

## St. Lupicin, Roseisle: Going to the Hogs

By Ted Ross

Not too far from Roseisle, a small town in south central Manitoba, lies a five-mile long depression of land called the Babcock/Roseisle Valley. This valley is home to the Roseisle Creek watershed, described by the National Resources Institute as an "ecological oasis set in a steeply sloped valley, over three quarters of a mile across ... A little known Manitoba treasure, with rich woodlands, lush floodplains, thickly forested valley walls, and a great natural beauty". The watershed is home to an abundance of wildlife and flora, including some species considered to be rare and potentially endangered.

Those who have moved into the area over the years have been very dedicated in protecting the area's ecology and natural beauty. They have cleaned up dumping areas, restricted hunting, built homes without removal of old trees, and each year they join together to cut leafy spurge along the valley roads to avoid chemical spraying by the municipality.

The area is an attraction to many visitors. Some enjoy the peaceful pleasure of the local B & B. Others take in bike riding, cross-country skiing, or hiking through the rolling landscape. Children are often seen in the summer with their parents enjoying the coolness of the creek, and on occasion, some of the wildlife make their presence known. The occasional tour bus goes through the winding roadway, stopping to let people enjoy the view.

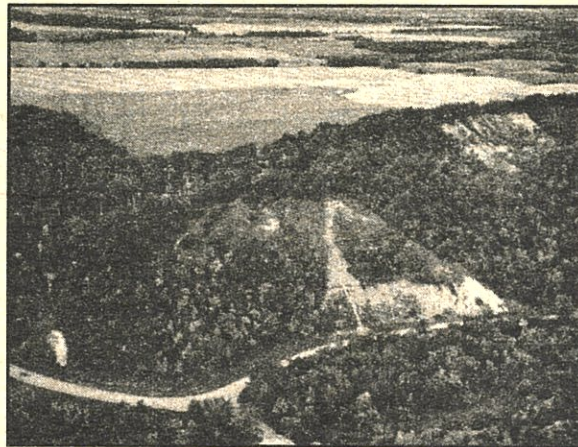
### The simpler things in life

Adjacent to the valley is the quaint hamlet of St. Lupicin. The hamlet is home to a few people, a historical church and cemetery, and the St. Lupicin Craft Gallery. The gallery provides a sales outlet for the numerous talented artists in the district, and it is celebrating its 21st anniversary this summer.

The people of St. Lupicin and the valley are of a quiet nature, getting pleasure out of the simpler things in life. Many play musical instruments, they all garden without the use of chemicals, most are

good with their hands, and they all share a common love for "the valley". Social events include potluck suppers, bonfires and music, and a yearly street sale in St. Lupicin. The makeup of the community is very diverse, from health care and business professionals through artists, tradespeople, and family farmers.

In 1994, local residents formed the Roseisle Creek Watershed Association to promote the preservation of the natural habitat and wildlife in the watershed.



*The St. Lupicin and Roseisle region is a uniquely beautiful ecological oasis. Photo by Trish Gross*

### Scenic rural setting

No doubt, many rural districts would view the Babcock/Roseisle Valley as an asset to be protected. Our municipality gets residential taxes from land that was previously vacant, and they have gained a small tourist attraction at no cost to their taxpayers. At least three movies have been made here. In the fall of 2002, the valley served as a background to scenes from an upcoming TV movie, starring Diane Keaton. Some 120 people involved in the movie spent 3 days here, bringing some unexpected income to nearby towns. The filmmakers stated that they would be back, as the area presented a perfect backdrop for movies

requiring a rural setting in a naturally wooded area.

As human activity will have it, all good things come to an end. In 1998 & 1999 water quality tests of the Roseisle Creek indicated that nitrates and phosphates were higher than in numerous other rivers in Manitoba—a real threat to the valley's environment and to its wildlife. Now the wave of industrialized pork production adds a further threat to the environment and to the valley's residents.

### A lagoon holding animal excrement

Four barns housing a total of 8000 feeder hogs (20,000 pigs annually), and a lagoon holding animal excrement equal to the waste of 24,000 to 32,000 people, will soon be constructed just half a mile from St. Lupicin. The lagoon will be in proximity to a marsh, which provides a moose habitat (alas—no longer) and acts as an aquifer recharge area.

In 2002, several delegations tried to convince the local council that St. Lupicin was not a suitable location for such a large hog operation. The RM of Lorne, where the valley and St. Lupicin reside, has no development bylaws, so people generally build whatever they want wherever they please. When confronted with the issue, councillors told the delegations that the Manitoba government's TRC

see "Pig Production has Priority" on page 6 ►

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Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau  
Ecologique du Manitoba Inc. at  
2-70 Albert Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 1E7

phone: (204) 947-6511

fax: (204) 989-8476

email: mbeconet@mts.net

http://www.web.net/men

### Editor

Heather Laird

### Contributors this issue:

Climate Change Connection,  
Dennis Cunningham, Liz Dykman,  
David Elias, Anne Lindsey, Ted Ross

### Layout

David Henry

### Manitoba Eco-Network Executive (new elections in Summer 2003)

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Manitoba

#### Vice Chair

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Society, Manitoba Chapter

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Amanda Aziz, University of Manitoba  
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## 2003 Environmental Award Winners

The Manitoba Eco-Network's 2003 Environmental Awards were presented on May 20 at the Network's Annual General Meeting. Since 1990, these awards have been presented "in recognition of significant contributions to the protection and awareness of Manitoba's environment". A Selection Committee elects winners in four categories, from a slate of nominations received from the environmental community and the public.

### This year's winners are:

#### Resource Conservation Mb. (group)

Formerly known as the Recycling Council of Manitoba, Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) is one of the bastions of the environmental movement in the province. RCM continues to advocate for waste minimization at all levels, and is known and respected for its programs such as the Winnipeg Commuter Challenge, the Environmental Speakers Bureau, and its composting education program. Focused on practical solutions that citizens can use, RCM also takes an important role in commenting on and contributing to policy for environmental improvement.



#### Vicki Burns (individual female)

Vicki is known to many in her role as the Executive Director of the Winnipeg Humane Society, where she has advocated vigorously for the compassionate treatment of all animals. Amongst her accomplishments, Vicki can count the Winnipeg Humane Society's certification program for humanely-produced meat and eggs, advocacy for ending the Spring bear hunt in Manitoba, and her active

involvement in HogWatch Manitoba.

#### Glen Koroluk (individual male)

Also a key leader in the HogWatch Manitoba group, Glen has a long history of environmental activism and research in the province. He has served as a Board member for the Manitoba Eco-Network, Executive Director of Resource Conservation Manitoba, Co-ordinator of the Coalition to Save the Assiniboine River and is an active participant in the Manitoba Future Forest Alliance, amongst many other interests. Glen is widely respected for his careful research and participation in environmental assessments of new projects.

#### Fred Tait (special award)

Fred, a farmer in Rossendale, Manitoba, served for many years as a leader in the National Farmers Union. He currently is on the Board of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Manitoba chapter. Fred's nomination for this award reads, "For his timely and convincing viewpoints on politics, woodlot management, agriculture, water, and hog barns, and for his public presentations, volunteer work and advocacy".

#### Dr. Carl Ridd (lifetime achievement)

The Eco-Network granted an additional award this year, "for outstanding lifetime achievement". This award is to the memory of Dr. Carl Ridd, longtime member and supporter of the environmental movement who provided mentorship and inspiration to so many of his colleagues. The award takes the form of a contribution to the University of Winnipeg scholarship fund in his name.

**ECO**

### Eco-Network Steering Committee, 2003-2004

Amanda Aziz, U of M Recycling and Environmental Group

Kate Dykman, Eco-MAFIA

Kristina Hunter, U of M Environmental Science

Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food Council of Manitoba

Scott Kidd, Member at Large

Joseph Prymak, Consumers for Responsible Energy

John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Lise Smith, Living Prairie Museum



# CEC Discussion Document Released

By David Elias

In December 2001, around the time City Council adopted their long-range policy Plan Winnipeg 2020, the Civic Environmental Committee (CEC) was also established. The CEC was designed as a voluntary 'advisory committee' of experts assembled to provide advice to City Council and report on environmental and urban sustainability issues.

Recently, the CEC released an Environmental Strategy Discussion Document, which proposes a comprehensive environmental strategy for the City of Winnipeg. The 56-page document identifies key areas of environmental concern and offers suggestions of how these areas may be addressed through municipal policy.

## A springboard for consultation

As one would expect with policy development in Canada, consultation and communication among stakeholders, other levels of government, and the public are vital elements in the process. Fortunately, the document provides a springboard for these consultations as well as a means of focusing discussion on key areas.

The range of subjects includes 22 topics, ranging from familiar issues of air quality and climate change as well as developing brownfield sites (for contaminated soil disposal) and urban forests.

In terms of proposals designed to deal with these issues, generic recommendations tend to be the norm. "Ensuring that (insert issue here) is integrated into policy and decision making" and "educating City employees on City policies directed toward reducing..." are the kinds of 'fill in the blanks' options which inundate the report.

Some of the other clear-cut options however, do demonstrate ingenuity. For example: "Integrating gas/electric hybrid vehicles into its existing fleet"; "requesting that the Federal government make employee transit subsidies a tax-exempt benefit"; and "demonstrating innovation by working with Manitoba Public Insurance to develop insurance policies that foster environmentally friendly behaviour (for example, automobile insurance based on kilometers traveled)" all have the kind of handle that policy developers can grasp.

As the strategy document is aimed at policy makers, all recommendations for council are paralleled with suggested community-based programs designed to foster sustainable behaviour among Winnipeg citizenry. These also tend to be sparse in their specifics and creativity, however items such as "develop-

ing appropriate alternatives to autobins in residential neighbourhoods", and "participating in community education programs that emphasize the importance of avoiding excessively packaged goods and extended producer responsibility for waste", provide decision makers with the explicit measures that can (and should) be carried out.

Ultimately, the document does well in generating awareness and expanding the dimension of the current discourse at city hall. Terms such as perverse subsidy (the phenomenon in which environmentally responsible individuals and organizations subsidize the non-sustainable behavior of others) and polluter pay: (a practice in which users of publicly provided services are responsible for the full cost of these services, including the costs to the environment) start to move the focus to sustainability rather than conventional economics.

## Deadpan statistics

If none of the above effectively motivates municipal government officials to reevaluate their stance on the environment, the CEC offers some deadpan statistics which are sure to shock more than a few.

- In Canada's major cities, the average commuting time for a round trip by car is 48 minutes. Winnipeg is above the national average at 51 minutes per commute.
- A large portion of Winnipeg's energy consumption is in the form of non-renewable fossil fuels imported from outside of the province.
- Historically, Winnipeg has consumed more land per-capita of population increase than other Canadian cities.
- It is estimated that 40% of Canada's greenhouse gases are emitted from its building stock.

Details such as these make it difficult to regard Winnipeg as the environmentally innocuous 'big small town' that most residents tend to view it as.

As a final shortcoming, it is noted that the strategies contained in the document have been assembled from research and best practice scans of other municipalities across North America. It is a shame that the world's leading environment-friendly municipalities in Europe were not included. Overall, however, the document is a striking sign that city councilors in Winnipeg are expanding their environmental horizons.

The strategy can be found on the CEC website at [www.cecwinipeg.org](http://www.cecwinipeg.org)

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## Public Utility Board hearings

Last year, Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems (TREE) and Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) intervened in Public Utility Board (PUB) hearings into Manitoba Hydro rates. They wanted the PUB to examine the potential to increase incentives for energy conservation, and to consider the ecological impact of generating energy. You can read the report on this issue in the online version of the June Eco-Journal, at [www.web.net/men](http://www.web.net/men) (follow the Eco-Journal links).



# What's Happening

**Saturday, June 7** (Rain day June 8)—Field of Dreams: Annual Greening Event at the former St. Vital landfill site. Save Our Seine invites everyone to the clean-up/tree planting 10 am–2 pm at Marlene St. at Beliveau Rd. (East of St. Anne's) BBQ and drinks at lunch. Bring your gloves, shovel and sunscreen. Groups interested should call David Danyluk at 470-9247.

**Saturday, June 7** (Rain Date June 14)—Friends of Bruce Park - Annual General Meeting, Clean Up Event & BBQ The annual general meeting of the FBP will be held at the picnic area of Bruce Park, followed by the clean up and a hot dog roast. Meeting at 11:00am

**Sunday, June 8**—INTRIA Items/Friends of Omands Creek, Dream Green Planting Day at Omands Creek, north of Brookside Cemetery. Intria staff will be helping the Friends of Omands Creek restore an endangered habitat type in Winnipeg by planting trees and shrubs along the creek. 12:30–3:30pm For further info contact Karen at (204) 944-6821

**Thursday, June 12**—Tree Diseases Workshop. Learn about the top ten tree diseases you might find in your yard, including Dutch elm disease. Learn to identify diseases, and to prevent and manage problems. Workshop held in partnership with the East Kildonan Horticultural Society. Bring along any tree questions too! 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Bronx Park Community Centre, 131 Chelsea Place. Free for members of the Coalition to Save the Elms and East Kildonan Horticultural Society. Non-members fee is \$10.00. Call 832-7188 or email [elms@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:elms@mb.sympatico.ca) for more info.

**June 16–17**—Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Manitoba's Water Resources. In celebration of the Year of Freshwater, the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Manitoba Chapter with support from the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC) and UNESCO, are hosting this two-day symposium. Canad Inn, 1824 Pembina Hwy, Wpg. For more info please visit [www.cwra.org](http://www.cwra.org) or to register email [cwra@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:cwra@hydro.mb.ca)

**June 18th**—Seminar by Irwin Brodo (author of Lichens of N. America) on the biology and identification of Lichens. Dept. of Botany, Uof Mb. 3:00pm in Room 306 Buller Building.

**Sunday June 22**—No Sweat Manitoba presents a fundraiser: Sweat for No Sweat. The annual Run for Rights has invited us to join them for a walk/run/wheel/prance-a-thon. Meet at 1:00 pm on the corner of Wellington and Academy at the Unitarian Church. Free T-shirts to anyone who earns more than \$100. To register and receive a sponsor sheet email [project@unpac.ca](mailto:project@unpac.ca). Other organizations involved are Amnesty International, LITE, Winnipeg Refugee Education Network, and Kairos.

**Sunday, June 22**—Insect Daze & Plant Sale at the Living Prairie Museum, 2795 Ness Ave. Discover the amazing world of insects and how much we depend on them. Displays, scavenger hunt, tours, games, crafts, performances, and more. Native prairie plant sale (Prairie Habitats). 10 am–5 pm. No admission charge. Call 832-0167 for more info.

**Wednesday August 6**—Project Peacemakers Hiroshima/Nagasaki event. Time and location TBA. Contact (204) 775-8178 or [info@projectpeacemakers.org](mailto:info@projectpeacemakers.org) for more info.

**Saturday, August 9**—Manitoba Naturalists Society, Natural Garden Tour. This year's garden tour comprises nine gardens, two of which are community initiatives to improve the public environment. The tour gardeners have tended their gardens with loving care, to stimulate and inspire you with ideas for your own garden. Tickets

for this self-directed tour are \$10 (open to adults and children 12 and up) and available by calling the MNS office at 943-9029.

**Sunday, August 17**—CPAWS Boreal Rendezvous celebration at The Forks. The Boreal Rendezvous involves 10 teams of paddlers canoeing some of Canada's most magnificent and treasured boreal rivers: The Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers, the Coal, Dease, Nahanni, Athabasca, Churchill, Berens and Moisie. These trips will include celebrated Canadians, First Nations, journalists and CPAWS folks, all of whom want to raise awareness of the importance of our boreal forest. Join us on August 17 at The Forks Historic Port and Oodena Circle to meet some of the paddlers, hear guest speakers, and enjoy food and entertainment! For more info, call CPAWS Manitoba at 949-0782 or visit [www.cpaws.org/boreal-rendezvous](http://www.cpaws.org/boreal-rendezvous)

**August 19&20**—Organic Farm Tour and Party. Take the chartered bus at midday from the Prairie Sun Organic Market or drive out to Room to Grow near Boissevain (with a tour stop on the way) to join in the potluck supper and music-making. Room To Grow is a certified greenhouse and eco-retreat centre with a straw bale guest house, mandala garden, animals, swimming pond, and lots of walking trails. Camp out or stay at a local B&B. Sunday we'll have a walk-about, soccer and swim and more food! Call Maggie & David in Boissevain at (204) 534-2303 or email [roomtogrow@mts.net](mailto:roomtogrow@mts.net).

**Sunday, September 7**—Spirit of the Prairie at the Living Prairie Museum 2795 Ness Ave. Join us in our year-end celebration of the tall grass prairie, its cultures and all its gifts. A great way to spend grandparent's day (grandparents will receive a special gift). Entertainment, prairie tours, archery, bannock baking, memories, games and much more. 11 am–4 pm Admission charge, special group tours available. Call 832-0167 for more info.

**September 19–21**—The Harvest Moon Festival in Clearwater, MB. Come one, come all! For families, farmers or urbanites, the Festival is for people of all ages and income levels. The festivities begin on Friday evening and run through to Sunday brunch and include music, films, farm tours and amazing food! For more info contact Andre at 204-292-9467 or Jason at [jason@2614inch.com](mailto:jason@2614inch.com)



## Organic Lawn Care Workshops

June & July Manitoba Eco-Network presents the following Organic Lawn Care workshops. To register, or for more information, call Michelle or Monique at 947-6511.

### Workshops

June 10 - Cornish Library 7-8pm  
 June 24 - Westwood Library 7-8pm  
 June 26 - Transcona Library 7-8pm  
 July 3 - Louis Riel Library 7-8pm  
 July 8 - Windsor Park Library 7-8pm  
 July 10 - Munroe Library 7-8pm  
 July 15 - St. Vital Library 6:30-7:30pm  
 July 16 - St. Boniface Library 7-8pm

### Displays

June 14 - Mountain Equipment Co-op 10am-4pm  
 June 21 - National Aboriginal Day 9am  
 June 22 - Insect Day, Living Prairie Museum 10am-5pm  
 July 1 - Osborne Street Festival



# Trading Carbon Reduction Credits

By Dennis Cunningham, IISD

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), recently made one of the first purchases of carbon emission reduction credits in Manitoba. These credits allow organizations or businesses to "offset" their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by purchasing, through special brokerage firms, an equivalent amount of "credits" from innovative environmental businesses. The IISD purchase was the result of a June 2001 initiative to establish a formalized sustainability reporting process following the *Global Reporting Initiative* guidelines (<http://www.globalreporting.org>).

The IISD Reporting Team selected several indicators for measurement, covering environmental, economic and social dimensions. These measurement efforts have led to numerous organizational changes. The information collected through this initiative influences practical considerations like: how to reduce carbon emissions, which will influence the amount we travel and how, staffing and capacity building, and how improved operational procedures can contribute to the achievement of our vision and mission.

## Data collection introduced

With respect to reducing carbon emissions a data collection system was introduced in April 2002 to measure our emissions from travel, heating and publications distribution. Eventually this system will measure employee emissions related to commuting (our support of, and participation in, the Winnipeg Commuter Challenge and Winnipeg Transit's EcoPass Program are intended to promote green commuting practices and perhaps could be considered early action on this front). Our long-term goal is reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions, possibly through establishing new guidelines for travel, future office space requirements and distribution of publications.

The majority of emissions created at IISD come from air travel. All staff travel distances are collected and used in our calculations of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions. For example, in October 2002 IISD sent six staff from its offices in Winnipeg, Ottawa and Geneva to New Delhi for COP-8 (an international conference

on climate change), totalling 90,000 passenger-kilometres of emissions. In addition, the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB)—IISD's online reporting service at international meetings—sent 10 staff from various cities around the world (another 82,000 kms of travel). These flights resulted in a total of 28.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> generated. While this is an atypical number of staff going to one location at one time, it is fairly indicative of the kind of travel our projects frequently entail.

Using all IISD emissions related data collected for the 2002-

2003 fiscal year we were able to calculate our total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. While IISD doesn't create a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, doing the calculation has—for the first time—provided us with a clear emissions profile and a starting point for developing emission reduction strategies. Working with the greenhouse gas brokerage firm, CO<sub>2</sub>e.com of the Cantor Fitzgerald Group, IISD has negotiated a purchase of carbon credits. These credits were made available for purchase by a Saskatchewan company that operates systems for capturing methane created from organic waste and generating electricity from the methane.

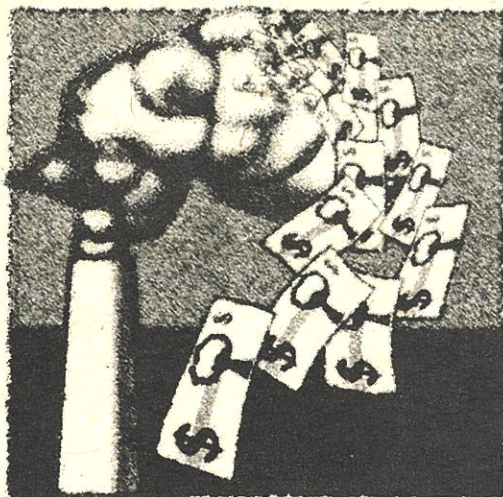
## Quantifiable marketplace

By going through a broker we are able to purchase emission reduction credits that are certified as real, quantifiable and verifiable, all critical qualities in the emissions marketplace. The broker has also been able to pool our purchase with several other purchases in order to reduce overall transaction costs.

At this point in time CO<sub>2</sub> is not a regulated emission and so our purchase is more of an exploratory exercise into the world of emissions trading. Once the Canadian Domestic Emission Trading system is implemented it is anticipated that this type of emission credit will qualify under the "offsets" category. However, the credits IISD has purchased will be retired and will not be available on the market for future trading.

If you would like further information about this purchase or IISD's sustainability reporting initiative, please feel free to contact me at [dcunningham@iisd.ca](mailto:dcunningham@iisd.ca).

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# Pig Production has Priority

... continued from page 1

(Technical Review Committee) and Manitoba Conservation would decide if the location was suitable for a hog operation. People who approached these government agencies soon discovered that in this province, pig production has priority over rural residents and the environment.

The group learned that the TRC is only an advisory group to municipalities and that they have no authority to approve or reject a hog operation. The TRC relies on input from the hog proponents and will not accept input from the public, even if that input proves the proponent's submission to be erroneous. The group was also surprised to learn that Manitoba Conservation exercises no authority over the siting of these operations, other than determining the best manure storage structure for the site and its location. Both government agencies state that it is the RMs who approve or reject the suitability of a location. So, in this province, our environment and the welfare of its rural residents are in the hands of a few locals on council who typically have no experience with environmental issues, and may also have a vested interest in pork production.

## Groundwater pollution hazard

So there we have it. A corporate hog operation will be constructed in a groundwater pollution hazard area (as noted in a government map). Eleven homes are within a mile of the site—contrary to Farm Practices Guidelines. The area's natural resources are at risk, and people's lives are being upended.

The owner of the St. Lupicin Craft Gallery worries daily that his business will be ruined. Most of his customers come from outside the area, and will be turned off by foul odour, heavy truck traffic carrying feed or live or dead pigs, and by the lagoon and barn insects that will invade the hamlet. Seasonal residents of St. Lupicin, including a couple who planned to soon retire here, are now thinking about selling.

Nearby family cattle farmers and residents are concerned that the large volume of water needed by the pig operation will deplete a water table that is already of limited accessible supply. The operation, requiring approximately 160 million litres of water annually, has been given approval to access groundwater on the site, water from a small dam almost 2 miles away and an emergency supply from the marsh.

The cattle farmers also share concern about drainage from the site carrying the cryptosporidium bacteria into their pastures. This bacterium is present in hog manure and is known to cause cattle to

abort. The March 2003 announcement, from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, that E.coli 0157:H7 (the Walkerton killer) is present in hog manure adds further discomfort to anyone living near the facility.

Meanwhile, local planners want to attract more residents and tourism into the district. I believe that people associate rural life with clean air, clean water, peace and quiet and serene landscapes. No one in their right mind would want to live near a facility housing 8000 pigs. The proponent of the hog operation seems to understand this as he and his family set up their home 6 miles from the site. Tourists and movie sets will not be attracted into an area shared with 8000 confined animals and a huge open-air lagoon.

Why is this insanity happening in our province while some other provinces and parts of the world are taking a strong posture against industrialized hog operations? Quebec, once the top Canadian producer of pork, is in the middle of a moratorium on hog operations while they study the impact these are having

on the environment. Governor Mike Easley of North Carolina is calling for a 4-year extension on their moratorium stating that it is time to replace this antiquated system. The Conservation Council of New Brunswick has joined the Canadian Medical Association and National Farmers Union in calling for a moratorium on new mega-hog operations (those housing more than 3000 animals). Europe is ahead of North America in restricting these operations for environmental and health reasons. With all the facts and real life experiences

much of the world has with these hog operations, and the knowledge that the lakes in our province are dying, why is the NDP insistent on further expansion of this industry?

## Shattering people's lives

In the end, it is obvious that it's economics that matters. Rural people and the environment are being treated as secondary. To some the almighty dollar is justification enough to permit a corporation to set up an industry that is shattering people's lives and plans, while imposing a high risk to people's health and the welfare of "Manitoba treasures".

Manitoba is now the biggest pork producer in Canada. The NDP, if reelected, will be forcing all municipalities to adopt an across-the-board setback regulation to open up land for even more pig factories than we already have. Watch as one may soon be coming to your neighbourhood. You may be the next Manitoban to have your life ruined. And you may witness first hand, the risk these operations pose to the environment, your health, and the survival of your rural community.

Ted Ross is President of the Roseisle Creek Watershed Association and a resident near St. Lupicin

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At the riverbank. Photo by Trish Gross

**Save Our Seine**  
RIVER ENVIRONMENT INC.



## Save Our Seine T-shirts

Finally, after 13 years, Save Our Seine now has T-shirts! We only made 100 and they're selling fast at only \$14 each (yes, including all taxes). Sports the 'SOS' logo with "A river lies waiting to be discovered" (Bilingual) Green on white available in SM, M, L & XL. Support SOS and call 470-9247 to order yours before its too late!





# What's New at the Eco-Centre?

By Anne Lindsey, Executive Director

Life has been busy and rewarding at the Eco-Network office over the spring period. We held our Annual General Meeting on May 20th, with an excellent turnout of group representatives. The meeting ended with a new by-law in place which allows MEN groups to elect one Member-at-large to the Steering Committee. This will enable us to draw upon a greater pool of expertise and interest in our community. Nominees for this position will need to declare themselves in time for biographical information to be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting, and this individual will not have a vote at a general meeting of members.

Scott Kidd, a former Steering Committee member representing CPAWS Manitoba, let his name stand and was elected to the Committee. We welcome Scott back, along with the following new Steering Committee members: Lise Smith representing the Living Prairie Museum, Kristina Hunter of University of Manitoba Environmental Science, and Eco-MAFIA's Kate Dykman. Glen Koroluk from WaterWatch and Larissa Ashdown from Eco-MAFIA are leaving the committee and we thank them for their contributions during their terms. (See a full list of Steering Committee members on page 2).

After a break for dessert and discussion, the Eco-Network Environmental Awards were presented to this year's recipients before an appreciative audience. "Hard work", "vision", and "inspiration" were words used often in acknowledging the award winners. (More about the awards on page 2)

## Green lawns are back!

In the office, there's plenty to report. Monique LaPlante (Green Team) and Michelle McDonald (HRDC Summer Career Placement) have joined us to implement this summer's Organic Lawn Care Education project. Besides the summer employment programs, we're grateful for the continuing support of the City of Winnipeg Parks and Open Spaces Division, and for a contribution from Mountain Equipment Co-op's Store Environmental Fund for this summer's project.

Along with the usual community-based workshops around the City, our team will be offering workplace lawn care seminars to employees of interested businesses, and for the first time, they plan to offer workshops in French as well as English. This project aims to give citizens the tools and information they need to create and maintain a green and healthy outdoor space, without the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Please call Michelle or Monique at 947-6511 to register for a workshop or to request information.

## Building capacity

Another exciting project just getting underway is the Manitoba Saskatchewan Capacity Building Project. We are partnering in this work with the Saskatchewan Eco-Network, and the Toronto-based Sustainability Network ([www.sustain.web.net](http://www.sustain.web.net)) to deliver capacity-building programs including forums, workshops, books, and bursaries to environmental non-profits in these two Prairie Provinces. Funded by the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, this project will have its Winnipeg launch on June 24, with a 'Funders Forum' lunch. This event will be open to the public, but pre-registration will be necessary. (See p.12 for more details).

## Putting Manitoba on the map

Our Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Centre project is set to launch this summer. A business plan was completed with the assistance of Emerge Knowledge, a local consultant, under the direction of MEN's GIS Advisory Committee. The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, and the Winnipeg Foundation have granted funding for the first two years of the project. Other funding applications are currently pending.

Linnet, the Land Systems Company, is generously making available to us its complete data set of digital photos and elevation models. This data, together with publicly available data sets, will enable good coverage of much of the province. We expect that many of our member groups working on conservation and land use issues will access the services of the center for map production.

## Climate change connecting!

June 30th will see the conclusion of the Pilot Phase of the Manitoba Climate Change Public Education and Outreach Hub-

continued next page ►



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continued from page 7....

**Climate Change Connection.** There is general agreement that the pilot was a great success, with many opportunities made for spreading the word about climate change and who is doing what on this issue. Congratulations are due to Jennifer Duggan and Rachel Van Caesele, who have been doing an excellent job as CCC staff.

Three community workshops were held in Steinbach, Brandon and Thompson, with guest speakers from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). (See the article on the Steinbach workshop on p.9). As an extension of the Anti-Idling initiative, look for colourful signs to go up at locations all over Winnipeg (and Brandon, Steinbach, Virden and Pinawa so far) reminding us that "Healthy Communities Don't Idle".

Jennifer is currently working on a Business Plan for Phase Two of Climate Change Connection, with input from the multi-stakeholder Steering Committee. More community workshops around the province will likely feature prominently in the second phase for which the Federal Government and the Province have already pledged funding support.

### Member Group Forum

Back in March (seems a long time ago now!), we held our Second Member Group Forum. It was very well attended by representatives of the member groups, including several from different corners of the province.

This stimulating day featured some excellent updates on pressing environmental issues. Don Sullivan gave an overview of the issues facing the East Side of Lake Winnipeg; Janine Gibson shared information on a range of agricultural topics including industrial livestock and GMOs, and organic farm-

ing; and Randall McQuaker masterfully summarized the plethora of urban environmental issues being tackled by groups.

Steve Ashton, Minister of Conservation, took the hot seat at lunch, providing an overview of issues that he sees on the radar screen, and fielding some tough questions on topics ranging from pesticide use to caribou habitat. For many participants, the Minister's participation was a highlight of the day.

In the afternoon, we offered two workshops. One of the sessions discussed the how-to's of developing an ENGO State of the Environment Report for Manitoba. The other was on Media Skills and was co-hosted by local CBC Radio news editor, Dameon Wall. The highlight of this workshop was a mock press conference staged by a brave group of individuals who then were critiqued by the other workshop participants. Many positive comments were received about the workshops, and about the overall quality of the day.

**ECO**

## New Mb Eco-Network Members

### Jo Lutley Boreal Environmental Youth Centre

Programs include Conservation Caravan, composting, tree planting and recycling

Box 484, Thompson, MB R8N 1N2

Contact: Twila Makuch

Phone: (204) 778-1940

Fax: (204) 778-1941

Email: envyouth@mts.net

### Roseisle Creek Watershed Association

Working to promote preservation of and public interest in the natural habitat and wildlife of the local area.

Box 17, Roseisle, MB R0G 1V0

Contact: Ted Ross, President

Phone: (204) 248-2339

Fax: (204) 248-2362

Email: ted\_ross@mb.sympatico.ca

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## Free Anti-Idling Signs



Climate Change Connection is providing *Healthy Communities Don't Idle* signs free of charge to Manitoba municipalities to encourage the reduction of unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions. The signs are 30cm x 45cm (12" x 18") on aluminum with 2 pre-drilled holes for easy installation, plus rounded corners for safety. They are a bright yellow with red, blue and black elements.

Recipients will need to provide bolt sets, labour, and accept some wear and tear on their wrenches! Contact Jennifer Duggan at (204) 943-4836 or

[climate.connection@mts.net](mailto:climate.connection@mts.net) to place your order. For more information on ways to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions visit [www.climatechangeconnection.org](http://www.climatechangeconnection.org).



# Steinbach Community: Tackling Climate Change

*Climate Change Connection held community workshops in Steinbach, Brandon and Thompson. Proceedings will be available in June under Manitobans and Climate Change at [www.climatechangeconnection.org](http://www.climatechangeconnection.org).*

## Climate change affects everyone

Oliver Nelson is a former chief and adviser with the Rosseau River First Nation. Dawn Buchanan of the Canadian Organic Growers is a member of Northern Sun Farm Coop, an intentional community. Les Magnusson is the mayor of Steinbach. At the invitation of Climate Change Connection, all three participated in the April 8th Steinbach and Area Community Workshop on Climate Change.

The one-day workshop started with presentations on the basics of climate change, Kyoto and greenhouse gas (GHG)-reducing municipal programs. Then participants were encouraged to share their concerns, discuss barriers and identify opportunities for climate change solutions.

Participants had a variety of reasons for attending the workshop. Some wanted ideas for community education, some wanted to know what actions the province is taking, some wanted to learn about the science of climate change and how it might affect future generations. Most,

like David Wiens, dairy farmer and a director with Manitoba Milk Producers, also wanted to learn about how they and their communities could take positive action.

"There are 560 dairy producers in the province. We have to stay on top of what's happening to be part of the change instead of reacting to change as it comes along," said Wiens. "Who can argue against the environment?"

Other community workshop participants represented the Seine-Rat River Conservation District, Steinbach City Council, the Loewen Foundation, Steinbach Bible College, Manitoba Conservation, Red River College, and Manitoba Hydro.



*Participants in the Steinbach CCC workshop*

## Barriers to climate-friendly communities

Up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are under the direct or indirect control or influence of municipal governments—including municipal buildings, landfills, waste management, and transportation infrastructure.

Municipal-level greenhouse gas reduction programs will be a valuable tool for reaching Manitoba's commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. Municipal programs, such as retrofitting civic buildings for energy-savings, have payback times of as little as three to five years. But the difficulty for municipalities is that the money must be paid up front.

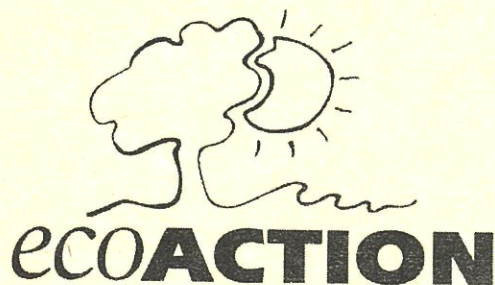
"Communities don't initiate environmental programs because it's an immediate outlay of money," said Mayor Magnusson, who also serves as the Eastern Urban Director with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. "There have to be financial incentives to municipalities."

## Need for financial incentives

Dairy producer Wiens agreed with Magnusson. Agriculture produces over one third of Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions, mostly as a result of excess nitrogen from fertilizer application. Financial incentives are important for producers to make climate-friendly changes.

For example, the dairy industry might be able to use new gas capture technologies to collect methane from their operations. Then the captured gas can be used to generate heat and electricity. Using the methane this way converts it to carbon dioxide—a less potent gas—and also reduces the energy demand of the operation, which saves further greenhouse gas emissions. But the technology is expensive.

"No one will argue the long-term benefits but we have to survive in the short-term," said Wiens. "It's not a simple matter of mortgaging every change into the future and hoping for the best. At the end of the day, we hope that there are going to be some financial incentives. [Meeting the Kyoto Protocol] is to everybody's benefit. If we can share the cost of moving in that direction, I think that is fair."



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continued from page 7....

It's not just municipalities and businesses that watch the bottom line. Individuals do too. Families contribute to Manitoba's greenhouse gas footprint, mainly through home energy and transportation emissions.

Many participants pointed out that people will adopt changes that make economic and lifestyle sense. People support home weatherproofing, but reducing car idling might be a tough sell to a mother with a newborn in February. And while people might trade their snowmobile for an energy efficient model, few would trade a snowmobile for a pair of zero-GHG emitting cross-country skis.

Lack of public climate change education was another barrier that participants identified—a barrier that participants were addressing by attending the Steinbach workshop.

### Opportunities for climate change solutions

When it came to climate change solutions, participants liked the "low hanging fruit"—actions that were fast, easy and cheap.

Local buying and processing reduces transportation emissions. Tire pressure checks improve vehicle gas mileage. Reducing vehicle idling cuts emissions. Composting keeps organic materials out of the landfills where, in the absence of oxygen, they produce methane during decomposition. Carpooling and improved public transportation takes cars off the road. Public education through radio, educational institutions, and newspapers helps communities respond to climate change. Promoting education in the community gives people the tools to practice climate change solutions.

As part of the public education, Tom Garbolinski, Business Representative with Manitoba Hydro, thinks people should know that it can be painless to be climate-friendly.

"You can do everything you do now using less," said Garbolinski. "For example, in this room, you could change the lighting and get thirty per cent more light using twenty per cent less power. You're not sacrificing anything by doing that."

Organic grower Buchanan thinks public education is important and she's willing to promote composting education. "Steinbach is going to be called upon to meet Kyoto," said Buchanan. "We're hoping that if there's some way we can help, we'll be called on."

At the community level, the city of Steinbach is looking for a GHG-reducing project. Mayor Magnusson likes the climate-friendly approach taken by an environmental organization in partnership with the town administration in Perth, Ontario. Eco-Perth developed a community-based action plan and created subcommittees for transportation, communications, greening and buildings. Said Magnusson, "If we do a project, it will be a good one [like Eco-Perth]."

Steinbach workshop participants identified community involvement and networking as essential for developing and implementing climate change solutions.

The Community Workshop was the region's first step toward building a local climate change network. Judging from the diversity of community members in attendance, the Steinbach network has a promising future.

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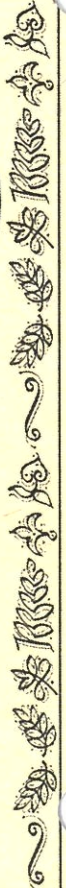
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# To Fog or Not to Fog...

By Anne Lindsey

Last summer's furor over the arrival of West Nile Virus (WNV), and the provincial declaration of a health emergency requiring malathion fogging of adult mosquitoes, has led many environmentalists to wonder what's in store for the summer of 2003. It has taken until very recently to discover what the City and Province are planning for the coming mosquito season.

Several groups—including Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Winnipeg (CPR!), Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM), Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba (CSM) and the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPCW)—asked Health Minister Dave Chomiak to include them in consultations for the development of the province's WNV strategy. This request was denied, in fact, the Minister took over 6 months to even respond to the request.

Meanwhile, the Province has been working on a strategy, but when it was finally released on the Department of Health website on April 23, it seemed hastily compiled and was curiously lacking in a number of important areas. Most notable was an absence of clear criteria to be used by the Health Minister in declaring a health emergency. Such criteria, which are present in the strategies of other North American jurisdictions, might include benchmarks such as, for example, the number of infected mosquitoes, or number of infected humans. It is a surprising absence, given that last year's declaration was so controversial and confusing.

The City, too, was slow to release its plan, citing the need to work co-operatively with the province and to wait until the provincial announcement was made on April 23. The following day the City released its so-called *Blueprint for Action* to a hastily convened special meeting of the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services.

Citizen groups, not having had previous access to this document, were invited to comment. All the groups who spoke denounced the time frame as inadequate for due public process, but nevertheless, the Committee accepted the report, recommended funding, and sent the Blueprint off to Executive Policy Committee and full Council for approval. City officials are now earnestly attempting to obtain input from concerned organizations on the details of the mosquito control plan.

## Buffer zones still possible

There are elements of the City's Blueprint which were wel-

comed by the environmental groups. These include the introduction of a pilot project in Wolseley and Garden City for door-to-door education on eliminating breeding sites for the Culex mosquitoes, which can carry WNV, and longer term strategies for source reduction and water management. Also, environmental groups were pleased that the City will still recognize citizen requests for buffer zones around their properties, for any nuisance fogging that may be carried out. The

Province, however, will rescind the buffer zones should it declare a Health Emergency.

A fundamental flaw in the City's Blueprint, though, is that it combines the strategy for WNV control with that for nuisance mosquitoes in one document. While a careful reader can see which elements of the plan relate to "nuisance" and which to WNV, the majority of citizens do not read reports, and moreover, cannot tell the difference between Culex mosquitoes, which can carry the West Nile virus, and Aedes (nuisance) mosquitoes. The media's trum-

peting of the report under the rubric of WNV only adds to the potential for confusion amongst the public when mosquito season begins.

## Political pressure to fog

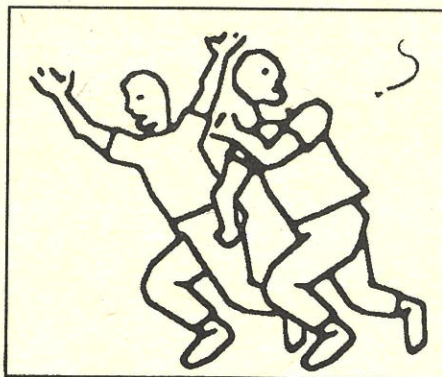
It's crucial that citizens know when they should be genuinely concerned for their health, as opposed to merely bothered by the usual annoying mosquitoes on a still summer evening. Every effort should be made to distinguish between these two scenarios; otherwise, one can imagine unnecessary fear on the part of citizens leading to political pressure to fog. Without transparent criteria to refer to, how can people assess the Health Minister's response? Councillor Harvey Smith raised this question at the Community Services meeting, but it is unfortunate that it was not addressed before City Council approved the Blueprint.

After meeting with citizen groups, Community Services Committee Chairperson, Jenny Gerbasí has agreed to urge the Province to release criteria for the declaration of a health emergency. She has also agreed to ensure that concerns about confusion between WNV and nuisance mosquito control are addressed in the City's future communications efforts.

Other points discussed with Councillor Gerbasí include better provision for notification if fogging is to take place. Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba particularly would like to see this notification extended to phone communications with citizens who have registered for buffer zones, and for notification provisions to be included in the permit that the City is issued from the Province.

While the City and the Province may have released their plans, this matter is not fully dealt with. We have no way of knowing what the mosquito situation will be like this summer, let alone the West Nile Virus issue, but citizens deserve to be fully informed and consulted about measures that the government plans to take. Building trust will be essential to prevent the kind of protests that erupted in 2002.

**ECO**



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# Prairie Sun Organic Market

The Prairie Sun Organic Market (PSOM) is a new organic marketing initiative in Winnipeg, aimed at providing a venue for farmers to sell organic food and for consumers to buy direct from the grower. Due to its initial success in 2002, the PSOM is creating a lot of excitement with its plans for more market days in 2003.

## August 9, 16 and 23 and September 6 and 13

Featuring certified organic products, the PSOM market will focus on Manitoba-grown vegetables, herbs, fruits and live-stock products. The market will be held on five Saturdays in 2003: August 9, 16 and 23 and September 6 and 13. The location is Red River Exhibition Park on the western edge of Winnipeg, a spacious, grassy site with a sheltered exhibit area,

an entertainment stage and ample parking facilities.

Vendors are encouraged to book their space as soon as possible—preference will be given to last year's participants and then on a first-come, first-served basis for the remaining spots.

Buyers will be treated to a range of offerings from fresh produce and packaged coffee to concession stands and cooking demonstrations. 'Organic music', educational exhibits and children's activities will also be on-site for the whole family to enjoy.

For event information and vendor applications, e-mail your request to: [inquiry@redriverex.com](mailto:inquiry@redriverex.com) or phone (204) 888-6990. PSOM is also on the Red River Exhibition website at [www.redriverex.com](http://www.redriverex.com).

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## Funders' Forum

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### Tuesday, June 24, 2003

6th Floor Hammond Building, 63 Albert Street (between Notre Dame and McDermott)

Registration: 10:45 am (Ends at 1:30pm)

Lunch will be served, Cost is \$10 per person

This event is open to the public and pre-registration is required, please contact Kenton Lobe for further information at 452-9313 or [lobed1@mts.net](mailto:lobed1@mts.net)

### Speakers:

**Ruth Richardson**, Environment Program coordinator, The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation

**Rick Slasor**, Eco-Action, Environment Canada

**Debra Kattler**, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

An open question and answer session will follow the panel presentation, and after lunch you'll have the opportunity to gather in small groups for further discussion with each funder.

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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.

