Play Leadership In Nature

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Ecotourism, Outdoor Leadership, and Kinesiology
Session Outline

- About Russell
- “Leader Culture in Community” Outdoor Model
- Acts of “Kindness Creativity” Model
- “Exploration” Model (Applied Research)
- Outdoor Outreach “Leadership At Play” Model
I am... curious, open minded, enjoy creativity, a risk taker, and privileged with exploring nature’s gift(s), and I’m not on facebook, yet!? 
Community network
Municipal volunteer
College environment
Field Study Practitioner
Innovative teaching outdoor movements: Recreation, Leisure, Kinesiology & Leadership by deliverables…
“inquiry” & “projects” & “exploration”…
My nature relationship: “inspiring others in play is leadership creativity unexplored”...

“...process of integrating nature, always! “
Peter Lougheed (1928 – 2012)

“He was a great leader and an icon not only in this province but in Canada as well...the best premier in Canada in the last 40 years.”

“We need many, many more young leaders who take initiative and [this] is equipping people to figure out how to lead in a public, interconnected world that is rapidly emerging with some major challenges,” said Indira Samarasekera, president and vice-chancellor at the U of A. “Leadership is no walk in the park.”
Rachel Louise Carson (1907 – 1964)

“Silent Spring, which has sold more than two million copies, made a powerful case for the idea that if humankind poisoned nature, nature would in turn poison humankind.” (Retrieved New York Times, Sept. 12, 2012)

“Carson influenced the environmental movement as no one had since the 19th century’s most celebrated hermit, Henry David Thoreau, who wrote about Walden Pond.”
Play Radium “Municipal” Youth Leadership
Leader Culture in Community - Masters Research ... an Outdoor Model

This model represents a cyclical model of outdoor participation: leadership creates new participants when “mentorship” equals “time” and “nature is preserved, the constant balance” of outcomes.
Who are our partners?
“a turkey” about nature’s way (haha), or...
… Enjoying our late winter – normal, isn’t it?

…Determination…
...Group dynamics...Leading...Learning...Life-long living...
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi has contributed pioneering work to our understanding of happiness, creativity, human fulfillment and the notion of "flow" — a state of heightened focus and immersion in activities such as art, play and work.

http://www.ted.com/talks/mihaly_csikszentmihalyi_on_flow

Creativity and/or Structure?

Process to Product

- Leave no trace
- Evidence
- Nature-based activities
- Safety & Risk
- Education

Every day starts with “Story Telling”
( unconditional, volunteerism, & participatory)
From here...  ...To here!
Nature at work…

"leadership is no walk in the park"…

My love of nature transcends four generations

1871
1918
1957
1987
Levels of Acceptable Change

Carrying Capacity
What and how are we accountable...outdoor leaders?
## Exploration Model (Applied Research)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVIDENCE</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Participatory</th>
<th>Engaged</th>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Mindful</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Story Telling (Anecdotal)</td>
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<td>Debrief</td>
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<td>Life-long (Sustainable)</td>
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Outdoor Outreach
“Leadership At Play” Model

This model represents the process of change facilitation in outdoor leadership.
My story…
“Youth at Risk” 1994 - present

1. Nature Mindfulness
   “Responsibility & Privilege”

2. Changing Minds
   “Counter Resist”

3. Facilitating Change
   “5 Processes”

4. Process
   “to be continued” nature’s way

5. Debrief
   “Voice”

6. Collaboration
   “Every Kid Can Win”

Collaboration
“Every Kid Can Win”
MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

Bachelor of Applied Science: Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership
What kind of nature do we want to live with?

"You know it's funny, what happening to us. Our lives have become digital. Our friends, now virtual. And, everything you could ever want to know is just a click away. Experiencing the world through second hand information isn't enough. If we want authenticity we have to initiate it. We will never know our full potential unless we push ourselves to find it. It's this self discovery that takes us to the wildest places on Earth."

-Travis Rice

(J.B. McKinnon, “The Once & Future World”, re-wild nature)