



Left to Rot

Fishers say export policy is killing our lakes —
and their livelihoods

By Tessa Vanderhart



Fisher Frank Kenyon holds up a pickerel that he can sell to Freshwater Fish, unlike the “rough fish” that are being wasted and dumped into MB lakes by the hundreds each day.

Inside this Issue:

Left to Rot.....	cover, 6-7
Executive Director's Letter	2
Eco-Events in Manitoba / Of Special Note.....	3
Storm Chasing.....	4-5
New Provincial Parks Bring New Adventures.....	8-9
Disappointment in Durban	10
Book Review: End of Growth.....	11
Living “Car-Light”	12

SEVENTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS of fish rotted in a shipping container after Manitoba Conservation seized them from commercial fishers this summer — but that’s just a drop in the bucket compared to what they’re forced to waste every day.

Commercial fisherman Frank Kenyon says that every day he works on the lake he has to let 200-300 pounds of undesirable fish rot and make their way into Lake Manitoba.

Those fish are not only traditionally considered unpalatable for commercial sale — they’re also nutrient-loading Manitoba’s lakes.

Kenyon sells to Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which has a mandate under a federal act to buy all the fish caught in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut, and market it for re-sale.

He’s paid for the pickerel but says the rates for what he calls “rough fish,” carp in particular, are so low that fishers lose one to two cents per kilogram after paying for shipping.

But when he puts a gill net into the lake, it catches every fish of a particular size — two-pound fish, for example — and with the proliferation of invasive carp that can mean pulling 1,000 fish to catch a single pickerel.

In the winter, the ice fishers then cut up the fish out on the lake to prepare them for sale, and right now their only option is to leave the unwanted fish, and the guts, on the ice.

continued on page 6 >>

is published five times per year by the
Manitoba Eco-Network/
Reseau Ecologique du Manitoba Inc. at
3rd Floor, 303 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2B4
Phone: 204-947-6511 / Fax: 1-866-237-3130
info@mbeconetwork.org
www.mbeconetwork.org

Editor: Joel Trenaman
editor@mbeconetwork.org

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE:

**Shannon Bileski, Lydia Carpenter,
Michelle Curry, Melissa Dupuis, Trevor Gill,
Jhonnathan Menjivar, Chris Paetkau,
Joel Schwab, Nigel Sutcliffe, Anika Terton,
Ron Thiessen, Tessa Vanderhart.**

Design & Layout: Tracey Shillington O'Neil
www.simplifedesigns.ca

**MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK
STEERING COMMITTEE:**

**Kisti Thomas, Red River College
Sustainability Office, Chairperson**

Alec Stuart, Planners Network MB, Treasurer

Kevin Freedman, Member at Large, Secretary

**Carolyn Garlich, Unitarian Church, Green
Action Committee**

Jim Chapryk, Bike to the Future

Sylvie Hebert, Green Action Centre

Carol Hitchon, Nature Manitoba

Nyree Bridgman, EcoPIA

Watch us on YouTube to learn about native
prairie plants, composting, Manitoba Hydro's
water saving kit, reel mower sharpening
and more. [http://www.youtube.com/user/
ManitobaEcoNetwork](http://www.youtube.com/user/ManitobaEcoNetwork)

Don't forget to 'like' Manitoba Eco-Network
on Facebook! [http://www.facebook.com/
Manitoba.Eco.Network](http://www.facebook.com/Manitoba.Eco.Network)

Manitoba Eco-Network is affiliated with
the Canadian Environmental Network.

*EcoCentre groups gratefully acknowledge the
contributions of Mountain Equipment Co-op.*

Individual subscriptions to *Eco-Journal*
are available as part of a supporting
membership to the Manitoba Eco-Network at
a cost of \$30. Group membership dues are
\$50. Associate membership dues are \$60.

The opinions expressed by contributors
are their own and do not represent
the views of the Manitoba Eco-Network
or its member groups.

**For advertising rates, please contact
info@mbeconetwork.org, or 947-6511.
The advertising deadline for the
April 1 edition is March 5, 2012.**

Executive Director's Letter

THE NEW YEAR seems to inspire change, and that is certainly
true at the Eco-Network, as we start 2012 with some personnel
changes and a look ahead to new forms of engagement.

Jim Chapryk has stepped down as Chairperson of the Man-
itoba Eco-Network Board of Directors after three years serving in the role. Jim was appointed to the
Eco-Network Board in 2008, and in that time has significantly contributed to the development of
human resource policies. Jim's involvement with the Reel Green Film Festival planning has been
greatly appreciated, both behind the scenes and also as co-MC; Jim, you're a natural at entertaining
an audience!

We wholeheartedly thank Jim for the expertise and support he has brought to the Board. Jim will
continue to share his wisdom as a Board member and we are very grateful for his dedication.

Kisti Thomas, who was serving on the Manitoba Eco-Network Board of Directors as Vice-Chair-
person, has stepped into the leadership role of Chairperson. Kisti was appointed to the Eco-Network
Board in 2010 and in this short time has made many helpful and thoughtful contributions. Kisti has
been actively involved on the Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Award Committee and is always
willing to help where needed.

In addition to taking a new role on the Board of Directors, Kisti is also moving into a new position
as Sustainability Co-ordinator in the Red River College Sustainability Office. Congratulations Kisti!

Beverly Sawchuk has been with us since spring 2011 as Co-ordinator, where she brought a wealth
of knowledge and applied her organizational and marketing skills to successfully arrange events such
as the Planned Giving Workshop, Rio+20, and the Reel Green Film Festival, to name a few. I am
tremendously grateful for Bev's tireless support through the executive director transition, and for her
valuable contribution to the Manitoba Eco-Network. Thank you Bev, you will be dearly missed! Bev
moves on to pursue a new career as Director of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. Congratulations
Bev and we wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Continuing with the theme of change, I would like to hear from you as to how Manitoba Eco-
Network can expand its capacity to promote positive environmental action. For 25 years, we have
connected people and environmental groups across the province. How can we improve upon our
methods of engaging Manitobans? Perhaps you have ideas on how we can enhance our current pro-
grams, projects and activities. Or, should we begin launching new initiatives in our progress towards
sustainability by becoming more of an enterprising non-profit?

Manitoba Eco-Network's members and supporters are key stakeholders in our organization, and
I welcome your ideas and feedback on our mission to facilitate environmental awareness and expand
community connections. This is your opportunity to help us chart a course for the future. Please
contact me at (204) 947-6511 or email Kristine@mbeconetwork.org.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at the Manitoba Eco-Network, I wish to thank those who generously
supported us in 2011. Your commitment to helping the Manitoba Eco-network reach our goals is sin-
cerely appreciated. As I plan for the year ahead, it is comforting to know that so many Manitobans value
and appreciate our efforts to facilitate environmental awareness and promote sustainable living. 🌱

Kristine Koster

Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network



PHOTO: DYLAN HEWLETT

For more environmental event listings see our website calendar at www.mbeconetwork.org.

February

11-17 **Jack Frost Challenge**

Sign up a team of 1-5 people to skate, bike, ski, snowshoe or walk a com-
bined total of 130 km during the Jack Frost week and Get Moving! For
more info and to register, www.greenactioncentre.ca or 925-3777.

15 **Remediation & Prevention Conference**

This conference at the Victoria Inn, 1818 Wellington, will showcase lead-
ing science in the field of soil and groundwater remediation.
For info, www.meia.mb.ca.

18 **The Great Backyard Bird Count**

Help FortWhyte Alive record its winter birds and participate in the impor-
tant Bird Studies Canada survey. For info, www.fortwhyte.org.

23-25 **Growing Local Conference**

Growing Local brings together community members, producers and retail-
ers who are interested in building local solutions to improve food security
in Manitoba. For more info, www.foodmattersmanitoba.ca or 943-0822.

28 **Agriculture and water in a changing climate:
Solutions for Manitoba's Interlake area**

Speakers and panellists will address the challenges and solutions for Mani-
toba. Bifrost Community Centre, Arborg, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sponsored by
Manitoba Eco-Network and Climate Change Connection. FREE registra-
tion before February 24, 2012. Contact: Josh@mbeconetwork.org.
Phone: (204) 943 -0381.

March

3 **Seedy Saturday**

Find inspiration for your garden, learn about local biodiversity and global
conservation issues, and take part in the community seed exchange.
Canadian Mennonite University, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission by donation.
For more info, winnipegcgnetwork@gmail.com or 231-4321.

7 **MEIA Environmental Career Fair**

Manitoba Environmental Industries Association Student Chapter, the U
or W, the U of M, RRC and ACU will host this third annual career fair at
the U of M. For info, visit www.meia.mb.ca.

31 **Gardening Saturday**

Get ready for the gardening season including, 19 workshops, a Tradeshow
Area and the Eat Local Grow Local Food Market. Canadian Mennonite
University, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more info, www.gardensmanitoba.com

Please email your event notices to info@mbeconetwork.org.

Announcement:

A new paid **Environmental Mentorship Program** is looking for experi-
enced leaders to help a group of young environmentalists implement an
environmental project in Manitoba. **Deadline: Feb. 18th 2012**
For more info, www.mbecoyouth.org/mentorship,
greenspace@mbeconetwork.org, or 947-6511



**Preference will be
given to environmental
organizations and
non-profit community
groups, but we
encourage all inquiries.**

**Contact the Manitoba
Eco-Network at 947-6511.**

EcoCentre Office
Space for Lease

Shared office space available immediately in
the EcoCentre, 3rd Floor of the Mountain
Equipment Coop Building. This space is
approximately 230 square feet and suitable
for one or two workstations.

Basic rent is \$206 per month, plus about
\$50 per month to cover shared expenses of
utilities, recycling, cleaning, internet and so on.
Use of a shared boardroom, kitchen and
networked copier/printer is included.

For more information, visit www.eco-centre.ca.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

In November 2011, Manitoba Eco-Network issued its Annual Appeal to members and supporters. In her
letter, our Executive Director Kristine Koster indicated that the value of promoting positive environmental
action has been demonstrated by people like David Suzuki, who said: "There is no environment out there.
We are here and we somehow have to watch how we interact with it. We are the environment. Whatever
we do to our surroundings, we do directly to ourselves. The environmental crisis is a human crisis. We are
at the centre of it, both causing the problem and as the victims of the consequences."

Manitoba Eco-Network strives to make the principles of sustainable development and ecological decision-
making more accessible to the community. We are a knowledgeable, dedicated group of people who de-
voted our working hours and much of our leisure time to help Manitoba become one of the most sustainable
provinces in Canada.

To the many donors who responded to our request to invest in the environment and invest in the future, our
sincere thanks for your kind support. The endorsement of the community we serve is vital, and validates
both our mission and very existence. If you have not yet made a donation but wish to do so, we encourage
you to learn more about us by visiting www.mbeconetwork.org.

Storm Chasing

A day by day account of U of M students in search of bad weather

By Jhonnathan Menjivar

BACK IN THE SUMMER when the sun was shining, the sky was blue and the temperature was just right for the beach, professors from the University of Manitoba were hard at work, preparing and educating students on the concepts and theories of summer severe weather. This was all part of the University of Manitoba's storm chasing summer course, whereby students took learning from the classroom to the road for a week long, storm-chasing field trip.

As a weather enthusiast, I thought this would be an interesting course to take, but like any other normal or sane person, I thought it might be dangerous. I saw the movie *Twister* and I know what happens when you get close to a tornado! In order to calm my nerves, I decided to talk to some people who had previously taken the course. To my amazement, everyone said that it was perfectly safe, and that I was blowing things out of proportion...

The classes were very interesting. They covered topics such as: analyzing stability in the atmosphere, understanding the different types of storm systems, interpreting radar and satellite imagery, and understanding techniques to forecast severe weather. After a month and a half in the classroom, we had finally reached the day of departure. The first day consisted of a lot of driving, driving through Manitoba, North Dakota, and Montana. However, while in Montana, just south of Malta, we caught up to an amazing shelf

cloud. We parked our five vehicles and watched the system approach us. Our lead meteorologist, Dave Carlsen, warned us about the strong out-flow winds associated with the shelf cloud, and the precipitation that would come along with it. As soon as the system got close to us, the wind picked up dramatically. Dave estimated the wind speed at approximately 75 km per hour. We also started to feel some raindrops, so we got back into the vehicles and left. This shelf cloud can be seen on the opposite page, upper left corner.

On the second day of our chase, we left Montana, drove through Wyoming and Nebraska, and into South Dakota. The day was filled with surprises. We first experienced another beautiful striated shelf cloud, around Buffalo, Wyoming (seen below). Secondly, we accidentally drove through the core of a storm! Within minutes we started to hear the hail pounding our vehicle. We pulled over and observed that the hail was quarter-sized to about loonie-sized. Lastly, we headed towards Rapid City, South Dakota, where our RADAR illustrated that at the tail end of a storm system, a characteristic hook echo had formed. A hook echo is a signature seen on RADAR which is associated with the formation of tornados. We waited and watched for the storm system to further develop, however it did not produce a tornado.

Day 3 was a slower day. We headed south from Rapid City to Hermosa, South Dakota, where we watched some cells beginning to form.

However, due to a strong cap in the upper atmosphere, these storms did not develop any further. As nightfall came upon us, we saw some beautiful lightning as we approached Chadron, Nebraska.

Day 4 was definitely the most exciting day of the chase. We left Chadron and headed towards southeastern Nebraska, where the RADAR indicated that there was a potential for the development of strong, rotating super-cells. We went and investigated, positioning ourselves in the town of Seward, Nebraska. In Seward, we got out of our vans to observe the sky for any formation of super-cells. However, it was so hazy, and the clouds were so low, that we couldn't see anything. Then after about three minutes, Dave jumped out from his van, and yelled "Everyone get back in the vans, we've got to go, the last RADAR scan doesn't look good!" As soon as we left the town, the town's tornado sirens started going off. As we got on to the interstate, we looked back and saw a section of dark clouds dipping towards the ground. Some of us thought that a tornado might have touched down soon after we left. But to our great disappointment no tornado was reported.

Day 5 was another slow day, though we bumped into the crew from the Discovery Channel's *Storm Chasers*. The highlight was the program's Tornado Intercept Vehicle (TIV), parked outside of the hotel. It was a massive vehicle which resembled a tank.



PHOTO: SHANNON BILESKI



PHOTO: MICHELLE CURRY



PHOTO: JOEL SCHWAB

Clockwise from above:
Shelf Cloud south of Malta, Montana.
Quarter-sized to loonie-sized hail.
Discovery Channel's TIV in Beatrice, Nebraska.
Day 6: a storm broke through the cap as we headed towards Chadron, Nebraska. Rain and hail can be seen on the left hand side.


By day 6 we had repositioned ourselves in Fort Morgan, Colorado. We waited there for the storms to roll in, however the potential for storm development was marginal, due to the presence of a substantial cap aloft, and low dew point temperature at the surface. In the end, nothing developed in Colorado. As we started to make our way back to Chadron, Nebraska, a student asked to pull over for a five-minute photo break, as clouds were being lit beautifully by the setting sun. As the students took pictures of these clouds, an isolated storm system started to develop behind them. The system had broken through the cap, and from our position we could see the rain and hail falling out of the storm.

After all the days of fun and excitement, our journey had to come to an end on Day 7. That was the day we started our return trip back



PHOTO: MICHELLE CURRY

home. We woke up from Chadron at 6:00 a.m. and returned home to Winnipeg by 11:00 p.m. Overall, the trip was an amazing experience: we travelled over 6,000 km and drove through six different states. We got to learn the fundamentals of summer severe weather, and we also got to

see how these fundamentals apply to the formation of storms in the real world. 
An MTS TV crew produced a documentary of the trip entitled In Search of the Storm. The film is available on MTS On Demand.



Striated shelf cloud, near Buffalo, Wyoming.

Left to Rot cont’d...

“It looks terrible — it looks like a heads and guts dumping area all over the lake, every 100 yards where the fishers pull their nets,” Kenyon says. “It sits there in the snow all winter, then falls into the lake in the summer.”

Not only does it look terrible: it also puts phosphorous back into nutrient-loaded lakes.

The fishers used to dress the fish in their own fields, leaving the heads and guts to be picked at by coyotes and ravens, and eventually were left with maggot-infested piles of bones.

But that’s now illegal, a spokesman for the province confirmed, and the fishers are supposed to leave the guts on the lake to rot.

Kenyon says that’s disgusting.

“When I choose to put it in the lake, every child that swims in the lake has to deal with it,” he says.

“The lake isn’t my lake — it’s everyone’s lake. We should be ashamed of polluting it.”

In response, Kenyon and his daughters, Amanda Stevenson and Brandy Hardigan, started WMM Fisheries Co-operative Ltd. after rounding up about 300 fishers and scoring an export permit from Freshwater Fish to sell the mullet and carp to the United States.

Last summer they sold nearly 750,000 pounds of carp and mullet to Schafer Fisheries in Thomson, Ill., but on July 15, Conservation officers were sent to seize that 17,000-pound shipment, worth about \$11,000.

Export permits are given on the condition that the fish aren’t sold to existing Freshwater customers, and it turned out Schafer was set to re-sell about five percent of what WMM had shipped to regular Freshwater customer A&B Famous Gefilte Fish.

That got WMM’s export licence pulled — even though Freshwater had vetted the buyer.

“I think they gave us the export licence, to be honest, to try and shut us up — thinking that we’d fail. Then they’d be able to say, ‘Look what happens when the fishers try to do this themselves.’”

Freshwater CEO John Wood wondered why WMM doesn’t simply apply for a dealer licence to sell the fish locally. “I don’t know that we’ve ever turned anyone down for that,” he notes.

Wood says the market for carp is almost non-existent, particularly as the U.S. government subsidizes fishers to catch — and often trash — Asian carp.

But Freshwater is still trying to market the fish, at food shows around the world.



Hundreds of pounds of edible fish left to rot on the ice every day will add to the lake’s phosphorous load in the spring.

Stevenson said that Freshwater could potentially get more money for all Manitoba fish if they pursued eco-certification. Instead of finding markets for carp as fish feed and fertilizer, it could be sold as high-quality ready-to-eat food — especially in Europe, where eco-certified fish are becoming the norm.

Both Stevenson and Wood are pushing the province to get the fisheries eco-certified, though it could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per lake.

“The consumer is going to start to mandate proof, at some point, that the fish they’re purchasing are coming from a sustainable industry,” Stevenson says.

“And the way that we are forced to fish right now — not using our by-catch to the best possible use — is not sustainable.”

Even if fishers did use new technology, like a live-trapping funnel that lets them see the fish before pulling it above water, that would just mean more pickerel would be removed from the lake, and more carp left behind.

Schafer Fisheries has inquired about setting up a plant on Lake Manitoba to produce organic fertilizer from the rough fish guts, and WMM has made deals with coastal lobster and salmon fisheries to give away the guts as feed.

Carp killing Manitoba’s lakes?

Some of the negative effects carp — an invasive species native to Europe — have on Manitoba’s lakes:

Release phosphorous locked up in sediments and other aquatic fauna.

Reduce insect populations through predation, loss of habitat.

Feed on pickerel eggs, crowd pickerel out of habitat.

Stir up substrate, which destroys habitat, kills aquatic plants, makes water unsuitable for swimming or drinking.

— Source: *Invasive Species Manitoba*, Scott Forbes

But Stevenson says fishers can’t count on keeping their export permits long enough to follow through on those deals.

“We have abundant resources of fish; we have lots of people that want to fish them; just the middle is missing.”

Leaving It Better Than He Found It

Researcher plans to harvest carp waste for organic fertilizer

By Tessa Vanderhart

SCOTT FORBES, a University of Winnipeg professor, could be the answer to Manitoba’s fishers’ prayers. He’s working on a recipe for an organic fertilizer that will help keep carp offal and nutrient-loading fertilizers out of Manitoba’s lakes.

“The goal is to start removing large quantities of carp but also to find a place where we can process fish waste. That fish waste that is being dumped into lakes, that’s the perfect input,” Forbes says. “So we can solve an environmental problem and create some jobs in the Manitoba economy at the same time.”

Carp are a major source of phosphorous in the province’s watersheds, but overland runoff is much more significant.

Conventional petrochemical fertilizers just import more phosphorous into the watershed, along with nitrogen, potassium and other mi-



Kenyon’s granddaughter dumping “rough fish,” mainly carp.

cronutrients. “It’s got all the stuff that you don’t want getting into waterways,” Forbes says.

Instead, he says he can simply grind up the fish waste, stabilize it and ship it to greenhouses and home gardeners.

“My grandfather used to do it in his shed, that’s how easy it is.”

Forbes is working with the Fisher River Cree Nation to plan a processing plant and fine-tuning his recipe, and estimates he’s about 12-18 months away from being ready to sell.

As director of project ZERO (Zero Emissions Renewable Organics), he’s particularly proud of the fact that it has zero greenhouse gas impact.

He estimates that using the fertilizer could reduce the phosphorous in the big lakes by five per cent.

Carp, introduced here in the 1950s from Scotland, are by far the most populous species of fish in our lakes, Forbes says. No studies have been done in Manitoba, but in many other watersheds they constitute up to 50 percent of the biomass.

“And there’s no question that they’re damaging our big lakes,” Forbes said. “My suspicion is they may be one of the major inputs of phosphorous into the lake.”

Carp feed by digging deep into the mud, which releases everything in the sediment back into the water. But one of the ways phosphorous leaves the ecosystem is by becoming trapped in the sediment, inert.

And the turbid, muddy water leads to a decrease in ecosystem productivity overall, including phytoplankton, zooplankton and insects.

Manitoba is working on its first-ever fisheries management plan to try to deal with these issues, but Manitoba Water Stewardship’s Jeff Long cau-

The value of rough fish

All fish: in 2004-05 12.75 million kilograms of fish were landed for a total value of \$24.7 million.

Carp: in 2004-05 535,000 kg (2/3 from Lake Manitoba, 1/6 each from lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis) sold for a total value of \$205,000.

Amount of rough fish in Manitoba lakes: “It would not be surprising, however, if carp biomass alone exceeded that for all other fish in the lakes combined”: Forbes.

— U of W professor Scott Forbes.

tions nothing as radical as the large-scale removal of carp is likely to end up in the plan.

Even “if removing carp does reduce turbidity in some appreciable way ... that may have effects that we don’t want to other species,” cautions Long.

University of Manitoba biology professor Gordon Goldsborough says carp are having the most noticeable negative effect on marshes where fish spawn and spend their early lives. The number of fish counted in marshes, particularly where he studies at Delta Marsh, has dropped off considerably.

“We think that’s simply because the marsh is so turbid that it’s difficult for fish to see, to feed,” he says. Removing a proportion of carp could improve spawning habitats for all fish — including carp.

There will be no word on whether Manitoba’s fisheries are sustainable until these questions get written down in a management plan, he says, within the next few months.

New Provincial Parks Bring New Adventures

CPAWS, First Nations celebrate protection of Fisher Bay and Little Limestone Lake

Ron Thiessen, Executive Director, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS) – Manitoba chapter

LONG SPANS OF secluded sandy beaches that provide breeding grounds for one of Canada's most endangered species. A unique lake that changes colour from green to turquoise to Caribbean-blue. These are just two highlights from the adventure my seven-year old daughter, Rhea, and I shared last summer in Manitoba's two newest provincial parks.

After years of campaigning, CPAWS was pleased to celebrate the establishment of the Fisher Bay and Little Limestone Lake provincial parks in 2011. By working with our partners, Fisher River and Mosakahiken Cree Nations, we achieved core protection for these two spectacular areas.

Fisher Bay Provincial Park

When my girl and I arrived at Fisher Bay, we met up with Sam Murdock. He's a former Chief, presently his community's Director of Operations, a commercial fisherman, and simply put,



The endangered Piping Plover.

PHOTO: RON THIESSEN

a very fun guy to hang out with. We have a lot of laughs together.

Located two hours north of Winnipeg on the south basin of Lake Winnipeg, the Fisher Bay region is home to a plethora of wildlife such as bears, moose, fox, eagles, songbirds, ducks, and a variety of rare and endangered species. One of these is the Piping Plover, a fast-running little bird that needs undeveloped beaches to breed. The picturesque area includes treed mainland shorelines along and with reefs and large islands

covered with old-growth forests. The new Fisher Bay provincial park is 84,150 hectares, or about twice the size of Winnipeg.

We hopped in Sam's 22-foot aluminum fishing boat and began jumping the waves spawned by the windy day. At first, Rhea was quite alarmed by the way the bouncing watercraft lifted her high off the seat, but before long she got the rhythm of it and her big adventurous smile came alive.

The Fisher Bay area was nominated for protected status by Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) in 1999 to safeguard the region's lush lands and waters for nature, culture, and sustainable tourism opportunities. In 2005, FRCN formed a partnership with CPAWS to help make the vision a reality.

The Fisher Bay Provincial Park quest received support from politicians of all stripes. Many local communities and environmental groups came on board, and more than 18,000 Manitobans sent letters to the Premier. FRCN and CPAWS commend the Manitoba government for recognizing the importance of this area, but now there's more work to do.

With core protection for the Fisher Bay area secured, the next challenge for FRCN and CPAWS is to expand the park to include additional ecologically important areas. The aim is to keep this wilderness treasure healthy forever by ensuring the park is large enough and designed with natural boundaries. The expansion we are proposing is based on scientific studies and local knowledge.

We had a great day on the bay. One of my favourite parts was a fish fry on the shore. Rhea chased butterflies while Sam told me colourful stories about various trips with scientists and tourists he has guided around the area. The picklerel cheeks and beans were scrumptious. Rhea was initially hesitant to try the Lake Winnipeg delicacy, but once she did, she began popping the bite-size fish pieces into her mouth like they were candy.

Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park

Next was the four-hour road trek north to the colour-changing Little Limestone Lake.



Moose Island in Fisher Bay.

When we arrived at the new park and Rhea saw the lake's colour (robin's egg blue at the time) she uttered, "awesome and epic." Granted, these were new and favourite words for her, but she never used them lightly. The sight was as impressive to her as the chocolate fountain she drooled over at an event we attended earlier in the year.

Contrary to its name, Little Limestone Lake is not a petite lake. It's about 15 km long and averages around 4 km in width. According to experts, Little Limestone Lake is the biggest and best marl lake in the world. Marl is created when calcite, a constituent of limestone, is chemically precipitated from warm water. The marl mixes with the water and changes the lake's colour. You can witness the phenomenon in real time here: www.limestonelakevideo.ca.

In June 2011, representatives from the Mosakahiken Cree Nation, the Manitoba government, CPAWS, and Nature Manitoba took a trip to Little Limestone Lake. The new provincial park was announced and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on site by the province and Mosakahiken. The document includes a commitment to look at enlarging the provincial park to encompass areas deemed critical to the lake's ecological well-being.

Just like Fisher Bay park, Little Limestone Lake park's existing boundaries are simply not acceptable if we wish to fully safeguard this unique place. After analysis of a recent study by Dr. Derek Ford, an international marl lake expert, it's evident that more of the surrounding lands need protection to keep the lake healthy and well. CPAWS is continuing our efforts with Mosakahiken Cree Nation and working with government, industry, and citizens to make sure the park will forever preserve and fully protect Little Limestone Lake.

Rhea and I spent the afternoon swimming and running around the lakeshore. We took photos and video. We chatted with the handful of folks who decided to pay a visit after seeing the sign on the highway. Reactions to Little Limestone Lake's colour can be summed up in three words – surprise, awe, and wonder.



Roger Turenne (past president of CPAWS Manitoba), Phillip Buck (Chief of Mosakahiken Cree Nation), and Ron Thiessen (executive director of CPAWS Manitoba) enjoying a laugh at the Little Limestone Lake park announcement.

PHOTO: CHANDA HUINIE



The author and his daughter celebrate MB's new parks.

PHOTO: RON THIESSEN

What's next?

CPAWS will strive to ensure that Manitoba's wild lands and waters remain healthy for wildlife and people. Manitoba now has 10 percent of its area protected from large-scale developments; conservation science tells us we need to protect at least 50 percent of our ecosystems if they are to stay fully-functioning. We look forward to working with all involved to accomplish this goal. This means that we will be calling on Manitoba's citizens at critical times to express their voices about Fisher Bay, Little Limestone Lake, and many of our province's wildlife and wild places. Please join the CPAWS Action Alerts list so we can keep you posted: Click on "Take Action" at www.cpawsemb.org.

ward to working with all involved to accomplish this goal. This means that we will be calling on Manitoba's citizens at critical times to express their voices about Fisher Bay, Little Limestone Lake, and many of our province's wildlife and wild places. Please join the CPAWS Action Alerts list so we can keep you posted: Click on "Take Action" at www.cpawsemb.org.

Disappointment in Durban

COP17 saw leaders save face at the expense of our children

By Anika Terton, Public Awareness and Outreach Coordinator, Climate Change Connection

COP17, or the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, had ended, and on my way home from South Africa to Winnipeg, I was a little scared. I am going to be back and everyone is going to ask me how was my trip and what I think of “Africa,” and if I had fun.

Well, I have not seen Africa, and yes, I might have had fun, but certainly not by the standard definition of fun. And that’s perfectly okay, because some of the people I met and heard from over the two weeks in Durban are suffering from famines and were asking for a serious climate deal for their children. When I realized the extent to which a huge amount of people are suffering because of human-made climate change, the “importance” of many things faded away.

Despite the fact that COP17 has been touted as a success by the architects, global “leaders” in Durban did little more than lay a roadmap to devastation. They are patting themselves on the back for the creation of a deal to find a deal at some point in the future: maybe 2015, 2017, and if you

ask the United States, not before 2020. Meanwhile, emissions rise and the planet cooks.

For example, the Green Climate Fund, a source to help vulnerable countries adapt to climate change, is an empty bag of promises with no decision regarding the source of financing. Unfortunately, you can’t buy clean water, arable land and food security with promises.

While the Kyoto Protocol survived in Durban, it is increasingly held hostage by polluting nations and corporate interests. With major developed countries like Canada, Japan and Russia refusing to adopt new targets under a second commitment period, the new Kyoto Protocol is now only a zombie treaty ... falling apart.

Even worse, only hours after stepping off the plane returning from Durban, Canada’s Environment Minister announced that Canada would legally be pulling out of Kyoto. He claimed this



Youth join with Greenpeace International, 350.org and local organization Groundworks to call on governments to put people before polluters.

move would save Canada \$14 billion by excusing our country from paying carbon credit penalties as a punishment for not meeting our Kyoto target.

Dr. Andrew Leach from the Alberta School of Business says that these “14 billion” sanctions could be avoided entirely if we simply made a second commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and the international community. The idea behind the second commitment period is to fill the time gap between now and a new deal.

So, let’s straighten things up. We could avoid paying huge fees and use that money instead to fund green energy projects, bolstering our economy and providing lasting, healthy jobs for Canadians. What a novel idea!

I went to South Africa with a mission to make a difference and a hope to inspire, be inspired and shed some light on the reasons behind Canada’s absent climate policies.

The most powerful thing I took away from these climate negotiations was the moment when six young Canadians stood up and turned their backs on their Environment Minister as he addressed the conference, refusing to take disregard for their future sitting down.

I am not a silly or naïve 25-year-old child. I simply value justice, do not accept discrimination and aim for change in everything I do. I have a vision for a better world where my government is not protecting the profits of polluters at the expense of the people.

Anika attended COP17 as a member of the Canadian Youth Delegation, representing Manitoba. She blogged about the experience at www.youthdelegatemanitoba.wordpress.com

Featured Book Review

The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality

By Richard Heinberg

New Society Publishers, 336 pages

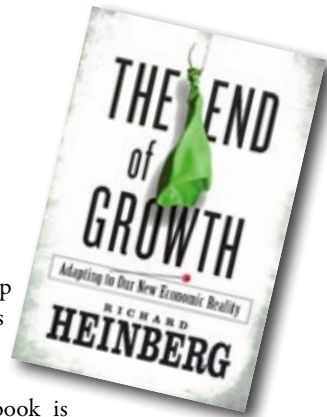
RICHARD HEINBERG, currently a Senior Fellow-in Residence at the Post Carbon Institute, is widely regarded as one of the most effective communicators on issues of peak oil and the need to transition away from fossil fuels. He is the author of ten books including: *Peak Everything*, *The End of Suburbia*, *Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*, and, *The Party’s Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies*.

In his most recent *The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality*, Heinberg focuses on the ongoing financial crisis and why “economic growth” as we know it cannot continue. The author addresses the underlying frailties of the fractional reserve banking system, suggesting that what we must do to avert the worst potential outcomes will not happen within the confines of the system that has caused the crisis we are in today.

This is a highly engaging book that explores the interrelatedness of resource depletion, environmental degradation and the debt money system. As the reader, I often found myself challenged by the financial jargon necessarily used to help the reader to better understand the troubles we face. By assuming that many readers (perhaps heavily indebted themselves) do not fully understand the inner workings of the money system, or what the current and ongoing crisis means, this book provides a much-needed introduction, i.e. “Economic Crisis 101.”

While the immediate future seems bleak (very bleak until page 231), the reader can be assured that Heinberg provides words of encouragement and resources for action. In the last two chapters of the book, he explores resiliency and transition theory with a focus on the “Transition Town” movement first introduced by Rob Hopkins (author of the *Transition Handbook*). Heinberg cautions, however, that “In the worst instance, Transition can manifest as merely another talk shop for lefties and aging former hippies,” and that “...it must be something very different from this if it is to succeed — Transition must address practical matters having to do with infrastructure and practical economics.”

This book ends by describing what can be done by policy makers, communities and families to build a new economy that can operate within the carrying capacity of the earth. Although the topic is somewhat daunting, this book is real in its call for action. If for nothing more, I would recommend this book to anyone who is seeking a better understanding of the money system and the current economic crisis.



While some readers may need to look up economic terminology while reading this book (myself included), the extra education is worth the time. This was an extremely interesting and engaging read, and the book is not a stand-alone piece. Richard Heinberg’s website (www.theendofgrowth.com) is frequently updated with interesting links and commentary on the topics covered in the book, including: increasing oil and food prices, post-growth and steady state economy, global protests and the occupy movement, post-growth geopolitics etc.

—Lydia Carpenter, Public Education & Outreach Assistant, Climate Change Connection



Every person is the right person to act. Every moment is the right moment to begin.
— Jonathan Schell, *The Fate of the Earth*

Enjoy reading the Manitoba Eco-Journal? Interested in the environment?

Become a member of Manitoba Eco-Network! We are a non-profit organization which promotes positive environmental action. For 25+ years, our mission has been to facilitate environmental awareness and expand community connections.


Invest in our organization and make a difference!

Benefits of individual membership include:

- Subscription to Eco-Journal, published 5x per year
- Monthly E-Bulletin of environmental events, resources and news
- Charitable tax receipt for \$30 membership fee (Reg. #12844 6846 RR0001)

Your membership fee will support our organization’s environmental education and outreach programs, library and resource centre, and network of local environmental organizations. Memberships are also available for environmental groups and green businesses.

To learn more, contact (204) 947-6511 or www.mbeconetwork.org/become_a_member/



**BLUESTEM
WILDLIFE**

DAN SOPROVICH, M.Sc
Wildlife Ecologist

Box 1442
Swan River, MB
R0L 1Z0

Phone/Fax: (204) 734-3054
e-mail: dsop@mts.net

It's bigger than just banking.

When you choose local banking, you are choosing a better community. Because everything we do at Assiniboine Credit Union is about making sure that your money stays here and does good things for you. Your single financial transaction helps sustainable local businesses, co-operatives and organizations like the St. Norbert Farmers’ Market thrive in your community. Why do we care so much? Because we live here too.

Does local matter to you?
Then join us.

(1-877) 958-8588
assiniboine.mb.ca



Assiniboine
CREDIT UNION

Good things happen here.



Living “Car-Light”

Peg City Car Co-op expands to 70 members

By Melissa Dupuis, *Founding member of Peg City Car Co-op*

MANY OF YOU KNOW BY NOW that carsharing has (finally) arrived in Winnipeg. For the uninitiated, carsharing is a service that gives members access to the use of a vehicle when they need it while sharing the costs of ownership. The cars are owned by the co-op as a whole, and members pay to use them at hourly and per kilometre rates that include the cost of gas, maintenance, and insurance. While cities such as Vancouver (Modo) and Montreal (Communauto) have been carsharing for almost two decades, Winnipeg is both the latest and largest city in Canada to finally offer its residents the option of a multi-modal, car-light lifestyle.

It's been a long time coming. An initial group of volunteers formed in 2007 to find out if car-sharing was even feasible in a sprawling, car-loving city like Winnipeg. We have all been so focused on getting the co-op up and running, and it's hard to believe for most of us that so



Shauna Carmichael, Peg City Co-op member, as featured in a promotional video.

conflicts! It is encouraging, and it demonstrates how so many people are successfully living in Winnipeg without needing to own a vehicle. We even have a few families that are thriving and

decision to move to South Osborne is a good example of how we are committed to listening to our members and their wants and needs and doing what is ultimately best for the co-op as a whole.” We now have a fleet of two vehicles in Osborne Village and one in South Osborne.

For Aaron Russin, Peg City Car Co-op's Member Service Coordinator, the most interesting and surprising aspect of the job is the variety of people who choose to live car-light. He says, “it's been interesting getting to be a small part of the daily experiences of members. I'll get the occasional interesting phone call, like the time a member wanted to book a car so they could pick up a relative from the airport who was in town attending a clown conference.”

The best part of this experience has been the enormous amount of support we continue to receive, and people (yes, even in car-loving Winnipeg) are really starting to get it. As the environmental and economic costs of vehicle ownership continue to rise, alternative and innovative solutions to personal transportation beyond the single-occupant-vehicle will continue to expand.

Shoni Litinsky, board member, adds that because of the Car Co-op, “Our members and myself are really being supported to use transit, cycling, and walking to get around. Personally, I really notice that I am not struggling to get places, I choose what mode makes the most sense, even if sometimes, that is a car!”

As our slogan says: Bike. Walk. Bus. And sometimes, Drive.

“I really notice that I am not struggling to get places, I choose what mode makes the most sense, even if sometimes, that is a car!”

much time has passed. The first six months of operations have been such an interesting and exciting learning experience for all of us.

We have certainly had our fair share of unexpected surprises. For example, lately we are finding ourselves scratching our heads over the fact that our 70 members are sharing three vehicles and there has yet to be any scheduling

benefiting financially from not needing to rely on a car, or not having to purchase a second vehicle.

Heather Sadowy, a founding volunteer, commented on a recent decision to move one of our vehicles from Osborne Village to South Osborne due to lower than expected usage. Despite our best research, it was an unanticipated change that needed to happen. She notes, “...our



Complimentary copy

Please consider subscribing at
204-947-6511 or
www.mbconetwork.org