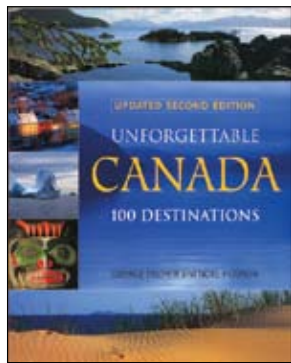


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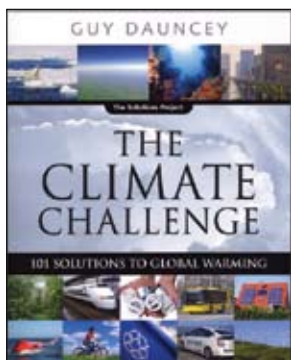
## Unforgettable Canada 100 Destinations (Updated Second Edition)



The Boston Mills Press  
2007  
ISBN 978-1-55046-461-0  
\$29.95, 288 pp, adult  
www.fireflybooks.com

This book would be a great resource for your personal ambitions to see more of our remarkably beautiful country, or to inspire your students with a field trip to a memorable or historical location. All provinces and territories are included, and even though no doubt there are many more than 100 worthwhile destinations, this collection will give you a taste of how wonderful it would be to visit each area of Canada. Spectacular photography and frequent factual sidebars will make you appreciate the diversity of this land we call home. Happy summer holidays!

## The Climate Challenge 101 Solutions to Global Warming



by Guy Dauncey  
New Society Publishers  
2009  
ISBN 978-0-86571-589-9  
\$24.95, 320 pp, ages 15+  
www.newsociety.com

If you have heard Guy Dauncey speak (on YouTube if not in person), you will know that he is an enormously upbeat, optimistic advocate for change who believes we can do what it takes to turn around the human-made climate change disaster. In *The Climate Challenge*, Dauncey provides an overview of the relevant issues of importance, and then outlines 101 ways to make change happen, organized according to who needs to get active: individuals, champions (of change), communities, businesses, farmers, transportation industries, energy companies, governments, developing nations and citizens of the world. He ends with an impassioned plea for each and every one of us to take responsibility, to join others to do *something* to ensure that life as we know it can continue to thrive on Earth. The solutions he puts forward are visionary, do-able and often based on initiatives already underway and proven, although sometimes small scale and scattered around the world. With a wealth of information provided in short, easily digested chunks, and lots of references for further investigation, this book is a valuable tool for any individual, school or community group wanting to get started on effective ways to contribute to a growing wave of climate change action. Pick up a copy and take the summer to browse its pages and come up with your own action plan.



## the planning department

# SUMMER READING LOSS

by Brenda Boreham

Summer reading loss is a well documented phenomena that affects many students. It is of particular concern for those learners who are already considered to be “at risk.” Summer reading loss is also identified as being more significant in students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Many of these children have limited access to books at home, or have parent/caregivers who are unsure of how to help them.

### HOW SIGNIFICANT IS SUMMER READING LOSS?

Summer reading loss has been the subject of research for many years. A recent article in *Issues and Trends in Literacy* by Maryann Mraz and Timothy Rasinski states: “A review of 13 empirical studies representing approximately 40,000 students found that, on average, the reading proficiency levels of students from lower income families declined over the summer months, while the reading proficiency levels of students from middle income families improved modestly. In a single academic year, this decline resulted in an estimated three month achievement gap between more advantaged and less advantaged students. Between grades 1 and 6, the potential cumulative impact of this achievement gap could compound to 1.5 year’s worth of reading development lost in the summer months alone. (Cooper, Nye, Charlton, Lindsay and Greathouse, 1996).”

### HOW CAN SCHOOLS SUPPORT READING DEVELOPMENT OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS?

#### Reading Instruction

- Providing students with successful reading experiences (matching children to books appropriate to their level, using high interest reading material, etc.) could give them the confidence to read voluntarily over the summer.

#### Providing Access To Reading Material

- Most public libraries have a fun summer reading program. Inviting a librarian to visit the school and talk with parents would create awareness of these programs. This would also be a great opportunity to sign children up and arrange for library cards.
- Provide a free or low cost summer reading program at the school.
- Provide part time summer access to the school library.



Brenda is the Literacy Resource Teacher at her school. This part-time position allows her to plan fun literacy events when she isn't busy in her own classroom.

### Providing Suggestions For Promoting Family Literacy

The following is a list of specific suggestions that might prove useful to parents. Share this information with parents/caregivers in a variety of ways: a workshop format during the last weeks of school, parent newsletters, a printed handout to go home with report cards, for example.

- Provide a quiet place in your home with reading and writing supplies (paper, felt pens, crayons, scissors, glue, etc.).
- Buy used books at second hand stores and garage sales.
- Reading material comes in many different forms: books, magazines, letters, Internet sites, newspapers, etc. Try them all!
- Visit the public library every week.
- Be a reading model. Children learn by example. Let them see you reading in your spare time.
- Read aloud to your children—20 minutes a day adds up over the course of the summer.
- Read in the car. Road signs, billboards and licence plates are all sources of reading material while you are in transit. Why not teach your children to read a road map?
- Daily household routines allow for many reading opportunities—recipes, phone books, the TV guide are all excellent sources of informational text.
- Try a family board game night. Encourage your children to read the instructions and follow the directions.
- When you are watching TV reduce the volume and turn on the closed captioning feature. Encourage your children to read the words on the screen.
- Listen to your child read to you. Ask questions (e.g., What do you think will happen next? What is the problem in the story?).
- Sing with your children. Singing helps them to develop an early awareness of rhyme, rhythm and words.
- Ask for your children’s help with household chores: printing grocery lists, marking events on the calendar, writing postcards and letters to family members and friends, etc.
- Challenge your children with word games such as word searches, crossword puzzles, Scrabble, Upwords, etc.
- On family trips to museums, science centres, parks and galleries make sure that you read the information on the displays.
- Have fun! .

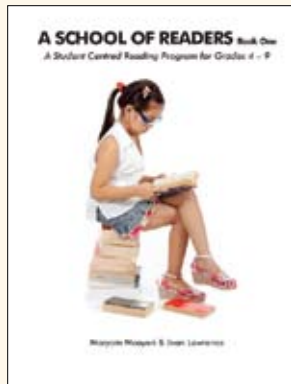


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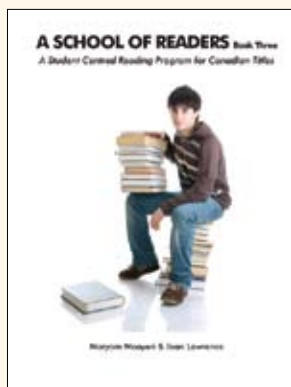
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