



Annual Report 2013-2014

April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair	2
Message from the Executive Director	3
Core Services	4
Climate Change Connection	8
Manitoba Environmental Youth Network	12
Organic Lawn Care	16
Water Caucus	18
Member Groups	22
Funders & Contributors	24
Volunteers	26
Board of Directors	27
Staff	28

Message from the Chair



In the fall of 2013, I was asked to assume the role of Board Chair. It has been challenging to gain an understanding of the MEN, its operations and processes. My board colleagues and I have come to understand that the protocols and processes necessary to have a productive working board were not necessarily in place.

We have made some inroads in dealing with this issue, but it takes time and patience as we are still deepening our understanding of the Eco-Network. We recognize the need to develop and implement a process for meaningful member engagement and also for collaborative decision making. As a board we are committed to make progress on these fronts in the upcoming year.

The board has also determined that we have a critical need to develop a strategic plan. *Health in Common* has had one pre-planning session with the board and we hope to begin the process soon. We look forward to the participation of MEN staff and representatives from member groups in the strategic planning process.

We are optimistic that the negotiation process with staff will culminate soon in a collective agreement that meets the needs of both the staff and the board.

I wish to leave you with the message that the board understands there is much to do to make MEN better, more effective and more relevant. We believe we are up to the task.

Message from the Executive Director



Over the last 26 years, the Manitoba Eco-Network has grown and evolved. Similar to other environmental organizations, the MB Eco-Network has experienced the challenges of operating in an increasingly precarious economy. In an effort to ensure that we remain effective, efficient, and competitive, the MB Eco-Network has committed to a comprehensive strategic planning process involving the staff, Board of Directors, as well as our vast stakeholders. Commencing in the fall, we will be led through our strategic planning process by the expertise of *Health in Common*.

While preparing to begin strategic planning, the MB Eco-Network has been focusing our attention on diversifying our funding and building our capacity. We have implemented a structured approach to fundraising and will soon be unveiling a new planned giving program. Additionally, we have created a volunteer management program to increase the number of active volunteers within our organization.

In order to maximize our success, we have also focused our attention on professional development. Staff members Ani and Ellen participated in a public speaking course, a critical skill for delivering environmental education programs. And through the generous support of the *Banff Centre*, *Investors Group*, and the *Winnipeg Foundation*, Ani and I both travelled to Banff to take part in one-week leadership development courses.

Ani also led staff through a strengths-based leadership workshop, where we learned how to recognize the individual strengths each person brings to the workplace and how to best apply those strengths. We participated in several activities that helped us understand and illustrate how the MB Eco-Network is currently operating, and realize our vision for its future operation.

This past year has been both challenging and rewarding. As always, the challenges we have faced present us with new opportunities to explore. I am immensely grateful to be part of a committed team at the MB Eco-Network. Together we enhance our capacity to develop, and positively contribute to environmental education in Manitoba. I am equally grateful to be part of a network of environmental organizations across Manitoba who are dedicated to protecting what is most important to all – water, air, land, and wildlife.

Manitoba Eco-Network

The Manitoba Eco-Network (MEN) is a non-profit organization which promotes positive environmental action by connecting people and groups in our communities and aims to be an environmental resource for all. Since 1988 the Manitoba Eco-Network has been carrying out public education on matters concerning the environment.

Our Mission:

The Manitoba Eco-Network's mission is to facilitate environmental awareness and expand community connections. We educate, we facilitate, we celebrate! We serve as an umbrella for environmental non-governmental organizations across the province. We welcome individual, ENGO, and associate members to our organization.

Core Activities

EcoCentre

The EcoCentre is located on the third floor of Winnipeg's Mountain Equipment Co-op. Manitoba Eco-Network continues to provide overall coordination and financial management of the EcoCentre. In partnership with Mountain Equipment Co-op, Manitoba Eco-Network sublets space to Green Action Centre, Trails Manitoba, Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Wilderness Committee, and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter. The building has received Gold Level Certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) NC Green Building Rating System.

Resource Centre - Alice Chambers Memorial Library

Manitoba Eco-Network is proud to continue our operation of the Alice Chambers Memorial Library. The library contains environmental resources in the form of books, reports, magazines, journals and DVDs/videos for free loan to the public. Libraries represent one of the best ways to go green and build community. They bring together a collection of resources that are available for everyone to use and share.

Information Service

Manitoba Eco-Network continued sending monthly email Eco-Bulletins to hundreds of individuals and groups, packed with environmental news, action opportunities, jobs, and other resources. We responded to hundreds of information requests via phone, email, Facebook, website, and in person.

Manitoba Eco-Network acts as a hub for individuals, journalists, and nonprofits to access local environmental information. Upon request, we continued to provide presentations on a wide variety of environmental topics to groups in the community. Manitoba Eco-Network also continued to update our comprehensive electronic events calendar and green jobs page.

Eco Journal

Published quarterly, the Eco Journal continued coverage of a wide array of environmental topics and gave voice to many conservation groups around the province. To view all issues of the Eco Journal visit www.mbeconetwork.org/projects/ecojournal

We act as a hub for individuals, journalists, and nonprofits to access local environmental information



journal

v.23, no. 3 Summer 2013



New Copper Mine Threatens Woodland Caribou

By Eric Rader

BEST PLACES IN CANADA and around the world, parks are valued as natural areas set aside to provide vital habitat for wildlife and opportunities for people to connect with nature. When you think of a provincial park, the last thing you might imagine taking place there is a destructive industrial activity like mining.

It has been two decades since the Manitoba government allowed a new mine to open in a provincial park. Right now, however, Hudbay Minerals' Reed copper mine is under construction in Grass River Provincial Park, and the government's progress towards proper park protection has suffered a major setback.

Grass River Provincial Park, in northwest Manitoba near The Pas, was established to protect the Grass River and the woodland caribou that inhabit the surrounding lands. When it was designated, the borders of Grass River Park encompassed many mining claims and historical mine and logging operations. Since the 1980s, though, large portions of this park have been closed to logging activity to preserve woodland caribou – a species listed on both the federal and

provincial endangered species lists. Hudbay's new mine is being built in one of these areas where logging clearings are no longer allowed.

The Naoap and Reed caribou ranges both make their home where the new mine is being built. The Naoap caribou, according to the Manitoba government, is one of the most at-

“Something that is completely missing in the provincial environmental assessment of Hudbay's project is the cumulative impact of this development on woodland caribou.

risk in the province. According to the recently released federal woodland caribou recovery strategy, half of the habitat in the Naoap range has already been disturbed. Woodland caribou need vast sections of intact forest to survive. The scientists who wrote the federal strategy agreed that if a caribou range is going to survive, it will need a minimum of 65 per cent intact forest. The Manitoba government is so concerned about the Naoap range that they delayed releasing a pro-

Inside this Issue:

New Copper Mine Threatens Woodland Caribou.....	Cover, 4
Letter from the Editor(s).....	2
Manitoba's Colour-Changing Lake.....	3
Artist Mentorship.....	5
Improving Access to Sustainable Food.....	6-7
Get Ready to Ridel.....	8
Local Fashion Designer Goes Green.....	9
Eco-Events in Manitoba/ Or Special Note.....	11

vincial strategy due to a massive fire that burned through the heart of the Naoap range in 2010.

Something that is completely missing in the provincial environmental assessment of Hudbay's project is the cumulative impact of this development – and other developments in the area – on woodland caribou. Just up the road from this new mine site is Tolko's new Dickstone South logging road, the contentious new logging development being built through a park that bans logging. Together, these two projects create a huge new barrier for caribou that travel to Reed Lake for calving, something they have been doing since monitoring started in the 1970s.

The Grass River watershed has a rare provincial designation of “High Quality Water,” a

label Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship has given to only three watersheds. Hudbay's Reed Mine is within this watershed, and the environmental license proposal submitted by Hudbay states that it will use up to 166 million litres of water a year. Wastewater will be treated in a pond at the mine, and released when it meets the Tier 1 water standard, which is the base level regulated by the federal Metal Mine Effluent Regulations (MMER).

continued on page 4 >>

Core Activities continued...

Member Group Services

The Manitoba Eco-Network continued to provide networking and information services for our Member Groups, as well as meeting space and equipment for those groups without offices. As well, we provided referrals from the media, government and public on issues relating to our Member groups expertise. Manitoba Eco-Network also promoted the work of our Member Groups through our social media, outreach activities, and at our events, including our monthly "Green Drinks".

Facebook and Twitter

Our Facebook page continues to be a cost-effective way to reach large amounts of people. Our 'likes' (people who receive our updates) has grown from 1061 to 1315, a 19% increase over the past year, and a 34% increase from 2011-12. We were able to reach over 67 000 Facebook members.

Our Twitter impact also increased to 191 more followers this past year.

Website

Continuing to function as an important community resource, our website features news, events, and information on all of the Eco-Network's programs and activities. Our section on "Green Jobs" remains the most popular area to check out. Our visits for the year totalled over 21 000, with 43% as new visitors and 57% returning.

Our global reach is an exciting note - 11% of new visitors come from the US and 59.7% of new visitors coming from outside of Canada. This demonstrates that the Eco-Network is truly being recognized around the world as a valuable environmental resource.

Our Website visits totalled over 21, 000



Sisler Sustainability Circle accepting award from Anne Lindsay

Reel Green Celebration

Reel Green is Manitoba Eco-Network's annual celebration and fundraising event. Reel Green took place on February 1st at the Radisson Hotel downtown. The theme Inspiring People, Celebrating Nature was chosen to bring us back to the core reason we all work to protect the environment -- that nature has intrinsic value in its living existence and its beauty. The celebration featured awe-inspiring films to celebrate nature and motivate Manitobans to join in the work of protecting what we treasure -- Canada's land, water, and wildlife.



Curt Hull making opening comments at the annual Reel Green

Environmental Awards

The Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Awards are awarded each year at the Reel Green Celebration to recognize significant contributions to the awareness and protection of Manitoba's environment. This year a short, professionally produced video showcased the nominees and their inspiring achievements in sustainability happening right here in Manitoba.

The 2014 Protecting Our Earth Award Winners are:

Randall McQuaker (Individual): recently retired Executive Director of Green Action Centre (formerly Resource Conservation MB and Resource Council of Manitoba)

Sisler's Sustainability Circle (Youth): a group of Sisler High students working on sustainability initiatives such as a bottle water ban, fair trade coffee sales and gardening/composting projects

Assiniboine Credit Union (Organization/Project): a leader among financial institutions in environmental business practices and commitment to sustainability



Climate Change Connection

Climate Change Connection is raising awareness and understanding of climate change in Manitoba.

We have reached and inspired thousands of people: children in *Turn Your Key* presentations, young adults in *Youth Climate Conferences* (five this year), and adults of all ages in our presentations, panels, and group work.

We assisted (and sometimes helped initiate) groups who are working to solve the climate challenge and build a resilience in Manitoba. We continue to build collaborative networks with the province and

the city, with NGOs, with First Nations, and with business leaders on active transportation, on public transportation, on agricultural bi-products for biomass, and on green construction.

We want to extend our reach. This year we built and secured new funding partnerships that will allow us to rebuild our website. Next year we will be building a new web platform to provide a more attractive and informative experience on mobile devices and to better integrate our Facebook, Twitter, and Vimeo feeds to provide more lively and relevant information to more people.

**We have
reached and
inspired
thousands of
people!**



Kids at a local school celebrate being idle free



Highlights

- Working within 50by30, we helped initiate the broadly-based Biomass Economy Network (BEN) to develop a sustainable supply chain of agricultural straw for heat.
- We were instrumental in forming a new Transformative Buildings Group to promote Passivhaus construction methods in Manitoba.
- Continue to build the Winnipeg Transit Riders Association (WTRA)
- Climate Boot Camp with Assiniboine Park Zoo interpreters and volunteers
- Ani attended week-long leadership training at the Banff Centre. She shared some of this knowledge in a training session with Manitoba Eco Network (MEN) staff.



Ani leading staff in an exercise from leadership training

Highlights continued...

- Curt attended week-long training in Chicago with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and Climate Reality Project Canada (CRPC). Curt continues as mentor for CRPC.
- Co-managed project to put on 6th annual Bike to Work Day: **48 morning pit stops** all over Winnipeg, **3447 cyclists counted riding to work**, afternoon BBQ at Forks
- **45,000 copies** of updated 2013 Winnipeg Cycling Map were distributed
- Helped promote Commuter Challenge 2013, participated in Ciclovía 2013
- Acquired partnership funding from Tire Stewardship Manitoba and a grant from Assiniboine Credit Union.
- Three new FRESH videos plus an Idle Free video created and posted.



**3,447 cyclists were counted
on Bike to Work Day**

Summary

The following metrics quantify Climate Change Connection's efforts to increase awareness among Manitobans:

Number of...	Phase						
	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Connection_update mailings posted	20	18	18	20	12	16	13
Connection_update membership	448	479	824	1135	872	843	849
Idle-free zone (IFZ) municipalities, schools, businesses	32	24	32	69	46	42	11
Idle-free zone (IFZ) signs and kits distributed	178	186	294	278	156	96	31
Media coverage events earned	29	32	13	13	21	10	14
Professional development & networking events attended	28	30	19	26	25	27	28
<i>Turn your Key-This School is Idle-Free (TYK-TSIF)</i> venues	4	4	4	2	14	5	4
TYK-TSIF students & teachers reached	400	792	161	62	1137	465	265
Webpages added or modified	25	45	41	50	25	28	39
Display opportunities	22	19	24	13	15	12	11
Meetings organized or attended	52	132	168	105	144	134	145
Presentation attendees	1200	1056	3988	2359	1537	2426	1696
Presentations given	30	26	43	34	35	40	33
Youth Conference attendance	189	270	345	450	270	310	580
Youth Conferences in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba	4	4	4	4	4	3	5

Manitoba Environmental Youth Network

In the fall of 2013 Ellen Cobb-Friesen was hired as a full-time Coordinator with the Youth Network, thanks to funding from Eco-Canada and The Winnipeg Foundation. As the Youth Coordinator is responsible for all program delivery for MEYN, this position is integral to the program's success.

"Students need to learn about the world they live in. They also need to be given the tools so that they can create the change they wish to see in the world." – Teacher

We work to engage, empower and connect youth with one another to create meaningful, positive environmental change in their schools and communities.



Students participate in group activity at GreenSpace

GreenSpace

This is the principle on which **GreenSpace**, our annual youth-led conference, is based. **Over 100 students** and teachers from **20 different schools** across Manitoba came together for a day of powerful and inspiring workshops, activities, and discussions.

The agenda for the day included opening remarks from Rob Altemeyer, MLA for Wolsely, and went on to engage students in topics as diverse as Green Design, Urban Agriculture, Project Management, How To Fill Out a Grant Application, Bike Maintenance, and DIY Ice Cream.

Students and their teachers left the conference feeling inspired and armed with the knowledge to take on action projects in their school community.

**Over 100
participants
from 20 schools
attended the
2013 GreenSpace
conference**



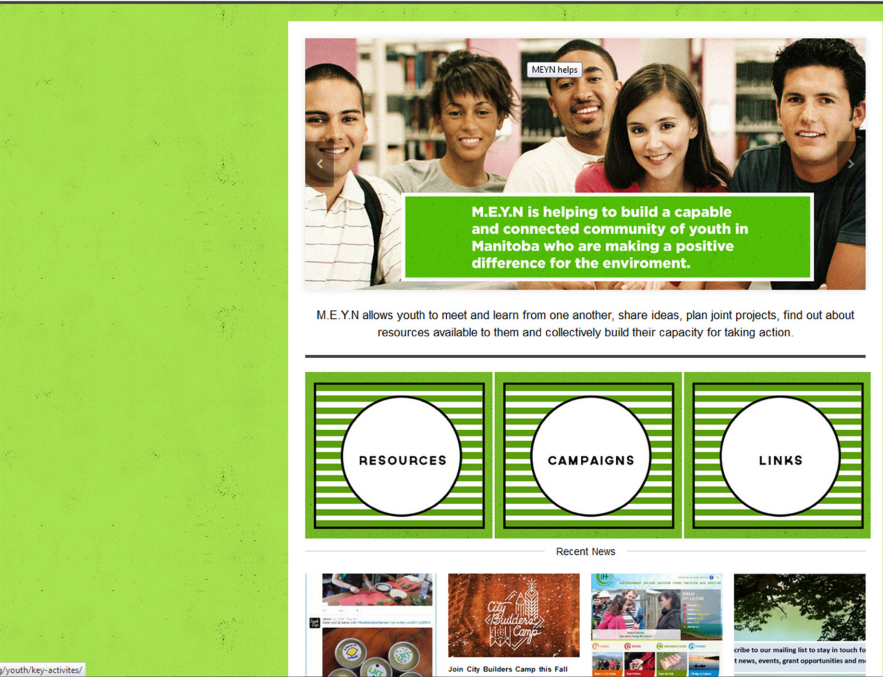
Students learning bike maintenance tips at GreenSpace

We stay in touch throughout the year to support their initiatives, whether it's assisting in background research, delivering specialized workshops, or providing whatever help they need to ensure their projects success.

Some action-project highlights that we have been involved with this year include the implementation of a new eco-group, an in-class hydroponic system, and school-courtyard chickens.

Our Steering Committee continues to be active, meeting on a monthly basis to represent a variety of high school, post-secondary and community-based groups in order to organize training and networking opportunities for environmentally conscious youth.

We continue to connect with out network through our website, monthly newsletter, and social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest) to foster our communities growth by helping them to exchange ideas, and propel collaboration into action.



MEYN website home page

We have partnered with the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation on their *'Take Action Manitoba'* blog which serves as a project inspiration gallery for those wanting to take on an action project in their school concerning sustainability.

Helping to build a capable and connected community of youth in Manitoba who are making a positive difference for the environment

Following up on the success of the Art Mentorship program in the previous year we have partnered with Artist Karen Cornelius and WITH ART /Winnipeg Arts Council to develop a program to engage Winnipeg high school students in environmental issues through art.

Our Eco/Art/Action project will explore different issues and solutions as they relate Winnipeg, and challenge participants to imagine their dream vision for a 'Green Winnipeg'.

They will create a silk-screened collage as a representation of this vision and then create a 3-D avatar that they will then use to make a stop-motion video of this avatar exploring this world.

The program is planned to launch in the fall of 2014 at Dakota Collegiate.



Students get all tangled up at GreenSpace

Organic Lawn Care

The 2013 Organic Lawn Care season represented the early stages of a transition towards more partnerships in organizing events and reaching out to the wider community.

Resources

In addition to educational initiatives, the Organic Lawn Care program was able to continue to provide a number of resources at both tabling and workshop events.

Distribution of free samples of corn gluten meal and a mycorrhizal amendment was a participant favourite, along with the sale of *Pesticide Free* signs.

The mower sharpening Youtube video from 2012 continued to amass more hits, and patrons steadily made use of the tools in the tool lending library.

Tabling events

The Organic Lawn Care program staffed five events throughout the program season, including:

- Native Prairie Plant sale, Living Prairie Museum
- International Day for Biodiversity Celebration, Oak Hammock Marsh
- Campus Beautification Day, University of Manitoba
- Arbor (hosted by Trees Manitoba), Assiniboine Park,
- Green Action Centre event at the Forks



Workshops April 23 - June 27

This year workshop attendance saw a slight increase in attendance from last year, bringing it up to a total of **121 participants**.



Organic Lawn Care presentation

6 organic lawn care workshops at libraries

10 workshops in partnership with other organizations or institutions

2 Mow Better Clinics

**Cosmetic Pesticide Ban announced
= tremendous opportunity to help usher in a
pesticide-free future**



Jen and Ryan, Organic Lawn Care program

Water Caucus

Some things are so valuable, and yet we take them for granted. Water is one of these things, and yet Manitoba's freshwater supply is the backbone of our province. We envision a province in which all Manitobans value and conserve their freshwater resources.

2013/14 has been a very exciting year for the Manitoba Eco-Network Water Caucus. We partnered with a consultant to develop a strategic plan to help us move forward with clarity of purpose. With a new vision and mission, we met and exceeded our objectives for 2013-2014.

Highlights

Educate for wider public awareness

We increased public awareness about water issues and solutions through a variety of avenues including an article that was published in the fall edition of the Eco-Journal entitled "Keeping Water on the Land".

The Manitoba Eco-Network Water Caucus participated in Sustainability Months' Water Week October 4-10, 2013, and used the opportunity to distribute educational material and answer questions.

With a new mission and vision, the Water Caucus met and exceeded objectives for 2013-2014

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Jim Chapryk, Bike to the Future

Sylvie Hebert, Green Action Centre

Carol Hitchon, Nature Manitoba

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

Don't forget to 'like' Manitoba Eco-Network
on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaEcoNetwork>

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Keeping Water on the Land Floods ain't getting cheaper.

Anika Terton & Megan Krohn, Manitoba Eco-Network Water Caucus

MANITOBA IS A PROVINCE RICH IN WATER. It is home to thousands of lakes, including Lake Winnipeg, the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world, which is predominantly fed by three rivers.

Every spring the Assiniboine River, Red River and Saskatchewan River, and the tributaries that feed them, swell with melt-water and spring rains, putting the whole province on flood alert.

Flooding in Manitoba has a long and expensive history. In 2011, flooding cost the taxpayers more than \$1 billion. Severe flooding does not only cause economic damage, but also creates untold social and economic costs. It results in extensive clean-up operations, havoc affected landowners uncertain about their rights and futures, and often leads to conflict.

The Lake Winnipeg Basin covers approximately one million square kilometers of Canadian provinces and parts of four U.S. states. We have very little control over other seven provinces and states that are part of the Lake Winnipeg Basin, but we do have control over what is done here. The human use of natural water systems in Manitoba affects how water moves, how nutrients enter the lake, and the severity of flooding. Winnipeg being named the world's most threatened lake by the Global Nature Fund is a testament to the need to manage our water differently.

When discussion turns to what can be done about overland flooding, flooding of agricultural and wetland drainage. While there are other factors to consider, a significant contributor to flooding, and must be addressed. Increased wetland ability of the land to uptake flood waters and hold back nutrients which end up in the lake, keeping water on the land and allowing it to drain slowly can reduce severe prevent drought, and filter out nutrients. Changes must be made to outdated for extensive agricultural drainage.

Unfortunately the costs of flood mitigation do need to fall on someone. Share the landscape, ecological goods and services and therefore we all have to pay for our water clean. One example of this is subsidizing farmers for keeping wetlands. We need to overcome our short-sighted economic views and embrace a big picture management. For example, the ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) program and services program proposal that is unique because it's designed by farmers. While ALUS won't compensate farmers for the impact of environmental regulation then the tools and capacity to build on their already sound environmental management project is the Tobacco Creek Model Watershed where small dams on reduced peak flows and flooding and the dams act as nutrients in the waterway.

Governments are short on cash, and the question remains: How many billions we afford? The economic, social and ecological impacts of every flood demand a joined response. There comes a point when we have to set aside significant financial mitigation and adaption to these new extremes - ideally before the next billion being done. If we do not support more solutions of keeping water on the land and in the lake, more damages, higher taxes and more conflicts.



Sandwich in Brandon, MB

We promote and communicate the value of freshwater, the need for water conservation and we encourage greater protection of our province's freshwater for all Manitobans.

Network and Facilitate Outreach Activities

We have built strong partnerships over the last year. We were involved in the Lake Friendly Stewards Alliance and have attended **6 meetings**, and we organized two successful workshops: "Keeping Water on the Land" and "Stormwater Management Solutions".

Our Water E-Bulletin was sent out to **584 contacts** interested in water issues in Manitoba. Since April 2013 we have added **93 new subscribers** to our list.



- [Like us on Facebook](#)
- [Follow on Twitter](#)
- [Forward to a Friend](#)



Water quality, sustainability and the products we use
Our daily lives are a smorgasboard of personal care products, for both men and women, from simple tasks like handwashing all the way to taking care of our bodies with prescription medicines. "Good fish don't do drugs... We want to keep these products and pharmaceuticals out of our river ecosystems."

Cottage owners recovering from 2011 flood tracing for storm fall
Many cottage owners with property along Manitoba lakes are still repairing damage done by the flood of 2011. Now the province is warning them they could be in for some rough weather this fall.

Water, water everywhere
Two or three times a year, when the snow melts or the rain comes, Jim Brown has to issue a hot water advisory to friends, family and community. For some homes, the advisory is never lifted – their drinking water constantly tests high in bacteria and positive for E. coli.

Warning: Manitowishkeag in U.S. facing stress test
The U.S. has a growing water supply problem, according to a new study. Nearly 1 in 10 of the nations

Upcoming Events

Manitoba Eco-network's Water Caucus together with the University of Manitoba Natural Resources Institute are proud to announce the following event:

Stormwater Management Solutions: Reducing the impact of severe rainfall events, hosted by FortWhyte Alive at the Interpretive Centre - Main Theatre. More details to follow.



Celebrating Sustainability Month - Water Week

October 4-10: Water Week
Kick off "Water Week" with the Water Festival at The Forks
October 6th, 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Join a diversity of environmental groups at this interactive event highlighting the importance of water for our health, environment, economy and culture. Try cruet dipping with Oak Hammock Marsh, take the leak detector challenge with the City of Winnipeg/FortWhyte Alive and learn all about how wetlands help clean our water! This family-friendly event will encourage Manitobans to learn, be inspired and get involved!

For more information about Celebrating Sustainability Month, visit www.sustainabilitymonth.ca

Below Your Watershed Conference

October 21st - 23rd
City of Medicine Hat, Alberta

Building from the successful 2010 Below Your Watershed event, the 2013 conference will advance the understanding of global and regional river and groundwater resources - in the context of watershed water quality, use and vulnerability.

KEEPING WATER ON THE LAND WORKSHOP: BE PART OF THE LAKE WINNIPEG SOLUTION

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 20, 2013
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
GREENWOOD
INN & SUITES**

**DO YOU CARE ABOUT
LAKE WINNIPEG? DO
YOU WORRY ABOUT
THE HUMAN HARSHSHIP,
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPLICATIONS OR
FINANCIAL COSTS OF
OUR NEXT FLOOD OR
HOW MUCH EFFORT
IS NEEDED TO ENSURE
THE QUALITY OF YOUR
DRINKING WATER?
THEN YOU'LL WANT
TO ATTEND THIS
WORKSHOP -
ESPECIALLY IF YOU
WANT TO BE PART
OF THE SOLUTION.**

Moderated and facilitated by the
University of Manitoba's Dr. Gordon
Oubinewah, associate professor,
Department of Biological Sciences,
and wetland and water scientist.

Hear how Manitoba is taking the lead
on water issues right here at home
from the Honorable Minister of
Conservation and Water Stewardship
David Newkirk.

The United Nations' **Bain Sandford**
will tell us why we need to wake up
about Lake Winnipeg. The basin we
had, the basin we have, and the basin
we seek.

Become an "ag-watcher" and learn
about farming and how these stewards
of the land are keeping water on the
land from Keystone Agricultural Pro-
ducers president **David Chiswell**.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's research
scientist **Dr. Michael Bell** will "The
Ryan River" - exploring protective
issues and hydrology, including
dams and conflicts related to water
management.

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation's
outreach coordinator **Krista Bane**
will illustrate the important role all
Manitobans have to play in saving our
great lake and the grassroots efforts
we need to do.

**This is a social issue as much as it is
a science one.** Not only will we hear
from the water experts, but we will
also hear from the people that com-
municate with the public on a daily
basis. Our media panel discussion will
share how decisions and issues are
made that touch and influence
everyone. Our panelists from across
TV, print and radio bring an urban/
rural perspective. Panelists include:

✦ **Kelly Dalrymple**, managing editor,
CTV News

✦ **Janet Fleming**, editor,
Manitoba Co-operator

✦ **Richard Chappell**, news/talk radio
host, CIOB News Radio

✦ **Mary Agnes Walsh**, award-winning
reporter, Winnipeg Free Press.

Following the media panel we will
go all those in attendance a chance
to engage "theatre style" as we host
a town hall that delves into the day's issues
and discussions. As a final wrap-up,
the University of Manitoba's **Dr. David
Lalonde**, Senior Water Chair, Department
of Civil Sciences, will conclude by pro-
viding his take-away thoughts from
the workshop.

REGISTER TODAY AT
www.mbwatercaucus.org

Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. Register early to confirm
a spot - with this date of speakers, we are expecting a sellout.



Multi-stakeholder Workshop

On June 20, 2013 we held our
second "Keeping Water on the
Land" multi-stakeholder workshop
with over **90 participants**. The
workshop was organized in
partnership with Ducks Unlimited
Canada, the Lake Winnipeg
Foundation and the Manitoba
Conservation District Association.

**"I liked hearing about
various success stories and
initiatives. Gave me some
ideas for projects."**

**- Audrey Boitson, East Interlake
Conservation District**

Capacity-building Workshop

On November 7, 2013 we held
a capacity-building workshop
focusing on stormwater
management solutions. We had
over **40 participants** attending
the workshop from all levels of
government.

**"Very useful and inspiring.
Excellent! Thanks so
much for pulling this all
together."**

- Jackie Avent, Green Action Centre



Bob Somers speaking to workshop
participants

Foster Public Engagement

The Protect Our Water (POW) is a household water conservation and stewardship project, which aims to reduce household water consumption and improve water stewardship by providing household audits and one-on-one information to households.

In 2013, the Water Caucus partnered with the City of Selkirk to bring the project to its residents. **30 households participated** in the program, and each received and installed a Water Saver Kit. The range of water savings possible was between **40-67% per household**.

Over the last 12 months we gave out over **80 water-saving devices** during our presentations and display opportunities.

Aiming to be a greener city

Protect our Water shows residents how to reduce water bill

BY LORELEI LEON

The Manitoba Eco-Network (MEN) and the City of Selkirk have partnered for a new water conservation and stewardship program called Protect Our Water.

The Protect our Water was started by the MEN, who piloted the project in Winnipeg in 2010 and have been expanding it in other communities. Now, the City of Selkirk is getting on board by encouraging their residents to reduce their water waste.

"It's a household water conservation and stewardship project," explains MEN project coordinator, Audrey Bolton. "How it works is that once a person has signed up, I go to their household and I do a household water audit for them."

The water audit is designed to test the water output of the home's major water sources, like the bathroom, kitchen and their laundry facilities. Once the audit is complete, Bolton will provide the home owners with a detailed plan of what actions they can take to conserve water in their home. Changes may include installing a newer toilet or aerators on their taps to decrease the output of water.

"Or just simple things like turning off the water while they're brushing their teeth—those kinds of actions, which will help them reduce their water consumption and then reduce their water bill as

well," she adds.

The program is being funded by the City of Selkirk with the MEN, and is completely free to the residents who want to participate.

As an incentive to get involved, the Protect our Water program also provides participants with a free water consumption kit after they have had their audit, which helps residents reduce their water waste in a cost-effective way.

"It's a free bag full of different water saving devices like kitchen aerators, bathroom aerators, a free shower head, a shower timer... all kinds of things that they can use in their home... completely free," Bolton says.

In addition to reducing water consumption, the project also has a stewardship component that aims to encourage participants to be better environmental stewards as well. During the audit Bolton will ask residents if they dispose of their hazardous waste in a proper man-

ner, or if they use a green cleaner. She also provides participants with information to become a more eco-friendly home on the whole.

"We had quite a few participants last year when I ran the program in the Interlake... We'll probably have workshops about green cleaning or organic gardening," she explains of the program's

future plans, adding, "I think that just by reducing the amount of water that they use through the waste water treatment plan, they're also decreasing the amount of water that goes into the sewer system. So anything we can do to decrease it is a good thing."

For more information email abolton@eicd.ca.



This is a sample of the water saving kit that is free to participants of the Protect Our Water Program. The Manitoba Eco-Network and the City of Selkirk have recently partnered for the new water conservation and stewardship program.

Exploring Action and Policy Tools

One of many successful outcomes of our "Stormwater Management Solutions" workshop was a newly created partnership with Green Communities Canada to address the impact on lakes and streams of stormwater runoff in Winnipeg through their RAIN Program.



Member Groups

A Rocha

Alpine Club of Canada - Manitoba

ArtsJunktion mb

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Bird Studies Canada

Bike Winnipeg

Canadian Federation of Students - MB

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - MB

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - MB

Centre for Indigenous Environmental
Resources

Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba

Churchill Northern Studies Centre

Consumers Association of Canada - MB

Consumers for Responsible Energy

Council of Canadians - Winnipeg

Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthew's Community
Association

Debwendon Inc.

EcoPIA (Ecological People in Action)

ElectroSmog Manitoba

Environmental Health Association of
Manitoba

Food Matters Manitoba

FortWhyte Alive

Friends of Gardens Manitoba

Green Action Centre

Green Action Committee of the Unitarian
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Green Kids Inc.

Health in Common

Henteleff Park Foundation

International Institute for Sustainable
Development

Lake Winnipeg Foundation

Living Prairie Museum

Manitoba Chapter, Canada Green Building
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Manitoba Fly Fishers Association

Manitoba Forestry Association

Manitoba Nature Summit Inc.

Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry
Association

Manitoba Wildlands

Mixedwood Forest Society

Nanuq Foundation

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Paddle Manitoba

Planners Network Manitoba

Prairie Rivers Cohousing

Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Inc.

Project Peacemakers

Pumpkin Creek Faire Inc.

Red River Basin Commission

continued on next page...

Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition
Rockwood Environmental Action Community
Taskforce
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Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.
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Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg-
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Cooperative

South Eastman Transition Initiative
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The Forks
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Frog Box
Green Please
Red River College
Tall Grass Prairie
Tire Stewardship Manitoba
Urban Eatin' Gardeners' Co-op
Manoverboard

Funders & Contributors

Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to thank the generous individual donors and supporters in our community, and acknowledge the following organizations which have made grants, donations or gifts-in-kind over the past year.

Core Services

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

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Youth in Philanthropy – Vincent Massey Collegiate

Mountain Equipment Co-op

Eco Journal

Brian Mayes, City Councillor for St. Vital

Manitoba Hydro

M.E.N./T.R.E.E. Legacy Endowment Fund

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Water Caucus

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Environment Canada

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc.

Winnipeg Foundation

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

City of Selkirk

Manitoba Environmental Youth Network

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Youth in Philanthropy – Dakota Collegiate

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Youth in Philanthropy is a program of The Winnipeg Foundation

Manitoba Hydro

International Environmental Youth
Corp-ECO Canada

Organic Lawn Care

Government of Manitoba, Green Team

City of Winnipeg – Parks and Open Spaces Division – Greenspace

LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics

Volunteers

Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to express our gratitude to the many volunteers who have made this year possible.

Your contributions have made an immeasurable impact.

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM VISION & MISSION

To provide opportunities to engage our community members, and encourage them to deepen their connection with, commitment to, and understanding of, local environmental issues.

To build capacity and strengthen the organization by utilizing the skills and knowledge of those community members who wish to donate their time.

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Ryan Sigmundson, Organic Lawn Care Educator



Staff and volunteer appreciation lunch



Halloween 2013 Back row: Kristine Koster, Ellen Cobb-Friesen, Garth Hardy, Curt Hull, Front row: Susan Lindsay, Ani Terton, Megan Krohn

Contractors

Sheldon Birnie Eco Journal Editor.
Scott Cairns, IT Systems Manager,
Computer Service Group of Winnipeg
Andrea Davis, Water Caucus Research Assistant

Digital Skills Youth Internship

Brenden Fortescue



**WE EDUCATE, WE FACILITATE,
WE CELEBRATE!**

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