

North Durham Nature,

As a passionate enthusiast of everything our world has to offer, and our natural environment, I was overjoyed to hear about the opportunity I had been presented with to attend the Youth Environmental Summit last weekend, from September 20th to the 22nd, hosted by Ontario Nature. Ever since I was little, I have always loved being outside, embracing my surroundings, and appreciating the natural world around me. This summit was not only an opportunity to learn how to appreciate it even more, but also to learn about the unfortunate crisis we are finding ourselves in now.

One of the many wonderful and interesting workshops I attended was 'Climate Change; the Vital Need to Make Your Voice Heard'. It was both fascinating and heart breaking at the same time. It is a message that everyone needs to hear. I learned so much about how I as an individual, and we as a community can lower our impact on the environment. I hope this is something that Sam and I can both share with the rest of our school and our town.

I also attended many other workshops which were very well organized, and each had valuable lessons behind them. If you asked me to pick a favourite, I wouldn't be able to! I learned something amazing from every single one, whether it was something I could apply to my own life, or use it to make others lives better. It was one of the best experiences of my life, and I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to go and be a part of this amazing summit.

I am a member of the Port Perry High School Eco Club, and I am so excited to be able to share what I learned with the rest of my team, to improve our school. We are also attending a Climate Strike during our lunch hour this Friday the 27th of September, in protest of Climate Change. I would have never heard about the strike, or encouraged the rest of my team to go if I had not been present at the summit, and I am so thankful to be a part of this massive global movement.

Not only did this experience enhance my life, but it has also made me a better person. I have become much more aware of my ecological footprint, and I have also become more appreciative of the crystal clear lakes we have here in Ontario, and the incredible wildlife we possess. Words cannot describe how much this meant to me and how honoured I was to go. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Yours Truly,

Laura Mereweather