

## **Cochrane students reach Summit**

Yes! youth summit brings in heavy weights to speak, share ideas

### [Cochrane Times Article](#)

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Wednesday October 18, 2006

Cochrane high school students Ryan Hoge and Paul Mabbott joined over 200 Albertans ages 16-25 at an environmental summit called Yes! in Kananaskis Oct. 11-13.

The purpose of the summit is to share their vision for Alberta's environment and explore environmental action plans.

The delegates took part in sessions where they explored alternative sources of energy and ways to sustain the environment.

There were high-profile speakers including Dr. Colleen Klein and Severn Cullis-Suzuki. Dr. Colleen Klein spoke on the hazards of crystal meth and the drugs negative impact on Albert's youth. Cullis-Suzuki talked about her experience working with established environmental youth leaders, non-government groups and key decision-makers on environmental action.

A trade show was organized with non-government environmental action groups, that allowed the delegates to connect with these groups and give students tools to go home and start taking action.

After the first day, Ryan Hoge, a Grade 12 Student at Cochrane High School (CHS), felt the summit was going amazingly well.

"The ideas that have come forth and the discussion is amazing," said Hoge.

Some of Hoge's favourite ideas so far have been bio diesel and idle free zones, where it is illegal to idle your car for more then a few minutes.

Hoge is involved with the solar panel project at CHS, and said many students were interested and it was a hot topic at the summit.

"The best plan is for us to discuss the implications of these plans and see if they are feasible in the town of Cochrane," said Hoge. "If they are feasible then they are worth putting our efforts into it."

Paul Mabbott, a Grade 10 student at CHS echoed the thoughts of Hoge.

"There are some great ideas coming out of this," said Mabbott. His favourite part of the summit was getting so many ideas that are so feasible.

"It is basically like a giant think tank for ways to help the environment out," said Mabbott.

One of Mabbott's favourites is turning deep fryer fat into bio diesel.

Mabbott quotes the Alberta Environment Minister Guy Boutilier saying, "The summit is like a snow ball, it rolls down the hill and gets bigger and bigger."

"Alberta's young people are our future leaders and should be empowered, inspired and encouraged to protect our land, air and water. This summit will capture the spirit of young Albertans and present opportunities for them as environmental stewards," said Boutilier in an Alberta Government press release.

"These young Albertans came with passion, ideas and energy. They leave as environmental stewards with the know-how and support to share their environmental vision with their home communities," said Boutilier.