



WINGS

The Bondar Challenge Inspires Creativity

www.therbf.org

In August 2014, the Foundation introduced the Canadian Bondar Challenge. A Canada wide photography contest open to all youth ages 13 – 18.



Experiences That Matter: Wilderness Bondar Challenge



School field trips are often a highlight in any child's school year. It's a chance to escape a typical day in the classroom, and spend time with friends somewhere new. Experiential learning out of doors provides students with the opportunity for deeper learning. In

many Canadian cities and suburbs, class trips frequently include visits to a museum or science centre. These facilities allow students to explore the exhibits and well-crafted interpretations of what is viewed. Both 'in field' and 'in facility' programs offer important learning, self-discovery, and appreciation for the natural environment that occur when spending time in nature.

Now, imagine a field trip where students open their cabin door and see bison roaming. Can you picture the smiles and cheers of grade 7 students who have just completed a 14KM hike and have finally reached their campsite?

Hint: The smiles were wide and the cheers were loud, and blisters big.

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2014 Highlights

Spring TELE at Telus Spark in Calgary January to June.

Summer The Summer Camp Bondar Challenge goes international. The RBF introduces the Canadian Bondar Challenge.

Fall 3 Programs: School-Based Bondar Challenge, the TELE and Wilderness Challenge.

Future New partnerships, New Materials, and More!

"I cannot say enough about the program, the communication from the Foundation, the equipment, and the teaching aids. This is an excellent program for camp and for campers."

Luc Cousineau, Director, Camp Nagiwa, Ontario



The Wilderness Challenge in Wood Buffalo National Park

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*Have you ever played tag in 8ft tall grass?
Or have you felt the satisfaction of sipping
the water you have just filtered using a pump
for an hour?*

Hint: The water tastes delicious; possibly better than your home filter.

In Fort Smith, NWT, for the past 5 years Grade 7 and 8 students have embarked on this class adventure. This September, students from PWK High School, teachers, Parks Canada staff, and our coordinator, Carling, from The Roberta Bondar Foundation, continued this tradition.



The trek included a 121KM bus ride from Fort Smith, NWT to Peace Point, AB; a 90KM boat ride down the Peace River to Sweetgrass Landing; followed by a 14KM hike to Sweetgrass Station in Wood Buffalo National Park. This trip was an adventure in every sense of the word.

During their time at Sweetgrass, students participated in many hands-on learning activities. The Parks Canada staff led a GPS game, where students learned to navigate by following coordinates on a map. Teachers took the students canoeing, some for the first time, down the creek near camp. The Roberta Bondar Foundation supplied cameras and materials for each student, and they were each given the chance to participate in the Wilderness Bondar Challenge. The Foundation's coordinator guided the students through a photography lesson, followed by a hands-on photography challenge. With cameras in tow, students were challenged to capture the natural world around them through their own eyes, and then write an artist's statement about their photo.

The students took some amazing photographs that highlight the untouched beauty and uniqueness of the Park. Visit our website to view the winners of the 2014 Wilderness Bondar Challenge.

To view the winning photographs visit: www.therbf.org/award-winners/



Summer Camp & School-Based Bondar Challenge

CAMPS

This summer 30 camps registered to participate in the 2014 Summer Camp Bondar Challenge, including 2 camps from the United States. A total of approximately 6000 campers participated in the Bondar Challenge, and 86 trainers delivered the challenge, from coast to coast.

Through our Nikon Camera loan program, more than 300 cameras were available to 16 camps across North America. The judges are enjoying reviewing the over 700 submissions sent from participating camps to the Foundation's competition.



our girls are super involved in, not only their surroundings but, in the camp and they take a lot more pride in it because they are out there taking pictures and discovering it in ways that they normally wouldn't."

Bumblebee, Camp Woolsey Girl Guides, Ontario

"It was our pleasure to be involved with the Bondar Challenge again this summer. It is a great program addition to camp."

Jeff Brown, Camp Otterdale, Ontario



SCHOOLS

The 2014-2015 school year is off to a great start. In previous years, the Foundation has been piloting the Bondar Challenge in various school settings to determine the best fit.

This year applications were extended beyond pilot schools looking to participate. Currently, there are five schools registered in the School-Based Bondar Challenge. Each school has the option to deliver the Challenge in a classroom, through a school club or on a field trip experience.

During the winter months, the Foundation will be working with teachers to provide lesson plans for schools to better integrate the Bondar Challenge into curriculum-based learning.

Teachers will have the opportunity to submit students' submissions at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters.



2014 School-Based Bondar Challenge Winners

A Bondar Challenge For Everyone!

The Bondar Challenge is a fusion of nature, science, and photography. Formerly, the Bondar Challenge was only offered in participating camps, outdoor education organizations, and schools. This summer, the Foundation expanded its regular programming to create the Canadian Bondar Challenge.



This new challenge was made available to all Canadian youth, ages 13 – 18. The challenge: explore the natural environment in your neighborhood and capture its uniqueness in a photograph and artist statement. Each week during the month of August, Canadian youth were given a theme to focus their creative efforts.

Week 1: The Colours of Canada

Week 2: Finding Water

Week 3: In the Clouds

Week 4: What Makes It Special?



Using social media the Foundation was able to reach youth from across Canada. The Foundation received submissions that highlighted Canada's natural environment in various parts of the country.

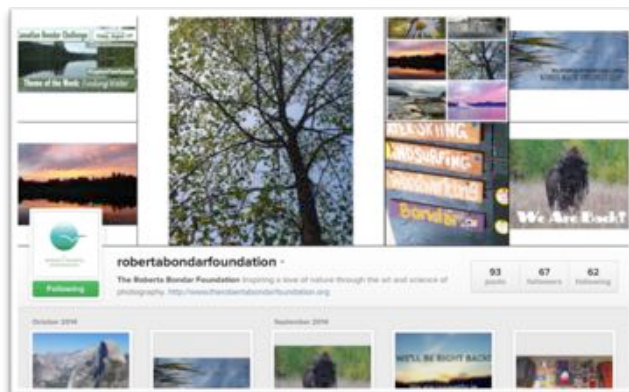
To view the photographs and artist statements please visit:

www.therbf.org/award-winners/cbc

Social Media

Since their inception earlier this year, the RBF social media sites have been attracting hundreds of followers. Amongst the big three (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) you can find daily posts covering a wide range of topics. Featuring Foundation updates, pictures, articles and information. Posts highlight the beauty of nature, photography, science, space, and everything in between.

Follow us on all three!



@TheRobertaBondarFoundation



@RBondarFdn



@RobertaBondarFoundation

The Traveling Exhibition and Learning Experience moves to Western Canada

In Winter 2014, the TELE found its home at the Calgary Telus Spark. The exhibit was made available to thousands of science centre visitors, including many school groups.



These students had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on learning experience thanks to Chevron's open minds program.



Students explored their creativity, writing + critical observation skills through sketches, acrostic poetry and personal reflections touring the TELE.

The next stop for part of the TELE is in the beautiful city of Winnipeg. Found in the Buhler Gallery at St. Boniface Hospital, along side work of textile assemblage artist Carole Sabiston, the show is entitled:

Dreams & Realities – Human Sensitivity of Place

This exhibition is curated by the talented and experienced, Pat Bovey FRSA, FCMA.



"Working in different media they each voice their concerns and delight about our natural environment. They explore the micro and macro of Canada, one through photography, the other through textile assemblage, understanding nature's fragility and vulnerabilities and celebrating its beauty and magnificence."
– Pat Bovey (excerpt from exhibition brochure)

This exhibition will remain in the Buhler Gallery, for hospital patients and their families, staff, and community members to visit until January 11th, 2015.

G' Day Mate! The Bondar Challenge goes down under.

In February 2014, the Bondar Challenge went outside North America! Fifty students participated in the Bondar Challenge at Kangarooobie, an award-winning camp in Victoria, Australia. Students aged 12-15 from visiting school groups took on the Challenge in small groups during day trips to the local beach, near the beautiful Great Ocean Road. This spot provided an ideal look at



biodiversity! In their photos students captured the details of a huge cliff face, movement in tall grasses, patterns in sand dunes, signs of former life in shells and cuttlefish bones on the beach, and the ever-changing colour of the ocean. Veteran Summer Camp Bondar Challenge leader Lizzie Sarjeant led the Challenge with the help of Matt Bowker, owner and active member of the International Camping Fellowship (ICF), as well as many enthusiastic teachers, who were happy to see students fully engaged with their natural surroundings.



Check out our **Aeroplan Beyond Miles** page



The Roberta Bondar **FOUNDATION**

Inspiring a love of nature through the art and science of photography



The Roberta Bondar Foundation is committed to providing programs and resources to help connect every person to nature.

Aeroplan Miles helps us to provide programs, materials, and cameras throughout Canada and United States at low cost for camps, schools and organizations to engage youth with nature.

These miles will help:

- Foundation staff and volunteers to travel to camps, schools, and organizations participating in the programs to quality
- Allow us to allocate funds to provide more cameras, material, and resources, to support our programs
- Expand our programs internationally to better reach youth across the globe.



If you have extra **Aeroplan Miles** that you wish to donate, please visit our charity page:
<http://beyondmiles.aeroplan.com/eng/charity/569>

Thank you for your donation!

Our Mission

We address the growing nature deficit in society, cultivating in all ages a sense of awe, respect and appreciation for other life forms that share our planet. We explore the relationship between life and the planet through the fusion of art and science.

Our Vision

To transform individuals and community members through programs that build a culture of curiosity, creativity and critical thinking about the natural environment.

Our Values

Curiosity – Seeking to learn, asking questions and unleashing creativity build enquiring minds and an informed society.

Engagement – In the natural environment closes the nature deficit from increased urbanization; makes the natural environment part of one's personal heritage.

Creative Expression – To frame and reframe the world around us in a way that we have not seen, expanding our understanding of the environment and our interrelationship with its elements.

Collaboration – Building partnerships with like-minded organizations and communities strengthens our common goals.

Respect – For other life forms through knowledge and understanding.

Thank You To Our Supporters

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Our Program Partners



Art Gallery of Algoma



STAREHE GIRLS' CENTRE & SCHOOL



The
ROBERTA BONDAR
FOUNDATION™

Engaging the Environment Through Photography

Learner-friendly tools help build a better understanding of environmental science and thus the health of our planet

The population at large has an important role to play in influencing change that will contribute to the preservation of our natural environment. A growing portion of humanity is estranged from nature. We need to cultivate a sense of awe, respect and appreciation for the other life forms that share our crowded and imperiled planet, forging an emotional bond between nature and us. Acquired knowledge of a subject has a heavy influence on subsequent attitudes and behaviours.

Photography anchors the learning experiences that The Roberta Bondar Foundation provides. It can be a gateway to understanding, inquisitiveness and life-long learning. Photography speaks the universal language of images, which is understood by people of every culture. It is a powerful medium for transmitting ideas, bringing the reality of unfamiliar perception closer to our emotional core.

Through the fusion of art and science, learning becomes a creative and stimulating means to broadening our understanding of the environment, and our inter-relationship with the elements of nature and other life that exists on planet Earth. We also become better attuned to the intricate ecosystems that adapt to changing environments.

Make a Difference with Your Gift

Your support of The Roberta Bondar Foundation is an investment in the future well being of all forms of life on planet Earth. Your contribution will go directly toward the development of learner-friendly approaches to understanding the environment.



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To donate: www.therbf.org

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