R.I.P.P.L.E.S. /SANDWATCH TEAM UP AT LOWER BAY

Who thought that while cleaning up a beach, one could have fun and find a treasure at the end? This was the theme of the beach cleanup organized by the R.I.P.P.L.E.S group.

On the 6th of July, 2006 the R.I.P.P.L.E.S group, joined by members of the Sandwatch team from the Bequia Anglican High School, Mr. Herman Belmar, Deputy Director of Grenadines Affairs, and some other locals conducted a cleanup at Lower Bay. The group met at 3:30pm on the beach at Lower Bay, one of the popular beaches on the island. The excited kids were split into 2 groups and briefed about the afternoon's activity.

The cleanup had a hidden prize. While cleaning the beach the groups would use clues to get to the treasure at the end. Excited by the prospect of finding treasure, the kids worked extra hard to be the first team to grab the loot. Both kids and adults were running around the long stretch of beach looking for garbage and clues.

Some of the local business owners commented that it was nice to see the young children on the island making an effort to keep their island clean and readily pitched in to help in the project. The prizes were hidden at their premises as a precautionary measure against dogs and innocent people on the beach accidentally taking the treasure.

Two and a half hours later the treasure was found, amusingly after the discovery that some of the clues had been zealously picked up and dumped as trash. The beach was clean and each team had more than two bags of garbage. Many of the R.I.P.P.L.E.S commented that they had never had so much fun while doing work, and asked when the date of the next cleanup would be.

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