Facilities
Energy Management and Conservation Division

OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Introduction to the Ontario EcoSchools Program

- An **environmental education and certification** program for grades K-12
- Helps school communities develop both **ecological literacy** and **environmental practices** to become environmentally responsible citizens and reduce the ecological footprint of schools
- Focused on both **student learning** and **school operations**

How Ontario EcoSchools supports School Board implementation of Ministry of Education's initiatives

Character Development

- *Respect* for the environment supports overall development of respect for diversity
- *Inclusive*: diverse representation supported on EcoTeam
- *Initiative + Leadership*: student engagement and leadership are key elements of the program
- *Integrity*: whole school engagement encourages follow through on objectives
- *Optimism*: actions taken work towards a better future
- *Responsibility*: program requires monitoring practices and providing feedback
- *Citizenship development*: student engagement focus develops citizenship skills

Safe Schools Strategy

- *Outdoor experiential learning* environments shown to decrease behavioural issues[1]
- *Bullying prevention* supported through whole school engagement initiatives and inclusive EcoTeam
- Schools with maintained school grounds inrease *safety*

Healthy Schools

- Promotes *active ways* to get to school
- Waste-free lunches provide healthier alternatives to processed foods
- *Anti-idling* campaigns help support healthier air quality on school grounds
- *Outdoor* school ground greening projects can support Daily Physical Activity (DPA) programs
- *Sun safety* is increased through tree planting emphasized in School Ground Greening

Environmental Education Framework Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow

Schools and school boards implementing EcoSchools accomplish the majority of framework's goals and strategies

ONTARIO ecoschools écoécoles de l'ONTARIO

Student Success

- *Specialist High Skills Major:* supports the Environment SHSM

Literacy and Numeracy

- Guidelines and resources for waste and energy conservation support development of literacy and numeracy skills with real world context

Integrated Curriculum

- Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat identifies environment as a theme for *interdisciplinary planning process*

School Effectiveness Framework indicators 2013

- **1.5**: self-assessment skills are built into the EcoSchools program
- **2.4-2.5**: inquiry-based learning and healthy learning environments are key elements
- **3.2-3.4**: Student voice and engagement are central elements of the program
- **4.4**: authentic learning
- **6.1-6.4**: Parents and community members are engaged and valued partners of the program EcoSchools supports School Improvement Plans

Growing Success/Learning for All

- Learning skills are supported by the EcoSchools program

French-language Education

- EcoEcoles de l'Ontario offers program resources, teacher workshops and certification for French language schools and programs in line with *Politique d'Amenagement*

First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education

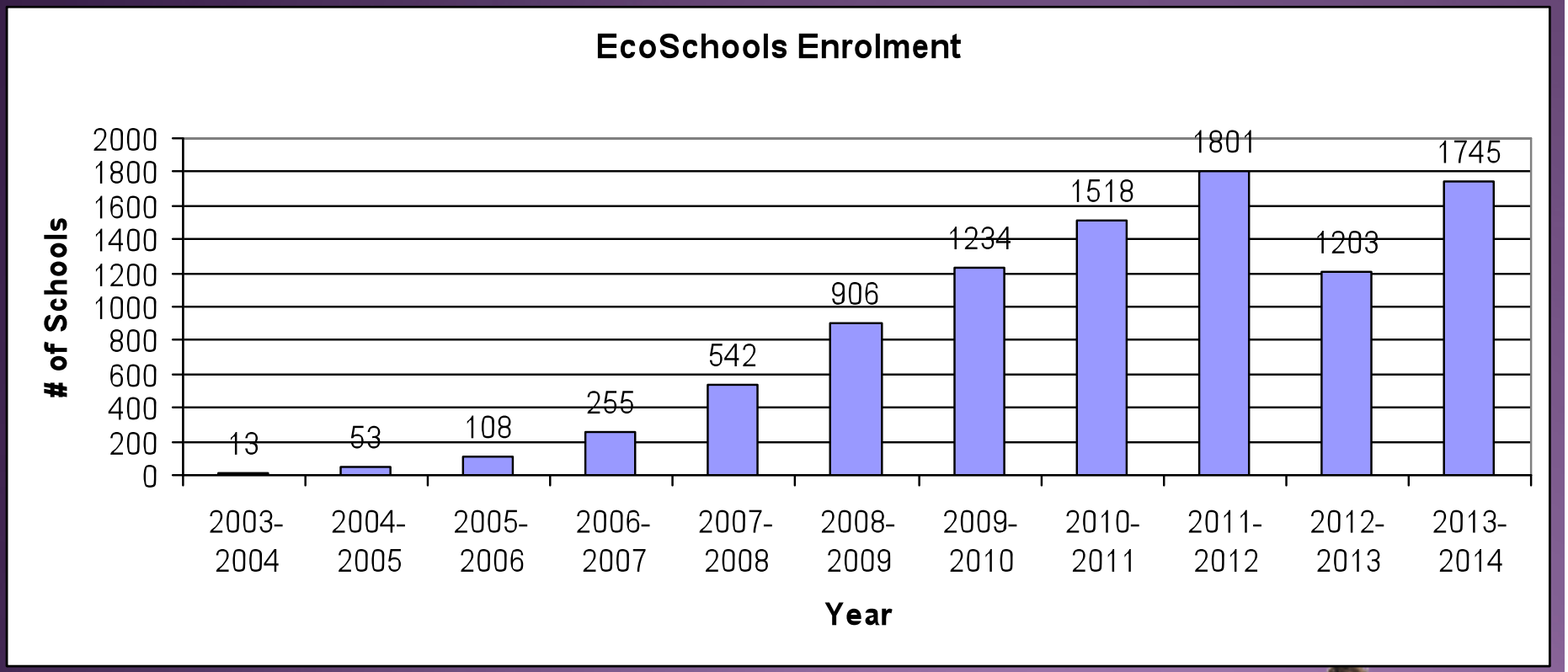
- EcoSchools can provide increased student engagement and appreciation for FNMI perspectives in relation to the environment

Catholic Education

- Implementation of EcoSchools supports *"A Responsible Citizen"* graduate expectations

1. Lieberman & Hoody. *Closing the Achievement Gap*. California: Science Wizards, 1998.

EcoSchools Enrolment in Ontario



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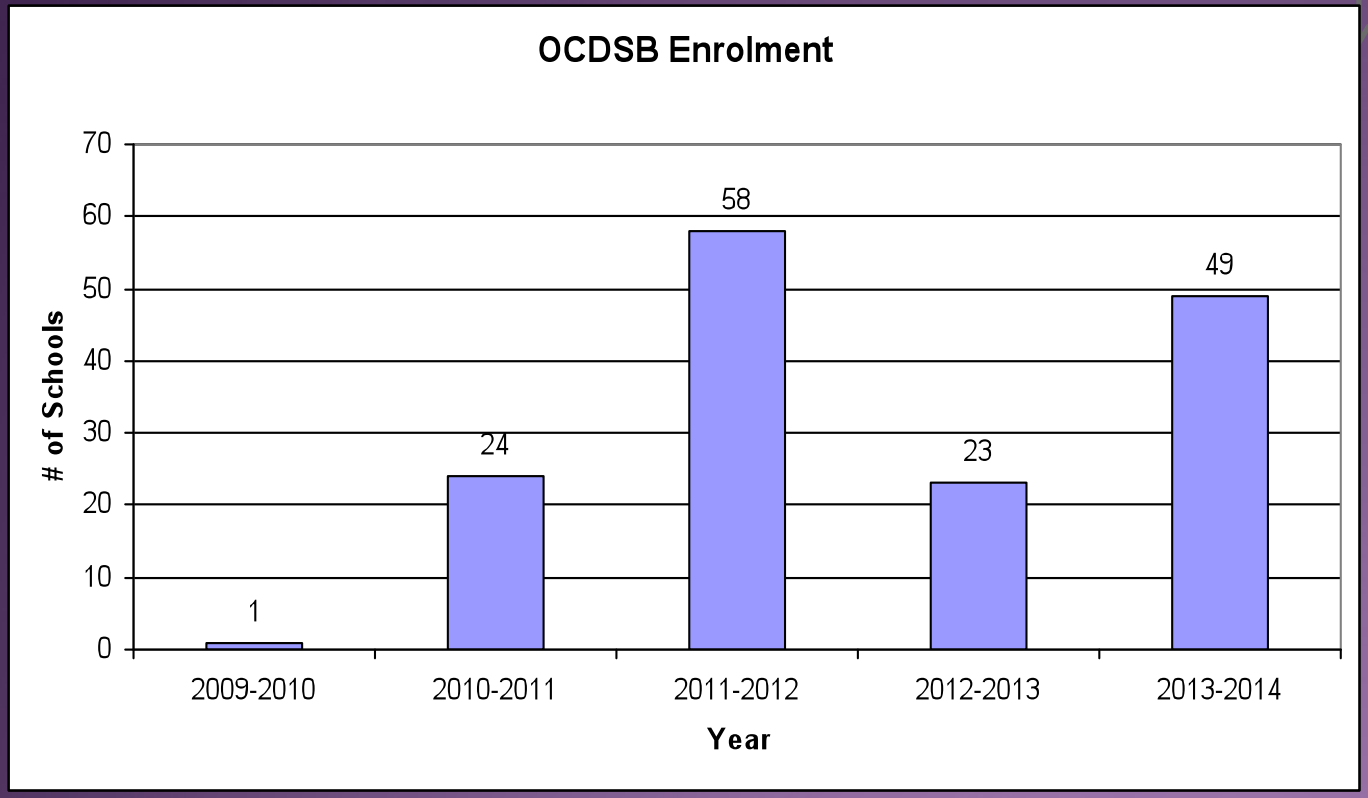
OCDSB Enrolment



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The 6 Sections of Ontario EcoSchools

Energy Conservation

Curriculum

Environmental Stewardship

Teamwork & Leadership

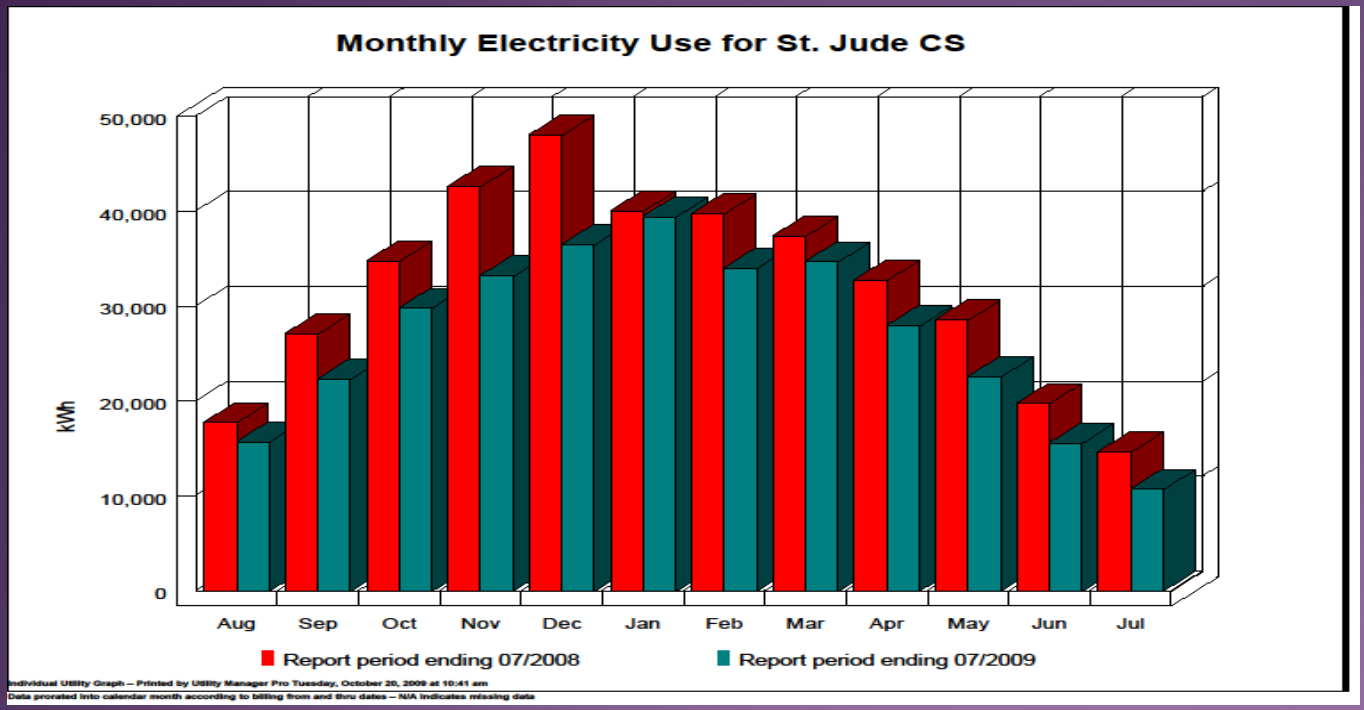
Waste Minimization

School Ground Greening

Sustainability

- Through the EcoSchools program schools will improve their Environmental Sustainability and reduce their Carbon Footprint

Energy Conservation



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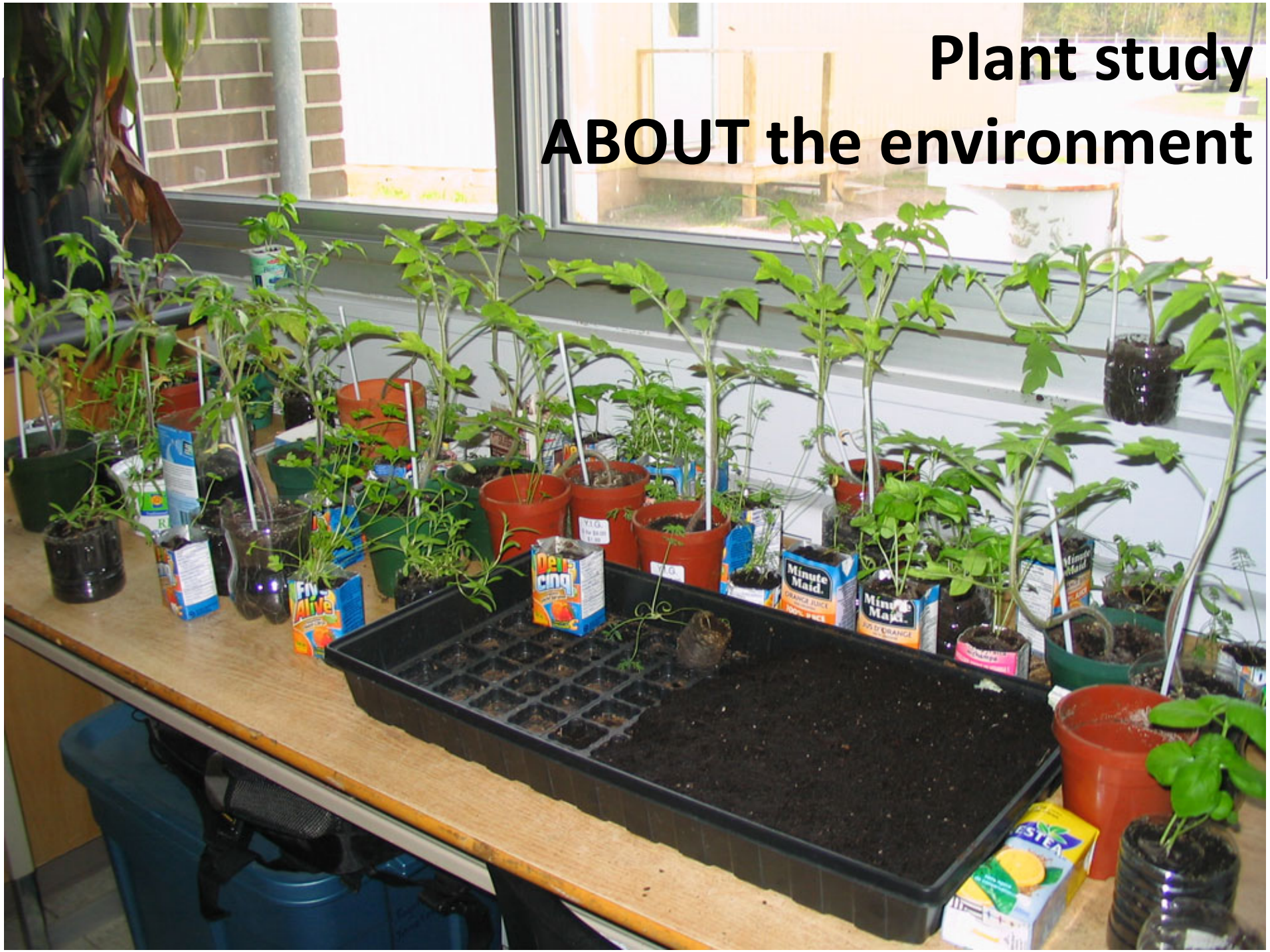
School Ground Greening

- Installation of Vegetable Gardens
- Construction of School Yard Green Space

Curriculum

- EcoSchools lesson plans are infused into the curriculum strengthening environmental knowledge and awareness.

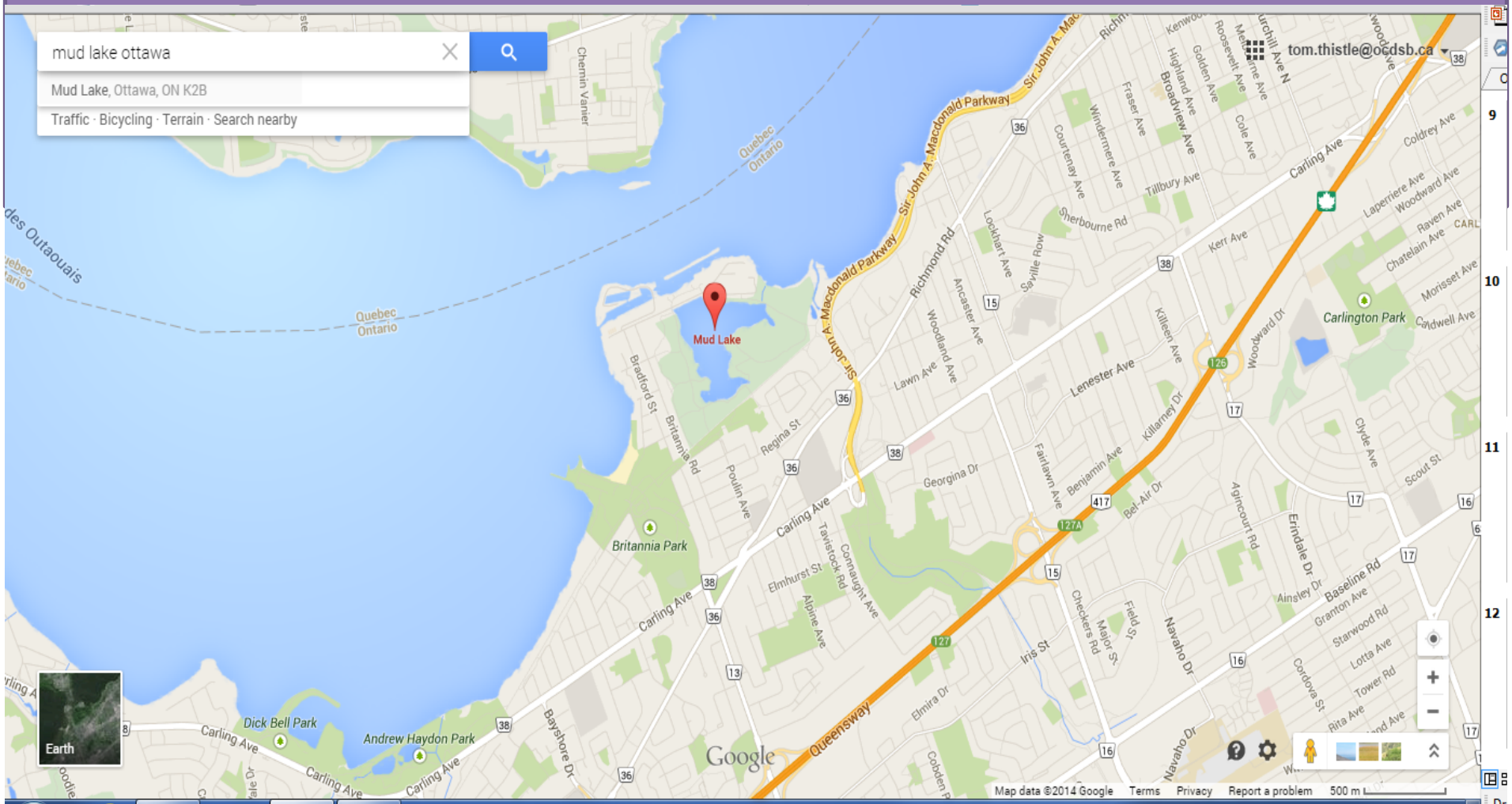

Plant study
ABOUT the environment
Minute Maid
Fly-Alive

Environmental Stewardship

- Earth Hour (March 30th)
- Building Community Ties
- Improving Our Environment

Outdoor Education

- MacSkimming
- Bill Mason
- Mud Lake



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Making Natural Connections

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