

Doing Our Part, Peace by Piece

Celebrated since 1982, the International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace each year on September 21. A powerful symbol of the effects of conflict across the globe, Peace Day also serves as a reminder of SaskEnergy's work in promoting peace education activities across Saskatchewan in recent years.



Students take part in a group activity at a 2005 SaskEnergy Peace Day event in Regina.

In 1998, after partnering to create the Rotary Park International Peace Plaza in Saskatoon, SaskEnergy and the Meewasin Valley Authority held the first "Hear the Children" event, in recognition of Peace Day. After growing the annual event to include more than 1,000 students, management of the program was turned over to the Canadian Red Cross in 2003.

Then, as part of the Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 Peace Project, close to 2,000 original works of student art were submitted to the Designs on Peace contest, a partnership involving SaskEnergy, the Centennial office and the Canadian Red Cross in Saskatchewan. Students were also invited to plant a peace pole - the international symbol of peace - in their schoolyard or community. Through the initiative, more than 100 peace poles were planted throughout Saskatchewan in the centennial year.

SaskEnergy has continued to work with the Canadian Red Cross, serving as Founding Sponsor of the Peace by Piece Red Cross Classroom, launched in 2008. The initiative is a classroom-based resource project, helping Saskatchewan teachers and their Grade 3, 4, 5, and 6 students explore global humanitarian issues all year. Last year, across the province, a total of 2,900 students from 115 school classrooms participated in the program.



A poster created by students at Swift Current's Waldeck School as part of the Peace by Piece Red Cross Classroom program.

"We've developed a tremendous partnership with the Canadian Red Cross over the years," says Leslie Gosselin, Manager of Advertising and Community Relations. "Together, we've been able to complement programs like their anti-bullying efforts and RespectED - their violence and abuse prevention campaign - with a variety of initiatives to get students thinking about how they can help make the world a more peaceful place."

Peace by Piece Red Cross Classroom and other SaskEnergy community projects have been designed to help students understand how their individual actions can contribute to a worldwide culture of peace. Similarly, the International Day of Peace encourages each of us to learn about what is happening in the world around us and learn how we can get involved. For more information about the International Day of Peace, visit <http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org>.