

PHOTO: RYAN LUCENKIW

By OURS-Winnipeg

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG'S ICONIC TREE CANOPY is in crisis due to disease, climate change and chronic under-funding. October's unprecedented storm displayed the challenges extreme weather can place on the urban forest and the need for its stable funding and care. The city's forestry budget has not allowed for adequate disease management. Major shortfalls have occurred for more than a decade with a 2019 department-identified shortfall of \$7.61 million. Tree planting and pruning fall well below industry best practices. As a result, we are losing our canopy.

It is difficult to absorb the enormity of the urban forest crisis. The City of Winnipeg is at risk of losing all of its ash trees due to the emerald ash borer. The city estimates the total value of Winnipeg's 357,385 ash trees to be over \$1.5 billion (making up one third of our tree canopy) and is forecast to be gone in the next 10 to 20 years.

Imagine parks, river corridors and neighbourhoods that are hotter, dustier, noisier, fewer birds, more flooding, and windier. That is what we can expect in our not too distant future. In fact, it is already happening. The number of trees that have had to be removed due to disease has been

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trending up over past years and the number of replacement trees and new plantings haven't come close to filling the gap.

The City of Winnipeg Climate Action Plan acknowledges that increasing and preserving the tree canopy, including new neighbourhoods, is a key strategic opportunity for community climate resiliency. This is something residents of our entire city can collectively care about.

The urban canopy infrastructure has not been recognized by the city as a budget priority with further reductions identified for the Urban Forest Enhancement program for 2021 to 2025 in the 2020 multi-year budget. The urban canopy has a value, provides services and is a capital asset that grows over time. The "Every Tree Counts" Report for the City of Toronto estimated that for every dollar spent on annual maintenance of the urban forest it returns anywhere from \$1.35 – \$3.20 worth of benefits and cost savings each year. Truly an investment in the urban forest provides good value.

Considering the threats our canopy is facing from disease (such as Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, and cottony ash psyllid), climate change and more, and the irreplaceable value of our mature trees, the city needs to take immediate action.

Residents' Associations, GlenElm, OURS-Winnipeg, and neighbourhood groups have responded to the threat by working together to ask the City of Winnipeg to increase the budget for the Urban Forestry Branch to maintain the existing canopy and to plant new trees.

Our neighbourhood trees and the entire urban forest in Winnipeg are in crisis. We need everyone in Winnipeg to help out by participating in OURS-Winnipeg's Save Our Canopy campaign.

What you can do:

- Go to www.saveourcanopy.com to email Mayor Bowman and your councillor.
- Share on social media, using the hashtags **#saveourcanopy**, **#winnipegpoli** and **#winnipeg**.

The more people we have reaching out to our elected officials, the louder our voice for Winnipeg's trees will be. 🌿

Pam Lucenkiw, Co-chair, OURS-Winnipeg

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Message from the Executive Director

By Glen Koroluk

Dear Supporters and Friends of the Manitoba Eco-Network,

I HOPE YOU HAD A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, may 2020 become a turning point for you. Since starting this position as executive director in January of 2019, the organization has had some challenges. Our four year core funding agreement was not renewed with the provincial government which has led to the loss of our programs. The good news, is that we have a dedicated board of directors, many volunteers, a lot of great ideas and more importantly, a community that cares about the Manitoba Eco-Network and the work it does. Our Strategic Plan has just been completed, with participation of many of you out there. We will be providing an overview of the Plan at our upcoming AGM, Tuesday February 11 at noon. Any organization or member-at-large wanting to join our dynamic Board of Directors, please give me a call. In closing, I am humbled with the donation response we have been receiving from our friends and supporters. Your financial support will help keep the Manitoba Eco-Network a relevant and viable organization that connects people with organizations and resources, advocates for progressive environmental policy change and generally facilitates positive environmental awareness. However, we are not out of the water yet. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please consider the Manitoba Eco-Network as your favorite organization for 2020!

Sincerely,
Glen Koroluk



PHOTO: WFFRIESEN,
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Time to Move Forward with Respect

By Marcel Hardisty



FOR ALMOST A YEAR, Camp Morningstar has nurtured a sacred fire on Hollow Water First Nation traditional territory in order to provide balanced information to counter the one-sided proposals and outdated scientific research presented by Canadian Premium Sand (CPS). We have been silenced, lost our jobs, and ignored, but we are still here.

The crux of our concerns is the ability of an Indian Act chief to abrogate Treaty rights with the stroke of a pen before consulting with the people. Those rights, as well as the consultation rights that are due to us under the Constitution, were waived without letting the membership know. These are communal rights. As such, the community must be consulted first. What took place is wrong and, we think, open to litigation.

To date we have lobbied the Crown and Manitoba Sustainable Development according to their procedures for review of the Environment Application.

In the Manitoba First Nations Mineral Development Protocol, the Manitoba Government calls upon the "...corporate sector to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands."

It's not happening. It will never happen until relationships between industry, the government regulators, and First Nations have improved. Elders complain about the lack of respect for protocol that honours Traditional agreement making. Essentially, nobody asks the people. Meet the

Elders? Tick a box. Have one community meeting that falls into disarray because the cottagers have never had a chance to consult? Tick a box. It goes on. Relationships are not built on ticked boxes.

CPS's Application was a hot mess. Incomplete studies describing threats to water, air, and land used old data. That was disrespectful to the people here. They figured we wouldn't understand them. Sustainable Development held the company's feet to the fire and granted a license with 92 conditions. For the conditions I am grateful. But everyone has missed the point.

The point is respect. Respect for our way of reaching agreements that have worked since time immemorial. Respect for the intangible that does not fit into some government checklist on consultation, but is the core of our culture.

Indigenous scholar, Leanne Simpson refers to the challenges of incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into review processes. It is now standard practice that Elders are interviewed, their observations on wildlife, the land and water are listed in tables and charts. But traditional worldview doesn't work that way. Just as drops of water cannot be separated into those that are in lakes, streams, ocean and atmosphere, traditional knowledge and relationships cannot be separated and dropped into a chart. Yet today's process of consultation does just that.

I am grateful for Sustainable Development's attempts to include our concerns in the license conditions. They require that the Licencee "...with guidance from local Indigenous communities, undertake surveys for traditional use plant species used for medicinal or cultural purposes within the

project area...and implement appropriate mitigation measures." Also, "...the Licencee shall work with local Indigenous communities to identify where Indigenous members practice ceremonial and customary land practices in close proximity to the project area of the Development".

This poses our greatest challenge. The Hollow Water community created an alternative restorative justice program that served both victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse, using traditional approaches. The very same tract of land that has already been clearcut for the massive sand cleaning plant was a center for ceremony in the healing journey.

Returning to the land to heal also meant returning to the stories, in particular the creation stories. We have kept them secret. Too much was destroyed and stolen by the people who govern through the Indian Act with oppressive policies that were designed to kill the Indian in the Child. But they couldn't. We are still here. At one time we were jailed for practicing ceremonies. So we buried our rattles and drums on the islands, telling the Priest we were going blueberry picking. When returning to the land became such an important part of our healing, the first thing we did was to take our people back to their spiritual home, known today as Black Island. We shared the stories of our ancestors; stories that start with the sand.

The silica sand of this unique landscape is central to Ojibwe spirituality. It is like the stars in the milky way. We come from the stars and we return to them. That is our belief. As a way of honouring that link, sand was used in burial rituals - placed on the ground around the deceased to guide them home to their place among the stars with their ancestors.

When the thunderbirds come in the summer, they visit their nest on Black Island, and when lightning strikes the sand on the mainland it makes special stones that are used in rattles. Inside the sweatlodge these stones light up within the rattle. Sacred stones, sand, and stars.

So here we are. Sustainable Development has made an effort at reconciliation. Their way. Now we need people to spend time with us. To reconcile this environmental review process experience. Come to the sacred fire at Camp Morning Star. Hear the sacred stories for yourself. Join us in the sweatlodge. Listen to the ancestors. Tell us how we can move forward with respect. It is time. We need to talk 🌱

Marcel Hardisty is with the Community Holistic Circle Healing Program, Hollow Water First Nation. To support Camp Morning Star <https://campmorningstar.com/>



Starting with Students

By Divya Sharma



IS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability achievable in our world today? Am I capable of living past the age of 50? Is reversing global warming still a possibility? Unfortunately, these are all questions that today's youth are obligated to ask themselves on a daily basis. Many would ask; why are youth so concerned about these issues, when we should be focused upon our education, sports and other extracurriculars. Although we SHOULD be focusing on being kids, the bitter truth is that WE are the ones who have to fix these issues and live with the ongoing environmental problems in our world. Furthermore, as we try to focus on our education and other obligations, we are forced to think about solutions to our environmental crisis or if we even have a future at all.

I am grateful and proud to say that at my school, Fort Richmond Collegiate, we are able to gain knowledge, as well as make an impact in our community when it comes to the environment. I believe in today's world, youth should have a huge say in what goes on with OUR Earth. At FRC, we are able to practice our right to speak out and participate in climate action through several mediums; two of them being Earth Club and Green Thumbs Club. These two extraordinary student led clubs are run by an exceptionally passionate individual, Mrs. Megan Johnson. Her drive is so contagious, that it has united over 30 students

“ I believe in today's world, youth should have a huge say in what goes on with OUR Earth.

to connect and volunteer their time with others who want to make a change!

Initiatives such as Earth Club and Green Thumbs Club enable students from various ethnicities and backgrounds to closely engage with their community and carry out positive interactions with the environment. This provides excellent opportunities for students like myself, to understand the world that we live in first hand. Encouraging youth to get informed and educating them is crucial to help the Earth. These clubs act as resources to promote awareness around issues that the student body may not be aware of and act upon them. Recently Earth Club held a bake sale to raise funds for the Amazon Rain-Forest. Not only did this fundraiser benefit the Amazon, but the students also had a chance to improve their communication skills, entrepreneurial ability and organization skills. I was amazed to see the change a simple activity can make in a school.

Green Thumbs is all about making our school campus a nature haven. This truly does benefit our community, especially the students as it makes it extremely convenient for them to enjoy nature and develop an appreciation for the environment. The students have numerous ways to input and contribute as we plan projects,

Autumn Sedum plants grown by the green thumbs club to benefit the nature and butterflies.



PHOTO: CHRISTINA LOCKIE

garden, plant flowers, trees, tomatoes and other vegetables around the school. About a month ago we were harvesting tomatoes as winter was approaching fast. We then realized there was a surplus of the luscious roma tomatoes. To benefit our community we decided to provide our school canteen staff with freshly harvested tomatoes. These delicious tomatoes were later turned into soup and made available for the students to enjoy.

That's not all! There is much more to this 6 year ongoing journey. We have accomplished so much in just a span of two months. What excites me the most is that, this only my first year being a part of this initiative and I have something to look forward to each and every time we come together. Something that we have recently arranged and are looking forward to implementing, would definitely be a pollinator garden to our campus during the spring season. This is just one of the projects that the community can look forward to!

These little things clearly prove that as long as you are willing to make a difference, regardless of your age, gender or background you CAN achieve change. This is only possible if everyone comes together and makes an effort to positively impact the community. There are so many ways to make this possible, whether that is doing bake sales, planting tomatoes or even starting your own Earth Club! 🌱

Divya Sharma is a student at Fort Richmond Collegiate

Embrace Change... Not Just Climate Change

Refrigerant gases are among most potent GHGs

By Mark Miller, Executive Director of the Manitoba Ozone Protection Association

MANY PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE that the most common refrigerant gases used in everything from store ice cream and perishable food coolers, household refrigerators and freezers, air conditioners, water coolers and even dehumidifiers are among the most potent greenhouse gases, thousands of times as powerful and harmful to the climate cycle as carbon dioxide. Many people also do not know that the first United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director was from Manitoba, Mr. Maurice Strong, one of the lead proponents of the Earth Summit, 1992 in Rio. Manitobans are making an impact on climate solutions for the world!

With this in mind and throughout this past year, MOPIA has aggressively expanded its capacity to be involved in climate change mitigation throughout remote northern regions of Manitoba. First Nations and other northern communities for the first time have a solution to manage abandoned and out of use equipment that contains these harmful refrigerant gases. MOPIA is training community members about the environmental impact and regulatory responsibilities of how best to recover these refrigerant gases.

As a not-for-profit organization, MOPIA's team is focussed on protecting and conserving our natural heritage, as well as, ensuring a clean, safe and sustainable environment for present and future generations. With ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and halocarbons being a significant contributor to climate change, MOPIA is leading the charge to assist communities and industry in being better stewards of these GHGs.

Every industry sector has to better take responsibility for their environmental footprint. Further, being good stewards of refrigerant gases and other halocarbons is estimated to mitigate climate change by up to 1 degree Celsius. The Montreal Protocol, embraced universally by 197 nations around the world is the world's most successful environment treaty. The recent Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol, took effect on January 1, 2019 and it alone has among the most significant progres-

sive climate protection impact ever. It mandates the gradual elimination of high GHG hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), used widely in all types of air conditioning equipment. New alternative gases will replace these which are emerging with minimal climate impact.

MOPIA participated actively at the 31st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 31) held in November at Rome, Italy. Besides meeting with representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme and many UNEP implementing agencies and the Lead delegates with Environment and Climate Change Canada, MOPIA hosted a side-event profiling actions being taken in Manitoba on climate change. This information was very well received.

Mark Miller, MOPIA Executive Director, brought forth a highly sensitive question that many have never raised for panelists and participants of a side-event at the 31st Meeting of the Parties. Miller asked "Why are the refrigerant (chemical) manufacturers not held responsible for the end of life stewardship of these potent climate change gases?" Participants of the event shared this viewpoint and portrayed that the manufacturers are multinational powerhouses that have political influence and the disposition to sell their products without this type of responsibility, not unlike the plastics/packaging industry and many others. That's not to say this should not change.

While climate change is an increasing issue in Manitoba, MOPIA also recognizes the climate vulnerability that affects densely populated and less developed regions internationally. From an emergence of climate refugees to distressed crop yields, flooding and all the vulnerabilities of climate change, MOPIA extended our hand of expertise to many developing nations at MOP 31. MOPIA is creating potential international connections for future projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the world. MOPIA's approach to climate change mitigation is seen as an approach developing nations are interested to learn and duplicate. For this, Manitoba will be held high in the international arena and a source of expertise for the world.



PHOTO: MOPIA

Check out these links for more information on The Montreal Protocol and UNEP.

<https://ozone.unep.org/>

<https://www.unenvironment.org/ozonaction/who-we-are/about-montreal-protocol>

www.mopia.ca



Reuse Revolution

By Nicole Roach, Greenpeace Winnipeg



IT IS NO SECRET THAT PLASTIC POLLUTION is one of the major environmental issues of our time.

It is an issue that cannot be solved by industry-led solutions, such as; recycling, compostable plastics, and/or paper packaging. In Canada, 3 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced annually with only 9% being sent to recycling facilities. Additionally, these alternative packaging solutions risk shifting the problem to forests and agricultural land to produce more disposable packaging.

These “solutions” will not get us out of this plastic crisis, as they do not address the root cause of **single-use and disposable packaging**.

The only solution is to reduce the production of disposable items at the source.

It is essential for large manufacturers and retailers to innovate in order to deliver products to consumers in a way that eliminates the need for disposable packaging. Most of the solutions are already being used in bulk shops, zero-waste stores, farmers markets, and local groceries; they just need to be scaled to meet the needs of large manufacturers and retailers.

These product delivery solutions can include, but are not limited to;

- Unpackaged produce and other goods;
- Reusable containers and packaging;

- Container deposit and return programs;
- Bulk foods;
- Refill stations;
- And many more!

It isn't only grocery stores and retailers that play a role in changing these product delivery systems, as we must also consider manufacturers.

There are many multinational manufacturers of consumer products, such as; Nestlé, PepsiCo, Unilever and Procter & Gamble, who have more than enough money and resources to drive innovation and change these systems. Although some are making strides to test filling stations and limit packaging, they are not doing nearly enough to ditch their disposable models.

To demand action from retailers and manufacturers, Greenpeace Winnipeg local group joined in the national campaign, #ReuseRevolution. This campaign demanded bulk, refillable, and reusable options at grocery stores by leaving behind small placards which read; “I wish this product was offered in bulk”, “I wish this product was unpackaged”, and “I wish this product was offered in reusable packaging”. We placed these placards on products that were excessively packaged and could easily be delivered in bulk and/or a more sustainable way.



PHOTOS: NICOLE ROACH

“ It is essential for large manufacturers and retailers to innovate in order to deliver products to consumers in a way that eliminates the need for disposable packaging.

We visited three grocery stores in Winnipeg; Safeway, Superstore, and Walmart. At each store, we placed our placards and requested to speak to the store manager regarding plastic packaging and refillable options available. This is how it went;

SAFEWAY

This specific location has been going through renovations, which has presented a valuable opportunity for them to implement plastic reduction systems. After we went through the store with our placards, we visited customer service to speak with the manager. When we first introduced ourselves and presented the topic we wanted to discuss, they were quite put off and hesitant to engage. However, we were able to discuss the positive steps they were taking to reduce their plastic waste, which made for a meaningful conversation.

The store is expanding its bulk food section to be 4x the size it is currently. It will be full of bulk health foods, which are promised to be cheaper than their packaged counterparts. The store management has also been strategic in reducing plastic bag dispenser stations throughout the produce section and have been placing additional reusable produce bags throughout.

The managers were helpful and allowed us to leave our flyer and letter from Greenpeace Canada. We look forward to seeing the new bulk food sections and further environmental initiatives this location takes.

WALMART

We entered our local Walmart and were immediately overwhelmed by the amount of packaging. It seemed that nearly everything we saw was pre-packaged in unnecessary plastic.

We decided to stick to the food section of the Walmart Super Centre, as we feared we would not have enough placards to tackle the rest of the store. Once we were finished, we made our way to customer service where we expressed our need to speak to the store manager about plastic packaging and the transition towards more bulk, refillable, and unpackaged options. The staff did not want to engage with us, passing us along to several people before we were told that the manager was on break. A staff member called the manager, which advised us that we could only file a complaint online.

We were also not allowed to leave our flyer or letter.

SUPERSTORE

We left several cards throughout the produce section and were quite pleased to come across an expansive bulk food section. It included candies, nuts, seeds, baking supplies, and much more.

When we approached customer service, they promptly called over a manager to have a conversation with us. The manager was very positive, very engaged, and wanted to know more ways to improve their location from a sustainability perspective. She expressed that they hear complaints from customers on this issue ALL THE TIME and this area is ready to make the transition and expand their bulk offerings. Although this was positive, it was brought to our attention that corporate was looking to take out some of their bulk food section to put in place additional packaged items.

The bulk food manager was happy to take our flyers and letter from Greenpeace Canada. However, it is evident that individual locations only have so much authority to address these issues.

In Summary

Overall, it was a valuable experience for our team to have a more in-depth understanding of the systems in place which are contributing to our plastic crisis. It appears that many of our local managers are knowledgeable, environmentally-minded individuals, however, they are unable to implement a lot of the changes they want to because of manufacturers and the corporate entities which they are a part of.

It is clear that these issues need to be solved at the top. If we take enough action across the country, our message will reach them.

The reuse revolution is already on its way.





Trees Please!

By Lisa Forbes

TREES ARE IN THE NEWS – Winnipeg's unusual fall storm's 30,000 damaged trees, combined with a triple tree insect infestation, and huge climate change-fighting tree planting initiatives across the globe make this a time of both disaster and hope. Well, add one more to the 'hope' tally. Late this fall, Winnipeggers representing resident and community groups gathered to discuss its urban canopy, the threats against it, and possible solutions.

Winnipeg is on a course to lose 30% of its trees in the next 15 years to insects and disease. This requires an effort for the entire urban forest, and from multiple sectors – the three governments, community groups, and private citizens. Bolstered by a successful first year of a public/community tree-planting initiative, the Boulevard Tree project committee of the Glenelg Neighbourhood Association reflected on the benefits – and limitations of projects such as theirs. Utilizing the Land Dedication Reserve, the City, the Association, and an arborist company collaborated to add 53 boulevard trees to their neighborhood. The project will continue next year. The Tree Project committee wondered if other resident groups were interested as well, not only in smaller neighbourhood greening initiatives, but in lobbying governments to turn the tide by increasing resources to the city's chronically underfunded Urban Forestry department.

Given the upcoming budget processes of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada, the group decided to form an ad hoc coalition with a focus on lobbying for increased funding as its first venture. In late winter, the residents/community groups will gather again to discuss types of community tree planting projects and other initiatives from helping homeowners to lobbying for changes to City policies and by-laws.

The City of Winnipeg's Urban Forestry Branch needs long term funding to implement a sustainable reforestation action plan for the entire City to avoid ecological disaster and mitigate the effects of climate change. Winnipeg's urban elm forest, the largest in North America, is an irreplaceable and international treasure. We must act together to press all levels of government to make trees a priority in our City.

Investing in trees today makes good financial sense. The urban forest is an essential part of the city's infrastructure and offers significant returns on everything from increased



Broken and fallen trees in Wolseley after the fall storm.

PHOTO: TRACEY O'NEIL

property taxes and reduced energy costs to flood mitigation.

The Trees Please Coalition invites citizens to sign coalition member Outdoor Urban Recreation Space Winnipeg's letter email/petition to your Winnipeg councillor and Mayor

Bowman about funding urban trees at <https://saveourcanopy.com>. For more information on the coalition's ideas about why and how to fund urban forestry, as well as more news about the Trees Please campaign please go to www.glenelg.ca/trees-please/.



KRISTIAN ENRIGHT IS A POET RESIDING IN WINNIPEG where he has been educated in the schools of life and art, and he is writing a long poem about the prairies that is begun in the text *Post Modern Weather Report*, a book that begins in a rural setting that will lead to the city directly in later phases. This aforementioned titled book is based on modern ecological consciousness, a general theme explored variously in the poems in the journal you are reading. Kristian also is training to be a teacher of English as an Additional Language, works as an editor and as an Events Facilitator at McNally Robinson Booksellers. He is also working on an environmental play called *Pipelines*.

ALARM BELL LEAF TEST MISSED

"It" had not reached us yet, this land-locked urban island protected by languorous distances, thought it had nefarious intimations to the aware. There was foreshadowing, mascara on a wayward eye so heavy that it just looked down. Now, we see a tragedy.

What art-form serves as image for the clouds that spit what they chewed as with critics who, in their minds once flew and now sate in arm chairs having seen a tragedy and must now chew matters over.

Acid rain would be natural to digest, inside these new "clouds": full of tenuous umbilici lightning, of tornados seeming to be fractals a baroque spin on them as if the mouth and tongue were one. See a weather vane shrug/even if of a rust pterodactyl, its imagined fossil fuels much paradoxical energy: cloud bubble thoughts cast on all of these entities, mixing the absurd with the fresh. But, today

The onomatopoeic "crack" signalled a tragic cuckold horn of plenty, and the street puddles recall the defective romantic avant guardedness of trees that reflect on very slow action, a bureaucrat in their centers who is sensual, undulates. And they ponder war as in *Much Ado About Nothing*, of a war we only hear of, as if consequence could be danced away in wit by people who are spies of insight. That play title was a premise, by the way: some were just worrying into a sentimentalism with not enough aesthetic. Yet, the air is developing a series of slowly forming bombs. Today, testing.

The trees, that may send a brigade of blinding leaves that march like fledglings, stepping on all sorts of mixed metaphors only to embody them, give ambitiously weird resonances: a small wave of defamiliarization that defamiliarizes itself. Trees are didactic of the following facts that we ought tell the kids in English class, and have linger with them half-way to biology class:

An idea central to romanticism was finding everything in another being, and after a hippie is extracted from a tree, the tree could be exemplary and ideal of this premise. To enumerate: the tree gives a small empire of shade, a calloused spine, a pillar of nature which abstractly holds the sky up, yields paper and lumber. And, in the sfumato shade one could read Hallmark cards all day, of statements from the obscure to universal:

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LACKING A VIRGIL: SLOW READ OF PURGATORY

You, fledgling, know so little about nature, being an urban dweller: it was like a nude beach, were it not for all the elm bark, that seems a calloused person about to burst, no longer a posing pillar of their community.

Of Dante's work, you could only register dizziness, what the structure left on you: a massive impression, full of ghosts who need no directions. But someone told you about burrs in an aside, as on a path you see non-linearly.

I find the bones of a fox and am a gatherer of a hunter. But the trees seem to lean on me, as if longing to be made into crutches, and they keep telling me that to them a whisper is of decorum as when you say "autumn" (as ants carry a leaf, like a first naive monument) or that the mud on the path is a boa constrictor who nibbles shoes. But, it may be your fancy to have a vulture come and eat out of your hand. Well, first, yes: and then they will take any body-part, and you see this as flattery, that you are a proverbial Isaac Newton who is eating fig Newtons, leaving plastic behind as if a figment for those of modest monuments...

Yet, nature may have the prescience to discern that you will be lovely dirt one day, that there is a lovely brown shawl for you. Nature's bureaucrat of the fallen leaves, you like the bureaucrat's coffee break of dirt grind in the filter of parchment, of which there's a new text: (birch-seaming, our reading of the parch-meaning plastic non-healing and hieroglyphics gleaming).

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Alarm Bell cont'd...

First the leaf page turner as you seek the moment a tree became symbol for steeples in general, and the branches' shadow also infrastructure for the futile roads of philosophers and explorers exposed on them. The collection you are reading almost proves reincarnation exists in nature. Today,

It would seem that a huge cold canvass owned by an oppressive sculptor fell from the sky, as if a final game of Tetris
to be followed by coffin, after mattress.

The gnarled near-fingers of the branches reach the canvas's surface and the leaves are a smudge of paint on invisible fingers from what should be there: Autumn's palate of a furtive flesh, yes, its mixed metaferocity. But the heavy cold stays on these extensions as if on Antoinette's cake, vampire of icicle or candle, and the world announced the way we are to be connected in a series of chaotic becomings.

This "crack" I speak of was a defamiliar bell going off in the pagan pantheistic universe, signalling that it was time to enter your back yard's private green cathedrals, weeding yourself from your chair to step into rarified air.

An out-of-fashion-monger came with a plastic bag--
a jelly fish of our air--and that sound was the way, It, climate change came for my memory, and the trees were augurs who gave up even as their roots were in a sense already buried: say something of them that is not sleepy at this funeral that is everywhere, the pipe-work of sky,
a buttress of broke becoming, these branches should fall into your living rooms to become Christmas trees. It was all an example of how the sky
is capable of falling:

And to be so intentionally distant from music, as we think of this strain—
even if it was how Beethoven (in angry mood) would use modern percussion.

If only a single, incredibly red leaf had fallen on someone's eye who was important and in the media. The trees felt that leaf, but their blame is inconceivable.

But some say the fallen branches
are now a decadent conductor of all the teeming violent leaves now more burning colours.



<< continued from page 9

Lacking a Virgil cont'd...

Oh, to be a person of the mud, a sort of decadent! You like the idea of the rain playing the ivory of your bone fingers. But the trees would look down on the slaughter of wood and the banshee-esque
weaving of wires...A tree is a slow motion epiphany of a person awakening away from our arrogance of projection. The flowerless dirt itself is a bureaucracy filing "personification" away

In a file with "flower's conceit" done to keep everything in nature "simple" in a time we thought
we were distinct, an egregious braille of deconstructed material: read softly, implied. Press in the great dirt text till your fingers vanish, give you pause/ like a wolf that stops and looks at your pose--
a Henry David Thoreau, over-sophisticated cowboy—images of humans can crush even the worms:

They too are the fingers who are sorting out these files, but note that they
are very much translators and surely we know enough of this weaving art to consider its losses and conceits. The worms have long made fictions into myths, and yet,
as they work, I think of them as sculptors, and that the deeper they work, the more they represent our tenuous grasp of the world around us—an impossible pearl for their eyes as they work:

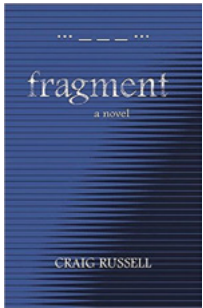
Like miners that are secret mystics that care not for useless gold and its excesses:

They know dirt is richer.



Are you a member of the Manitoba civil service or the federal civil service and want to support environmental initiatives in our province? If so, it's very easy for you to make regular donations to the Manitoba Eco-Network through your government charitable campaigns. The All Charities Campaign <http://allcharitiescampaign.ca/index.html> for current and retired provincial civil servants allows the donor to decide which charities they want their donations to go to. The Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/charitable.html> allows the same thing. So if you're concerned about environment issues and want to do something, supporting the work of the Manitoba Eco-Network can be as easy as designating some of your charitable dollars through your workplace campaign!

Book Overview: Fragment by Craig Russel



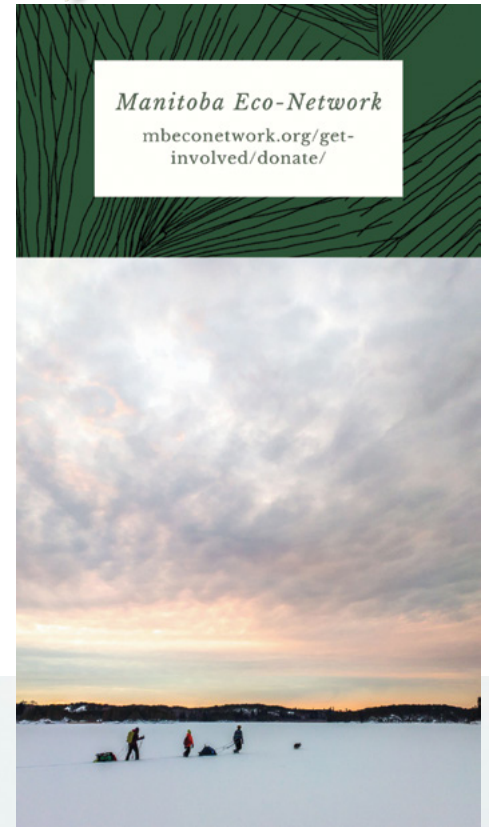
Fragment. (Published in 2016 by Saskatoon's Thistle Down Press.)

Fragment was a 2018
Manitoba Book Awards finalist.

WHEN AVALANCHING GLACIERS THRUST A MASSIVE ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET INTO THE OPEN OCEAN, the captain of an atomic submarine must risk his vessel to rescue the survivors of a smashed polar research station; in Washington the President's top advisor scrambles to spin the disaster to suit his master's political aims; and meanwhile two intrepid newsmen sail south into the storm-lashed Drake Passage to discover the truth.

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