



# An Ounce of Prevention

New strategies can make room  
for proactive conservation

By Joshua Pearlman



PHOTO: RONTTHIESSEN

The Canada lynx is the most common and widespread wildcat in Canada. A status that conservation should strive to maintain rather than bank on an ability to remediate possible declines in the future.

**LIKE MOST OF US**, I try to take care of myself. I eat healthy. I try to stay hydrated. When I feel a tickle in my throat I drink ginger tea and go to bed early.... I have renters insurance. We do these things because we know how hard it is to recover our resources once they have been knocked back. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," as the old saying goes.

The boreal forest is the largest source of unfrozen fresh water on the planet and is a powerful generator of oxygen. It provides habitat for an incredible diversity of resident and migratory species. It also stores globally significant levels of carbon in soils and biomass, which helps to offset the impacts of climate change. Further it is the traditional homeland of Indigenous

peoples whose culture is rooted in a relationship with the landscape. Blanketing a huge swath of North America, it's understandable why misconceptions of the boundlessness of this life-giving resource could have propagated.

With so much boreal thriving without formal protections, it's easy to dismiss the need for it, yet slowly the realization is setting in that, like other ecosystems, this one is in fact finite. Without planning for protections, the northward march of development will eventually reach the pristine, thriving corners of the province with the potential to negatively compromise the landscape.

Where species and spaces have already been left compromised through long term or short

## Inside this Issue:

An Ounce of Prevention.....	cover, 4
Executive Director's Message .....	2
Eco-Events.....	3
Momentum Rolling for Small Scale Agriculture .....	5
Ecovillages.....	6-7
Only in my Backyard? .....	8-9
Reel Green 2016.....	11

term environmental degradation, recovery efforts must be undertaken to avoid or limit irreversible damage. There is an obvious logic to this triage of environmental issues; those most in need of acute and immediate attention are moved to the front of the line. There is less logic in looking to this as our standard model for long-term environmental stewardship. When the opportunity exists, it will always be more effective and cost-efficient to maintain healthy ecosystems before they deteriorate than to attempt to re-establish them and the services they provide after they have been lost or compromised through human activity.

Many places in the world have lost this opportunity and are now bearing the expense of compromised ecological services and the effort to restore them. In much of Manitoba, we still have the opportunity to buffer against the need for urgent, costly and often uncertain remediation efforts through preventative protection of the still-thriving ecosystems that are our life support system.

"It is in part about acknowledging the values in the landscapes and integrating that into our environmental policies and actions before we recognize them as rare or under threat," says Ron Thiessen, executive director of CPAWS Manitoba.

Two recent announcements offer hope that we are moving in this direction.

## Places to Keep: A new Protected Areas Strategy for Manitoba

Released in December 2015, the document outlines priority regions within which protections from industrial development will be

*continued on page 4 >>*

is published four 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:** Sheldon Birnie  
editor@mbeconetwork.org

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Curt Belton, Jacob Buller, Joshua Pearlman,  
Ron Thiessen,

**Design & Layout:** Tracey O'Neil  
www.simpliflivedesigns.ca

**MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**John Fjeldsted** Chairperson,  
Member at Large

**Dan McInnis**  
Sustainable Building Manitoba

**Sean Petty**  
Sierra Club Prairie Chapter

**Justine Spearman**  
Manitoba Environmental Industries  
Association, Student Chapter

**John Coombs**  
Ontario Environmental Network

**Jamie Hilland**  
Green Action Centre

**Alexander Wieb**  
Campus Sustainability Office,  
University of Winnipeg

**Damli Gureja**  
Member at Large

**Nicola Garrett**  
Member at Large

**Natasha Klaponski**  
Member at Large



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

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 \$100.

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

Manitoba Eco-Network is a registered charity  
(# 128446846 RR0001).

For advertising rates, please contact  
info@mbeconetwork.org, or 947-6511.  
The advertising deadline for the  
Summer 2016 edition is April 22, 2016.

## Executive Director's Message

By Curt Belton

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER EARTH DAY, it is  
always a good time to reflect upon where we are at as an  
organization, and as an environmental movement in Man-  
itoba. I think it is fair to say that there is a sense of relief  
that the "Charity Chill" has thawed at least somewhat. En-  
vironmental charities, and in fact charities of all types, are  
only trying to look out for the public interest and it is good  
just to get on with our work and not be constantly looking  
over our shoulder.

As an organization we have trying our best to reach out  
to other groups though partnering on projects, holding  
member forums and endeavouring to include Indigenous  
perspectives. At our annual Reel Green fundraiser on March  
10 at The Met (see photos on page 11), we showcased the  
work of local filmmakers that gave a real and relevant mes-  
sage to our audience. In addition to working with member  
groups and those already involved, we have tried to engage people outside the "Green Circle" both at  
Reel Green and our Sustainability Night 20 x 20 last fall. It is important for us to build momentum  
for sustainable living and sustainable thinking to a much broader sector of society.

As I write this we are in the midst of an election campaign and who knows what the future  
will bring? Has the present government done a good job on environment and sustainability and  
if we get a new government what will their priorities be? Will any government, at any level,  
take the threats to the waterways and to the climate posed by the proposed Energy East pipeline



“ I think it is fair to say that there is a sense of relief that the  
“Charity Chill” has thawed at least somewhat. Environmental  
charities, and in fact charities of all types, are only trying to look  
out for the public interest and it is good just to get on with our  
work and not be constantly looking over our shoulder.

seriously? At the local level will our municipalities take the issue of waste management seriously?  
These uncertainties only point out that as an environmental movement we need to remain united,  
strong, and connected and, keep advocating for what we believe to be the right path. Whether it  
is pursuing an Environmental Bill of Rights, striving to mitigate climate change, or protecting  
biodiversity, there is a lot of work to be done, and we can build strength and momentum when we  
work together as we engage new partners along our journey to a sustainable society. Take time to  
celebrate your successes and keep up the good work!



The Manitoba Eco-Network would  
like to gratefully acknowledge the  
generous support of Mountain  
Equipment Co-op through their  
Community Contributions Grant  
program in helping us to build our  
capacity in the area of Sustainable  
Funding Development.

## APRIL

### 12 Backyard Wildlife Habitat

*Kelvin High School-room 31, 7:30 p.m.*

Instructed by Ted McLachlan, retired professor from the Department of Landscape Architecture, U of M. Ted's presentation will explore how we can rethink our home environment to create a landscape of seasonal mystery, intrigue and delight.

**To pre-register, call 204-943-9029 or visit [naturemanitoba.ca](http://naturemanitoba.ca).**

### 19 Manitoba Nature Summit AGM

*St. Vital Park, 6 p.m.*

Learn more at this family-friendly event about the winner of the 2015 Earthie award, and get more info about their upcoming Nature Summit.

**Stay connected at [naturesummitmb.com](http://naturesummitmb.com).**

16, 19, 24, 30

### Prairie Planting Workshops

*Living Prairie Museum*

Find out how native species can be included in your landscape designs, and why using native plant material is important for biodiversity and conservation.

**For more info and to register, call 204-832-0167.**

### 22 Earth Day

Celebrate our natural environment with events throughout the province on Earth Day and during the week. Check out our events calendar at [mbeconetwork.org](http://mbeconetwork.org) and stay connected to what's happening.

### 25 DMSMCA Annual Spring Clean-Up

*Meet at 823 Ellice Avenue, 1-4 p.m.*

Rain/snow date: May 2. This is your chance to spruce up your street, meet your neighbours, and make our communities beautiful for a safe and fun spring.

**Contact [greening@dmsmca.ca](mailto:greening@dmsmca.ca) for more info.**

## Organic Lawn Care (OLC)

Keep your lawn and family healthy and happy this summer! Attend FREE workshops on organic weed management, alternative lawns, and reel mower sharpening clinics. Take advantage of the lawn tool lending library to try out the lawn aerating shoes, telescoping weeder, fertilizer spreader, and more. Call 204-947-6511 or email [organiclawn@mbeconetwork.org](mailto:organiclawn@mbeconetwork.org) for more information.

**Stay updated on workshop dates at [mbeconetwork.org](http://mbeconetwork.org)**

## The Manitoba Eco-Network has a new website!

Check out its fresh, bright look and some great features like event and job submission forms. New look, same address: [mbeconetwork.org](http://mbeconetwork.org). Let us know what you think!

## MAY

### 4 CPAWS-MB Chapter: A Discussion on 'Nature Deficit Disorder'

*Winnipeg News Cafe, 7 p.m.*

Is nature the prescription for a balanced life? Learn more from expert panelists Chloe Dragon Smith (Canadian Parks Council), Cam Collyer (Evergreen Foundation) and Dr. Barbara McMillan (University of Manitoba). This event is part of 25th anniversary celebrations for the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

### 19 Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies Moving Forward

*The Forks-Centre Food Court, 12-1 p.m.*

Councillor Janice Lukes, chair of the City's Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, is hosting a series of casual conversations about transportation in Winnipeg.

### 21 "You can eat that?! Wild Edible Adventure

*Prairie Shore Botanicals - Gardenton, MB*

Get ready for a fun adventure in wild edible plant identification, harvesting and preparation! This one-day workshop will give you the confidence you need to incorporate a variety of common wild edibles into everyday meals.

**For more info, contact [psbotanicals.com](http://psbotanicals.com).**

May 9 to June 8

### Bike To School Month

Thousands of Manitoba school children will join students from across Canada to celebrate biking and walking to school this Spring. Join the celebration! **Details at [greenactioncentre.ca](http://greenactioncentre.ca).**

## JUNE

### 2 Downtown Farmers' Market opens

*Manitoba Hydro Place*

Enjoy local foods and artisans every Thursday until September 29.

**Contact [downtownwinnipegbiz.com](http://downtownwinnipegbiz.com) for more info.**

### 5 to 11 Commuter Challenge

The Commuter Challenge is an annual friendly competition that encourages individuals and workplaces to explore greener transportation options to and from work for personal, environmental and community health.

**Get involved at [greenactioncentre.ca/program/commuterchallenge](http://greenactioncentre.ca/program/commuterchallenge).**

### 8 Clean Air Day at The Forks

Celebrate our right to clean air with a fantastic day including: kids' bike jamboree, obstacle course, repair stations, live music, modified bikes to try, and much more! **Visit [greenactioncentre.ca](http://greenactioncentre.ca) for details.**

### 16 Green Kids' Silver Anniversary

*7 p.m., venue TBA*

Celebrating 25 Years of Environmental Education through Theatre  
**More details to follow at [greenkids.com](http://greenkids.com).**

### 18 to 24 Bike Week Winnipeg

Events will be held in every corner of the city that encourage all Winnipeggers to get on their bikes and ride!

**Visit [bikeweekwinnipeg.com](http://bikeweekwinnipeg.com) for details.**





“When the opportunity exists, it will always be more effective and cost efficient to maintain healthy ecosystems before they deteriorate than to attempt to re-establish them.”

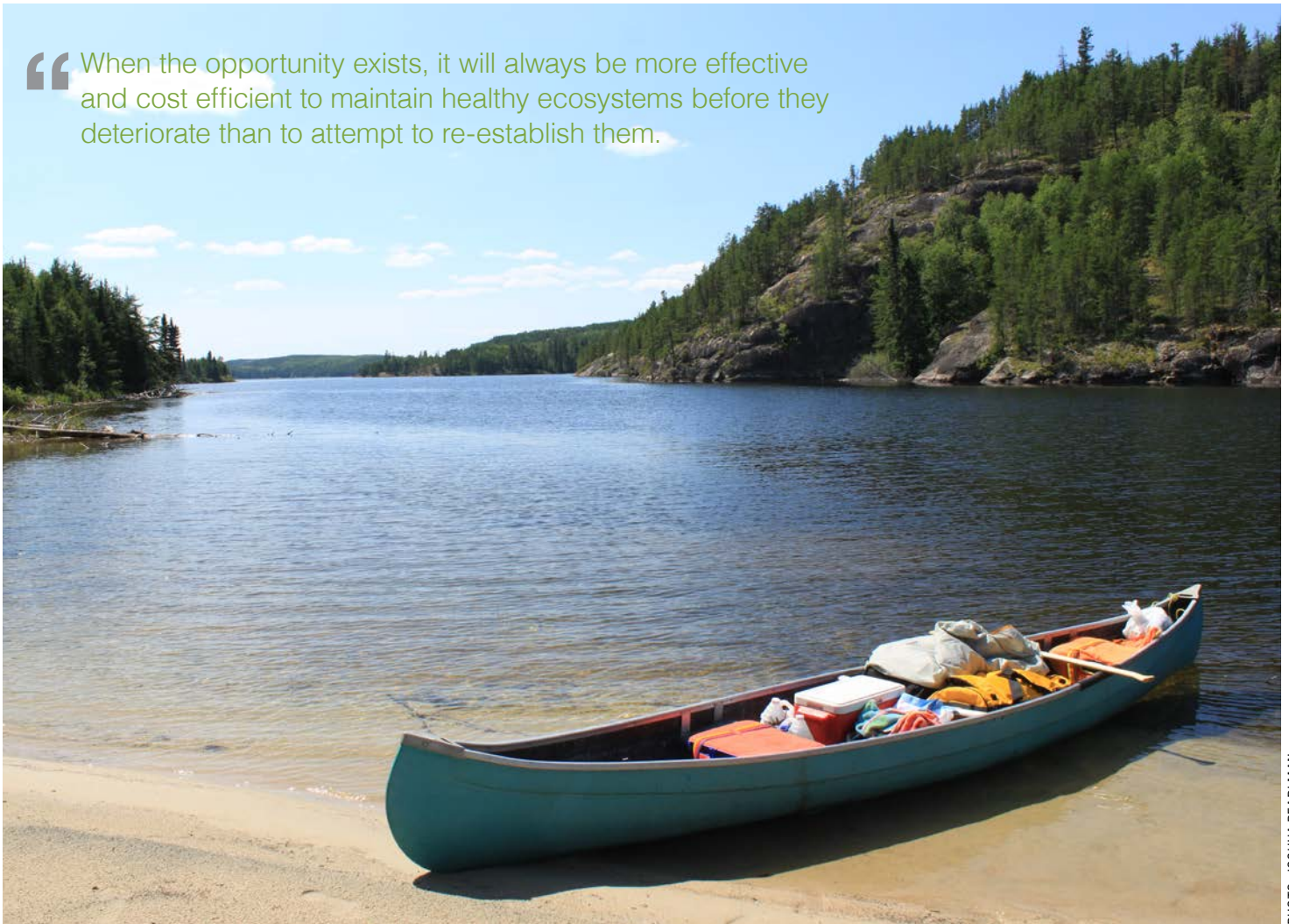


PHOTO: JOSHUA PEARLMAN

Nopiming Provincial Park is an example of proactive landscape planning.

sought. Its announcement was accompanied by the establishment of the Red Deer Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and an expansion to Lake Winnipegosis Salt Flats Ecological Reserve which boosted the provincial protected areas to 11 per cent. Less attention was paid to the document's commitment to protect 17 per cent of lands and waters in the province by 2020; a level of protection that meets national targets committed to by Canada through the United Nations Declaration on Biodiversity in 2010. Given that it took 40 years to reach our current level of protected areas, achieving another six per cent by 2020 is an ambitious yet achievable commitment if the province puts the resources in place.

“If implemented, it will be an incredible leap in a longer term goal subscribed to by conservation groups, industry and business leaders, and First Nations for at least 50 per cent of the Boreal

to be protected; the number supported in a letter by over 1500 scientists as the minimum level of protection that will ensure the ecosystem remains healthy and functioning,” said Thiessen.

### Beluga Habitat Sustainability Plan

Released in January 2016, this provincial plan outlines threats to the western Hudson Bay habitat of the world's largest population of beluga whales and identifies opportunities to minimize these threats. Estimated to 57,000 animals, they concentrate each summer in the estuaries of the Seal, Nelson and Churchill Rivers. Though one might intuit the necessity to control local pollution, boat traffic, and hydro development, the document takes the holistic step to identify the importance of the upstream environmental health in order to ensure the belugas estuary habitat is kept safe. Specifically identified is the opportunity for protection in

the Seal River watershed. Unencumbered by industrial developments, the watershed is perhaps the best example in Manitoba of a vast wild, thriving, in-tact landscape. A planning process that fully involves local communities and stakeholders aimed at maintaining the ecological wholeness of the watershed will be required to ensure its well-being for future generations.

Precautionary landscape level planning, rather than continuing to develop piece by piece, is the route away from the inefficiencies of addressing our ecosystems once at risk to long-term, sustainable environmental stewardship. Let's hope that leadership in this province can overshadow the words on paper with the action of implementation. 🌱

*Joshua Pearlman is the communications director with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Manitoba Chapter.*

# Momentum Rolling for Small Scale Agriculture

## Sector given space to grow in Manitoba

By Sheldon Birnie

**WITH DEMAND FOR LOCAL**, direct marketed products growing, over the past few years small scale agriculture producers in Manitoba have been involved in a two-steps-forward, one-step-back dance with officials in the department of agriculture.

Recognizing that clarity was needed for the sector to move forward, Ron Kostyshyn, Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture, called together a round table. Made up of small-scale farmers, chefs, and members of farmers' market associations alongside industry and government reps, the round table began meeting in the tail end of 2014. Headed by Dr. Wayne Lees, retired chief veterinary officer for Manitoba, the groups met over the course of a year. In February 2015, the results were published in a report, titled *Advancing the small scale, local food sector in Manitoba: a path forward*, which lays out a series of recommendations for both industry and government.

"It was a really good idea to have that roundtable," said Brad Anderson, a mixed grain farmer from the Cypress River area. Along with their grain operation, the Andersons produce pasture fed poultry, pork, and turkeys for the specialty market. Anderson was heavily involved in the round table discussions that led to *Advancing the small scale*, which he said at times could be "frustrating." Since the report's publication, Anderson has also taken a lead role in organizing an industry association to represent the interests of the small scale producers, one of the key recommendations of the report. "(Now) there's a sense of excitement and possibility (in the sector)."

"I think the momentum is still there, big time," said Jeff Eastman, industry development specialist for small farms at Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Eastman's is one of two permanent positions created by the department in the wake of *Advancing the small scale*, whose work is focused exclusively on growing small scale and direct market farming in Manitoba. "This report means more than it says. It's a signal from the government recog-

nizing, for the first time in some time, that the small scale sector needs space and should be advanced."

While the roundtable and subsequent *Advancing the small scale* report have helped focus the efforts of small scale farmers, Eastman also credits the grassroots work of producers in getting the ball rolling and keeping the momentum moving when regulatory snags threatened to derail the progress the sector was making. Particularly, Eastman praised the work of the Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative (of which

"There are some small farmers out there who are producing whatever they produce, doing whatever they're doing, but not really realizing there are a lot of other people out there doing the same sort of thing, facing some of the same bigger picture issues," Eastman added.

Some of those big picture issues—particularly around policy and regulations—are ones that the province is able to deal with, which Eastman said is a priority of his department.

"On the regulatory side, there's work to be done," he admitted. "One issue is (regula-

“This report means more than it says,” said Jeff Eastman, industry development specialist for small farms at Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. “It’s a signal from the government recognizing, for the first time in some time, that the small scale sector needs space and should be advanced.”

Anderson is a member) and Small Farms Manitoba, which he called “a great resource for people to source local food, and for producers to showcase their products.”

Eastman said that he has been encouraged by the interest from small producers to organize.

“Building relationships between small scale sector and department of agriculture is important,” he said.

On Fri., March 11, after consulting with some of the small farm community, the Farmers' Market Association of Manitoba Co-op Inc. board of directors voted to expand membership to include people who direct market farm products outside farmer's markets. “We pretty much knew it had to happen,” Anderson said of the move to form an official association to advocate on behalf of small scale producers. “Now we have a mandate of what to aim for. Once technicalities are sorted out, we're saving ourselves a good year of creating bylaws and that sort of thing. We have to go through strategic planning.”

tions) are not always enforced consistently. That's something that can be improved upon by talking with different agencies to figure out how they're being enforced. There's a will to do that, to be consistent. But it's a challenge.”

“There's lots of things in place,” Anderson said. “Now it's just a matter of getting to it.”

“What's really interesting is the small scale sector, in contrast to large scale agriculture, is there are new entrants,” Eastman said, adding he sees unlimited potential in the growing sector. “There are young people getting into the sector, and they're doing it for a number of reasons. But it's happening. To build these new relationships is exciting for me. Sometimes it's people without an agriculture background at all. People are looking to fulfill our lives with careers, and some people are discovering that they want to be out there working the land, or take pride in making food a certain way, in making these products.”

Sheldon Birnie is the editor of the Manitoba Eco-Journal.





# Ecovillages

## A return to nature

By Jacob Buller

**"AFTER TRAVELLING FOR YEARS** I needed a place to settle down in a natural environment. The world at the time was worrying about nuclear disasters. I was 32 years old and fed up with our western culture."

Gerhard Decker has been living for the past 30 years in Northern Sun Farm Coop, a mostly-off-grid community built on ecological values of which Decker is a founding member. Formed in the late 1970s, this value-based eco-community exists just outside of Steinbach.

What emerged was a community that provides resources for its "twelve-ish" residents in a semi-off-grid manner. It's "twelve-ish" because not every member lives there all the time. Here, decisions are made by consensus. Their shared values include respect for the environment, support of personal growth, and social justice.

"There is no going completely off-grid in our culture," Decker notes. "Push it as far as you are comfortable with."

At Northern Sun, each home has its own solar panel system to generate electricity. Decker has played a role in bringing this technology into the community.

"In 1983 I built a wind generator, and in 1985 I bought my first solar panel. Having no money to buy ready-made equipment made me learn how to make things from scratch."

"In terms of household electric power, the 'average' house would probably require 5-10 kilowatt hours a day, not counting heating. I can produce about 2 kWh most sunny days. This is typical for our residents."

Sitting on 240 acres that is uncultivated and forested, the community cycles with the seasons.

"Winter prep is mostly about frost protection. We drain hoses, move items into heated spaces and do chimney cleaning. We get firewood ready to go into wood sheds. Wood harvesting is a mix of personal and communal activities, plus some imported wood."

Once ready, winter is a time of relative hibernation.

"We visit each other, read a lot, and sleep long hours," he says of winter activities.

"We do canning in summer and fall. Food prep is no different in winter, but less fresh produce. Natural refrigeration makes for increased flexibility."



However, Decker notes there are definite challenges of living off-grid.

"Laundry, refrigeration, and starting vehicles in very cold weather. I am not big on laundry, but other members do plenty of it. I generally wash things by hand all year. Last year I used the Steinbach laundromat three times."

"Refrigeration was introduced not many years ago. Two households have solar freezers, with a third coming soon. Some members have access to freezers in the neighborhood which are anywhere from one to twenty-five kilometers away. Our root cellar is always an option too, where the temperature varies from 3°C to 12°C."

Each family is allocated 10,000 square feet, with more given to gardens. Northern Sun residents grow their own food.

"Most do take part in gardening. We grow about 50 percent, maybe more. We use no tilling equipment or rototillers and no chemicals of any kind."

But people till their own soil using hand tools like hoes and spades. It's hard work but it gets the job done without the use of fossil fuels.

Northern Sun has discovered what many other communal groups experience. Communal living, while having rewards, also offers challenges.

"Communal gardens have been a disappointment," Decker said. "Individual gardens

work better." And for things they can't grow? "We buy local, order in bulk from Vancouver, or do without."

Personal relationships in a community still require nurturing. "Common sources of argument include mutual distrust, bad communications and fear." But that said, Gerhard is quick to point out what anyone who wants to move into a community should know. "We need each other, everyone is doing the best they can in their circumstances, and many hands make light work."

To him, good practice in an ecovillage includes "mutual respect, respect for our environment and good relations with surrounding neighbours." And of the ways human relationships are strengthened? "Too many to count."

It's a place where children and families are welcome. "Families fit reasonably well. This place is very child friendly."

For those interested in this world of self-reliance and are wondering how hard to expect this transition to be, Gerhard says "It's all about letting go. Do it if you feel inspired. It's not that hard, and has many rewards." 🌱

*Jacob Buller is a dad and journalist adventuring with his family through the green world of ecovillages, Earthships and more. You can read more about their adventures on his blog at [cohesivcreations.com](http://cohesivcreations.com).*





Clockwise from above:

Shared meals and other events at Northern Sun take place in the community hall.

Firewood is used for heating, baking and cooking in each house.

Symbolic of the community, the windmill provides electricity during cloudy days.



PHOTOS: JACOB BULLER







# Only in my backyard?

Municipal organic collection services make composting more accessible

By Bowen Smyth



Compost bins at the West Broadway Community Compost Site.

PHOTO: GREEN ACTION CENTRE

**ARE ENVIRONMENTALISTS** standing in the way of composting? It might seem strange, but some of the voices speaking out about municipal organic waste collection in Winnipeg are the people who are already composting in their own backyards. It's the price tag of a proposed municipal collection that they're upset about having to cover, which is currently proposed to cost homeowners between \$55-100 annually.

"Backyard composters vote," notes Denis De Pape, vice president of Green Action Centre's board of directors, so perhaps it's not surprising that Councillor Brian Mayes (St. Vital) and mayor Brian Bowman have tried to reassure residents by suggesting that the city's plans for a municipal composting program will not go ahead without public support.

Backyard composters are trend setters, the ones who have taken the initiative to purchase or build a compost bin and start composting their kitchen scraps while the city is slowly working its way through the bureaucratic channels of change. Presumably, backyard composters are the people who care most about the environment and about sustainable living. According to Statistics Canada, they are also the highest paid and the most educated.

It's understandable that people who already compost don't want to incur the expense of a city-wide program they may never access. But if backyard composters—who tend to be higher income earners—demand an opt-out fee, does this mean that lower income earners should bear the financial burden of reducing

Winnipeg's impact on global warming?

There's no doubt that municipal programs make composting more accessible for all. The introduction of curbside collection in Canadian municipalities increased compost participation rates by 23 to 45 per cent between 2007-2011. When you consider that organics comprise about 40 per cent of our garbage, the potential for municipal composting programs to reduce our environmental footprint is huge. The end result of composting might be cleaner and greener, but the process of getting there is always a little challenging, particularly when it comes to who's going to foot the bill.

"The only reason people are hesitant to compost is because it does cost something," points out Kelly Kuryk, project manager for





PHOTOS: GREEN ACTION CENTRE

Compost Winnipeg, a social enterprise started by Green Action Centre that collects organic waste from businesses and multi-unit residences in the downtown area.

“When I did the feasibility study it was super easy to find people to work with because it didn’t cost them anything,” Kuryk said, adding she’s been surprised by the slow uptake since Compost Winnipeg’s soft launch in August, 2015. “I thought I could easily find more cli-

ents, but I think people are surprised to find they have to pay something.”

“[Landfilling] garbage is so inexpensive here and there’s no legislative requirement,” Kuryk noted, referring to other provinces that have introduced a ban on dumping organic waste. Nova Scotia led the way on this, banning compostable waste from landfills in 1998,

and Quebec aims to implement a similar ban by 2020. Per capita, Canadians are one of the highest producers of waste among peer nations; the Conference Board of Canada has given our country the worst score on municipal waste generation when compared with 17 other OECD countries.

In the absence of provincial mandates to compost, neighbourhood organizations have taken the lead on making composting accessible for everyone. West Broadway Community Organization has been overseeing community compost bins in their neighbourhood for the past 15 years, even in the absence of dedicated funding.

“We sometimes get funding for a composting coordinator, we sometimes don’t,” said gardens coordinator Zorya Arrow. “We are here to address the needs of the community and right now the need is composting because the city hasn’t taken it on.”

As challenging as it can be to coordinate composting activities with minimal staff and volunteers, she acknowledges the value of having more than 25 communally accessible bins scattered throughout the neighbourhood.

“West Broadway is unique in the fact that it does offer community composting,” Arrow added. “Most neighbourhoods do not have this kind of program in place, so I’m all for city-wide composting.”

Is there an ideal scenario when it comes to the world of composting?

“Just having options, that’s what it boils down to for me,” Sylvie Hébert, community composting coordinator at Green Action Centre, said. Hébert supports a municipal collection service, while also acknowledging the important role of backyard and community composting. “It gets you connected with soil to do it yourself.”

If we understand economics in terms of dollar amounts, moving towards a more sustainable future is something we’re going to avoid as long as possible. But if we view poverty as a lack of options, municipal composting programs have the potential to contribute to the wealth of all.

### For more info...

Learn more about backyard composting:

[greenactioncentre.ca](http://greenactioncentre.ca)

Let Compost Winnipeg help you green your garbage:

[compostwinnipeg.ca](http://compostwinnipeg.ca)

Participate in the city’s consultation process for organics:

[wwdengage.winnipeg.ca](http://wwdengage.winnipeg.ca)

*Bowen Smyth is a writer and educator who collects organic waste with Compost Winnipeg.*



# we're all about keeping it local



Summer is the time for potlucks, picnics and barbecues. Drop in for fresh baking, hot dog and hamburger buns, sandwiches, gourmet salsas, creative spreads and dips, potato salad, crunchy pickles, locally-grown lettuce, fresh cold-pressed organic Manitoba sunflower oil.



At Tall Grass we start the day with freshly milled 100% whole grain organic flour, grown by Manitoba farmers.

*Organic Grains! Organic Goodness!*

859 Westminster 204-783-5097 • The Forks Market 204-957-5097  
tallgrassbakery.ca



# Reel Green 2016



PHOTOS: PABLO RIQUELME AVILA



*Being environmentally responsible isn't just one way of doing business.*

*It's the only way.*

As a member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values, we're committed to the triple bottom line of *People, Planet and Prosperity*. It's at the heart of how we do business.

To us, it's not just some program that we run, or a department in our company. It's the attitude we take when we serve our members and work with our community partners as we actively use financial services for the benefit of people and the environment.

Acting in the best interest of the environment is an important part of being a socially responsible co-operative. If healthy and prosperous eco-systems, communities and economies are important to you, then join us.

**204.958.8588 | 1.877.958.8588**  
assiniboine.mb.ca | @MyAssiniboine 

*Money doing more.*   
**Assiniboine**™  
CREDIT UNION



**Complimentary copy**

Please consider subscribing at  
204-947-6511 or  
[www.mbeconetwork.org](http://www.mbeconetwork.org)

Canada PM 40010075 Postage paid at Winnipeg, MB. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: **Manitoba Eco-Network**, 3rd Floor-303 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4