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"Tree Huggers" say YES to the Environment

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – The City of Airdrie Environmental Advisory Board is pleased to announce R. J. Hawkey Elementary “Tree Huggers” group, as the winners of the 2009 Youth Environmental Stewardship Award.

“Once again the Tree Huggers had an amazing environmental stewardship program running,” says Angela Brightwell, Environmental Services Coordinator. “The Tree Huggers worked very hard and continue forward with their goal of diverting 10,000 recyclable items from the landfill. By getting the whole school involved they provide important information on environmental issues to their fellow students and families.”

The Tree Huggers are environmental leaders by setting a goal of 10,000 juice boxes, water bottles and pop bottles to be collected, keeping recyclables out of the landfill. Money raised from deposit recyclables is used to support other programs within the school such as Healthy Snack Basket, tree planting, and school grounds beautification.

"I'm very proud of not only our Tree Huggers for winning this award, but also of the entire R.J. Hawkey family," says Dan Hoch, Principal of R.J. Hawkey Elementary School. "Everyone has played their part in recognizing the value of being environmentally responsible, right from the kids to the parents to the staff, so this really is an award that we can all take pride in."

The award was presented at the Home and Garden Show Saturday April 25th. The Tree Huggers will show the Award to the Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees on **Thursday, May 7th, 2009, at 1:30 pm.**

The City of Airdrie Board supports this award to encourage youth to contribute to environmental initiatives in Airdrie. The Youth Environmental Stewardship Award challenges young people to take a proactive approach towards maintaining and enhancing our environment. Criteria for the award includes projects positively affecting the environment within the past 12 months and could include participation in the Nose Creek Clean-up; recycling or composting initiatives; tree planting; energy efficiency or water conservation.

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