

BEAN Supports International Biodiversity Day 2012 Activities

The **Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN)** is a collaboration of education, industry, government and non-governmental organizations and agencies dedicated to increasing awareness, understanding and action related to biodiversity in Ontario, Canada.

Each year BEAN promotes the International Day for Biological Diversity (or "**International Biodiversity Day**" (IBD), May 22nd) by supporting events focussed on local action and awareness activities that engage communities, organizations and individuals in the conservation of biodiversity. The theme of IBD in 2012 is Marine Biodiversity.

In 2012, with support from the **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**, BEAN provided \$10,272 to aid the coordination and delivery of 25 IBD events across Ontario. The total cost to hold these events was over \$37,800, meaning that BEAN was able to leverage it's investment at a rate of almost 4:1. Over 2,300 Ontarians (including 1,400 youth) participated in the events. Events included a wide range of activities, including interpretive nature walks, vegetation plantings, presentations, interactive educational activities, invasive species control activities, and natural area clean-up. Examples of some of the activities supported this year are provided below:

- **Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority** provided interactive educational sessions to 83 grade four students on biodiversity, turtles, invasive species and aquatic environments
- **Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation** educated participants (10 adults and 22 students) on species at risk and native plants in the First Nation and planted a pollinator garden
- **Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve** led 170 students through ten educational activity stations set up in Killbear Provincial park where they learned about water ecology, conservation and technology
- **Prince Edward Stewardship Council** provided hands-on field experiences on aquatic surveys and stream ecology for 70 students and delivered a professional development day for teachers who wanted to learn how to incorporate the activity into the curriculum
- **Belfountain Public School** organized over 100 participants into pulling 1,200 pounds of garlic mustard from a local natural area