

ECO-JOURNAL

Volume 12, Number 4

September/October 2002

Climate Change Connection Launched

By Anne Lindsey

On the eve of Canada's long-awaited Parliamentary debate on ratifying the Kyoto Accord, Manitoba's Climate Change Connection was launched at Winnipeg's Millennium Centre.

Climate Change Connection (CCC) is the name decided upon for the public education and outreach Hub in Manitoba. It's an initiative that started up as a pilot project earlier this year, hosted and co-chaired by the Manitoba Eco-Network with funding from the Federal and Provincial governments and Manitoba Hydro. "Connection" is one of the key roles for this project—connecting organizations, agencies, businesses and government departments in sharing and developing their public education work around climate change. And that's exactly what the launch event did. Over 100 people from a wide range of sectors attended, and many commented on the good networking opportunity that the occasion afforded.

Three key tools

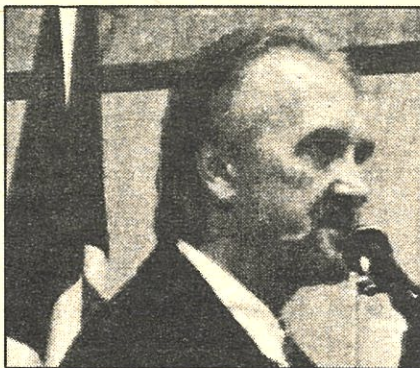
The Launch highlighted the release of three key tools that CCC is developing: The website will be virtual home of the project, featuring carefully researched reports on the impacts and implications of climate change on Manitobans, along with links to Manitoba groups working on climate change, a guide to publications and resources, upcoming Climate Change related events, and much more. The CCC Manager, Jennifer Duggan, has been working with Webfeats' Jim Kirby to produce a user-friendly, information-rich electronic tool. Researcher and writer Rachel van Caesele is the author of meticulously referenced feature pieces on climate change and Manitoba, including such topics as wildlife, health, transportation and agriculture. Members of the Steering Committee of CCC are also contributing their expertise through articles on the website. The media guide, *Community Champions on Climate Change*, features biographies of the Steering Committee, and topic areas about which they are available to speak or provide information. All the members consider themselves "conduits" to the various networks in which they work, and are able to refer media or others

to people and resources within their particular network. While the Steering Committee members represent a wide variety of sectors, including environmental groups, business, academia and health amongst others, all are committed to the basic principles of Climate Change Connection: Climate change is real, it is human-caused, and we can do something about it.

Third, the *Compendium of Climate Change Resources* in Manitoba is a 'work in progress' that serves to provide information and contacts for projects, initiatives and resources in Manitoba on climate change. Available in its first edition in print form, it will also be accessible on-line on the website, where it will be continually updated as new information is received.

Building public awareness

The objective of all the elements of Climate Change Connection is to build public awareness about the necessity of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to empower Manitobans to take the actions that will achieve this goal—whether they are at the political, community, family or individual level. Winnipeg entertainer, Fred Penner, who served as Master of Ceremo-



Activist and entertainer Fred Penner addresses the CCC launch

nies for the Launch, spoke about how his personal commitment to his children and their future makes climate change an issue of immediate importance to him. He linked the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the need to examine our consumer lifestyle and the growing movement towards Voluntary Simplicity. Plainly put, reducing the consumption of unnecessary goods will reduce the emissions associated with their production and transport. This was a key message of the 12-part television series, *Living Simply*, which was hosted by Fred.

Manitoba's Conservation Minister, Oscar Lathlin, thanked the Eco-Network and Fort Whyte Centre (CCC's other co-chair organization) for their work in developing Climate Change Connection, and reiterated his government's commitment to ratifying Kyoto. The Manitoba Government is expected to release its own Climate Change Action Plan, based on the recommendations of the Axworthy Task Force report, very soon.

Forthcoming work for Climate Change Connection will include a multi-sectoral education and outreach campaign on "anti-idling", as well as three community workshops on climate change in Northern, Western and Southeast Manitoba. CCC speakers will also be available for community events or meetings. See www.climatechangeconnection.org for more information.

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ECO

Volume 12, Number 4
September/October, 2002

(date of issue: October 1, 2002)

Eco-Journal

is published five times per year by the
Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau
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The Manitoba Eco-Network is affiliated with
the Canadian Environmental Network.

Individual Subscriptions to **Eco-Journal** are
available at a cost of \$20 or as part of a
supporting membership to the Manitoba Eco-
Network at a cost of \$25. Group membership
dues are \$40. Advertising rates are available
upon request.

Canada Publication Mail Sales Agreement
#40010075, Postage paid at Winnipeg, MB.

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

NEWS FROM THE ECO-CENTRE

By Anne Lindsey

With this issue, we are pleased to introduce our new Eco-Journal editor, Heather Laird. Heather is a beekeeper and professional writer and editor. Heather describes herself as a conservationist with a particular interest in protecting wildlife and wild habitat, and she is opposed to anything that degrades our natural environment. She goes on to say, however, "that as a writer and editor, I support free and open debate on all subjects. If I'm confronted with a viewpoint I do not agree with, I still think it's important to try to understand and consider that viewpoint". An excellent principle for the Editor of Eco-Journal to espouse!

As always, we welcome your input to the Eco-Journal. If you've a talent or urge to write about the environment, we're looking for "reporters". Contact us at 947-6511.

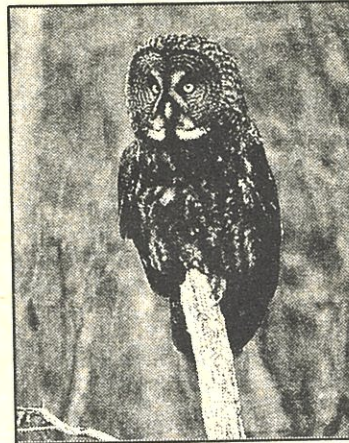
Meanwhile, the former editor, (me!), will be devoting her newly available time to other Network projects. I loved my work on Eco-Journal for the last 7 years, but as the deadlines became harder and harder to meet due to competing commitments, it seemed wise to pass the job along to someone else. This is possible because of our second annual grant from Manitoba Conservation, which has allowed us some much-needed breathing room in other parts of our work as well.

For me, the best part of editing Eco-Journal is our ability to give voice to some

of the excellent work being done by environmentalists and others in Manitoba. It has been especially rewarding to have articles and news "picked up" by bigger media, or making a difference to people in surprising places.

Our founding editor, Toby Maloney, put the Eco-Journal on a path to becoming the major news and views publication for the environment in Manitoba, and while we are still a small journal, I think we've managed to live up to his vision. Good luck to Heather as she moves us onward.

In other news from the Eco-Centre, we've recently wrapped up two projects. Glen Koroluk



completed a report entitled *Climate Change Action: From the Ground Up*, which documents the activities and resources of the environmental community on climate change, and reports on the results of our survey to Manitoba NGOs on the Axworthy Task Force recommendations on Climate Change. The report has gone to government, and we hope it will play a part in the Province's Climate Change Action Plan, to be released soon. The report is available in our Library, and will soon be accessible on our website.

Jennifer Heinrichs and Tanya McFadyen completed this summer's Organic Lawn Care Education Project at the end of July. Over 100 people attended workshops around the City and many

see "Exciting ..." on page 4 ►

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 for Responsible Energy

John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Profile of Darryl Brunger Construction

Better Homes and Straw Bales

By Heather Laird

Darryl Brunger is living in a house made out of straw, and he'd like to help you do it, too. The Woodlands, MB based entrepreneur (and musician) lives in a solar and wind-powered straw bale house that he built himself, and he's now using the expertise he gained in the process to help others reach their goals of living in a more energy-efficient way.

Darryl's business, D. Brunger Straw Bale Construction, offers a complete consulting service for those wishing to build a straw bale home. He also designs and sells solar electric systems, along with composting toilets and high-efficiency wood stoves. "Anything you need to live off the grid, I can put it together for you" he says.

So what exactly is a straw bale home, and what are its advantages? Brunger explains that the construction style originated in the early 1900s in Nebraska, a prairie state where there were few if any trees to use for building material. This was around the time the mechanical straw baler was invented, and some inventive person noticed that the resulting rectangular bales looked like big, fluffy bricks.

Builders experimented with using straw bales for walls in homes and farm buildings, and a new construction style was born. The bales are typically stacked up and woven together with wire and baling twine, and then plastered over with stucco inside and out. Wooden support poles, or a wooden frame, support the roof of the structure. The resulting walls are about 18 inches thick and seven times stronger than conventional frame construction. The straw inside is tightly compressed and sealed off from outside air, so it won't burn easily. Straw bale has many other advantages as a building material, Brunger notes. "It's an inexpensive, abundant and renewable material," he says. "And it's easy to work with. Anyone can learn to build a straw bale house."

Timberframe construction

Darryl describes building his own house as an "organic process". He didn't start with a plan to build with straw bales, "It sort of gradually turned into that and as I built the people and ideas I needed just came to me". In 1996, seeking a simpler lifestyle, he decided to start building a house on a section of land near Woodlands. He began with a timber frame of eastern white pine, teaching himself to fit the frame together with the help of an experienced friend. Once the frame was up, he needed something for the walls.

Lacking the funds for conventional materials, Darryl was looking for alternatives when he realized that the farmer renting the adjacent land had planted oats and had extra straw. "I'd read about the advantages of straw bale before, but it seemed too exotic to try here." He recalls. "But, it turns out that it is

the perfect building style for the prairies—the extra insulation value is great for open, windy spaces." Darryl made the decision to "go straw bale" and attended a local workshop to learn the technique, before starting on the walls of his own house.

After slowly working on the finishing details as time and money permitted, the house was more or less completed in 1999 and Darryl and family moved in. The finished house, with its Tudor-esque wooden beams, high ceilings, and thick, stuccoed walls, is both attractive and warm. With an estimated R-value of 50 (compared to R-12 for conventional construction), it only takes a small armload of wood to heat the 1200

square foot space on a severely cold winter day. A windmill and photovoltaic solar panels provide electricity, with storage batteries in the basement. A composting toilet (no, it doesn't smell) completes the utility-free experience.

This unique and beautiful house attracted a lot of local attention, and a short newspaper article about the project resulted in a steady stream of people phoning and dropping by to see what it was all about. "I had hundreds of inquiries" Darryl recalls. "It occurred to me that there was a business in helping people to learn

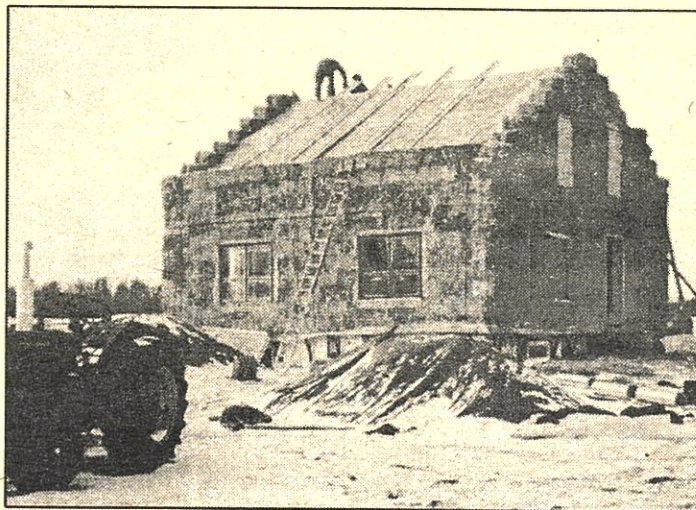
about straw bale and alternative energy. The interest is out there, and people are looking for information they can use. I can share my experiences in living with these types of systems every day, and design something suitable for your family's needs."

Construction to code

Darryl is able to provide plans, advice, and practical assistance for your straw bale building project. He works with an engineer to ensure that all plans meet safety and building code standards—in fact, his work has been recognized by the Manitoba Building Officials Association, the organization that sets the codes and conducts building inspections.

He has already built several small cottages and sheds in Manitoba, and more projects are planned for next year, "if people can get the land to build". Meanwhile, for those who are interested in straw bale and would like to learn more, Darryl conducts weekend long workshops for groups of 8 or more people. In the workshops, participants will build a complete small straw bale building from start to finish. "One of my goals is to encourage people to think about how they use energy in their daily lives" Darryl says. "And not just in the country. I'd like to eventually build a straw bale house in Winnipeg".

For more information, or to sign up for a workshop, you can reach Darryl Brunger Straw Bale Construction at (204) 383-5154, or write to Box 8, Woodlands, MB, R0C 3H0. **ECO**



Under all those bales is a beautifully constructed timberframe

What's Happening

Saturday, October 5—Save Our Seine St. Vital Trail Cleanup and Walk. 9 am to 12 noon. Meet at Morrow Gospel Church. Call Jules at 255-6800 or e-mail Dave Watson at saveourseine@yahoo.ca.

October 12-14, Thanksgiving Weekend—Harvest Days Truckload Birdseed Sale at Fort Whyte Centre. Call 989-355 for more information.

Tuesday, October 15—Charting our Future: An All-Candidates Mayoralty Forum. 7-9 pm at Broadway Disciples United Church, 396 Broadway at Kennedy. Moderator will be Jennifer Rattray, host of CBC's Canada Now. Presented by the Council of Women of Winnipeg and Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba. Call 992-2751 for more information.

Wednesday, October 23—Project Peacemakers Desserts and Discussion: An information evening about Iraq in conjunction with the International Day of Mass Action, Westminster United Church, 7 pm. Call 775-8178 for more info.

Tuesday, October 29—Fort Whyte Centre Family Hallowe'en Party. 6-8:30 pm Prizes, spooky tales and goodies galore! Regular admission plus \$2 per child. Call 989-355 for more information.

October 29 and 30—Revitalizing Rural Communities Through A Commitment to Farm and Rural Enterprises. Royal Oak Inn, 3130 Victoria Avenue, Brandon. Share in the workshop experience, gather ideas for change and hear provocative inter-

national speakers including Dr. John Ikerd, Dr. Fred Kirschenmann and Dr. Mark Ritchie. Conference fee of \$85.00 includes: Speaker sessions, two lunches, breakfast, banquet, and coffee breaks. More information can be found at www.ruralrenewal.com or contact the Agriculture Renewal Alliance at (204) 474-6080 or (204) 474-8227. Registration Deadline: Monday, October 14, 2002.

Saturday, November 2—Sewage Smart: Getting Down and Dirty about Winnipeg Sewers. Free one day conference on the impacts of our sewers on human and aquatic health. At the Union Centre, 275 Broadway at Smith, 9 am to 4:30 pm. Registration begins at 8:00. Pre-registration is advised, contact Allen Bleich at 942-0343 or ableich@cupe.ca or Carolyn Garlich at 452-9017 or cgarlich@mts.net. Sponsored by the Council of Women of Winnipeg, Manitoba Naturalist Society, Red River Basin Commission and Water Watch Winnipeg.

Sunday, November 3—15th Annual Non-violent Play Festival. Entertainment, activities and information on non-violent toys. Robert A Steen Community Center, 900 Palmerston 1-4pm. Contact Project Peacemakers at 775-8178 for more info.

Wednesday, December 4—Boreal Majesty: An Evening for Canada's Northern forests. Photographer Wayne Lynch and ecologist J. David Henry share their stories and images from the boreal forest at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Contact the CPAWS office at 949-0782 for ticket info. **ECO**

Exciting Developments at the Eco-Centre

... continued from page 2

more sampled our display at community events. Jen and Tanya generated some excellent recommendations for extending the reach and impact of this project in future years.

Climate Change Connection, which we co-chair with the Fort Whyte Centre, had its official launch September 19th. (See the cover story in this issue for more information).

Larry Laliberte is continuing to provide services in the Alice Chambers Memorial Library. He and Liz Dykman are working on a presentation to Manitoba teachers to promote the availability of local resources through the Library and the Eco-Network, and we plan to distribute a poster to libraries and high

schools throughout Manitoba to encourage use of our Library and website.

With a recently announced grant from the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, we will be starting development of a Geographic Information System and Mapping Centre for the environmental community, based out of the Library. Stay tuned for further information about this exciting project.

In short, there's plenty happening at the Eco-Network these days. As always, we invite you to come by and browse the contents of the library, and pick up information and materials about Manitoba's environment. **ECO**

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Lake Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium

By Alex Salki and Mike Stainton, Freshwater Institute

Lake Winnipeg has played a significant role in shaping human history and development in Manitoba. In her recent book "Mistehay Sakahegan: The Great Lake"¹, Frances Russell traces the sacred and spiritual significance of Lake Winnipeg to aboriginal peoples, the importance of its rich fishery to European settlers, the appeal of its natural beauty to outdoor enthusiasts and the capacity of this immense hydro reservoir, the world's third largest, to power the economy of Manitoba.

In spite of its relevance, Lake Winnipeg is not well understood scientifically. Limited scientific studies of this complex lake, the 10th largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, have only begun to reflect linkages between the lake and human communities. The Lake Winnipeg watershed, with an area of about one million square kilometres, is the largest land mass in the world to drain through a freshwater lake prior to sea entry.

In 1997, the Red River flooded much of its basin in Manitoba and North Dakota, causing extensive environmental and structural damage on both sides of the border. This catastrophic event prompted the International Joint Commission (IJC) to launch a study of the south basin of Lake Winnipeg by Freshwater Institute (FWI) scientists. Investigations during winter 1997 and summer 1998 uncovered significant habitat changes resulting from the flood. Decreased water transparency (Fig 1), increased nutrient (N and P) concentrations, elevated organic contaminant levels in fish and biota, and changes in food web structure were identified.²

These changes, including an increase in zooplankton abundance to levels similar to those found in Lake Erie prior to phosphorus controls (fig. 2), indicated that Lake Winnipeg had become more eutrophic (nutrient enriched) since the first sign of this trend in 1969.³

Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium formed

Following the IJC study, it became apparent that the full impact of the Red River flood on Lake Winnipeg could only be understood through a study of the north basin. The magnitude of this task required a research platform with long distance and all-weather capability that ensured the safety of investigators. Fortunately, the Canadian Coast Guard ship, *Namao*, became available for scientific survey (next page at bottom). The Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC) formed in 1998 to facilitate research and promote education on the lake.

In August 1999, researchers from the FWI, the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg, and Manitoba Conservation, sup-

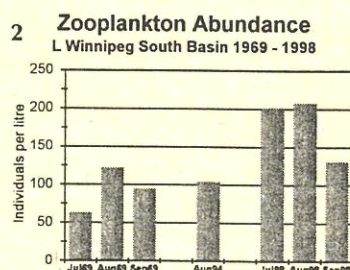
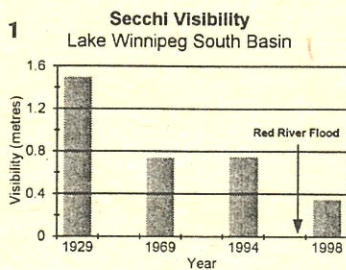
ported by funding from Manitoba Hydro and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, collected limnological samples from 45 stations lake-wide. Among the findings was the discovery of a thick surface mat of blue-green algae covering some 8000 km² in the north basin.

Evidence that blooms were becoming a perennial feature of the north basin was obtained from satellite images of the lake taken in August 2000 and 2001. Researchers also detected high densities of *Eubosmina coregoni*, a small cladoceran, closely associated with the 1999 algal bloom (fig 3, next page). This exotic Eurasian species had recently invaded Lake Winnipeg from its North American epicentre in eutrophic Lake Erie. Although the mechanism of its dispersal is uncertain, *Eubosmina coregoni* possibly entered Lake Winnipeg as ephippia (digestion-resistant resting eggs) in the intestines of rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), another exotic species that invaded the lake about 1991.



Increased eutrophication

Further evidence of increased eutrophication came from chemical analyses of north basin water and sediment samples that revealed high concentrations of chlorophyll-a in both. Deposition of carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus was also much higher in near-surface sediments than in deeper layers with indication these elements began to accumulate about the time that flow patterns were altered by the Grand Rapids and Jenpeg control structures.



The array of physical, chemical and biological changes detected in Lake Winnipeg in 1999 signaled the need for further study to assess ecosystem health. However, only limited monitoring from a fishing yawl was carried out in 2000 and 2001 due to lack of support

for the *Namao*. The LWRC was then awarded a grant from the Canada-Manitoba Partnership Agreement to re-fit and certify the *Namao* in spring 2002. Partial funding for vessel operation was established under a three-year agreement among Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Conservation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Additionally, external funds awarded to FWI scientists are contributing to research on the lake.

Monitoring the status of Lake Winnipeg will continue within the context of three new studies currently underway. An inves-

... continued over ►

tigation of the potential impact of climate warming on the Lake Winnipeg fishery, funded by Natural Resources Canada, includes the assessment of habitat and food web components, based on three lake-wide surveys in each of 2002 and 2003.

Satellite and in-situ water temperature measurements will be used to evaluate the impact of predicted regional air temperature increases on whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), a cold water species living in Lake Winnipeg at the southern margin of its range. Unlike the deeper Great Lakes, shallow, well-mixed Lake Winnipeg will be unable to provide cool water refugia for whitefish. To ensure survival of this species under thermal stress, fishing management practices may require adjustment. Whitefish survival will also depend on the extent of change to its food supply (i.e. benthic and planktonic animals) and the intensity of predation by walleye, a dominant warm water species in Lake Winnipeg expected to respond favourably to climate warming.

Monitoring from space

A second study, funded by the Canadian Space Agency, is designed to overcome the difficulties of monitoring the health of a large dynamic lake by developing the ability to monitor the water quality of Lake Winnipeg from space. By combining shipboard measurements of surface water chemistry and optical properties with images from a variety of satellites, researchers from the Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS) at the University of Manitoba hope to measure the size and severity of algal blooms and their relationship to turbidity and nutrient loading into Lake Winnipeg.

Measuring CO₂ exchange

The third study, funded by Manitoba Hydro, involves the

measurement of carbon dioxide (CO₂) movement into and out of Lake Winnipeg which will allow for a better understanding of how natural processes in Lake Winnipeg add or remove CO₂ (a greenhouse gas) from the atmosphere. Instruments to measure and record CO₂ in air and water, chlorophyll and turbidity have been installed on board the Namao and in three Environment Canada Meteorological buoys strategically located throughout Lake Winnipeg. This study will document how CO₂ exchange changes spatially, seasonally and in response to the development of algal blooms and river inputs to the lake.

ure and record CO₂ in air and water, chlorophyll and turbidity have been installed on board the Namao and in three Environment Canada Meteorological buoys strategically located throughout Lake Winnipeg. This study will document how CO₂ exchange changes spatially, seasonally and in response to the development of algal blooms and river inputs to the lake.

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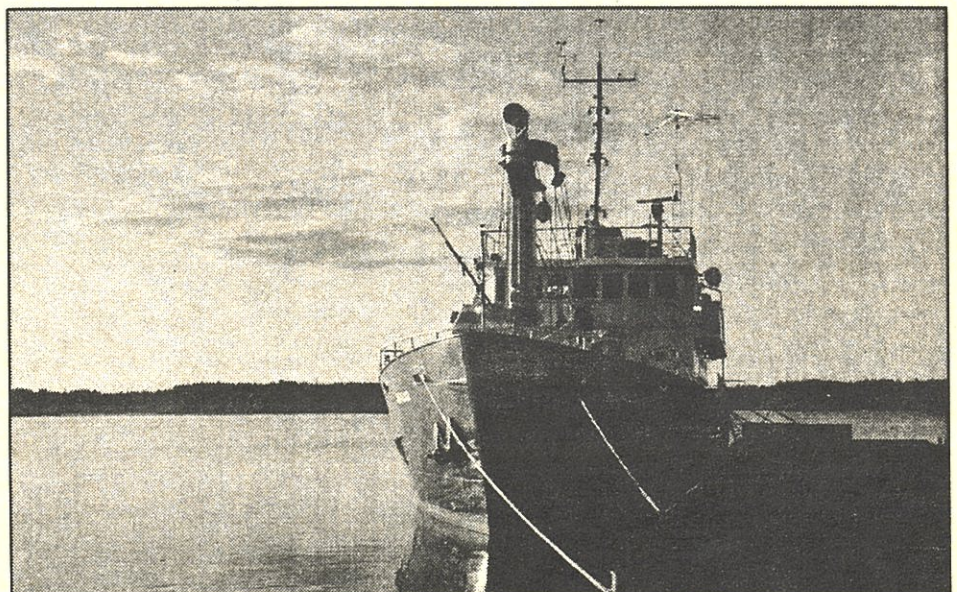
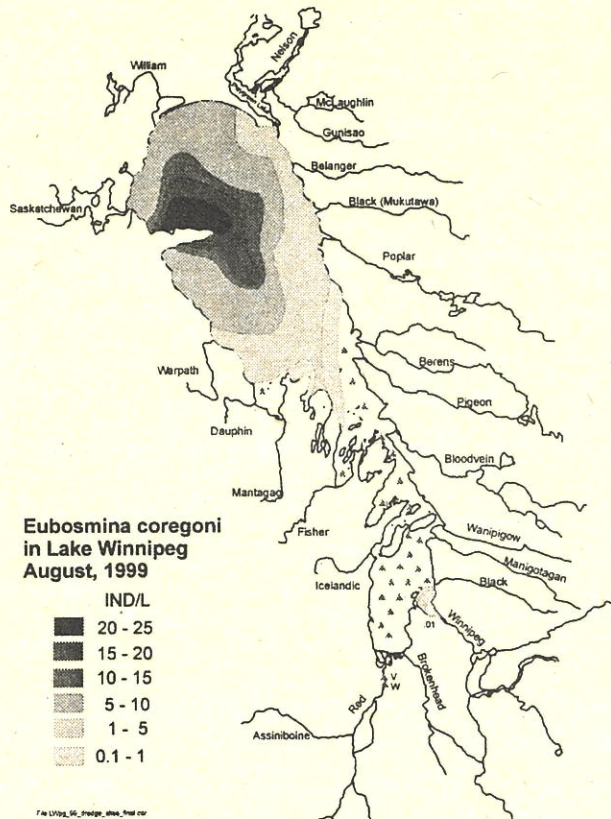
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The Freshwater Institute is located at 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N6.

ECO

The Good Ship Namao

Research on a body of water as large and potentially dangerous as Lake Winnipeg is facilitated by use of the Canadian Coast Guard ship Namao, seen here with its orange-red hull warmed by the early morning sun. A grant from the Canada-Manitoba Partnership Agreement allowed for re-fitting and certification of the Namao in spring 2002. Partial funding for vessel operation was established under a three-year agreement among Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Conservation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.



Civil Disobedience in Wolseley:

The Mosquito Fogging Battle Heats Up

A personal account by Dan Moroz, community activist and Wolseley resident

Civil disobedience is not only a right in civilized society, but sometimes a responsibility. Below is an personal account of the civil disobedience surrounding the City of Winnipeg's Malathion Fogging program in Wolseley this summer.

For some background, let me explain what I heard from the residents of Alloway Avenue, in Winnipeg's Wolseley neighbourhood, on the night of Sunday, July 21, 2002.

On the first night fogging was scheduled, Friday, July 19th, the residents of Alloway did a quick poll of their street, and found that a majority of the residents were anti-fogging. Some decided that in order to protect the health of their families and unborn children, (one child was born to a resident during the course of this ordeal, and at least one other woman was pregnant), they were willing to be arrested for this cause.

On the first night, they blockaded their short, dead end street. A non-resident complained and the police attended. The police told the Alloway residents that they had contacted Insect Control, and that they would not fog anywhere in Wolseley that night because of their actions on their one short street!

All the residents were surprised by this, and at the same time, felt somewhat encouraged by this positive interaction with the police. The same thing happened on Saturday, and at that time, police told the protesters that one of the levels of government would be filing an injunction on Monday morning to enable them to fog.

Maintaining buffer zones

On Sunday, Wolseley was not on the list of neighbourhoods to be fogged. On Monday morning, the Bugline (986-3222) listed Wolseley as being back on the fogging schedule. Nothing was heard regarding an injunction, and the Alloway residents were deciding what they intended to do. Encouraged by the success of the Alloway group, other members of the neighbourhood had decided that they might try to maintain their own buffer zones.

The reasons for this situation revolved around the province's enactment of an amendment to the Environment Act. It states that the Minister of Health has the right to start the process to remove buffer zones if a "health emergency" or "imminent health emergency" exists. Since the risk assessment of West Nile Virus can hardly be qualified as either of these, and has been expressed to the public by Manitoba Health as such, many felt the Province and City were fogging our buffer zones unlawfully.

With the impending fogging scheduled for Monday night, the residents of Alloway contacted police to find out what would happen if they continued their blockade. They were told that they did not intend to arrest anyone unless they were blocking traffic, that Insect Control did not want to force any confrontations, and that they would leave the neighbourhood if opposed. With this knowledge, some decided to take a stand against the fogging trucks, if they entered the neighbourhood.

People on bikes (myself included) and in cars began patrolling the neighbourhood, starting at around 11:00 p.m. Trucks were spotted at Raglan and Portage around 12:30 a.m., and three fogging trucks entered Wolseley from Portage Avenue. There was also a foreman's vehicle with City Entomologist Randy Gadawski as a passenger.

The trucks were first blocked at Raglan and Portage, and then entered the neighbourhood at three different locations. The truck that entered at Craig St. was

driven particularly aggressively. Upon being stopped, the driver would reverse very quickly, while fogging, and drive to the next street or lane. After it had been stopped a number of times, the driver began skipping streets, and doubling back. This truck was able to elude the cyclists with this action. It became obvious that the plan of engagement that the police told us about was not being followed by Insect Control.

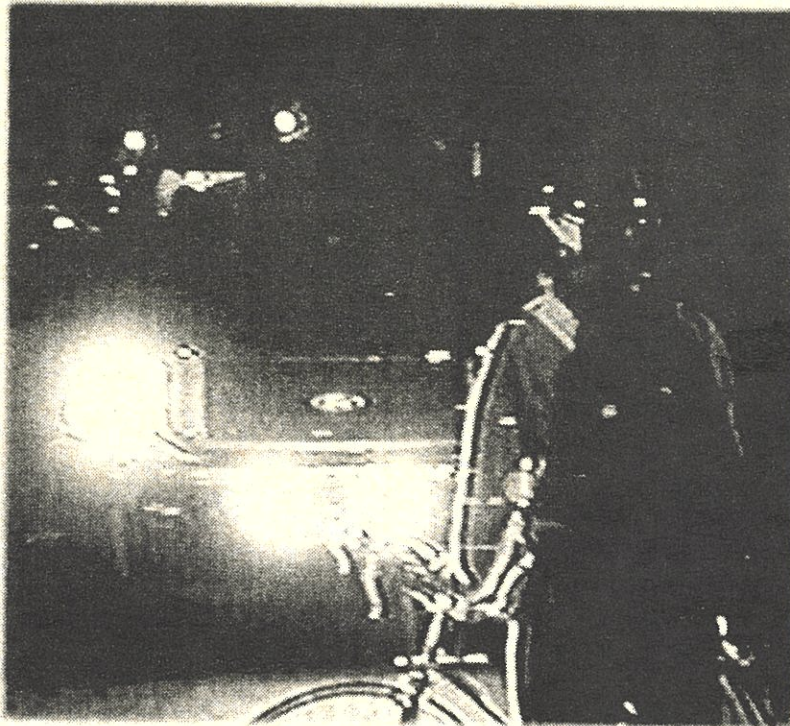
The truck that entered around Dominion Street, was similarly turned back numerous times before being trapped by three cyclists in the lane between Aubrey and Lipton. The driver shut down his fogging apparatus, and gave his word to leave the neighbourhood if he would be allowed to leave.

People on curb fogged

The third truck entered on Evanson Street. This is the location of a local organic food store, Organic Planet, which was at risk from malathion contamination because of the necessity to keep the ventilation system running throughout the night. This truck fogged Paul Lukeman (whose wife owns "the Planet"), as well as others, while he stood on the curb. Protesters stopped this truck on Home Street, and the media arrived followed by the police. The truck then left the neighbourhood.

Meanwhile, Laine Hoogstraten, owner of "The Planet", while cycling from home to check on her store, encountered the truck

continued next page ►



that entered on Craig. She stopped the truck a number of times before crashing into/being hit by the truck. She was then able to stop the truck by climbing on its hood until the police arrived. The police took statements, and the last of the city trucks, as well as the foreman's vehicle with Randy Gadawski, left the neighbourhood.

Significant bravery of protesters

It is my intention to reveal the disregard for pedestrians and protesters with which these fogging trucks were operated. As well, to bring to light the significant bravery with which the protesters, both men and women, stopped these aggressive foggers with only their bicycles as shields.

There were a number of pedestrians: a couple kissing goodnight on the sidewalk, young boys on bikes, teenagers walking home from Omand's Creek Park, families in open-windowed cars, a bus driver in a bus, backyard garden partygoers, and many others who were fogged during the City's operations that night. The trucks passed many protesters, both on bike and on foot, repeatedly, with their fogging apparatus on. Like everywhere else in Winnipeg, Wolseley saw few mosquitoes that day. One of the criticisms made by protesters was that the city fogged more people than mosquitoes that night.

The City of Winnipeg completed fogging less than 60 per cent of the neighbourhood of Wolseley on that Monday night. It was announced on Wednesday that they were going to complete the rest of the neighbourhood at some point. On July

25th, at 3 am, Insect Control's fogging trucks came back into Wolseley unannounced, with police escorts and tow trucks, and fogged the balance of the neighbourhood with the neurotoxin malathion, without proper notification.

Breach of public trust

There were no protests, as everyone was taken off guard. None of the residents had the opportunity to close their windows. None of the protesters had the opportunity to protest, and be arrested. The city poisoned everyone here with malathion, and many people felt ill and are still ill.

Neither the city nor the province was apologetic, and feel they did what they needed for public health. Critics of their actions have labelled this a severe breach of the public trust.

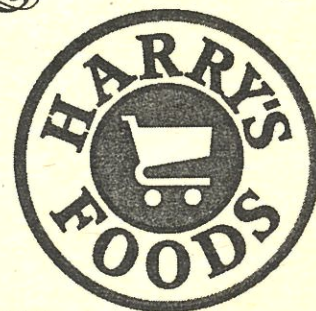
Winnipeg has had a chemically focused pest management program for at least the last forty years. Chemicals have been regularly used for what have now been termed "nuisance" mosquitoes, and whenever resistance has built up on this subject, an "imminent health risk", with far less danger than the flu, causes the rules to be changed. We really need to bring a halt to this abuse of chemicals. The real health emergency that exists here is in our use and exposure to malathion and other toxic chemicals.

Dan Moroz is a local environmental activist. You can get more information on Malathion in Winnipeg at the website that he created, www.members.shaw.ca/nomalathionplease.

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Save Our Seine Campaigning to Save Threatened Forest

By Sylvie Hebert

Save Our Seine Environment Inc. (SOS) has launched a fundraising campaign to raise one million dollars by December 31, 2002. This is to help purchase 81.4 acres of 'Grade A' forest in southeast Winnipeg, as recommended by the City of Winnipeg in June 2002. If the campaign is successful, this forest will become a city park known as "Bois des Esprits", protecting it from development.

The Seine River Greenway Study (2000) has confirmed the ecological importance of the Seine River. The Bois des Esprits forest, situated east of the river between Bishop Grandin Blvd. and Warde Ave., is one of the largest undamaged tracts of oak river bottom forest. It is home to many rare species including the River Jewelwing dragonfly, and plants such as the Yellow Lady Slipper and the Indian Pipe. Animals that inhabit the forest include deer, turtles, rabbits, beavers, owls, blue herons, and fox. A unique aspect of this forest is the presence of river oxbows, the only unfilled ones left in the city. This forest also has many heritage trees, specimens that represent extraordinary examples of a particular tree species. Moreover, there are important historical sites in the forest such as the Riel Grist Mill, which adds to the importance of preserving the area.

Untouched forest to be protected

Aware of the threat of the upcoming second phase of

Royalwood's housing development, SOS took the initiative to promote turning this untouched forest into a city park to ensure its protection. SOS hired the architectural firm Gaboury Préfontaine Perry to study a park plan of the area. The Bois des

Esprits Park Plan recommends an interpretative canoeing and hiking corridor that would connect to other proposed pathways such as the Trans Canada Trail and the Bishop Grandin Trail. It would also have an interpretative centre located in a non-ecologically sensitive area, and picnic sites and canoe launches, among other projects.

Currently, this forest is owned by Ladco Company Limited, which is a joint venture between the housing developer Ladco (62% interest) and the Province of Manitoba (38% interest). There has been much discussion regarding the land acquisition between SOS, the City of Winnipeg and Ladco Company Limited. On April 24, SOS held a meeting at Morrow Gospel Church to inform the public about the Bois des Esprits park proposal. That evening, more than 650 citizens showed their support for the park. Consequently, the city councillors felt they needed to urgently push forward the negotiations of the land acquisition. On June 19, the city council voted in

favour of preserving part of the forest.

City committed and matching funds

Of the 81.4 acres of property, the City of Winnipeg will purchase 33.0 acres over 5 years, a plan required for flood protection purposes. It will receive 7.5 acres at no cost from Ladco Company Limited as part of normal riverbank dedication that accompanies residential developments. Of the remaining 40.9 acres worth 2.6 million dollars, the City of Winnipeg has committed 1 million dollars, and will match the amount raised by SOS to a maximum of \$ 600,000. SOS therefore needs to raise 1 million dollars to make up the shortfall.

SOS is in partnership with the City of Winnipeg and the Evergreen Foundation, a national urban land trust, for its fundraising campaign. SOS is presently seeking funds from a variety of sources including agencies, foundations, companies, and individuals.

Save Our Seine Environment Inc. (SOS), a non-profit volunteer-based organization, has been involved in many projects to improve the quality of Seine River habitat since 1990. Some projects include annual tree planting and cleaning events, trail building, siphon repair, and creating artificial rapids called riffles.

Contributions made for the Bois des Esprits are tax deductible. For more information about SOS or the fundraising campaign visit the SOS website at <http://www.geocities.com/saveourseine/> or contact David Danyluk at (204) 470-9247. Donations can be made by cheque or money order to: Save Our Seine Environment Inc., P.O. Box 83, 208 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 3B4.

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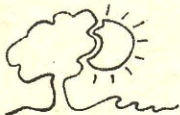


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 Environment Canada

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Canada

A CPAWS event on December 4, 7:30 pm, at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

Boreal Majesty: An Evening for Canada's Northern Forests

By Donna Danyluk, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

Many of us yearn to spend weeks at a time exploring the beauty and mysteries of our boreal forests, but for practical reasons, cannot. Fortunately, we can live vicariously through people who have devoted their lives to exploring the wilds and who are willing to share their adventures, discoveries and experiences with us.

Two such people are photographer and naturalist Dr. Wayne Lynch, and ecologist Dr. J. David Henry. They are both eminent science writers, and they have volunteered their time to share with Canadians their unique experiences in the world's most northern forests. Dr. Lynch also enjoys the distinction of being Canada's most well-known and widely published wildlife photographer.

Presented by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the "Boreal Majesty" tour will begin in Whitehorse and travel across the country, arriving in Winnipeg on December 4th.

Dr. Lynch will share images and stories from his latest book, *The Great Northern Kingdom: Life in the Boreal Forest*, a stunning collection of photographs of the creatures that inhabit our complex and fragile boreal forests, with evocative descriptions of animal behaviour observed first hand.

Similarly, Dr. Henry writes about his long-standing relationship with the northern taiga. David works as a conservation ecologist for Parks Canada and has spent over 30 years studying the habits of animals in the north. He has carried out field research on red foxes, grizzly and black bears, wolves, Dall's sheep and bird communities in northern national parks, such as Nahanni. His most recent book, *Canada's Boreal Forests*, forms part of the Smithsonian Natural History Series.

Sharing experiences

What compels these two men to volunteer their time to travel across the country sharing their experiences? A deep and abiding love of the natural world, and a concern that we may not realize what we have lost until it is too late.

By just about any measuring stick, Canada's portion of the world's remaining relatively undisturbed expanses of boreal forest represents one of the world's most valuable natural areas—whether the measure is fresh water, intact

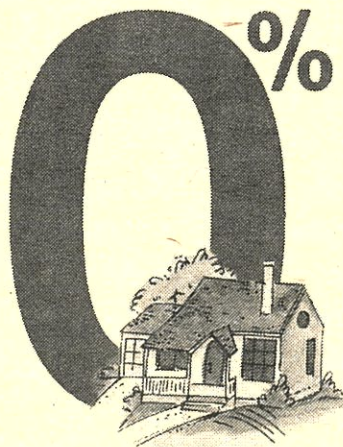
wildlife habitat, the biodiversity of old-growth forests or the health of traditional cultures. Here in Manitoba, home to the largest uncut area of boreal forest in North America, we have an incredible opportunity to protect the boreal before it is cut into pieces by roads, hydro lines, and industrial activity. Wayne Lynch and David Henry believe that as Canadians come to appreciate the delicate balance of life in this fragile ecosystem, they will defend our boreal forest from the threats that it faces from human impact, including the effects of climate change.

A family event

CPAWS Manitoba welcomes you and your family and friends to attend *Boreal Majesty, an Evening for Canada's Northern Forests* at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4th, at the Muriel Richardson Auditorium at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. You will also be able to purchase copies of the books and have them personally signed by the authors—a great Christmas gift idea!

Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 for students. They can be purchased at Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Photo Central and The Lab Works. For more information, contact CPAWS Manitoba at 949-0782 or see www.cpaws.org/boreal/boreal-majesty-book-tour.html.

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The Precautionary Principle

Two new titles in the Alice Chambers Memorial Library

By Larry Laliberte, Eco-Journal Librarian

The precautionary principle had its beginnings in the German concept of *Vorsorge*, or foresight, which is the belief that society should seek to avoid environmental problems by careful forward planning. This concept was further refined at the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, in Agenda 21, which stated that the "lack of full scientific certainty" shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Recently, the Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle in 1998 reiterates this concept, "when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically." Essentially, the precautionary principle focuses on options and solutions rather than risk, serving as a speed bump to new technology and ensuring that decisions about new activities are made thoughtfully and in the light of potential consequences.¹

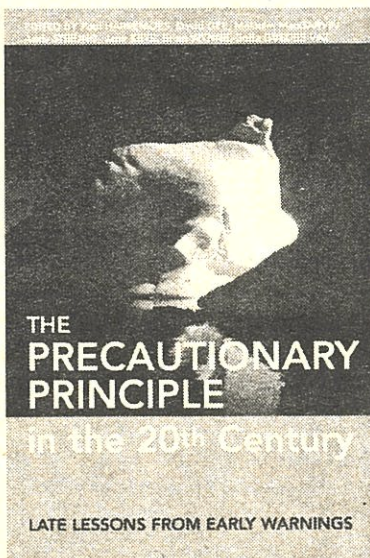
The Precautionary Principle in the 20th Century: Late Lessons from Early Warnings

Edited by Poul Harremoes et al. EarthScan, 2002
268 p. (incl. Tables, Figures & References)

The Precautionary Principle in the 20th Century utilizes fourteen case studies of occupational, public and environmental hazards in order to provide "late lessons" for future policy, by highlighting the lack of use of a precautionary approach. The examples include radiation, benzene, asbestos, PCBs, halocarbons, antimicrobials, sulphur dioxide, MTBE, hormones as growth promoters, mad cow disease and the contamination of the Great Lakes. The precautionary principle in the 20th century is well organized and easily accessible. The table of contents clearly notes each case study as well as further subdivides the cases in order to highlight:

- when was the first credible scientific early warning?
- what was done, or not done by regulatory bodies to reduce the risks
- what were the resulting costs and benefits of the actions or inactions
- what lessons were learned for future decision making?

Through the use of engaging examples, this very accessible book establishes the precautionary principle as an overarching framework of thinking that governs the use of foresight in situations characterized by uncertainty and ignorance, and where there are potentially large costs to regulatory inaction.



The Perception of Risk

by Paul Slovic. EarthScan, 2000
473p. (Tables, Figures & References)

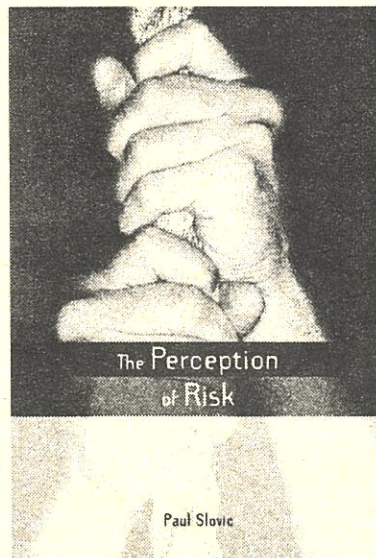
The Perception of Risk provides a synopsis of twenty-five years of research to examine how society arrives at an optimum balance between the risks and benefits associated with any activity by trial and error. By organizing the topics chronologically, the book allows the reader to see the evolution of our understanding of the perception of risks including:

- societal risk taking
- rating risks
- informing and educating the public about risk
- perceived risk, trust and democracy
- technological stigma

While The Perception of Risk is academically dry at times, the various studies provide a philosophical backdrop to the precautionary principle by providing the reader with an understanding of the gap between the policy makers' views of risk, and the public perception of risk. For example, in one chapter, the experts are shown to be hindered by "bounded reality" where cognitive limitations force decision-makers to construct simplified models in order to deal with the world.

Online Resources:

The Network has launched a new website for Environmental Risk Assessment and Management (NERAM) in order to assist in the development of the precautionary principle in Canada. The mission of NERAM's website is to present a fair, accurate, plain language summary of stakeholder perspectives on the issues surrounding the interpretation and implementation of the precautionary principle in Canada. While still under



construction in places (news and events), the site offers an excellent overview of the precautionary principle, stakeholder positions, bibliography and online publications, links to other websites as well as an email address to encourage feedback. NERAM's website is available at: <http://www.neram.ca/Pages/pp/ppweb.htm>

Notes:

1. The Precautionary Principle in Action: A Handbook. Joel Tickner, Carolyn Raffensperger and Nancy Myers. Science and Environmental Health Network. 1999 26p. Available at: <http://www.biotech-info.net/handbook.pdf>

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Too Good to Waste!

By Iain Whitaker

Waste Reduction Week 2002, October 21-27

Some quick facts: Canadians use some 200 aerosol cans each year, take home more than 55 million plastic bags each week, discard 1.7 billion disposable diapers annually, use 4400 litres of water daily, and produce nearly their body weight in garbage every month; It takes 9500 litres of water, 5.5 kilograms of grain, 16 kilograms of topsoil and the energy equivalent to 4.5 litres of gasoline to produce one pound of feedlot beef; One litre of used oil, improperly disposed of, can pollute one million litres of fresh water, and; Some 60 per cent of Canada's boreal forest and Arctic regions are forecast to be drastically altered by climate change.

Realities like these form a backdrop as schools, groups and communities across Manitoba gear up for Waste Reduction Week 2002 on October 21-27. Waste Reduction Week is organized by non-profit groups in all thirteen provinces and territories. It's a chance for organizations to promote the different elements of waste reduction—reducing, reusing, recycling and composting, as well as energy and water conservation—knowing that they are joined by hundreds of other organizations across the country.

Themes for each day of the week

Each day of Waste Reduction Week has been assigned a theme, to help participants focus their activity planning. On *Home Monday*, for instance, remember that recycling and composting will divert over half of your solid waste from the landfill. Rake those fallen leaves into bags to add gradually to the compost pile over the coming year. On *Travel Tuesday*, try taking the bus to work, or host a dinner party with exclusively

locally produced food. Supporting local producers is helpful on a social level, but also on an environmental level, since the food that travels less also pollutes less. On *Work Wednesday*, form a workplace "green team" to investigate and report on significant waste issues. Remember that waste reduction doesn't only save natural resources; it can save a lot of money, too! On *School Thursday*, organize a "litter-less lunch" competition, or set up a classroom vermicomposter. On *Play Friday*, organize a community sports equipment swap, or take up a new, non-motorized hobby like music, yoga or cross-country skiing. Shopping Saturday is your chance to purchase or sew a cloth shopping bag, and consider forming/joining an organic food-buying co-op. *Community Sunday* may be spent attending or organizing public speaking events focusing on waste issues, or organizing a community-wide litter pick-up. The civic elections, which are scheduled to occur during Waste Reduction Week, also offer community groups the ability to ask their local candidates for their opinions on waste reduction and conservation.

To get involved

Waste Reduction Week in Manitoba is sponsored by the Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation, Manitoba Hydro, City of Winnipeg, and Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. To register your organization as a participant, or for more information or activity suggestions, contact Iain Whitaker, Waste Reduction Week Coordinator, Resource Conservation Manitoba, phone: 925-3772, email: wrw@resourceconservation.mb.ca, and browse the Waste Reduction Week website at www.resourceconservation.mb.ca and www.wrwcanda.com.

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The Manitoba Eco-Network

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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.

