individual rooms, some with roommates. The eco-residents try to promote sustainability by washing clothes in cold water, and drying them on racks. Lily the eco-floor Resident Assistant (RA) has pointed out that garbage and recycling is a big problem. While people are able to recycle and compost it is difficult in individual rooms. The garbage is taken out every day, and most of the time the bags are barely half full. The only place to put

compost is behind Paterson, making this simply task slightly more complex. Perhaps, in the future the Eco- Floor could have a permanent home in Paterson. Thus involving the social aspect of sustainability as well as making waste disposal easier.

3.0 SDSI Brief Summary Summer Assignments

- Bishop's University Carbon Footprint

-International Standard ISO 14064-1, along with -2 and -3 are used to quantify and report greenhouse gas emissions and removals for organizations who wish to verify their progress and develop a means for reduction.

-Direct (energy, food, and solid waste)

-Indirect (transportation)

- Geothermal Information Billboard
- Sustainable Development Website

Linked through BU, if we are able to manage and update it ourselves.

- Bishop's Community Garden Rival
- Orientation Week

*****Please see *Kruger Inc. Sustainable Development Student Internship Summer 2012*, for details on the above projects.**

4.0 Fall 2012

4.1 Sustainable Mobility Week

In the Fall of 2012, BUEC along with myself and Eric Smith the SRC Environmental Office in collaboration with the Societe de Transport de Sherbrooke STS, launched Mobilite Durable to promote the bus system in the city of Sherbrooke. Currently, Bishop's does not have a bus pass for their students. This was due to the close proximity that most of the students live to campus, there being no need to transport them via bus. That was in the past, the interest and population is growing and the available housing on and close to campus is not, thus students are living further from campus; some in Sherbrooke and some even further in Magog and Lake Brome. Not only for daily commute but to promote the exploration of the Eastern Townships, a student bus pass would be a strong asset to the appeal of Bishop's University as a whole. Ensuring that the students are given all the opportunities to explore and accommodating the growing needs of a growing population, a bus pass would show the care and dedication that administration has for and to its students.

Students want this pass, a petition was circulated on campus including both Bishop's and Champlain students. The interest was well over the 20 percentile standard to start negotiations with the STS.

4.2 STS Bus Pass

The percentile of students 21 and older was too low for STS standards.

Note: We are an undergraduate University. While we do educate a lot of mature students, the majority of our students are, on average, 18 years of age when they start. Most students are 21 and under.

Stronger percentiles are needed before further negotiations can be made.

What we need from them is numbers, we need a range (lowest to highest cost) of what we, the students', will be paying for their services. The most common concern expressed by the students and the SRC is how much the universal bus pass will increase their school fees (outside of tuition).

4.3 Powershift

Powershift is a conference where environmental and social justice organizations combine to discuss issues related to climate change. The first conference was held in 2009 as a build up to the Copenhagen Climate Change. Burton and Kathleen Mulawka went representing Bishop's. The workshops ranged from understanding climate science to tackling social media. As participants they were able to go to the 100+ diverse and informative workshops. If, something was missing from these workshops, participants could also open their own workshop to educate the others on the topic that they felt important relating it to Powershift.

Inspirational and positive ideas were, for example, "There is no Planet B!" and "Climate change is not just a present issue, it has taken generations to develop since colonial times. It is a social-environmental issue!"

Key Note Speakers

- Winona Laduc
- Bill Mckibben
- Naomi Klein
- Gabriel Nadeau- Dubois
- Melina Laboucan Massimo
- Crystal Lameman

For more information visit 350.org

4.4 Education

Students, Jon Estabon and Jeremy Frizzle in Education asked that I and Gaby Patenaude, a volunteer from BUEC go to Alexander Gault elementary school where we taught a grade 5 and 6 class about recycling. The day involved a trip to the Recycling plant in Sherbrooke. While one group went on the trip the other stayed behind to do activities revolved around recycling. The two groups then switched once the first returned.

5.0 Winter 2013

5.1 Eco- Week

This year Bishop's had its' first Eco-Week, hosted by the Environmental club (BUEC). The four day calendar of events was broken into themes, one for each day; food, climate change (CC) and energy, waste and education for sustainable development. The latter, education for sustainable development was hosted by Adam Young, a student in secondary education, English concentration. He shared his experiences from Stockholm, Sweden where he learned about education for sustainable development (ESD) and how different schools incorporated it into their classrooms.

A highlight of the week was the round table discussion on *Climate Change and Energy*. The guests were; Dr. Petter Stoett (Professor, Political science; Concordia University; Director, Loyola Sustainable Research Centre; Senior Research Fellow, Earth Systems Governance Project (IHDP); author of *Global Ecopolitics; Crisis, Governance and Justice*), Dr. Matthew Paros (Canada Research chair on Climate and Environmental Change), Dr. Jean Manore (History, Canada-First People's Relations), Professor Terry Eyland (economics of the Environment) and, Michel Caron (Director of Buildings and Grounds).

Green Levy, purchased travel mugs. The profits will be refunded back into the green levy.
Cost: \$878. 67 Mugs sale price: \$6.00

Green Levy, funded the travel expenses for Dr. Petter Stoett as well as his stay. His presence was voluntary. *****Green Levy, \$210.00 Note: the final amount of all other expenses for eco-week excluding the mugs.**

***The Green Levy also covered other costs such as, food, IT technician, marshals for the Gait and the bartenders (included in gait rental fee).

5.2 Snowshoes

During Rail Jam 2013, we offered a free day trial promotion to all students that attended Rail Jam. This was a highly successful event, it assured students who had heard that Bishop's had snowshoes that we actually do, and, it promoted to the new student's just one more activity that our university has to offer. Most of all, this event demonstrated that the SRC and the SDSI can work together to better serve the student body. More joint efforts to make Bishop's all it can be, should be made into an evolving goal for the future.

Green Levy and the SRC agreed to split the rental Costs for the Day. A new pair of snowshoes and poles (x2 for poles) will be purchased with the revenue.

This purchase needs to be followed up by Angela Lanza, the SDSI for 2013-2014.

5.3 Gaiter Gears

This is an important year for gaiter gears. Last year, 2012-2013, gaiter gears suffered from huge economic deficits because the bikes where not ready in time for the season and once 'ready' it had turned out that they were not properly checked out and tuned up by a professional company. While this was started out as a student project, funded by the green levy, it can only be self sustained if there is constant communication but, most of all if the drive and passion to see Gaiter Gears succeed. Currently, the bikes are housed at Paterson. This did work in the past; however, I believe a change needs to be made. A more appropriate location, to store and rent the bikes from would be the Sports Plex. This way the petty cash can be kept with snowshoes revenues. The petty cash for Gaiter Gears from the year of 2011-2012 was lost; this is a business and needs to be taken seriously. Due to this loss in revenue, gaiter gears had to dip into green levy funding for repairs when there was money from the petty cash to cover it, however this money had been misplaced. Better management of the accounts needs to be practiced. These types of projects can only survive if all parties are on board as seeing they do.

All the bikes are up to safety standards, and have had repairs made where needed. The company which I have been in contact with is Velo Shermont.

Phone number: (819) 563-7776, for any future safety check-ups and repairs.

Green Levy, funded the consultation and repairs. The current amount is **\$276.17**. The amount does not include the last bike with the broken gear.

5.6 World Water Day (WWD)

To commemorate Bishop's University Pledge to be bottled water free. It will be unveiled on Thursday March 21. 2013; the mural was designed and made by a group of artists at

Bishop's. Artist, Yuri Rousseau organized the team, and they collaborated on the design. In continuation of Art Flows, a contest held last year, 2011-2012, where art works were submitted to decorate various water fountains on campus, this mural will be made in two parts. The piece is a total of six panels, hung in the Student Union Building (SUB), the first three were completed and revealed in March of 2013 and the other three will be completed during the fall of 2013. At this time, I would suggest there be a big unveiling, not only to pay credit to the talented individuals that we at our school and in our community but to raise awareness about all issues related to water, environmental, social, political and economic.

Facts

- March 18-22 Bottled Water free week
- March 22 World Water Day

Contact for future events related to WWD: Samantha Faas, Student Intern at the Polaris Institute.

Green Levy, approved spring request for \$2500

Paint: Ink, refillable felt markers.

***Budget: art supplies

-MDF Bottom Panels, mounted on frame; \$ 2000, including installation.

Top Panels, \$2300

First 3 (March), \$2500 second 3 (Fall), \$ 2800

*****Green levy, current balance after all above expenses have been paid \$12,170.00**

6.0 Awareness

Awareness is half the battle. Bishop's is recognized provincially for its efforts and accomplishments in sustainable living. What I realized however, is that the common BU student does not know just how green this school really is. Communication between groups such as BUEC, BUSEC, Tierra del Fuego and Environmentally Aware individuals is amazing however, is poor elsewhere. Promotion is half of this internship because information should be public and great ideas, efforts and accomplishments made known. Social net-working works because everyone is online. Visual signs are also another positive idea in terms of showing the community that sustainability is tangible and not just a theory and very much in current practice at Bishop's and across Canada.

7.0 Communication and net-working

7.1 Bishop's Students

Being a student myself I know how busy students are. We work, volunteer, and go to school trying to make the most out of the expensive education which we are paying for. Unless something is literally put right in front of us, we will not notice it. The nice aspect of Bishop's being a small school means meeting with people is a lot easier. Especially when you are all interested in the same things such as the environment and sustainable living, we gravitate

towards one another. The challenge arises when you try to go on the green bubble to reach out to the greater Bishop's population. One tool I have used in approaching this issue is my literal approach. While these ideas of sustainability feel like breathing to me, to others these concepts are completely foreign and appear complex if not presented in a simple manner. The approach must also be done cautiously, not to make others feel attacked by extreme environmentalist. The knowledge must be shared and shown through example not preached and forced.

7.2 SRC

I worked with the SRC a bit over the summer, to help with orientation. Since I am one individual, working with a group of students who have such a great influence over the rest of the student body is an advantage. They are also a very good resource when it comes to being politically correct and fair, bringing some concrete ground to some of my and my colleagues (BUEC) rather free approaches. 1.0 SDSI Summer Assignments