

## St. Pius Elementary School Endangered Species Project



The Endangered Species Project began as an arts and environmental studies project with the intention of creating a sculptural work for the permanent public art collection at the Catholic Education Centre in Windsor, Ontario. Students began researching species endangered and at risk in the Essex County bioregion, and although most species selected by the students are from the area, a few are from other regions of Canada.

Students journalled and illustrated species in their habitats. They became very familiar with current

threats impacting the environment of their species. They created large format drawings and then created a coloured paper cutout image of their species in habitat. This was used as the design plan for their three-dimensional drawing on small wooden habitat

houses. These forms were created by Grade 10 construction technology students at Assumption College High School. The students used graphite and coloured pencil to draw on the wooden forms. This was followed by a "Big Draw on our Species" in which students created a group



drawing stretching 25 feet illustrating their species in habitat.

In addition, the students wrote Haiku poetry and gave a voice to their species. This is when we considered performing an adapted "Council of All Beings" so that they could speak for their species, and we created masks. Students were invited to perform and exhibit their habitats at BookFest 2009, an annual National Literary Festival held at the Art



Gallery of Windsor. They learned the song "Sun Look Out" which we were given permission to use in public performance. The addition of movement to the performance made the project complete.



#### Project Team

Elaine Carr, CEC, Project Artist

Judy Gauthier, Grade One Teacher and Kathy Bossio Music Teacher

Cory McAiney, Construction Teacher, Assumption H. S.

Cathy Harris, Dance Teacher, St. Thomas of Villanova H. S.

