

## **P.A.W.S. recap for 2014**

### ***Ecole Seven Oaks Middle School – SO Sustainable***

This school group has been working on making improvements to the outdoor spaces on their school property for a couple of years. They have installed more trash and recycling receptacles and begun an outdoor garden. The money they received from the P.A.W.S. grant program allowed SO Sustainable to install more outdoor seating in the green space they were working on. They felt that this would keep more students on school grounds during lunch and result in a stronger school community. An added benefit would be that this space could now be used as an outdoor classroom as well. The group made an effort to find and install seating that was made from recycled or re-purposed materials.

### ***Ecole Churchill High School***

A leadership group consisting of students in Grades 7-12 used their P.A.W.S. funds to tackle a “guerilla gardening” project. The students offered gardening services to residents in the surrounding neighbourhood, taking on tasks such as weeding, fertilizing and planting perennials and trees with a focus on native, low maintenance plants. This was not only a way to educate the students but they saw it as an avenue for raising environmental awareness, beautifying the community, building relationships between the school and surrounding neighbourhood and helping those in need who may not be able to do this outdoor work themselves.

Some words from the advising teacher at Churchill:

*“The PAWS grant became a catalyst for our students to become connected with the Riverview Garden Society. They supervised a group of students from our school as they planted a couple of apple trees next to Riverview Health Centre in the community orchard they have there. Our students also planted some potato plants and helped with the construction of a retaining wall.*

*The connection we have made with Riverview Garden Society is looking to be an amazing occurrence in itself. We are already committed to volunteering in the community on September 21st for a community fundraiser that is incorporating food grown from the Riverview orchard (some of which our students planted). The Garden Society is also going to help us to build a greenhouse at our school!*

*The PAWS grant helped us make great community connections and has spurred many exciting developments!”*

### ***Minnetonka School***

The Student Leadership/Citizenship group at Minnetonka had their hearts set on improvements to their school courtyard to increase its usage among the staff and students. Long term ideas for improvements included stump removal, fixing up the path, adding an outdoor classroom, incorporating a butterfly garden, installing birdhouses and feeders, improving the pond area, planting native grasses, starting a composting program and eventually building two raised garden boxes to plant vegetable for Winnipeg Harvest.

The funds from P.A.W.S. were instrumental in helping the group purchase two bird feeding stations and one bird house. The plan is to also add signage informing students about the species of birds they might commonly see come into their courtyard. When the youth programs coordinator visited the courtyard after the installation of the feeding stations there was even a family of ducks enjoying the pond!