

July 8, 2015

**For Immediate Release**

**The Cowan Foundation supports innovative, school based photography program through \$25,000 donation to Focus on Nature**

**Guelph, ON-** Last month, The Cowan Foundation presented a cheque for \$25,000 to *Focus on Nature*, an organization whose mission is to inspire young people to explore and connect with nature through photography. The donation will fund two school kits, which include cameras for the children to use, memory cards, laptops and a digital projector.

On June 22, The Cowan Foundation had a chance to see first-hand the impact of the donation by joining Mrs. DiLoreto's Grade 5/6 class at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Cambridge as they participated in the Focus on Nature day-long program.

**Quotes:**

"When we heard that new class photography kits were needed to replace the older, inconsistent, and sometimes unreliable kits, we felt it was important to step up and provide support," explained Heather McLachlin, President, Cowan Insurance Group. By donating money to this program, we are helping enhance young people's physical and emotional well-being and helping provide them with positive, meaningful experiences outdoors, and that is amazing to see."

"This generous donation from The Cowan Foundation has made a huge difference to our young students and volunteer mentors", said Simon Bell, Executive Director of Focus on Nature. "We now have standardized equipment that is rugged and easy-to-use, greatly improving our program delivery. The Cowan Foundation's support will allow us to continue expanding our program to all children in the Waterloo Region and beyond."

**The Cowan Foundation** was started in 1995 in honour of Frank Cowan, the founder of Frank Cowan Company and Cowan Insurance Group. The Foundation is sustained by the ongoing success of the Princeton Holdings group of companies including Cowan Insurance Group (and its subsidiaries: The Williamson Group, Millennium CreditRisk Management, Wentworth Financial Services and Cowan Financial Solutions), Frank Cowan Company, The Guarantee Company of North America, Cowan Asset Management and Fountain Street Finance. Together they provide insurance and risk management products and services for individuals, businesses, organizations and public entities as well as assist employers with their group benefits, retirement and health and disability management plans. The goal of The Cowan Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of Canadians and the broader well-being of our communities. [www.cowanfoundation.ca](http://www.cowanfoundation.ca)

**Focus on Nature** is an innovative, school-based program that uses photography to engage young people in the exploration of the world around them, cultivating a connection with their local environment that carries forward into their lives. As a Guelph-based registered charity, Focus on Nature operates with over 50 active volunteers, delivering full-day workshops to

elementary school students in grades 3 to 6, plus March Break and Summer Camp programs. In 2014 they reached over 1,800 young people in Ontario. [www.focusonnature.ca](http://www.focusonnature.ca)

### Associated Images



Mrs. DiLoreto's Grade 5/6 class at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Cambridge having fun with the new cameras. Also pictured above, Focus on Nature volunteers including Simon Bell, Executive director (back row far left), Bob Fanning, President, Focus on Nature, and Jeff Ostic, Commercial Account Executive, Cowan Insurance Group (back row far right).



Pictured above from left to right: Bob Fanning, President, Focus on Nature receives cheque from Tom Dietrich, VP, Focus on Nature and Terry Reidel, Executive Director, The Cowan Foundation

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