

# PRESS RELEASE



CÉGEP  
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## Over 140 students flock to the Vanier College Field Station Open House

**October 6, 2008.** Discovery was the keyword as 140 students from Beaconsfield High School poured out of buses into the sunlight to explore the Vanier College Field Station at Lake Sir John in Lachute during the station's annual Open House on September 25.

Enthusiastic groups of high schoolers were mesmerized as Vanier students from the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program made presentations on bird and duck banding, capturing animals for study, studying plankton in lakes, and sampling the quality of water, demonstrated insect sampling techniques, tree coring, and electrofishing, and explained how to track animals using radio telemetry. As well, the high schoolers examined wildlife specimens from the Lachute area and visited the station's Fish Facility.

While making their presentations the Vanier students also explained the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program to the high school students and described the career opportunities available. Asked if they were having fun, the reply from the high school students was noisy and positive. "I had no idea there were so many job possibilities," said one boy.

The field station visit fits into the high school Discovery Science Program that links classroom learning with the living world and uses GOAL – the Guidance Oriented Approach to Learning. "The visit was absolutely fabulous!" exclaimed Nancy Battet, liaison for the Interactive Community Partnership Program of the Lester B. Pearson School Board. "And I know that some of the older students who came to hear about the program, have already decided it's what they want to study in Cegep."

Brian Scully who teaches at the Field Station explains that "The Open House gives Vanier students in their final year of studies, the opportunity to communicate their knowledge, skill, and enthusiasm on the environment. They gain experience in organizing, planning, and researching information, then communicating it via their displays and by speaking with and interacting with the public."

Vanier College is the only English Cegep that offers a three-year Environmental and Wildlife Management Program aimed at preparing graduates for a career as technologists specializing in environmental monitoring and the management of renewable natural resources. Graduates work in private, public and university organizations involved in the inventory and management wildlife habitats, provide environmental consulting services, work in water quality assessment, waste management and recycling, and in research laboratories.

The program attracts not only high school students but also graduates from university programs who come to Vanier for valuable hands-on training. "Our graduates have a lot of practical experience going into university programs," indicates Brian Scully. "Except for a short break, third year students live and study at the field station from May to the end of November. After Christmas they spend the last semester in a six-week internship. So by the time they leave this program, they have a broad range of knowledge, a good grasp of techniques, and most importantly, they know how to learn. And that's what employers need."

Vanier is also unique in that it owns and operates its own Field Station which serves not only Vanier students, but is also used by Concordia University.