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Closing the Loop on Waste Wood

By Bruce Maclean

Shaun Murphy is on a mission to rescue waste wood that would otherwise go to landfill by reusing it in creative ways. His company, Lumber Lovers, recycles wood scrap into compost bins and other articles. Not only does this reduce the amount of wood going to the dump, it creates a product that enables the diversion of food and yard waste as well. And waste diversion is certainly a niche that needs filling in Manitoba.

Back in 1990 the provinces got together to discuss ways of diverting the stream of waste going to landfills. They set a target of a 50 percent reduction by the year 2000. Unfortunately Manitoba has not met with much success, managing to reduce waste by only 11 percent. Nova Scotia, the only province to meet the objective at an impressive 70 percent diversion rate, was where Shaun Murphy formulated his idea to recycle Winnipeg's waste wood.

Better living environment

Shaun's personal motivation is making it happen. He has a strong leaning to the blue collar, is a musician and canoeist. He and his partner Joy are determined to create a better living environment for their new son Ben and the goal with Lumber Lovers is waste diversion—specifically sparing forests and minimizing energy use. Although Shaun started his business with nothing more than a hammer, a hand saw and a pick up truck, his business is expanding. He now has a dedicated employee (Karl Ratchinsky) and is branching out from composters to other wood-cycling projects. These include building greenhouses and providing fencing for the Folk Festival (which is sparing pine forests in Mexico). Shaun is also providing the material for a proposed bison patterned viewing platform at the Forte Whyte Center.

Waste diversion pilot project

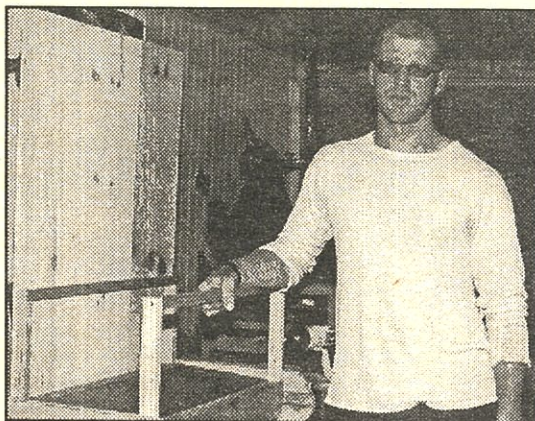
Shaun is also beginning a pilot project at the Brady landfill to assess the composition of wood waste entering the landfill and to determine how much of it can be recycled.

His vision is a multi-use collective at the landfill to handle wood waste. The poorest quality wood would be chipped, some would go for a variety of other projects and the best wood, would be used to build compost bins on the spot. There would be vermicomposting at the site as well as information on how to compost in your own backyard.

Sean's idea is good. So good in fact that the City is calling him for advice on how to label the newly created wood dumping area within the Brady landfill confines. He is currently working on a proposal to occupy a City-owned site close to the landfill.

Barriers to Waste Reduction

There are major barriers to be overcome in attempting to take a serious chunk out of what goes to landfill. The low cost of waste disposal in the capital region reduces economic incentive to minimize or reuse waste. Despite high volumes of wood waste produced by industry in Winnipeg and a healthy market for recycled pallets, there is enormous untapped potential.



Shaun Murphy with a 'wood-cycling' item in progress

Radical steps

Shaun's vision involves some more radical steps toward a sustainable society. He is hopeful though and visionary and would like to see an environmental levy or fee of 20 dollars/ton of waste imposed, with the money collected used to promote waste reduction programs. The goal would be a more cyclical economy, rather than the linear throughput of resources that characterizes the current system. Things like old-fashioned milk delivery using glass bottles carried on bikes, bulk food markets and more innovative co-operative businesses that use waste products as a raw material for their products. Shaun is able to see the potential in waste, and the possibility of a closed loop when it comes to resources. Recycled wood becomes a compost bin that produces fertilizer for the soil, which helps to grow food, with the organic wastes put back into the compost bin. Closing these loops is an important part of reducing the energy we use and the wastes we produce.

Compost bins available

Compost bins, built to specifications set out by Resource Conservation Manitoba and made from 100% recycled materials are on sale for ~ \$65 and can be obtained by calling Shaun at Lumber Lovers 772-3053.

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own and do not represent the views of the
Manitoba Eco-Network or its member groups.

Thanks and Welcomes

The Eco-Network wishes to thank long-
term outgoing Steering Committee mem-
ber, Steve Rauh of Campaign for Pesticide
Reduction! Winnipeg. After serving for a
number of years as Treasurer of the MEN,
Steve is moving on to become a member
of the new Transitional Board of the Ca-

nadian Environmental Network. We wish
him all the best in this new endeavour.

Welcome to incoming Steering Com-
mittee members, Larissa Ashdown of Eco-
logical Males and Females in Action (at
the U of W), and Amy Hawkins-Bowman
of the Organic Food Council of Manitoba.

Getting the Lawn Off Drugs

Manitoba Eco-Network is happy to be
able to offer public workshops on Pesti-
cide Free Lawn Care again this summer.
Utilizing resources and a workshop for-
mat developed last year, summer staff
Tanya McFadyen and Jennifer Heinrichs
will be at 18 different city sites this June
and July offering information on creating
a healthy, chemical-free green space. Ur-
ban Green Team, Human Resources De-
velopment Canada and the City of Win-

nipeg Parks and Open Spaces Division,
as well as Campaign for Pesticide Reduc-
tion! Winnipeg, and Chemical Sensitivi-
ties Manitoba all support this project.

Check out the Eco-Network's web site
for lots of good links and info on organic
lawn care and pesticides in general.

Pesticide Free Lawn Care Resource Kits
are available from the Eco-Network for
just \$5.

Workshop Dates Call 947-6511 to register!

- Thursday June 6 St. Vital Library, 6
Fermor Ave 6:30 pm
- Thursday June 13 St. James Library,
1910 Portage Ave. 6:30 pm
- Tuesday June 18 West Kildonan
Library, 365 Jefferson Ave 6:30 pm
- Wednesday June 19 Centennial
Library 12:30 pm
- Thursday June 20 River Heights
Community Centre, Grosvenor &
Oak 6:30 pm
- Tuesday June 25 Transcona Library
6:30 pm
- Thursday June 27 West Broadway
Neighbourhood Centre, 185 Young
St. 6:30 pm
- Thursday July 4 Fort Whyte Centre -
tentative
- Tuesday July 9 Pembina Trail
Library, 2724 Pembina Hwy 6:30
pm
- Thursday July 11 Henderson
Library, 1-1050 Henderson Hwy.
6:30 pm
- Monday July 15 Cornish Library, 20
West Gate 6:30 pm
- TBA Winnipeg Art Gallery

Eco-Network Steering Committee, 2002-2003

Larissa Ashdown, Eco-MAFIA

Amanda Aziz, University of Manitoba Recycling and Environment Group

Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food Council of Manitoba

Scott Kidd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter

Glen Koroluk, Winnipeg Water Watch

Joseph Prymak, Consumers Organizing for Responsible Energy

John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Eco-Friendly Summer Recreation

By Liz Dykman

How many times have you been walking down a hiking trail, loving the experience of being outdoors, away from any sign of concrete and McCulture, and then been disgusted by the site of garbage left by the previous hiker? The natural area where we make our summer escape may be the image that comes to mind when we think of protecting "the environment". Therefore, we should be even more motivated than usual to act with respect and care when we're camping or cottaging in the great outdoors. Below are some tips to make your summer recreation as eco-friendly as possible!

On the Trail:

Stay on designated trails and walk in single file in the center of the path to avoid trampling trailside plants. Waterproof your boots well before you head out, so that you don't have to make detours if the trail is slightly wet or muddy.

In the Campsite:

Select a level campsite with adequate water runoff. Locate your site at least 100 feet away from natural water sources. Select a site that has already been used, and leave it in as natural a state as possible.

Cooking outdoors:

Use a camping stove or, where permitted, build a fire in an established fire pit and keep your fire small. Gather sticks, no larger than an adult wrist. Put out campfires completely and in the morning, scatter the cold ashes over a large area well away from your campsite.

Garbage:

Minimizing the packaging of what we take camping and to the cottage is just common sense. Since we need to transport all waste back with us in order to dispose of it properly, it makes sense not to bring a tonne of garbage with us in the first place. Before you hit the trail, repackage food into reusable containers. When empty, the containers can hold waste until you can dispose of it properly. Find out if any recycling facilities exist near your vacation spot. Do not burn plastic garbage, or any painted or treated wood.

How to make like a bear in the woods:

Proper toilet etiquette means disposal in a hole at least 20 cm deep, and 20 metres away from any water source or campsite. Sprinkle some lime on waste to help break it down. If you must use toilet paper, put it in a sealed plastic bag and disposed of in town later. Don't leave it in the woods

Washing up:

Do not wash in the lake! For bathing or dishwashing, haul water 60 m from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. A small bowl of water and one baby wipe provide a thorough bath. Strain your dishwater and scatter it or bury it in a hole so it won't attract insects. Use gravel or sand to clean pots and pans.

Use biodegradable phosphate-free soaps at the cottage too. This helps prevent nutrient overload of water bodies, which can

degrade water quality. Check labels or go to your nearest environmental-type store.

How to get about once you're there:

Enjoy non-motorized adventures in a sailboat, canoe, kayak or rowboat. These quiet, peaceful forms of water transportation are non-polluting and allow observation of wildlife without disturbing them. If you must use a motor boat, watch your wake, especially if you're within 150 metres of the shore. Waves cause shoreline erosion and can disrupt wildlife habitat. Never ride all-terrain vehicles or trail bikes along beaches, through marshes, or in other areas where birds nest and breed.

Cottage amenities:

The Loo

If you are currently using a biffy you might consider a composting toilet. There are a number of commercially available models. This is a far less expensive alternative to building a septic system and does not involve the use of chemicals. Many people fear the composting toilet, but I've seen several models in action, and a well-designed system can be an odourless answer to your blackwater disposal issues. See the City Farmer site for some good info and a list of suppliers (www.cityfarmer.org/comptoliet64.html)

Hot Showers

An environmentally friendly way to get a hot shower after being at the lake for a week or so (when even YOU notice that you're getting a little ripe) is a passive solar hot water system. This can be as simple as a clear one side, black on the other container of water in the sun, or a commercially installed system. Solar showers that are simple bags that can be put in a sunny spot and then hung up for your shower are inexpensive and easy to use, and could even be taken camping. Remember of course to use your shower far back from the water's edge.

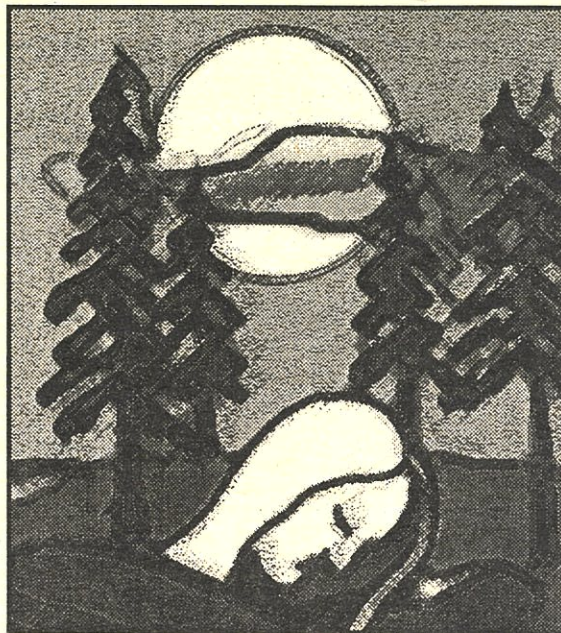
Landscaping:

Keep it natural! The last thing you want to be doing at the cottage is mowing the lawn. Keep your little piece of paradise wild and preserve as much natural habitat as possible. Natural vegetation between your cottage and the water will slow rain runoff and reduce the possibility of sewage organisms and contaminants from entering the water. If trees have been removed in the past, plant new ones, making sure that they are species native to the area.

Take your environmental ethic with you when you head outdoors this summer and treat our natural areas with respect, so that other people and creatures can continue to enjoy them.

With information from Environment Canada <http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/info/articles/ca00s07.en.html>, EarthShare <http://www.earthshare.org/tips/camp2.html> L.L.Bean <http://www.llbean.com/outdoorsOnline/outdoorSports/hiking/tips/lowimpact.html>

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What's Happening

June—Manitoba Naturalist Society Outdoor Program. Bike, hike and canoe events include Caribou Lake, Little Mountain Park, Mcquacker Lake Trail, Prime Meridian Trail, Whitemouth River Trail and more! See www.manitobanature.ca/outdoor for more information, or call the office at 943-9029.

Saturday, June 15—20th annual Peace Walk "A World For People Not War", assemble 11:30 am at the Legislature. Peace Walk begins at Noon; displays, speakers, performers follow the Walk at Memorial Park. Groups are welcome to bring tables. Call Peace Alliance Winnipeg 775-8187 or email projectp@escape.ca for more information.

Saturday June 15—The Western Canada Wilderness Committee(WCWC) is presenting the "Save Our Parks" Music and Awareness Festival at The Forks from 12-9pm on the Oodena stage. Featuring great local acts such as Jake Chenier, Nicky Mehta, Hugo Torres-Cereceda, The Perpetrators, Three Blind Mice, DjZan, Rob Collomb, Jamoeba, and many more. Come one, Come all, Let's Celebrate the Wilderness! Admission is free. Contact WCWC at 942-9292 for more information.

Tuesday, June 18—Eco-Network, Resource Conservation Manitoba and The Climate Action Network present John Bennett of the Sierra Club speaking on Canada's Kyoto Challenge. 7:00pm, Centennial Library. Free admission

June 19, 7:00pm—On to Kananaskis: Voices from the South Call the G8 to Account - Turning the Tables Campaign at Eckhart Gramatte Hall, University of Winnipeg. KAIROS is working with Jubilee South to coordinate a Southern partner's tour in advance of the G8, bringing focus to our key message that the economic model advocated by the G8 is creating multiple moral, social and ecological debts-debts to the Earth, debts to the South, debts to First Nations and debts to future generations. Emily Sikazwe (Women for Change - Zambia), Sarath Fernando, (Movement for National Land and Agricultural Reform - Sri Lanka) and Davie Malungisa (Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development) will be present. Contact: Audrey McClelland at mcclella@mts.net.

June 25—Solidarity Village at Memorial Park. The G8 Organizing Committee invites all organizations in Winnipeg with something to say about building a better world to join together in airing their views. A Spokescouncil / Sharing Circle will be featured, as part of this effort to voice alternatives to the G8 and

neo-liberalism. For further information or to register for a table, please contact David at 943-4316 or dh56@mts.net. The G8 Organizing Committee meets every Wednesday, 6:30pm, at the University of Winnipeg, Bulman Centre mezzanine.

June 17, 6:30pm—Project Peacemakers is meeting at Westminster United Church, Westminster and Maryland, to plan upcoming activities and events for youth and youthful activists. Call Megan at 775-8178 or email projectp@escape.ca to let us know you are coming (veg. pizza, refreshments!).

July and August—Manitoba Naturalist Society Mantario Wilderness Experience Summer Programs. Week long programs on the Mantario, including food, accommodation, canoes and guide services. Topics include birding, astronomy wilderness skills, botany and photography. Cost is \$395 per week. For registration information contact MNS at 943-9029 or mns@escape.ca or see www.wilds.mb.ca/mns/mantario.

July 27-31—Ozone & Sun Awareness Days, Manitoba

July 27—MOPIA Ozone Awareness Forum, Wpg. - Location TBA. For more information call 338-0804 or 1-888-667-4203.

September 16—International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (UN Declaration).

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Climate Action Network's John Bennett to speak in Winnipeg

To learn more about Canada and our Kyoto options, and about climate change policy in general, plan to attend a presentation by John Bennett, Executive director of the Climate Action Network

**7pm Tuesday, June 18,
Centennial Library.**

This event is co-sponsored by
Manitoba Eco-Network, Resource Conservation
Manitoba and the Climate Action Network.

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Major International Conference on Boreal Forest Coming to Winnipeg

Mark your calendar for a unique conference on the Boreal Forest: "Forest of the Northern Lights", to be held in Winnipeg from September 20th to 22nd, 2002. Closed sessions for ENGOs and Indigenous Peoples will follow from the 23rd to 26 in Pinawa, Manitoba. This international event is the biennial meeting of the Taiga Rescue Network and its North American affiliate, the Boreal Forest Network, and will feature a number of speakers reflecting on the complexity of issues confronting scientists, governments, ENGOs, Indigenous Peoples, industry and the general public regarding the world's Boreal Forests.

Major themes of the conference are as follows:

Climate Change: featured speakers include Canada's Dr. David Schindler and Jutta Kill of the Swedish group, Fern. This topic area will explore the value of boreal forests in the regulation of the global climate, carbon sequestration, current and predicted stresses from human impacts, and concerns around the inclusion of sinks in the Kyoto Protocol;

Traditional Knowledge: featured speakers include John Miswaggon, Chief of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation, Outi Jaasko, Saami Reindeer herder and activist from Finland, and Leanne Simpson (Anishinaabeg), Director of Indigenous Environmental Studies at Trent University. This session will look at the relationships between aboriginal knowledge and the Boreal, protecting cultural and biological diversity, and building healthy and sustainable aboriginal nations.

Defining and Protecting: with major speakers, Monte Hummel of the World Wildlife Fund, Dr. Reed Noss, and Dr. Olga Smirnova, a Russian ecologist, will attempt to identify broad-based values, including biodiversity, eco-tourism, giving voice to "frontline" communities, and protected areas in the boreal.

Finally, a theme entitled, From Competing to Co-existing Values will try to develop an alternative vision that includes all the

ideas and values of the other topic areas, spiritual, economic, traditional and environmental.

Featured speakers Elizabeth May, Herb Hammond, Rodion Sulyandziga (an Udege person from the Russian Far East) and others will initiate multi-stakeholder dialogue and promote strategies for the protection of the boreal forests.

Taiga Rescue Network

The Taiga Rescue Network, consisting of 190 organizations in the Boreal Region (which includes Russia, Canada, Scandinavia, the Baltic states and Alaska) is the primary international network of non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and individuals working to defend the world's boreal forests. The Network's mandate is to support local struggles and strengthen the co-operation between all those in the international community concerned with the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the boreal forests by means that ensure the integrity of natural processes and dynamics.

For further information about the Forest of the Northern Lights Conference, contact the Boreal Forest Network (www.borealnet.org) at 204-947-3081 or email: fortheborealforests@hotmail.com

For good background information on some of the current stresses facing the Boreal Forest, see the most recent edition of National Geographic (June 2002) in which writer Fen Montaigne and photographer, Peter Essick team up to present an overview of issues and peoples in the Boreal region. Manitoba is featured in the article with quotes from Boreal Forest Network's Don Sullivan, a photo of Garry Raven (Morningstar) gathering herbs, a sunset on Cross Lake, and a devastating aerial photo of Tembec's wood yard at the Pine Falls Paper Company. Copies of the National Geographic are available from the Boreal Forest Network for \$5 each.

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Open and Controlled Society Conference

By Larry Laliberte

Walking into Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall at the University of Winnipeg at eight in the morning—only a few hours removed from a classic Winnipeg May snowstorm—I did not know what to expect from a conference focusing on access to government information. Up until that point, the only exposure I had to the concept of obtaining confidential government materials was through the statement in newspaper articles that the story was based on documents obtained through the Access to Information Act (ATIA).¹ However, when the flurry of the three day conference was complete, this librarian had a better appreciation of the issues involved in Freedom Of Information (FOI) in Canada.²

OCSC: Improving FOI

While there were many different view points presented throughout the ebb and flow of the conference, one point was agreed upon regardless of affiliation: there are indeed problems with access to government information at both Federal and Provincial levels. What did differ between groups and individuals present were the steps to take in solving these problems. These

steps can be subdivided into four categories, outlined as follows:

Government

The view from inside the government might be best summarized by Andree Delagrave, the chair of the Federal Access to Information Review Task Force.³ By the end of her statistics-filled presentation, Delagrave concluded that what is really needed to enhance FOI in Canada is a change in the "culture of government that promotes accessibility, transparency and accountability." However, it was noted during the question session following Delagrave's presentation that it was ironic to be talking about transparency when there had been no meaningful public consultation during the task force review.

Ombudsman

A second area of change focused on the Information Commissioner of Canada and Provincial Ombudsman positions. The basis of this criticism is that these government "watchdogs" have

see "Access to Information ..." on page 10 ►

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Canada, Kyoto and beyond

by John Bennett, et al., Climate Action Network

On Wednesday, June 19 a multistakeholder consultation on Canada's Kyoto options will be held in Winnipeg as part of a 14-city tour. Invited participants will be asked to comment on the 4 options presented in the Federal government's Discussion Paper on Canada's Contribution to Addressing Climate Change. The paper may be found at www.climatechange.gc.ca. We also have a hard copy in the Library.

The Climate Action Network reminds all Canadians that climate change is a real and present danger for this and future generations. These consultations must never lose sight of the concrete realities of climate change. The impacts are already being felt across Canada, particularly in the north. Melting permafrost, loss of habitat, shrinking polar ice cover, forest fires, droughts and severe storms come with a price we must all pay. The worst is yet to come if we do not act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is imperative to be anchored to this reality as we enter an economic debate that, to date, has not recognized the costs of inaction on climate change nor has it recognized the benefits of action, such as cleaner air and improved public health.

Introduction

This paper outlines some basic principles upon which the Climate Action Network believes Canada's Plan to reach the Kyoto should rest.

The Climate Action Network hopes it will assist environmental groups and individuals across Canada participate meaningfully in the National Stakeholder Consultations about to take place across Canada. Some 900 individuals representing environmental, industry and municipal organizations have been invited to attend workshops in St. Johns, Halifax, Charlottetown, Fredericton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

Those who will not be attending the sessions are being asked to send their comments by email. The Climate Action Network urges all Canadian ENGOs to respond to this consultation process by June 24, 2002. (hill@marbek.ca)

Turning point

The federal-provincial consultation represents a turning point on the issue in Canada. We are no longer talking about if but how we will respond to climate change in Canada. The federal government has issued a discussion paper which will be the basis of the consultation process. It includes the most recent economic analysis and various options for action. The Alberta government responded with its own campaign to take Canada out of the Kyoto Protocol. We will be pressed to accept one of the four federal options and find the Alberta response entirely unworthy of consideration.

The Climate Action Network has looked closely at these options and found them all unacceptable as they are presently formulated. However, we recognize the value of important elements within them. Instead, we seek to construct a more positive option, based on significant reductions in emissions within Canada rather than relying predominately upon the international mechanisms of the protocol as the federal options stipulate.

Principles:

Canada's plan of action on climate change must be developed on the following principles:

PRINCIPLE 1: Canada must take the long-term view to reduce emissions by over 50%.

The Kyoto Protocol was never intended to be more than a starting point on a long path to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The atmospheric scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have concluded that ultimately the world must make significantly higher reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the order 50% to 80% below 1990 levels if we are to prevent catastrophic climate change.

In designing its strategy to reach the Kyoto target of 6% below 1990 levels by 2012 Canada must ensure that actions taken and investments made will not make future reductions more difficult to achieve. Therefore, the plan chosen to reach Kyoto must be seen as the beginning of a much larger and more all encompassing plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We must make wise, longer-term choices now to ensure the best transition for the coming decades.

The four federal options do not recognize the longer term and more significant goal beyond Kyoto. The options apparently are designed to protect and ensure limitless growth of the fossil fuel industry and appear to ignore the science, which clearly links emissions with climate change. This longer-term perspective is another compelling reason for substantive domestic emissions



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reduction actions, rather than extensive purchases of international credits.

PRINCIPLE 2: Ratify the Kyoto Protocol immediately

Climate Change is a global problem that requires a global response. The Kyoto Protocol is the only framework that can put the world on a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Canada has been successful in rewriting the Protocol at the insistence of the Alberta government and pollution intensive industries, gaining extensive credit for sinks and overseas activities. The Kyoto Protocol is the first step in this process. Canada should ratify immediately for international and domestic reasons in addition to the obvious environmental imperatives.

Internationally, Canada must ratify in order to maintain its international status as a trustworthy independent nation which has been the basis of Canadian foreign policy for fifty years. Canada's international reputation is at risk if ratification is further delayed.

Domestically, only by ratifying the Protocol can the federal government marshal the necessary public support and provincial cooperation to address climate change. It has been ten years since Canada signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio and nearly five years since the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in 1997.

Postponing the decision only leads to continuing uncertainty and inaction that is detrimental both environmentally and economically.

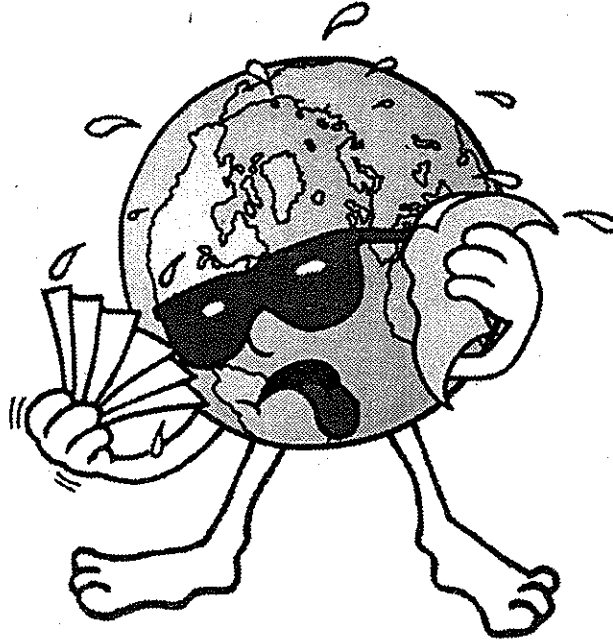
PRINCIPLE 3: Alberta Government 'plan' must be rejected!

The Premier Klein's self-styled 'climate change plan' is unacceptable for both Canada and Alberta and does not merit further consideration as public policy. An Alberta type strategy would lead to significant increases in greenhouse gas emissions not a reduction, would deprive Canadians of the benefits of improved air quality and would increase the cost of reducing emissions for the rest of Canada. Alberta ministers say the Kyoto Protocol's emissions reduction target and implementation timetable is too expensive and technically unreachable. This premise is utterly false. There have been numerous studies that indicate the technology is available and that the cost, if there is a real cost at all, is negligible.

For example, the federal option number three estimates Canada can reach the Kyoto target in 2012 while the economy grows by 30.4% instead of 31% under business as usual conditions. The Alberta economy would grow 26.2% and even the oil and gas sector grows 24.6%. So why would Canada need to look for a plan outside of Kyoto? Why would Alberta?

Moreover, the Alberta plan has a number of questionable aspects the least of which is its basic dishonesty. This dishonesty is what has led the rest of country to reject it. The announced target of minus 10% is for "domestic emissions". This means

the Alberta government intends only to count emissions from activities in the province that are not associated with the export of oil and gas. Those emissions are expected to rise from 42 megatonnes to 73 megatonnes by 2020. Alberta's real emissions target is actually an increase of 28-42%—not a decrease at all. This is not a real departure from business as usual and merely copies the Enron-style reporting employed by President George Bush in his anti-Kyoto Plan.



PRINCIPLE 4: No need for "credits for clean energy exports"!

There is no need or any justification for Canada to demand a 70 megatonne "credit" for clean energy exports. The Kyoto Protocol awards emission reduction credits only for emission reductions action in addition to business as usual. This requires a country to take new actions over and above those that are already ongoing or that would be done anyway. Canada is arguing that because the US imports Canadian natural gas and hydro electricity US emissions are now and will continue to be 70 megatonnes less than if the US used coal to replace this energy. It is an ongoing business as usual practice, and does not merit credit.

Further is not clear that Canadian gas is actually displacing coal-fired power plants. Many experts argue that huge quantities of cheap Canadian gas and Hydro discourage efficiency and renewables use in the US and, in fact, encourage more energy use and therefore more pollution on both sides of the border.

Canada has already received a substantial reduction in its Kyoto Target by forcing the international community to grant a large unearned forest and agricultural sink credits. The concession was granted on the understanding that it would be sufficient to ensure Canadian ratification. As soon as it was granted Canada changed its position and demanded the so called clean energy export credit as well. Should this new loophole be granted (and there is no international support for this Canadian demand) the Kyoto Protocol will lose even more environmental integrity.

PRINCIPLE 5: Canada's Kyoto target must be reached mainly in Canada

Ottawa has frequently and publicly declared that Canada will make the majority of its emissions reductions through domestic action. This not only ensures the reductions will be real and not just "hot air" purchased internationally, but will lead to significant environmental and economic improvements in Canada. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will result in improved air quality and public health, less environmental damage and improved habitat protection. This will be extremely important as reducing health costs associated with fossil fuel use in Canada

continued next page ►

Kyoto Target Must Be Reached

continued from previous page....

would save an estimated \$1 billion per year in Ontario alone. Yet, the options put forward in the federal discussion paper deviate from federal promises and suggest the federal government will purchase international credits in excess of 50% of the target.

Further, reducing emissions in Canada, even if it is slightly more expensive, will increase energy efficiency here, stimulate the economy, create new jobs, and encourage innovation in the "new energy economy"—all of which help Canada become more competitive.

We must also recognize that there are already significant emissions reduction actions underway in key industrial US states such as New York, Massachusetts, California, Michigan and New Jersey that will give them new competitive advantages in key energy and industrial sectors and in overall economic performance.

SUMMARY: It is imperative for Canada to not lose sight of the harsh realities of climate change as we enter an economic debate that, to date, has not recognized the costs of inaction on climate change nor has it recognized the benefits of action, such as cleaner air and improved public health. The Climate Action Network (CANet) feels that Canada must: 1) take a long term view to reduce emissions by over 50%, 2) ratify the Kyoto Protocol immediately, 3) not consider the Alberta government's plan to increase emissions, 4) not seek further credits for 'clean energy' exports, and 5) reach its targets mainly through reductions that

take place in Canada. These 5 principles will help see Canada into a brighter economic and environmental future.

Next Step

The federal government is under intense pressure from some provinces and certain industrial sectors to not take action on climate change or at least not put in place a plan that will lead to real reductions in greenhouse gases. Only a sense of responsibility supported by public pressure will maintain government resolve in the face of this pressure. Therefore it is of vital importance that environmental organizations, whether or not they work directly on climate change, communicate support for an environmentally acceptable climate change plan. The Climate Action Network urges all groups to forward a response to the federal discussion paper.

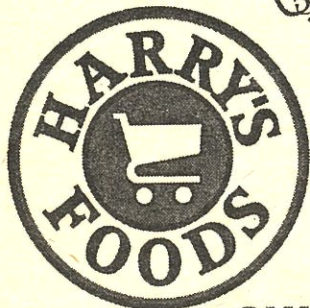
The Climate Action Network will assist any group in formulating a response.

About The Climate Action Network

The Climate Action Network was established in Canada in 1989 to bring together environmental organizations working on climate change. It is composed of nearly 100 members from across Canada. It is directed by a steering committee of regional representatives who oversee a staff of two located in Ottawa.

The focus of the Climate Action Network for 2002 is the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. For information on membership please contact dcanet@magma.ca.

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Cyclist's Map helps plan commuting route

By Beth McKechnie

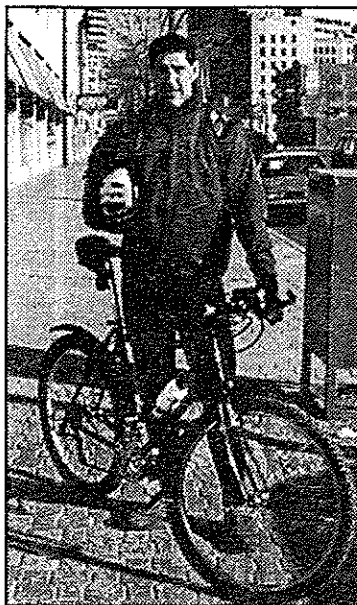
Summers spent tooling around on our bicycles are a familiar childhood memory for most of us. Yet many Winnipeggers have not ridden a bike since they were kids. The idea of using it to travel to work, to the grocery store or to meet friends remains outside the mainstream.

The bicycle, an inexpensive, healthy and clean alternative to the automobile, is still viewed, for the most part, as a form of recreation. But just as bikes have changed over the years—from 5-speeds with skinny tires to 24-speeds with knobby tires—so has the recognition that bikes can be used for more than a ride around the neighbourhood.

So how do you encourage people to try cycling as a form of transportation? For starters, you make it easier to plan a route.

Low traffic volume routes

The Recreation & Transportation Committee of the Manitoba Cycling Association (MCA) did just that. During the Pan American Summer Games in 1999, funding was provided through all three levels of government to create a new Cyclist's Map of Winnipeg and install bike route signage on additional streets in the city. (An earlier cyclist's map produced by the MCA was out-of-print.)



Bill Ralph, a certified CAN-BIKE instructor since 1993, teaches commuter cycling skills. Bill was also responsible for developing the Winnipeg Police Service Uniform Bicycle Patrol.

While Winnipeg does not have an extensive multi-use pathway system, as found in Calgary or Ottawa, there are other good reasons to publish a cyclist's map for our city. Hardy commuters will take the most direct route between point A and B, the same as one would when driving a car. But others, particularly those just starting in cycle commuting, will look for a route with the lowest possible traffic volume. This includes residential streets, secondary routes and multi-use paths.

The Cyclist's Map of Winnipeg, a full-colour detailed city map, provides suggested routes to connect all corners of the city. These routes are colour-coded by traffic volume: low traffic streets, recreational routes and multi-use paths are coded green, medium traffic streets are coded blue and high traffic streets are red.

Reduced stress

While it may not be possible to completely avoid a red coded or high traffic volume route such as Pembina Highway, cyclists looking to avoid it for the better part can find alternate streets on the map. It may take a little longer, but the increased sense of safety and reduced stress can make the trip much more enjoyable.

The map also includes handy urban cycling tips and safer cycling tips complete with diagrams that will improve the cycling experience and enhance a rider's safety if followed. To further build confidence and skill as a cyclist, particularly in dealing with traffic, the MCA offers CAN-BIKE safe cycling courses.

The MCA has been allowed to retain revenue generated by advertising sales on the printed map and monies raised by map sales through the suggested retail price of \$2.95. These funds are earmarked for a future reprint of the cyclist's map.

To find out where you can purchase the map, call the Manitoba Cycling Association information line at 925-5686 or see the Recreation & Transportation section of the MCA web site at: www.cycling.mb.ca.

Beth McKechnie is a volunteer on the Recreation & Transportation Committee of the MCA and was the project lead on the cyclist's map.

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Access to Information

continued from page 4....

no teeth and will continue to remain ineffectual if their power is limited to the capacity to "recommend" solutions. The proposed solution was to make the complaint process more powerful through legislative leverage that would allow the Commissioner or an Ombudsman to "order" a government department to release information.

Limitations in the Act

The third position examined ATIA, claiming that the only way to make improvements to FOI is to correct the limitations in the act itself. Some of the flaws noted in ATIA included the exclusion of crown corporations and cabinet records from FOI requests, the policy of the Chretien government to create new organizations that fall outside the bounds of FOI (Canadian Blood Services) and the fact that secrecy provisions in other statutes trump the access law.

The Constitution

Finally, the most interesting method of insuring a Canadian's right to access information was articulated by FOI sage, Ken Rubin, who stated that for FOI to work for Canadian citizens, it must be guaranteed in the Constitution.⁴

Website Resource: foilaw.net <<http://www.foilaw.net>>

The foilaw website provides a searchable interface to a database of requests for information filed with departments and agencies of the Canadian government under Canada's ATIA. It contains descriptions of approximately 30,000 requests filed between January 1999 and March 2002. Essentially, this website is based on FOI requests entered by Canadian Federal institutions into the Coordination of Access to Information Requests System (CAIRS) which is a software program maintained by the Department of Public Works and Government Services. The interesting thing is that while the FOI requests are generated by the Canadian Government, the CAIRS database has not been adapted to the Internet and, as a result, Canadian citizens wanting quick online access to Canadian FOI requests have to use a university website located in the United States. This database offers a powerful and useful tool for browsing requests by departments and for getting a sense of how requests are worded. What gives the database a value added component, however, is that if a similar FOI request has already been made, an individual can save "processing" time by sim-

ply resubmitting a request using the "institutional code" which is a unique identification number beside the request. Furthermore, a list of contacts to all Canadian Government Department's Access to Information Co-ordinators is available allowing users to mail, fax and phone a request directly.

Toe-tags:

1. Access to Information Act (R.S. 1985, c. A-1) is available online at:

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/A-1/index.html>

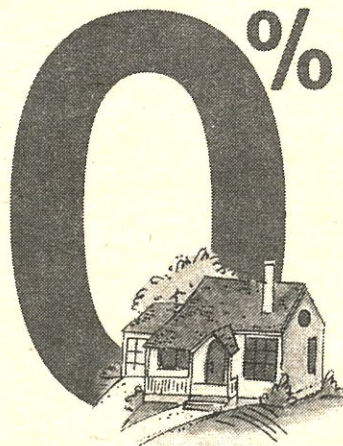
2. The article, like the OCSC conference has a Federal emphasis.

3. Information about the Federal Access to Information Review Task force is available at:

<http://www.atirtf-geai.gc.ca/home-e.html>

4. Ken Rubin also provided the conference delegates with three lasting gestures at the start of the session entitled "Information and Democracy: the Citizen Perspective". Perhaps it was a three-part salute that indicated Rubin's level of interaction and/or respect with various members of the audience. Rubin began the session by raising his fist in a gesture of solidarity, followed quickly by a flash of the two peace digits for empathy and finished with one final gesture, the egalitarian bird or finger as if to remind everyone that in the FOI arena, there will be times when a little "attitude" is also required.

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Living by Faith in a World of Chaos

By Carl Ridd

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Wars, rumours of wars, responses to terrorism more devastating than the terror itself and more long-lived, infinite deceit as to purpose, media as blatant propagandist, incessant jingoism, thinly disguised racism, pollution of land water and air, radical climate change threatening earth's stability, loss of biodiversity and forests, theft of resources from the world's poor by mega-corporations, scandalously enlarged poverty gaps at home and worldwide, "trade" agreements that steal from weaker members, governments that do not govern, brutal suppression of dissent; and underneath it all, the scurry for money and power, especially by those who have it already.

We live in what the philosopher John McMurtry has called "a war against the life-means".

The dim sense that that is what is going on beneath the surface of "everyday" is what gives our time its fear-filled combination of resignation and animated revenge; for it is almost intolerable to live in the midst of an assault upon life, and to have to repress the knowledge; above all, the knowledge that we ourselves are part of the assault.

A "war of all against all"

Three and one half centuries ago, in 1651, Thomas Hobbes, the political philosopher, describing the new capitalist society that was heaving into view, called it prophetically, "a war of all against all": a war in which everyone wanted more, and power alone gave the capacity to acquire it. (Hobbes liked it— he was among the winners, a Brit.)

For 3 centuries the war on the life-means was more or less accidental and small in scale. For the last 30 years it has been massive and increasingly conscious, and finally planned.

One the semi-conscious, individual level it takes place in the dozens of decisions that every inhabitant of the planet makes every day in the course of living. (Of course the many decisions of the more affluent—size of car, new clothing, holiday, etc.—affect the planetary life-means far more than the few decisions available to the poor.) Collectively though, we are living at a level that makes life on the planet unsustainable. And it is not being sustained: 500 species are lost every day. The walls are closing in. Chaos yawns.

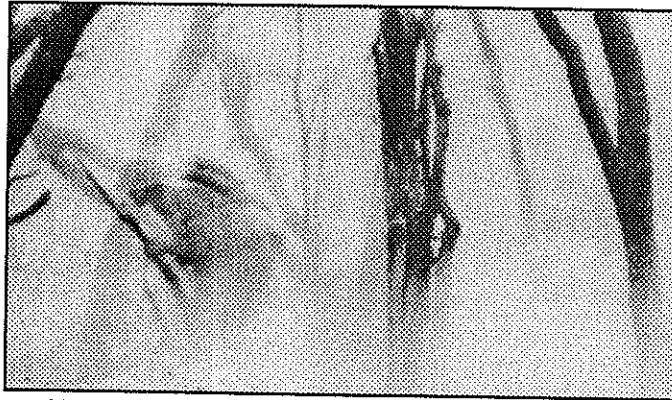
Compromising global balance

On the fully conscious, planned level,

major institutions (business, government) make deliberate policy and project decisions that on a massive scale compromise the delicate global balance of the life-means. For profit. "In the national interest"—which is to say, since the poverty gap widens, in the interest of those nations, and those in our nations, who are already wealthy.

The Afghanistan war, for example, is not really a "war on terrorism" and never was. It is a war for Caspian Sea oil, and to enable the Western industrialized societies to maintain their wasteful injurious patterns a little longer. There is abundant evidence from US sources that the

US had given up on negotiations the Taliban over the US-owned pipeline through Afghanistan, and by July, 2001 had planned a war on them (and threatened them with it) to ensure the line would be built and protected. "September 11" was a god-send because it gave the US moral justification for a war that was intended anyway and would have been harder to sell.



World War I in France, photographer unknown. Associated Press

Absolute control

It is really a war for absolute control of the life-means, which means, in the power politics of the 21st century, oil; because if you have oil and are the world's only Superpower (by far) you have the means to get whatever else you want. "In the American interest" has taken on a particularly sinister meaning in our time. This is not the America of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Hobbes saw power as more important than any commodity because power gives endless capacity to acquire whatever is needed for "felicity" (happiness). That is why President Bush presents the "war on terrorism" as absolute, open-ended and permanent. Total force, applied forever in the American interest.

The policy is doomed. Seizure of the life-means (oil) in order to be able to continue for another generation the industrialized assault on the life-means is an illusion.

In 2002, in the valley of the dry bones, the destroyers mount the final assault on the web of life. But we destroyers are also, paradoxically, the defenders. We can become conscious, reclaim ourselves as "image of God," think, and change:

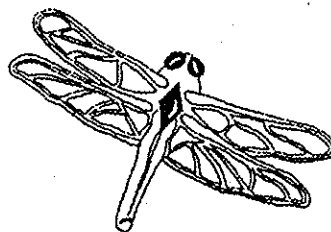
*The mind is the terriblest force in the world, father,
Because, in chief, it, only, can defend
Against itself. At its mercy we depend
Upon it.*

—Wallace Stevens

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Councillor Seeks to Pave Park for Parking

By Doug Stiles

At a meeting held on January 24, 2002, Councillor Gord Steeves proposed expanding the present facilities of the South Winnipeg YM/YWCA onto the grounds of St. Vital Memorial Park. The expansion would involve constructing an extension to the current building on parkland and paving over greenspace to increase the parking lot capacity to accommodate three hundred vehicles. This project will eliminate a large portion of the existing park. The loss of this parkland is environmentally irresponsible and irreversible.

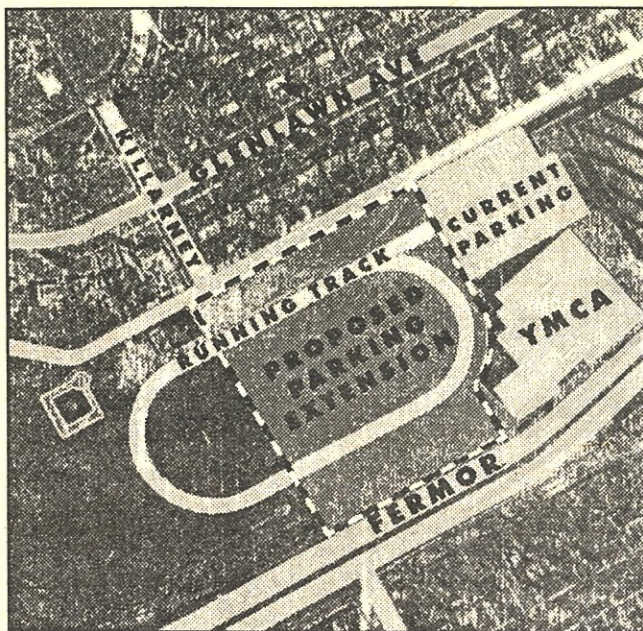
St. Vital Memorial Park presently houses two regulation size soccer fields, a running track, a baseball diamond and other school field day amenities such as long jump pits, etc.

The Windsor and Glenwood Community Centre soccer program schedules 100 games each season on the east soccer field. Three hundred and fifty children are registered in the soccer program at Windsor Community Centre alone. The St. Vital/St. Boniface Soccer District annually registers over 9000 children.

Windsor School's soccer program also uses the east soccer field at Memorial Park and the school uses the track for track meets. The west soccer field sees extensive use by the St. Vital

Flames soccer organization.

According to the map Mr. Steeves provided when outlining his plan, one of the soccer fields and the running track would be eliminated. A portion of the bicycle path and other recently completed improvements, paid for by taxpayers, would also be eliminated.



This proposal would destroy amenities that are free to the public in exchange for facilities requiring the payment of a membership fee. St. Vital Memorial Park was dedicated fifty years ago as a memorial to Canada's war dead. We believe it should remain a facility for all to enjoy free of charge, and it should remain as greenspace, not a parking lot for a private organization.

We urge Mr. Steeves and the South Winnipeg YM/YWCA to find an alternative solution that will not destroy precious parkland or otherwise impinge on the quality of life of the people who make

their homes in the community.

Doug Stiles is spokesperson for the St. Vital Memorial Park Residents Association

Councillor Gord Steeves is Chairperson of the City of Winnipeg's Civic Environmental Committee.

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Group members are entitled to nominate representatives for a position on the Eco-Network Steering Committee. Group membership is open to any non-governmental, non-profit group which has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.

A supporting membership includes a subscription to **Eco-Journal** as well as notice of events and regular updates on issues and is open to any individual.

