



**Sustainable
Orillia**

Attention Local Educators! Announcing: **Sustainable Orillia's 2026 Student Art Contest**

This contest is open to all Orillia area Elementary and Secondary school aged youth.

2026 Theme: *Celebrating Success Stories!*

Get creative to spotlight a local or global success story where science and technology have led to a cleaner, healthier environment.



The theme “*Celebrating Success Stories!*” invites students to focus on solutions—real examples where science and technology have made a meaningful difference in creating a cleaner, healthier environment. By highlighting progress rather than problems, this contest encourages climate hope: the understanding that human creativity and innovation can drive positive change. Research and classroom experience show that hopeful, action-oriented stories can help reduce climate anxiety in young people, replacing feelings of helplessness with agency, optimism, and motivation. Through art, students can explore how knowledge, ingenuity, and collaboration are already shaping a better future—and imagine how they might contribute to it themselves.

Dates: March 1st, 2026 to May 29th, 2026 (pickup of works after 12 p.m.)

Prizes: **Secondary prizes** - 1st place \$200, 2nd place \$100, all others \$50.

Elementary prizes for works chosen are \$50.

Winning entries will be featured in a local exhibition at the Orillia Museum of Art and History in Fall/Winter 2026.

Curriculum Connections:

This contest aligns with the Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum in Grades 1 through 8 - Stem Skills and Connections A3.1, A3.2, and A3.3, and various Visual Arts expectations. See also Secondary school Environmental Science and Visual Arts curricula.

Important Details:

Medium: Students are free to choose and use the media that helps them best depict their Success Stories. All artworks **must** be able to be picked up and transported by Sustainable Orillia volunteers.

Submission/Collection: All student work will be collected from participating schools after noon on May 29, 2026. **Home school** entries will be picked up at the Orillia Public Library or Manticore Books.

Selection: A selection committee of Sustainable Orillia directors, local organization leaders, and education professionals will determine the winning pieces.

Completing submissions:

1. Write student's name on the **BACK** of the artwork.
2. Attach student entry form to the **BACK** of each artwork carefully with tape.

Included on the entry form is a space for students to write a short explanatory note about the success story they have highlighted. Pieces are judged both on artistic merit and written link to the contest theme.

Contest details, forms, and contacts are also available on the Sustainable Orillia website:

www.sustainableorillia.ca

For any questions, please contact Theresa Soper (reid_soper@sympatic.ca) or Sarah Walters (sarahwalters@sustainableorillia.ca)

Entry forms below

Student name: _____ **Grade** _____

School: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Medium used: _____ **Artwork Title:** _____

Success Story: _____ Clearly explain your reason for highlighting this success story, including what the technology or innovation is, where it is used, and how it has led to a healthier environment (write on back or attach sheet if necessary).

Student name: _____ **Grade** _____

School: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Medium used: _____ **Artwork Title:** _____

Success Story: _____ Clearly explain your reason for highlighting this success story, including what the technology or innovation is, where it is used, and how it has led to a healthier environment. (write on back or attach sheet if necessary)

2026 Sustainable Orillia Art Contest Teacher Package
Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Artistic Expression & Creativity	Artwork displays exceptional originality and creativity; ideas are highly engaging and unique.	Artwork demonstrates creativity and original thinking; ideas are interesting and clearly presented.	Artwork shows some creative effort; ideas are somewhat original but may lack depth.	Artwork lacks originality; ideas are basic or copied with little creative effort.
Technical Skill and Presentation	Demonstrates excellent technique; uses chosen media expertly with strong attention to detail. Evident care and significant effort.	Shows good skill and control of media; most details are well executed. Good presentation; effort is apparent.	Basic skills are evident; some difficulty managing the media or technique. Effort is adequate but could be improved.	Minimal technical skill shown; struggles with media or technique throughout. Appears rushed or incomplete.
Connection to Theme	Artwork thoughtfully and clearly connects to the assigned theme; interpretation is insightful.	Artwork connects to the theme; interpretation is clear and relevant.	Artwork has a basic connection to the theme; interpretation may be unclear.	Artwork does not clearly relate to the assigned theme.
Written Submission: Science/Technology Success Story	Written piece expertly connects the student's art to a specific science or technology success story that has improved the environment; provides sophisticated explanation and demonstrates thorough understanding.	Written piece clearly connects the art to a relevant success story; provides solid explanation and understanding of the environmental impact.	Written piece attempts to connect art to a success story; explanation is basic or lacks detail about the environmental outcome.	Written piece does not connect the art to a relevant success story, or explanation is missing or unrelated.

Each of these criteria will be considered in the context of the grade level of the artist. Final selections will be informed by criteria and scores below but may be subject to votes from the committee.