



Activists, Off-Road Riders Face Off Over Mars Hill

By Tessa Vanderhart



PHOTO: PEGGY KASUBA

ATV riders and conservationists dispute the proper usage of trails like this one in the Mars Hill Wildlife Management Area.

THE PROCESS TO FIND common ground between ATV users and environmentalists in the Mars Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) took a turn for the worse last month when at a public meeting the ATV Association of Manitoba proposed to turn the area into the Mars Hills Off-Road Motorsports Park, a specifically designated riding area.

Manitoba Conservation did not comment directly on the idea, but the proposal incensed area resident Peggy Kasuba. Through the 15-member Mars Hill Forest Alliance, she has spent the last several years trying to curtail illegal trail-breaking, campfires and even a firing range created by recreational riders in the area.

"This place is wrecked. The damage continues every year," Kasuba said. The Mars Sand Hills, in the protected area about eight kilometres east of Libau, are covered in a very thin layer of soil, she says. "So if an ATV rides over it once, a quad or a dirtbike, it leaves a trail."

She says that about 170 people attended the March 17 meeting in Beausejour, including representatives from the Forest Alliance, the Mixedwood Forest Society and Manitoba Conservation. However, attendees were primarily ATV riders, attracted by ads posted on Kijiji, forums and elsewhere that warned:

"MOTORIZED VEHICLE TRAFFIC IS AT HIGH RISK OF BEING RESTRICTED IN THE MARS SAND HILLS AND ON OTHER GOVERNMENT LANDS IN MANITOBA."

"They stacked the room," Kasuba said, adding participants tried to encourage a direct vote on the motorsports park. "The attitude that the ATVs have, is 'we'll ride wherever we want ... the hills are ours.' And last night they made that very clear."

ATV Association of Manitoba president Chris Fox-Decent said in an e-mail that the

Inside this Issue:

Conservation vs. Recreation ...cover,	4
Executive Director's Letter	2
Eco-Events in Manitoba /	
Film Festival Sponsors	3
2011 Earthie Award Winners	5
River on the Run Visual Art	6-7
Poetry by Deborah Schnitzer	8
Youth at Green Career Fair	9
Become A Marsh Bird Monitor	10
Library Features Film Fest DVDs	11
Cell Phone Towers & Health Effects	12



Concerns in the Mars sand hills

According to Kasuba, ATVs are damaging the WMA as:

- Trails are 'banked' to be more fun, tearing up soil, even though expansion of trails banned.
- Fires on track are 'constant and lit in grass, even during fire seasons'.
- After 7-8 rides over it, the area's delicate soil is torn up and blows away.
- Similar damage is happening on private property.
- At an illegal firing range off the track, 11,361 shell casings were picked up, as well as live shells, guns, and dangerous waste (computers, aerosol and paint cans, even a fire extinguisher) that were being used as targets.

Snowmobiles don't cause these problems, Kasuba notes.

continued on page 4 >>

is published five times per year by the
Manitoba Eco-Network/
Réseau 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:

Katherine Brewster, Leanne Dunne, Marg Friesen, Bob Haverluck, Peggy Kasuba, Deborah Schnitzer, Ryan Simmons, Tessa Vanderhart, Erica Young.

Design & Layout: Tracey Shillington
www.simplelifedesigns.ca

**MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK
STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Jim Chapryk, *Bike to the Future, Chairperson*

Kisti Thomas, *Campus Sustainability Office, Vice-Chair*

Alec Stuart, *Planners Network MB, Treasurer*

Kevin Freedman, *Member at Large, Secretary*

Amanda Humphries, *EcoPIA*

Kisti Thomas, *University of Winnipeg
Campus Sustainability Office*

Carolyn Garlich, *Unitarian Church, Green
Action Committee*

Sylvie Hebert, *Green Action Centre*

Carol Hitchon, *Nature Manitoba*



Executive Director's Letter

Art and Adieux

WAY BACK IN MARCH 1991, Anne Champagne, the guest editor of *Alternatives* magazine, wrote: "Perhaps it is only through creative "revisioning" of nature that we will gain the humility to see wild-life and trees and water, not as ours to dominate, but as intrinsically valuable."

Expression through the arts of our love for and wish to protect nature was not a new phenomenon in 1991 — in fact, it has infused much of the creative work of our species since the earliest times. Yet there are periods when "environmental" art emerges strongly, possibly at times when traditional methods of advocacy, science and policy seem to be blocked or lacking in effect. Could it be that at those times people yearn for other ways to explain and connect with nature and community? Manitoba has been something of a hotbed for this kind of initiative over the past months, and I have been privileged to be able to participate in and witness this exciting process.

Bob Haverluck created the "Artists Symposia" from the base of his River on the Run Collective. Its purpose is to illustrate our relationships to nature, land and water, through multi-media expression, including visual art, spoken word, music, sculpture and drama. Bob secured funding from the Walter and Duncan Gordon and Thomas Sill foundations for a body of work entitled "The Arts of Water" project. Inspired by contemplative time in the outdoors, presentations about the science and politics of water in Manitoba, and stories about water from diverse cultural communities, as well as their own personal connections to it, his artist team has been hard at work ever since.

The group, which includes musician and photographer Sam Baardman, actress Ellen Peterson, textile artist Joy Eidse, storyteller Jamie Oliviero, painter and spoken word artist Rhiann Bryolfson, filmmaker Derek Eidse, poet Gerri Haverluck and several others, has been developing a remarkable collection that was first revealed to the public at the Healthy Rivers, Living Lakes Water Festival in March. Bob plans another exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Gallery this fall.

We are delighted to feature the work of two of the artists — drawings by Bob Haverluck, and poems by Debbie Schnitzer, in this *Eco-Journal* (see pages 6-8).

With this issue, we also bid adieu to Lise Smith, our Coordinator for the past 2.5 years, and Stu Gauld, our bookkeeper par excellence. Stu has been a terrific asset here keeping our (somewhat complicated) financial house in order, and helping out on the side with our IT issues as well. He and Bobbi Jo are taking up residence in Carman —and we wish them well.

Lise is relocating to New Brunswick to start a new life on a small farm property along the Richibucto River. There she'll be raising goats and chickens and a garden. Eventually she hopes to start an eco-retreat business. Knowing Lise, she will also probably get involved in eco-issues in her new province — our loss being New Brunswick's gain. Lise started out with the Eco-Network serving two terms on the Board — bringing her numerous talents to the fundraising committee—but she has also made her mark during her staff tenure with us. She can take a great deal of credit for the success of the two Reel Green Film Festivals, keeping the committee smartly in hand and never shying away from reminding us of our commitments! The Rain Barrel sale fundraiser last year was also Lise-initiated — we can hope that this year's event goes just as well!

Together with our intern Amanda, Lise also generated some new activity, scope and funds for the Organic Lawn Care project. And we'll also miss her energy and dedication to the sizeable flock of volunteers that she has cultivated to assist in every area of our work. Once again, a coordinator leaves some large shoes to fill here at the Eco-Network. We'll miss you, Lise!

Anne Lindsey

Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network



April

7 & 8 **Arts of Water Film Festival**

The goal is to explore the nature of Manitoba's lakes and rivers using an artistic lens. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Location: Good Neighbours Centre (720 Henderson Hwy). For more info: www.artsofwater.blogspot.com.

10 **Raising Chickens for Eggs**

This workshop will cover everything you need to know to get started with your own hens. 1-3 p.m. at FortWhyte Alive. For more info and to register: 989-8355.

12 **Organic Lawn Care Workshop**

Join Anne Lindsey of the Manitoba Eco-Network for an overview of the principles and practice of organic lawn care. Find out why communities are moving to phase out cosmetic pesticides. 7:30 p.m. at Kelvin High School. Cost: \$5 for Nature MB members, \$10 for non-members. For more info: 943-9029, or www.manitobanature.ca.

15, 17, 20, 21 **Soundtracker, a film by Nick Sherman**

Cinematheque presents a beautifully photographed, incredible exploration and journey through the sounds of the forest and plains of the United States. For more info: www.winnipegfilmgroup.com.

17 **EcoAdventure Race and Earth Day Celebration**

This annual paddle, run and cycle race starts at 8:30 a.m. Other activities include a children's concert, nature walks, fitness events, storytelling and more. Free admission for the day. For more details: www.fortwhyte.org, or 989-8355.

20 **Bike Repair: Spring Tune-up**

Be nice to your bike after winter and/or get your bike ready for the spring. Free workshop from 6-8 p.m. at the Bike Dump (631 Main St.). For more info: www.thewrench.ca.

22 **An Evening with Maude Barlow**

Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and author, will be in Winnipeg for an evening of conversation. 7-11 p.m. at the Fort Garry Hotel (Provencher Room). The event is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more info: canadianswinnipeg@gmail.com.



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

May

1 **Crocus Day**

The Living Prairie Museum opens to the public with a celebration of the blooming of Manitoba's provincial flower, the prairie crocus. Come and purchase a native prairie crocus for your own garden and see them bloom in their natural setting. Free admission. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 2795 Ness Ave. For more info: 832-0167.

6 **Eco-Friendly Dinner**

Project Peacemakers' annual fundraising dinner is an evening of delicious vegetarian dishes and friendly, peacemaker friends. 6:30-10 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church. Tickets are \$15. For more info: 775-8178.

7 & 8 **Jane's Walk**

Jane's Walk celebrates what's great about the places we live with free walking tours. Watch for details of Manitoba events at www.janeswalk.net.

10 **A Chemical Reaction**

Manitoba Eco-Network is launching the 2011 Organic Lawn Care Season with a free screening of *A Chemical Reaction*. There will be a discussion after the film and an overview of what is new and exciting for the upcoming season. Door prizes too! 7-8:30 p.m. at Millennium Library. For more info: olc@mbeconetwork.org, or 947-6511.

14 **World Fair Trade Day**

Since 2002, the second Saturday of May has been marked as World Fair Trade Day. The 2011 event also marks a significant milestone for Ten Thousand Villages. The national non-profit organization, a leader of the Fair Trade movement in North America, is celebrating its sixty-fifth anniversary this year. Visit www.TenThousandVillages.ca for more information.

18 **Ride of Silence**

A one-hour, 20K ride through Winnipeg in honour of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. Starting at 7 p.m., location TBA. For more info: www.biketothefuture.org.

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

OF SPECIAL NOTE

The second annual Reel Green Film Festival, held over two days in February, was a tremendous success and wouldn't have been possible without the support of our many sponsors and volunteers.

Event Sponsors:

Assiniboine Credit Union, BeeMaid, CUPE Local 500, Kendrick Quality Printing, Prairie Architects, Sustainable Solutions, UW Campus Sustainability Office, Vita Health.

Film Sponsors:

Canadian Cancer Society/MB Division, Community Foundations of Canada, Churchill Northern Studies Centre, FortWhyte Alive, Green Action Centre, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance, Manitoba Nature Summit and an anonymous donor on behalf of Winnipeg Harvest.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 RGFF!

Mars Hill cont'd...

Issues common to ATV use in parks:

- Noise pollution causes bleeding in ears of small mammals.
- Ruts become puddles, which fatally attract amphibians.
 - Animals like moose, deer and martins follow trails and become easy prey.
- Populations of songbirds, highly territorial, are plummeting.
- Rare plants, like carnivorous sundews and orchids crushed.
 - ATVs can drive through fish spawning areas, over beaver dams.

Source: Mixedwood Forest Society

Where is it happening?

"Almost everywhere you have small towns and some hills to ride in, in Manitoba we're experiencing problems," says Lindy Clubb, executive director of the Mixedwood Forest Society. She's fighting environmental degradation in Portage Sandhills (a similar ecosystem), Sandilands Provincial Park, Riding Mountain National Park, Grand Valley, and in Duck Mountain, where Conservation is working to build trails. It's now being advertised as an ATV destination to Americans, says Clubb, "because there's no monitoring."

WMA is "an area of unusable crown land set aside for people's recreation," adding that he thinks the trails are "extremely durable." The park, he said, "would allow ATVMB to provide stewardship to the area."

Craig Joba, president of the Brokenhead Off-Road Riders — the local riders group, affiliated with ATVMB — said the proposal should have been evaluated before being brought up. "I'm not sure if Mars Hill is the place for it or not," he said, but "it's good that somebody's working outside the box and coming up with different approaches to try and solve some of the issues."

Joba said that a group formed last year to address the problem fell apart when the Mars Hill Forest Alliance proposed an outright ban on off-road vehicle use in the WMA. "Banning one group for the sake of the other isn't the answer," Joba said. "You've got to educate people to make them aware (...) the majority of people, if they're causing a problem, they're not aware they're causing a problem."

Instead, Joba says, the area for improvement is with "that small percentage of people who don't really pay attention to the rules anyway, no matter of what side they're on."

Joba said that the Off-Road Riders are working to educate riders, and are planning a spring cleanup of the WMA, including the illegal firing range Kasuba discovered.

Kasuba, meanwhile, is not sure any change is possible without enforcement, made difficult by the fact that in April 2010, the WMA's conservation officer (CO) retired; now a CO staffs the Beausejour district office for six hours every Wednesday. According to Manitoba Conservation, a new CO is being hired, and in the meantime natural resource officers from Lac du Bonnet, Selkirk and Hadashville respond to calls in the area.

Kasuba points out that even one full-time officer can't change much: "If there's two ATVs (and) only one CO — they split up and you can't catch them," she said.

The province has begun work on a Provincial ATV Strategy, including more consultations with these groups, to try to strike a balance between the interests, a provincial spokesperson said in an e-mail.

"The purpose of an environmental management act is to protect (the land) first, then allow public use that's compatible with that. But everything that's going on here is totally incompatible," she said.

The Mars Hill Forest Alliance, along with the Mixedwood Forest Society and Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation, has planned a series of environmental education events for Earth Day and through the summer, to help educate area residents.

Celebrate
Earth Month with a
litterless lunch!

Promo code: **\$5offearthmonth**

Use this code for your next purchase
of \$35 or more. Expires April 30th, 2011.

greenplease!

www.greenpleaseforyou.com



Items sold separately.

2011 Earthie Awards Winners

An environmental educator, a neighbourhood association & The Forks

THE MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK is delighted to announce the winners of the 2011 Protecting Our Earth Awards (the "Earthies"). These awards, originally called the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Awards, have been presented to worthy Manitobans since 1990.

This year's winners, recognized with a ceremony on February 4 at the opening night of the Reel Green Film Festival, are as follows:

Individual Award: Curt Belton is the principal of Rockwood Elementary School. His activism began at age nine when he and a friend drafted a petition to get phosphates out of detergents. As an adult he has gone on to be a moving force in education for Sustainable Development, in the Winnipeg School Division and beyond. He's an active participant in the Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group. Curt has put his beliefs into practice at his school, spearheading projects like educating staff and students about fair trade, developing organic gardens and outdoor classrooms and raising trout as a way to learn about water issues. Curt also strives to model sustainability in his own life including being an active bike commuter and community gardener. Carolyn Lindner nominated Curt.

Group Award: Daniel McIntyre / St. Matthews Community Association (DMSMCA) is a neighbourhood community development organization in west Winnipeg. In less than three years of activity, they have contributed to a real improvement in sense of agency, sustainability and self-sufficiency in the neighbourhood. DMSMCA is engaged in a wide range of environmental programming, including the community bike shop, community garden, composting, and developing a green plan. They also facilitate or support other green programs such as organic lawn care, building energy efficiency and tree banding. They provide a model for community engagement and empowerment. Ian Hall nominated DMSMCA.

Special Award: The Forks Target Zero Project. The goal is to obtain zero waste, zero water consumption and zero carbon emissions at The Forks. So far, they have installed a geothermal heat pump system in The Forks Market, installed low-flush toilets and waterless urinals to save water, and started converting used oil from the restaurants to biofuel to power equipment. So far, The Forks

Market has saved over a kilotonne of CO2 and their utility bills are significantly reduced. With four million visitors a year, this ongoing environmental improvement project provides a fabulous showcase, along with tangible benefits. Francine Pym nominated The Forks.

The Eco-Network also wishes to honour the other nominees, all of whom have made outstanding contributions. They are:

Ken Corley (Winnipeg) — a teacher at Vincent Massey who has been a fantastic facilitator and role model for the student sustainability organization.

Kevin Freedman (Winnipeg) — created and led the Water Conservation Challenge, living on 25 litres of water per day for a month, as an awareness tool and fundraiser.

Lloyd Jensen (Stonewall) — created a large-scale community compost project for yard waste in the Town of Stonewall.

Tracy Maconachie (Winnipeg) — the woman responsible for Winnipeg's Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project.

Canuck Nanooks (RM of Springfield) — this is a group of sisters doing a wide range of interesting environmental and greenhouse gas reduction projects in their community, under the aegis of Polar Bears International.

Keepers of the Water (Thompson) — part of a coalition of water keeper groups working to protect the drainage basins of the Arctic Ocean.

Dave Weiss (Morden) — has made many practical and innovative energy and waste reduction innovations at his business, Pembina Valley Containers, and inspired great work in the community.

Northern Sun Farm Coop (near Steinbach) — an off-grid sustainable farm community demonstrating alternative energy systems, water conservation, organic food production and complete composting of all organic wastes.

Award winners are chosen by a committee of the Eco-Network Board of Directors from amongst nominations provided by the general public.



Top: Curt Belton, Individual Award winner
Center: Paul Jordan representing The Forks Target Zero project (Special Award)
Bottom: Kemlin Nembhard (r) and Jennifer Sparling, representing Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association (Group Award).

PHOTOS: RYAN SIMMONS



Arts of Water

BOB HAVERLUCK is a Winnipeg artist for whom comedy, with its reversals, slapsticks and downside-up world, is necessary equipment for living with some merriment in this often sad and troubling time. His work has appeared in *Harper's* (New York), *The New Statesman* (London) and *In These Times* (Chicago). For seven years, he was an editorial cartoonist for *Project Ploughshares Monitor* (Waterloo). He has written and illustrated two books on conflict and peacemaking.

Bob is a former artist-in-residence at the University of Winnipeg. At present, he is the artist/ animator for "The Arts of Water" project in Winnipeg. This project helps to engage the wonders and warnings of our lakes and rivers through a host of art forms and a variety of arts fused events, including: a day of theatre workshops with grandparents and grandchildren on water; artist retreats with scientists and activists; cross cultural storytelling; concerts; a film festival; and ongoing conversations in the local Good Neighbour's cafe where Haverluck has a twice per week studio. 🌿

State of the Artist Statement: By Bob Haverluck

Art, I believe, is machinery for making water. Water of tears: tears of sorrow and tears of delight. For does not art at its best swim back and forth between the tragic and the comic? And in its cunning, leave us in mystery as to where the weeping waters end and those of laughter begin? Maybe this art will push us into such a swimming place.

Nevertheless, art is necessary equipment for our ride on this blue-green earth . . . this ball of fire wrapped in water, earth and stone. Art is a possible companion to us as we fall into sorrow or somersault into gaiety. Art may give us images and words that let us whisper and shout of the earth's undoing, and our own art; and maybe, some of this art can help us begin again amidst the brokenness and its naming. Amidst lines that unfold the disastrous deals, ill-conceived schemes, and despairing capitulations that trouble the waters, despoil the forests and leave our children's children a beggar's inheritance. Maybe some of this art will give "weeping eyes, seeing tears." Maybe something here will gladden hearts that seek to live lives that say "no" to the defeat of the earth . . . this good ball of fire wrapped in water, soil and stone.



Old woman ties herself to water's shore.
She binds herself to riverbank with
quack grass, tickle grass and nettle.
Binds to herself the earth. Is held
by water and is held in her beholding
of the duck and snapping turtle.



Poetry by Deborah Schnitzer

To the River on the Occasion of its Way

Dear River,
If I
with the tongue I have
its worth aching to represent my
love for you might i/t speak on behalf of the butterfly by
the dock
entirely black
who allows
me
when I call
might I say
I have consulted
the lap against the pier the
old crow who makes much of dawn
yarrow slant along the green railing
standby grasses
ghost of the
nodding plumeless
thistles
red and sweet clover
goldenrod
common tansy
smooth fleabane
bladder campion
oxeye daisy
brittle-stemp hemp nettle
ellow lady
slipper
mourning my
May I say
I am committing walks in woods stained blue from berry picking
counsel of two deer who look to see if I might
return more
careful having been wrapped in your body every day in
seminar among pines surefooted along stone
slides that
trim lines you advance toward lakes whose elbows
pivot at sunrise

I have written before
splashed belly skyward wording my wake
in circles backstroke laughable
a spray of kisses pedaled by knees triangular
arms sloppy though devout spun as any
dreidel might twisting toward shore

I am committing my seemingly failed technique
contented thankful you have so often returned my writing
(asking me to rethink
laps I might impose
energy I might waste
looking for a personal best

)river current unbeaten you come back in stretches to sea up sky
descen ~
ding

May I commend this cycling within which I become electrical, may I
say that I am thinking of you if I
borrow from your shore the one fish I have seen pill the
riverglass at dawn
surprise the slimmest humming bird dusting birches
ancient in scat light
shiver when spider runs as light grasses through my
cheek by morning

might I spread my swimmingmind along the highway that
sometimes follows your success
carry into city five weeks of the way I am loving you
the holding tank inspected
potato peels composted
grasses unmowed
paths according to their wont
deer unimpeded
one nest above the fuse box undisturbed

might I ask for next year
the dangle of my body thread whose tangle you have encouraged
among waterweed
Sincerely,



Green Work That Makes A Difference

Career fair displays opportunities for passionate students

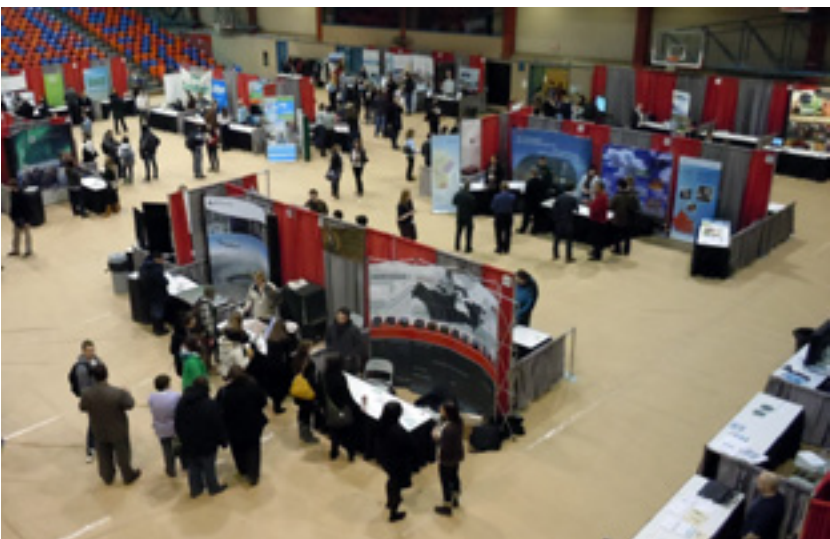
By Leanne Dunne

ON MARCH 2, the 2nd annual Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) career fair was held at the University of Winnipeg’s Duckworth Centre. The networking event is organized for students, by students who are interested in green jobs.

With a growing concern about our current economic system and the unsustainable practices that shape our society, commitments are now being made locally and nationally to promote environmental strategies and policies. Organizations such as the Green Economy Network (GEN) and the Polaris Institute have

already begun to explore what can be done to build a social movement of environment groups to work toward an authentic green economy. The aim of this conference was to connect students to business employers, government, and stakeholders in the environmental sector, while sharing ideas into how to create a green economy here in Manitoba.

Dawn, the career fair event coordinator, became involved with the MEIA last year by becoming a student representative for the University of Winnipeg. Although Dawn intends on working in the environment field, she believes that any job or position can become more sustainable. “Business is taking over where government is lacking, providing opportunities for citizens in who want to work in this field. The



Students and professionals in the environmental field congregated in the Duckworth Centre to discuss potential careers and job opportunities, and the goals of environmental work.

Global Wind group is a great example, manufacturing and creating wind energy products in Winnipeg,” noted Dawn.

Brock, a volunteer and student from the U of M came to the career fair to learn more about field work opportunities in remediation, reforestation, or environmental cleanup. When asked how our country can transition to a “green” economy, Brock noted that “solving environmental problems can create new business ideas and future opportunities, why not improve the economy and the environment at the same time?”

Jordan, an environmental student from the U of W, came to the career fair in search of a job that is challenging and relates to soil science. When asked what jobs are needed to have a more sustain-

able society, Jordan stated that, “The word “sustainable” is often a loaded word that gets thrown around a lot. Instead, I’d like to work within a restorative economy, producing goods and services we need according to which have the lowest impact on resources.” For Matt, a volunteer and student from the U of M, a sustainable economy means increasing the number of co-operative job opportunities, where different professions can work together, not separately.

Danika, a geography student from the U of W, went to the career fair to meet people with like-minded ideas and to find out what interesting jobs

were out there. “I’m looking for jobs which can allow me to work and study in remote places to better understand how we affect places we don’t always think of,” she explained.

Eric, a student, MC and volunteer at the event came to find a job working with fun, smart people who want to make a difference. “I think we need more environmental consultants and positions that take on a holistic EIA approach, while increasing our awareness of the repercussions of our decisions,” he noted.

Although many things are still needed to transition into a green economy, students and members of this community are interested and more than willing to work towards having a sustainable future here in Manitoba.

When you need more



www.Room to Grow.info

Guesthouse / Wilderness Skills
In the beautiful Turtle Mountains
with your hosts David & Maggie.
204.534.2303 roomtogrow@xplornet.com



Almost URBAN Vegetables

JOIN OUR CSA !

local food,
naturally grown

almosturbanvegetables.com
vegetables@mts.net
204.275.0253
Winnipeg, MB

Become A Marsh Bird Monitor

By Katherine Brewster

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES support hundreds of bird species during the breeding season, with ~300 species breeding in Manitoba. The seemingly countless marshes that characterize the Prairie Provinces are the primary reason for the region being identified as a valuable area for many wetland-associated birds. In the past century, there have been extensive landscape-level changes which have resulted in the widespread loss and degradation of wetland habitats. To improve conservation efforts for wetland-associated birds, we need to improve our knowledge of species distribution, and patterns of species occupancy in relation to habitat characteristics. In partnership with the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, Bird Studies Canada began the Prairie & Parkland Marsh Monitoring Program (PPMMP). Support for this program is generously provided by: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada, The



Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research, Manitoba Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, TD Friends of the Environment Fund and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

The PPMMP is seeking enthusiastic individuals with bird identification skills to conduct marsh bird surveys at locations in southwestern Manitoba. There are active study locations near the following communities: Cardale, Erickson, Fairfax, Pope and Wawanessa. We hope to expand to seven other communities in southwestern Manitoba in the near future. In addition to marsh bird surveys, volunteer opportunities exist to annotate audio recordings of birdcalls made in the field. For more information, please visit our website at www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/ppmmp/index.jsp. To participate, or simply learn more about the program, please contact Katherine Brewster at prairieprograms@birdscanada.org.



A Yellow-headed Blackbird.

The true story of someone who was
*inspired.**

Ben was a local  looking to serve up something different. After teaming up with an unconventional campus  program, Ben is preparing healthy, delicious meals that are good for students, the environment and the bottom line.



We're inspired to provide access to financing for groups like Diversity Food Services.
assiniboine.mb.ca
(1-877) 958-8588

Assiniboine
CREDIT UNION

New In the Library

ALL OF THE MATERIALS in the Alice Chambers Memorial Library may be loaned out free of charge. DVDs may be borrowed for one week. All other materials may be signed out for three weeks at a time.

There is no-charge postal delivery outside Winnipeg for books. Please contact Erica Young, Resource Assistant, at 947-6511 for more information. Also see www.mbeconetwork.org/library.php.

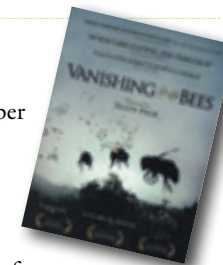
The following films, now in our library, were all featured during our second Reel Green Film Festival:

New DVDs:

Vanishing of the Bees

90 min / 2009 / Dir. Maryam Henein

Meet David Hackenberg, the commercial beekeeper who brought colony collapse disorder to the public's attention. Researchers and beekeepers have been trying to unravel the mystery of what's happening to world honeybee populations ever since. This documentary looks at the importance of the honeybee throughout history and ends with hopeful solutions.



Play Again

88 min / 2010 / Dir. Tonje Hessen Schei

Follow six teenagers as they experience life away from their electronics for the first time and hear from leading experts on what happens when children grow up without a connection to the natural world.



Dive

45 min / 2010 / Dir. Jeremy Seifert

A group of friends find they can eat like royalty out of the dumpsters behind their local grocery stores. Why is so much good food going to waste when there's so much hunger in the world? The filmmaker sets out to convince grocery stores to do better.



The Turning Point: a return to community

40 min / 2009 / Prod. Lisa Mead & Alex Page

The Findhorn Ecovillage is an inspiring example of a community striving for sustainability, from its car share to its local currency, from community supported agriculture to local cheese production. Interviews with leading thinkers on transition round out the film.



Living Downstream

85 min / 2010 / Dir. Chanda Chevannes

This beautiful film follows ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber through her personal struggle with the disease and her public fight to draw attention to cancer's environmental links.



Mad City Chickens

81 min / 2008 / Dir. Tashai Lovington & Robert Lughai

This entertaining look at the urban chicken movement will introduce you to the many reasons why people across the United States are welcoming poultry into their backyards.



Choking Lake Winnipeg

25 min / 2010 / Dir. James Bryne

What is causing the massive blue-green algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg and other water bodies across the Prairies? The film not only offers easy to understand descriptions of the problems, it offers solutions we can all be part of.

—Erica Young



Bird Studies Canada is seeking enthusiastic individuals with bird identification skills to conduct marsh bird surveys in MB!

Surveys involve recording all birds detected by sight and sound during a 15-minute period at a specified survey location. Surveys are conducted between May 21st and June 31st and training materials will be provided. Participation in this program can require as little as 12 hours per year, but we encourage folks to do as many surveys as they wish. For more information, contact us at prairieprograms@birdscanada.org or (306) 249-2894. Thank YOU for helping us to better understand marsh birds!



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



Cell Phone Antennae & Health Effects

Petition challenges Health Canada to reconsider exposure limits

By Marg Friesen

TRIVIA QUESTION: how many cell phone antennae and towers can you see from your home? How many are within 500 metres of your home? The answer is — probably more than you think. A friend who lives in an apartment in Osborne Village can count over 100 antennae from his 31st floor window. Whatever the number may be, it is likely to get higher and you may not have much influence in the matter.

At an ever-increasing pace, telecommunication towers are proliferating near our homes, in Canada and worldwide. The latest to make the news locally was the proposed tower in Wildwood Park. According to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, there is a proposal for a cell tower to be raised near their community centre. This siting will likely go through a public consultation process, unlike the tower on the Wildewood Club golf course. According to the *Free Press* article, the spokesperson for the telecommunications company says the emissions will be well within the guidelines set by Health Canada — and therein lies the problem.

The guidelines set by Health Canada that are supposed to protect our health are too lenient. So says one resident of Toronto who started suffering from bad headaches and tinnitus (ringing in the ears) after an antenna was put up near her former home. What she learned from that experience was an eye-opener. Not only was she being affected, but there were reports that many other people around the world were also suffering from ill-health when in close proximity to emissions from these types of antennae.

Studies from around the world show adverse health effects from antennae emissions, just like the ones she'd experienced. People in a Spanish study reported depressive tendencies, fatigue, sleeping disorders, difficulty concentrating and



Thousands of Manitobans live in close proximity to cell phone towers. They have become part of every urban landscape.

cardiovascular problems. Those living near a transmission tower (or mast as they are often called) in the studies in Israel and Germany had an increase in the incidence of cancers.

Although there are many studies which show no significant effect, there are more than enough studies to indicate that there is a problem that needs to be examined more fully and that we, as a society, need to put the brakes on the construction of more towers and antennae.

A petition to address many shortcomings of the current situation is being circulated, with the assistance of MP Maria Minna, which asks that Health Canada's Safety Code 6 take into account health effects by adopting strict exposure limits. It also asks for a moratorium on new installations until unbiased research has established the extent of health effects, as well as for



increased safety, consultation and precaution within a 500-metre radius of any installation. If you would like to be sent a copy of the petition, contact ElectroSmog.Manitoba@gmail.com.

To answer the trivia question of how many cell phone antennae or towers are in your neighbourhood, check out: www.ertyu.org/steven_nikkel/cancellsites.html

Are the number of antennae and towers and their close proximity to you trivial? Read the information on these web sites, as well as those from differing views, and then decide for yourself. 🌱

www.citizensforsafetechnology.org
www.weepinitiative.org
www.magdahavas.com
www.powerwatch.org.uk
www.starweave.com/masts
www.biointiative.org



Complimentary copy

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