



WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

City Hall
1435 Water Street
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May 30, 2007
File #5280-12

Re: Voices of Nature – Holly Arntzen and the Dream Band

To whom it may concern:

The City of Kelowna's Environment Division has had a Watershed Stewardship Program for the last ten years and its mandate includes environmental education, stewardship, and restoration and enhancement. Each year Environment Staff educate between four thousand and ten thousand students through this program. The Environment Division also facilitates annual environmental events including Family Environment Day, BC Rivers and Fisheries Awareness Day and the Mayor's Environmental Expo.

In May 2007 at the 8th annual Mayor's Environmental Expo, the City's Environment Division in conjunction with the Regional Waste Reduction Office, had the privilege of working with Holly Arntzen and the Artist Response Team through their Voices of Nature Program. Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright were artists in residence at Watson Road Elementary during the week of the Expo. This culminated with a professional concert at our local theatre with over 200 students and then another professional performance at the Expo with the other 200 students.

Holly's energy, enthusiasm and passion overflowed during all her interactions with the students. The students enjoyed Kevin Wright's "rock star" qualities and were able to relate easily with him. The other band members were all professional in their music and relations with the students. The delivery of environmental education through upbeat, stimulating professional music was brilliant. A strong environmental message was learned through songs, essays, poems, pictures and dance.

The teachers, parents, staff, Expo exhibitors, and the public were all amazed at how Holly and the Dream Band captured the students imagination and enthusiasm towards the environment. These "environmentalists of tomorrow" and their parents will always remember the concert and its related environmental message. Holly Arntzen and the Dream Band brought a new and remarkable dimension to the 8th annual Mayor's Environmental Expo. We were all extremely pleased with the outcome!

We fully recommend the Voices of Nature for environmental education! We were so impressed with the Cycle of Life Program that we are trying to facilitate having the Artist Response Team come to Kelowna for two events during the 2007/2008 school year.

If you would like any additional details, please contact the undersigned at mkam@kelowna.ca or (250) 469-8982.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Kam, B.A.
Watershed Coordinator