

ECO-JOURNAL

Volume 13, Number 5

November/December 2003



Eco-Network launches GIS/Mapping Centre

By Larry Laliberte, GIS Manager, and Anne Lindsey

So, what is a GIS anyway? Here's one definition: A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing geographic phenomena that exist, and events that occur, on Earth. GIS technology integrates common database operations such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by maps. These abilities distinguish GIS from other information systems and make it valuable to a wide range of public enterprises for explaining events, predicting outcomes, and planning strategies.

In laypersons' terms? Well, how about having all the information you need about an area of land—including things like where the rivers and creeks are, how many people live there and where, what kinds of plants and animals exist there, where the sources of pollution are, etc., and being able to show in a map how all these elements relate to each other? How about being able to use all this information as a tool to help decide what could happen next in this area of land? GIS takes the art and science of mapping to a whole new level.

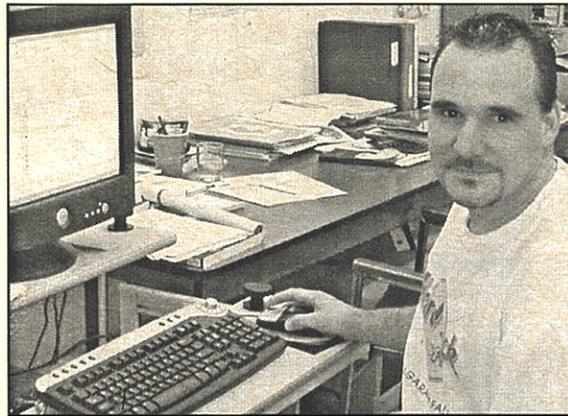
Spatial information at minimum cost

In September of 2003 the Manitoba Eco-Network launched our own GIS Mapping Centre, with the mission to "assist in developing the capacity of Manitoba's community of Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS) to gather, store, analyze, and add value to spatial information at a minimum cost in support of their conservation and education goals". The project aims to enhance ENGO efforts to educate the public, build cooperation among ENGOS and contribute constructively to public policy. In addition, the GIS/Mapping Centre welcomes partnerships with community colleges, universities and high schools, whose students are interested in mapping

and other GIS applications. It will provide placements for practicum and work-experience, as well as opportunities for young people to work on real life conservation and land use issues with community groups.

The GIS project is enjoying the generous support of a number of funding agencies. A substantial grant from the George Cedric

Metcalf Foundation's Capacity Building Program provided an excellent base from which to approach local funders. The Winnipeg Foundation, The Thomas Sill Foundation and Manitoba Conservation's Sustainable Development Innovations Fund are all contributing funds necessary to establish the GIS Centre over a two-year period. Equipment and software have been purchased, and we have begun the process of staffing the Centre. Our aim is that over the long term, the Centre will pay for itself on a fee-for-service basis, while remaining affordable for the ENGO community.



Red River grad, Adam Melnyk, maps a watershed in MEN's GIS Centre. Photo by Anne Lindsey

Two important gifts-in-kind have also been made. Linnet, the Land Systems Company has provided an agreement to us for the use of its complete digital data set for Manitoba, while the ESRI Conservation Program donated critical software elements, which greatly enhance the analytical power of GIS.

Finding and gathering relevant data

Since September, the GIS/Mapping Centre has been focused on finding and gathering relevant data in order to establish a digital spatial data repository (ie. a databank) for ENGOS in Manitoba. Relevant data has been collected from the Manitoba Land Initiative website, including topographic data, administrative boundaries, roads, watersheds, geology, soils, forest inventory, land use/cover, place names and digital imagery. The Centre has also acquired data agreements from industry sources, including Linnet's 1:60,000 digital aerial photography of the Southern part of Manitoba, and historic and current forest harvest and planting data from the Tembec forestry company. As well, the GIS/Mapping centre has entered into discussions with the provincial government to strengthen and streamline the spatial data acquisition process so that Manitoba ENGOS are made aware of, and have faster access to, government data that is in the public realm.

see "GIS/Mapping ..." on page 4 ►

Inside This Issue

Living Earth Culture Village.....	Page 3
Boreal Wilderness Threatened.....	Page 5
Waverly West Development.....	Page 7
Brady Landfill Energy Source.....	Page 9

Volume 13, Number 5

Nov/Dec, 2003

(date of issue: December 1, 2003)

Eco-Journal

is published five times per year by the
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
email: hlaird@mts.net

Contributors this issue:

Kate Dykman, Larry Laliberte,
Anne Lindsey, Ron Thiessen,
Shirley Thompson, Phyllis Watson

Layout

David Henry

Manitoba Eco-Network Executive

Chair

Scott Kidd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness
Society, Manitoba Chapter

Vice Chair

Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food
Council of Manitoba

Treasurer

Joseph Prymak, COnsumers for
Responsible Energy

Secretary

Lori Nichols, Living Prairie Museum

The Manitoba Eco-Network is affiliated with
the Canadian Environmental Network

Individual Subscriptions to **Eco-Journal** are
available 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.

2003 Annual Appeal

Investing in the Environmental Community

Thanks to everyone who has already
contributed to Manitoba Eco-Network's
2003 Annual Appeal for donations. Every
gift is deeply appreciated, and will be
recognized by a charitable tax receipt. For
those who did not receive this year's let-
ter, it emphasized the steady growth in
the Eco-Network's group membership
over the past year, and the various op-
portunities we are offering for capacity
building. We see our workshops, educa-
tional projects and core services as ways
to invest in the amazing groups who form
our environmental community.

We are pleased and grateful for the

support the Eco-Network is enjoying from
foundations and government, but as al-
ways, we want to acknowledge the on-
going support we receive from individu-
als in the community.

Individual donations are a vital com-
ponent of our operating budget, and
amongst other things, help to ensure that
we can continue to produce and distrib-
ute the **Eco-Journal**! If you haven't do-
nated yet, please make a generous con-
tribution today. All donations over \$25
will be automatically entered in a draw
for one of artist David Krindle's beauti-
ful pieces of handmade pottery. **ECO**

Building Stronger Organizations

The Sustainability Network, the Mani-
toba Eco-Network, and the Saskatchewan
Eco-Network will be providing capacity
building programs and offerings to envi-
ronmental non-profits in Manitoba and
Saskatchewan over the next two years.
This development has been made possi-
ble through the support of the George
Cedric Metcalf Foundation.

In June 2003, we kicked things off with
a funders' forum in Saskatoon. The Mani-
toba Funders Forum was held early in Oc-
tober, and featured representatives from
five different funding bodies, both pub-
lic and private, speaking about the pri-
orities and interests of their agencies. This
was followed by a series of Round Ta-
bles at which small groups of people
could interact closely with each of the
funders to discuss programs and projects
of the environmental community.

Several months ago, we also launched
a monthly, free, electronic newsletter that
is being sent to several hundred environ-
mental leaders in the two provinces.
Contact Paul Bubelis at the Sustainability
Network (bubelis@sympatico.ca) to be
added to the newsletter distribution list.

We have the resources to provide free
non-profit management books and arti-
cle reprints, media lists, management
training bursaries and direct assistance.
Training workshops are also in the works
and we plan to offer media training ses-
sions with Mary McNutt of IMPACS in
January 2004 and fundraising workshops
with Ken Wyman in June 2004.

Be sure to check out what the initia-
tive has to offer by accessing a list of of-
ferings at sustain.web.ca/sp.htm and
keep your eyes open for future updates in
the **Eco-Journal**. **ECO**

Eco-Network Steering Committee, 2003-2004

Kate Dykman, Eco-MAFIA

Kristina Hunter, U of M, Environmental Science

Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food Council of Manitoba

Scott Kidd, Member at Large

Lori Nichols, Living Prairie Museum

Joseph Prymak, COnsumers for Responsible Energy

John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Lise Smith, Consumers Association of Canada

Pete Walker, Manitoba Federation of Labour

The Living Earth Culture Village

Residency at the St. Norbert Art Centre

By Kate Dykman, participant

"Living... the state of being alive, Living Earth... the hopeful vision of our planet returning to a balanced eco-system, Living Earth Culture... a way of existing in our expressive values so that the planet earth can continue to live, Living Earth Culture Village... a nomadic village—an open cultural exchange—an experimental summertime residency at the St. Norbert Art Centre... for the purpose of perpetuating a living earth and ultimately to sustain life". — Louise May, Artistic Director, 2003

The plans for this four-month artist residency began with the question, "How can culture participate in the environmental movement?" Artistic Director Louise May and alternative designer and builder Carolyn Wilson joined minds to initiate the project and bring together a group of eight women for full-time art and natural building. Meetings began over the winter months, open to any women interested in taking part in a week or two, or the whole four-month project. These were inspiring and ambitious conversations, as we welcomed the opportunity to live and work closer to nature, develop our skills, perception, and purpose in community.

The St. Norbert Art Centre [SNAC] site is a multitude of stunning gardens in the summer, with a forest of deciduous trees surrounded on three sides by the La Salle River. Inhabited by Trappist monks till the mid-1970s, it became a heritage site and underwent major renovations before opening to the public. The Living Earth project is only the first year in a plan for the next decade at SNAC, informed by tenets of the environmental movement. They have also proposed a sewage-treatment facility for their site, using an amazing system, replicating the natural functions of marshland, "The site development plan is woven into the programming plan to reinforce the thematic of environmentalist-driven planning as the most important societal project of our era." (SNAC website, 2003).

Constructing low-impact dwellings

A major component of the summer was to construct dwellings from local materials in ways that minimized environmental impact in its many forms, such as harvesting, processing, toxicity, and transportation. In May, although all had access to the guesthouse and its modern amenities, the group moved into tents on the banks of the La Salle River, where the elms still awaited their leaves and the nights were cool. Participants arrived from Quebec, coastal British Columbia to southern California, in addition to the women and children from the region. Friends and partners were always welcome to visit and help out with the on-going work.

The group immediately began designing the organization of the flow of the day—as it was soon apparent, there were only so many hours for all our plans, even with the long summer evenings. Each of the women joined four different work clus-

ters, dealing with a rotating schedule of responsibility including childcare, cooking, outdoor and indoor cleaning. Our focus was never solely the construction of the day, but the multifaceted roles we played. Life at an art centre is full of variety and spontaneity, as events of the centre were interwoven with the women's project. The dance troop from Mozambique, the four groups of Northern aboriginal women, Metis craftsmen, and interaction with a diverse public animated our daily lives, with the children and animals forever stealing the show.

Our first building was the sod sauna—a round, squat structure with beautiful earthen sculptures of women and designs circling the low entrance. The work gave us a realistic idea of

the hours required to use unprocessed materials, removing sod from the coming gardens and transporting it to the site, all reminiscent of early settlers' homes.

Outdoor earthen oven

We then moved on to producing an outdoor kitchen and earthen oven for our use. The process of baking took over an evening each week with shifts of pizza, cookies, and breads, followed by slow cooked vegetables. All food was either grown in SNAC gardens or purchased through an organic supplier, or the local farmer's market.

The straw-bale vaulted building was constructed in the months of July and August, under the instruction of Carolyn Wilson, architect. This version of the load-bearing straw bale structure was sewn with interior and exterior corsets of willow. The two-string flax bales

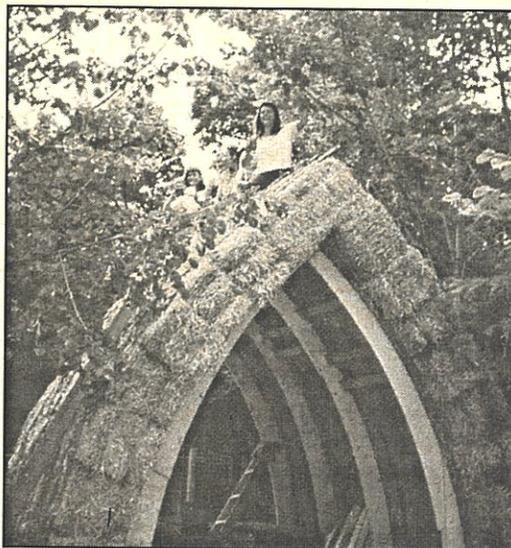
formed a gothic arch rising nine-and-a-half feet at mid-point, supported by the two gable end walls of cobb—a mixture of packed clay, sand and straw. The straw bale construction was advantageous because straw is normally a waste product, it is highly insulating, and when also forming the ceiling, provides tremendous heating efficiency. More importantly than these factors, the smaller you build, the less your ecological impact. This imprecise material captures the imagination and earthen plastering gives every surface a distinctly human touch.

Building with natural materials

In comparison, the construction of the 'True North' arena in downtown Winnipeg is a reminder of stagnant modern building codes and the monoliths of Portland cement. It seemed like one was watching the assembly of a dinosaur in our midst, ripe for an ice age. The residency at SNAC, with a working model of the beauty and logic of building with natural materials, certainly contributed to this local collective knowledge. Putting into practice ecological principles is, at heart, acting with simple respect for nature and each other.

For more information on this and other projects of the St. Norbert Art Centre, please visit www.snac.mb.ca.

ECO



Bales are secured with willow before the end walls are built. Photo by Carolyn Wilson.

What's Happening

Dec 6, 2003 The Red River Basin Commission presents a Septic/Sewage Workshop. The all day conference will be held at the Daerwood conference Centre, Selkirk. \$74 fee includes breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks. Call (204) 982-7250 for more information.

Dec 8, 2003 Annual Manitoba Naturalists Society Members Market. With presentations on the Manitoba Important Bird Areas Program by Cory Lindgren and Following th Footprints of Whales by Dr. Pat MacKay. 7:30 pm Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre. Non-member admission is \$4. Call 943-9029 for more information.

Dec 8, 2003 Shellmouth Dam Upgrading—Public Meeting to identify environment-related issues. Russell and District Community Centre, Russell, MB. 7 - 10 pm.

Dec 10, 2003 Shellmouth Dam Upgrading—Meeting to identify environment-related issues for environmental organizations. Winnipeg Convention Centre. 7 - 10 pm.

Dec 14, 2003 Manitoba Naturalists Society, Winnipeg Christmas Bird Count. Contact Rudolf Koes for details at (204) 661-0763.

Dec 17 and January 14 Fort Whyte Centre Bison Photo Safari. Take a ride out to the bison compound to get some photos of these amazing animals and finish the morning with hot breakfast in the Buffalo Stone Cafe. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members (includes admission). 18 and over. Meet at 7:15 am. Pre-registration required, call 989-8364.

Jan TBA Manitoba Eco-Network will be hosting a Citizen's Workshop on Environmental Assessment in Brandon, MB. The workshop will include information on the provincial and federal EA process, as well as local case studies. Learn how you can get involved in the process when there are proposed developments in your area! For more information please call (204) 947-6511.

Jan 12, 2004 Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program, The Lake Winnipeg Ecosystem: Evidence of Human Impacts and Potential Responses to Global Warming. Presentation by Alex Salki, Fisheries & Oceans Canada. 7:30 pm Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre. Non-member admission is \$4. Call 943-9029 for more information.

Jan 14-16, 2004 21st Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference. At the Moorhead Area Conference Center, Moorhead, Minnesota. Sessions include Red River Floodway Expansion, Invasive Species, Lake Winnipeg Action Plan, Biota Transfer and Climate Variability. Call (204) 982-7254 or see www.redriverbasincommission.org.

Jan 26, 2004 Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program, Paddling the Bloodvein: Atikaki's Crown Jewel. Presentation by Paul Gossen. Photos, route planning, logistics and stories from guiding on the river since 1996. 7:30 pm Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre. Non-member admission is \$4. Call 943-9029 for more information.

Jan 29, 2004 Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA), 10th Annual Annual General Meeting. Call (204) 338-0804 or email mopia@mts.net or more info.

Community Workshops on Climate Change—Portage la Prairie and Area, **Feb 3, 2004**; Russell and Area, **Feb 19, 2004**; Gimli and Area, **March 3, 2004**; Winkler and Area, **March 10, 2004**. Learn about energy efficiency incentives, opportunities for municipal operations and more. Action planning for climate-friendlier communities also. For more info consult the Municipalities section on www.climatechangeconnection.org/pages/emissions.html. To register call Jennifer Duggan at Climate Change Connection (204) 943-4836 or climate.connection@mts.net.

ECO

GIS/Mapping Centre Launched

... continued from page 1

The Centre has also been fortunate to have knowledgeable volunteers working on various projects and GIS applications. Wolfgang Fister, a graduate student from the University of Trier in Germany spent September and October as an intern with us. At the moment, Adam Melnyk and Ritchie Lebedynski, two recent graduates from Red River College, are working on building and refining an inventory of the Intact Forest Regions in Manitoba—identified in a recent report by Global Forest Watch.

Since September, the GIS/Mapping Centre has responded to requests to produce maps ranging from consultation on a University of Manitoba student mapping project of Community Gardens sites in Winnipeg, performing on-the-fly visualizations of layered data for members of the public and finally, the production of maps for Manitoba Eco-Network member groups including the generation of a watershed map of the Manigotagan River and a Manitoba Hydro dam location map for the Internet.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee has already made use of the service. Ron Thiessen, the group's Campaign director for Manitoba, says it is helpful to have a local contact with ready access to needed data. He predicts that WCWC will continue to use the GIS Centre as they further develop their own analysis of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg area.

The goal of the GIS/Mapping Centre is to enhance communication and education of the public about environmental issues in Manitoba. GIS science can be implemented on the ground where people seek to better understand the complex interaction of events and geography in their locales. Information is collected, integrated with other available data and analyzed. Computer graphic capabilities mean that visual representations (maps) of the resulting patterns may be created, either in traditional printed versions or in a variety of formats for the Internet. Having this technology both accessible and affordable to groups means that more people will be able to benefit from credible and useful maps that meet their needs for information.

Land use questions will continue to be a crucial aspect of many environmental issues here in the province. Manitoba Eco-Network's GIS/Mapping Centre hopes to offer a valuable tool to the community of environmental groups who want to engage in the public debate in an informed and meaningful way.

Special thanks are due to the members of the GIS Advisory Committee: Anke Kirch, Glen Koroluk, Beth McKechnie, Alex Morrison and Jared Whelan, who were instrumental in planning and implementing this project.

ECO

Protecting Lake Winnipeg's East Side Forests Vast Boreal Wilderness Threatened

By Ron Thiessen, Western Canada Wilderness Committee

The vast East Side of Lake Winnipeg is an unspoiled wilderness area rich with abundant wildlife, rushing rivers, and Aboriginal culture. The area's intact forests and potential for sustainable economic development may soon be destroyed forever by short-sighted, forest-destructive industries, unless present Manitoba government road and land use planning puts conservation and communities first.

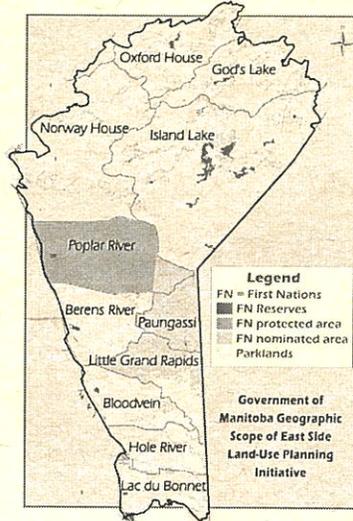
The Manitoba government-sponsored East Side Planning Initiative, scheduled for completion in June, is developing recommendations for a land use plan on East Side of Lake Winnipeg. In a separate process, the provincial government completed its second series of Public Open Houses last week to discuss upgrading and extending the Rice River logging road to the community of Bloodvein. This road, and the hundreds of kilometers of roads that are proposed to follow it through Manitoba's east side, would provide much needed access to First Nation communities for better health care and reasonably priced groceries. They would also be the gateway for many economic opportunities—some would enrich communities and maintain ecological integrity, while others would greatly diminish the environment and its capacity for sustainable livelihoods.

Industrial threats to the region

Industrial threats to the region's healthy state are immense. Multi-national logging corporation Tembec wants to clearcut more remote East Side forests, as indicated by their proposal to build a logging road across the Bloodvein River to Island Lake in the late 1990s. Tembec's proposal died when the Filmon government, just weeks prior to the 1999 provincial election, took over the reigns with a decision to launch a feasibility study for construction of provincial all-weather roads on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. If the government builds the public roads up the East Side and allows use for Tembec's logging operations, Tembec will continue degrading wilderness and the habitat of threatened species, such as woodland caribou.

Manitoba Conservation's Caribou Conservation Strategy labels the Atikaki-Berens caribou range as "high-risk" and states

that "the major future habitat threat is timber harvesting." Permitting Tembec increased access to this range would further compromise the caribou's future survival. Increased mining pollution and a proposal to fragment the East Side with a hydro-line corridor also threaten irreparable damage to caribou habitat and the area's ecological wholeness.



Map courtesy Boreal Forest Network

The government must be guided first by environmental considerations and the needs of local communities. Protected areas and species protection commitments that have First Nations consent must be fulfilled before industrial developments further impact the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. Protection of intact eco-systems is key to preserving traditional Aboriginal ways such as hunting and trapping, and for maintaining and creating sustainable employment in fields such as cultural and eco-tourism.

Culture, Heritage, and Tourism Minister Eric Robinson recently noted that a Manitoba government-commissioned report entitled, Manitoba Adventure Travel and Eco-tourism Sector Analysis, states that wildlife viewing, guided canoeing and kayaking, winter adventure, and Aboriginal tourism are the four areas with the greatest growth potential in Manitoba. Conserv-

ing the majority of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg with interconnected protected areas, cultural heritage sites, and wildlife refuges would lay the foundation for communities to build upon these lucrative opportunities.

Government support needed for First Nations

The Manitoba government must support East Side First Nation communities by assisting them with the tools they require to plan, manage, control, and protect the natural resources on their traditional lands. First Nations must be asked what sustainable community economic opportunities would benefit them the most, and how government can support them in developing these activities. Councilor Louie Young of Bloodvein has commented, "I would like to move forward with developing eco-tourism and cultural tourism activities to provide jobs for the future that won't destroy our natural resources."

see "Boreal Wilderness ..." on page 6 ▶

HOUSE OF NUTRITION LTD.

Vitamins, Herbs, Health Foods

Wide Selection of
Organic Produce

770 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0L7

Phone 775-9044

LIVE MUSIC
with MASSAGE



DRAGONFLY

Scent Free

BODYWORK and
MASSAGE THERAPY

774-9547

761 WESTMINSTER AVE. WPG

Boreal Wilderness Threatened

... continued from page 5

Will the Manitoba government continue their ecologically and culturally damaging 'business as usual' approach by giving Tembec more forests to plunder, or will they responsibly protect the environment and stimulate sustainable economic diversity in East Side communities? Tembec's Forest Management License Area already encompasses an area almost twice the area of Prince Edward Island. It's a choice between going for quick and dirty short-term profits based on short-term thinking, or working toward a healthy economic and environmental future by focusing on long-term stewardship of natural resources.

Single-sector communities not sustainable

All Canadians have heard the sad tales of economically collapsed one-industry towns in Newfoundland when cod stocks all but disappeared. In fact, Canada is littered with the remains of communities that died when the mine played out, the forests were all cut, or the fish all caught. This is exactly what's at stake on Manitoba's east side if government chooses to place emphasis on creating single-sector communities—especially if they are based on harvesting natural resources beyond the limits of long-term sustainability.

Manitoba's East Side is one of the largest intact sections of boreal forest remaining on the planet. Deemed the "northern

lungs of the planet", the boreal forest is Earth's largest source of fresh water. As the planet's largest single land storehouse of carbon, it plays an essential role in regulating global climate.

Stretching from BC to Newfoundland, Canada's boreal forest's intact expanses and plentiful wildlife are an important part of what we are as Canadians. The intrinsic value of maintaining the boreal forest cannot be measured by contemporary economic equations. Aside from priceless, what value can we place on clean air or water, or on the calling loon or the howling wolf? Is the precious and unbroken wilderness on the east side of Lake Winnipeg a national treasure we want to squander away like many other nations have, such as the United States, which has only scraps of its original forests left?

Every Manitoban has a voice. If you are concerned about the fate of the East Side, please go to www.wildernesscommittee.mb.ca/mailler-eastshore.htm to conveniently fill-in an electronic mailer that allows you to quickly express your opinion to the Manitoba government. This is a once-in-a-province's-lifetime opportunity to protect a wellspring of biodiversity and sustainable community-driven economies.

ECO



Helping communities create a healthy environment
Aider les collectivités à créer un environnement sain

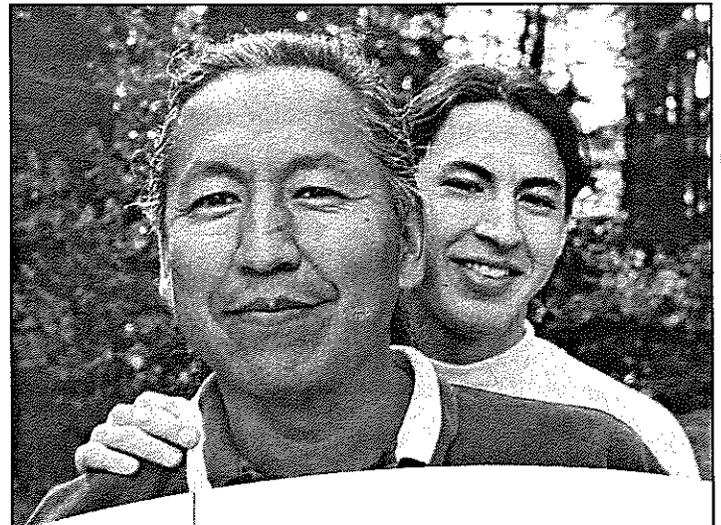
Have an idea for an environmental project?
Contact us at:

Avez-vous une idée pour un projet
environnemental dans votre communauté?
Contactez-nous au :

1-800-567-1570
www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction



Canada



With age comes wisdom.



At Assiniboine Credit Union, we've learned it's good business to give back. As our 60th year draws to a close, we continue our tradition of turning profits into positive action for the benefit of our members, our employees and our community.

(1-877) 958-8588

www.assiniboine.mb.ca



Think about where you bank.

Waverly West: Just exactly what is going on?

By Phyllis Watson, Waverley West Working Group

Waverley West is a parcel of approximately 3,000 acres bounded by Waverley Street, Brady Road (western City limit), Bishop Grandin Boulevard and the Perimeter Highway. In Plan Winnipeg 2020 it is designated a Rural Policy Area, or in other words, land within the city limits but outside what was formerly known as the 'urban limit line'. An amendment is being proposed which would change its designation to a Neighbourhood Policy Area. Approval of this amendment by Council and ratification by the Provincial Government would open the way for subdivision and development to proceed.

Plan Winnipeg was reviewed and re-adopted by City Council in 2001, an exercise that is scheduled to be repeated every four years. It contains optimistic projections for population growth over the next 20 years at a significantly higher rate than has been experienced in the past decade. However, even with those projections, there was no indication during the extensive review of an immediate need to change the designation of the Waverley West parcel.

What changed in the intervening 18 months?

City of Winnipeg Planning Department administration is being asked to recommend that Council use its valuable time to consider this amendment. They have been provided with information in reports that have been commissioned by two of the interested parties who are owners of land within the Waverley West parcel. These two parties are Ladco Co. Ltd. and Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (an agency of the Government of Manitoba). The Planning Department, with the consent of the interested parties, has given us a copy of these reports. We believe that they lack objectivity, which is totally to be expected considering that interested parties have commissioned them.

Abandoning older urban areas

Why does the Planning Department not commission its own studies? Why is our Provincial Government involved both as a stakeholder and as a regulator?

Urban sprawl has been defined as "low-density, scattered development occurring at the fringe of an urbanized area, as well as disinvestment and abandonment of older urbanized areas". In a slow-growth urban area such as that in which we live, the resulting deterioration of existing neighbourhoods is particularly serious. The evidence stares us in the face in our daily drives around the city. In Plan Winnipeg 2020 there are strongly worded policy statements designed to curb urban sprawl. Meanwhile, the prospective developers of Waverley West see their 'target market' as people currently living in Fort Richmond, Richmond West, Whyte Ridge, Waverley Heights, Fort Garry and Lindenwoods, as well as Tuxedo, Charleswood and River Heights.

Why is a proposal being brought to Council that will result in urban sprawl and lead to the degradation of some of our finest neighbourhoods?

The Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) appointed by the Government of Manitoba has just delivered their report which makes 69 recommendations to the province on land use in the Capital Region. "The New Deal" is City Council's exercise in opening our collective eyes to alternative revenue sources to property tax. Over-reliance on property tax is a driver of urban sprawl. When a new housing development

is first settled, there is a short-term rise in assessment base and a resulting short-term rise in revenues. After that, however, a double-whammy kicks in. Property values (and assessment base) decline in older neighbourhoods which have been abandoned in the rush to the new; and the City is left with the costs of ongoing operation and maintenance of infrastructure in the new area. There are a growing number of studies which indicate that when the full costs are assessed (municipal servicing as well as police, fire, schools, libraries), costs are in the order of \$20,000 to \$25,000 more per residential unit in the suburbs than for urban infill.

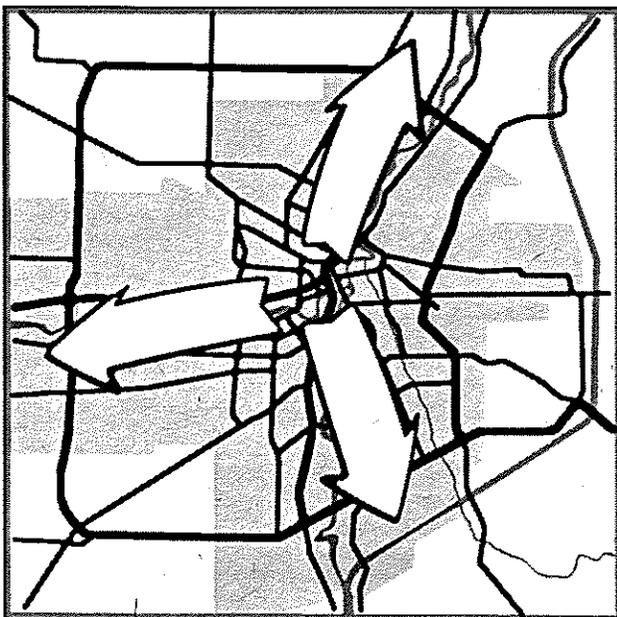
'New urbanism' concept

With both the RPAC report and the "New Deal" recommending major policy changes in land use and property taxation, why the rush to re-designate the Waverley West parcel now? What is the result likely to be?

It is not entirely clear what is planned for Waverley West but it will involve a lot of houses (10,000, 12,000 and 13,000 are all numbers that have been mentioned in the media), as well as apartments and stores. It is expected that as many as 40,000 people will live there. The time frame is long (40 or 50 years). There has been some excitement about this sub-division being designed with a whole new concept, alternatively called "new urbanism" or "smart growth", which involves narrow straight streets, front porches, back lanes, amenities within walking or cycling distance, maybe even trees if we start planting them now. What's new about that? We are already well-endowed with neighbourhoods like that. How smart is 'smart growth' if there isn't any growth?

On the subject of environmental 'friendliness': City planners think that residents of Waverley West will be enthusiastic users of public transit after a rapid transit corridor is in place (WFP Jan 20, 2003). On the other hand, the premier sees the new sub-division as one more reason to build the Kenaston underpass (WFP May 24, 2003). Recently we have read that

see "Waverly West ..." on page 8 ►



Waverly West Skirts Plan Winnipeg

... continued from page 7

geo-thermal heating systems might be incorporated into Waverley West (on the assumption, no doubt, that federal money will flow freely for such projects).

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy is advising the federal government on ways to harmonize the fiscal policy and tax systems of all levels of government with sound sustainable development. In their report "Investing in the Environmental Quality of Canadian Cities", recently presented here in Winnipeg, urban sprawl is highlighted as a major negative impact on cities.

Encouraging infill housing

Turning 3000 acres of green fields into a housing development without seriously looking at other alternatives is not environmentally friendly, and no amount of window dressing can alter that. So what should we be doing?

Read Plan Winnipeg 2020, particularly the policy statements "Planning for Growth and Change" (sec 3A) and "Guiding Land Use" (sec 3B). When the proposal for development in Waverley West is assessed against those policies, it is a non-starter.

Promote and encourage the kind of activity envisioned in Plan Winnipeg—building infill housing and renovating existing homes in existing attractive neighbourhoods. People do want to live in those neighbourhoods. A drive through many of them reveals a lot of renovation and property upgrading al-

ready happening. Enterprising builders would find a large and lucrative market for this kind of work. The City has an inventory of 3,000 vacant lots that have been approved for development. Another 2,000 have been approved in principle by Council, and almost 1,000 more have been approved by Standing Policy Committee.

Plan for the Kapyong Barracks site. Here is the opportunity to build as many as 500 housing units in a location already serviced by transit, libraries, schools, and other amenities. It presents an opportunity to demonstrate "new urbanism" or "smart growth" without sprawl. Address the demonstrated need for apartment construction—another opportunity for enterprising builders.

Don't allow the threat of exurban development to cloud our judgement. The exurban development that took place in the 80s and 90s hurt Winnipeg, but the numbers remained relatively small. Overbuilding took place within the City of Winnipeg as well. Read the RPAC report Appendix Six, "New Homes Constructed in the Capital Region 1991-2001" and Appendix Seven "Capital Region Population Trends" for some enlightenment on the actual scale.

Think outside the box. Stop Urban Sprawl.

Comments or suggestions welcome at bwatson@gatwest.net

ECO





905 Portage Ave. At Burnell
Customer Service 987-8849

"NEW" AT HARRY'S FOODS

NATURAL MEATS

◆ BEEF ◆ SAUSAGE
◆ PORK ◆ CHICKEN
◆ DELI MEATS

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & TEA
CULLIGAN WATER REFILL STATION
TALL GRASS BAKERY PRODUCTS
FRESH ORGANIC PRODUCE & MILK
ORGANIC FROZEN FOOD
ENVIRO FRIENDLY PAPER PRODUCTS
ENVIRO FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS

HUNDREDS OF GROCERY ITEMS

OUR SELECTION NEVER STOPS GROWING!!!



Brady Road Landfill:

Turning a Climate Change Powder Keg into a Gold Mine

By Shirley Thompson

Brady Road Landfill in Winnipeg is both the largest landfill in Canada that is unmanaged for greenhouse gases, and the major point source of greenhouse gases in Manitoba. For the Kyoto agreement, Canada committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 6 percent below 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012, while the province of Manitoba promised to surpass this decrease by almost four times (23 percent by 2012). However, as part of this commitment to curb climate change, waste management options for Brady Road Landfill must be part of a comprehensive strategy.

Landfills are a major source of greenhouse gases. According to the National Climate Change Process, the capture and flaring of landfill gas can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, in the period 2003-2012 and beyond.

Landfill gas is basically made up of half methane and half carbon dioxide, two potent greenhouse gases. In Canada, methane emissions account for 13 percent of Canada's carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions with one quarter from landfills. Methane is 25 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide with a long lifespan of 150 years and provides a potential environment-friendly renewable power source.

Enormous energy potential

The energy potential hidden in Brady Road Landfill is enormous. One tonne of household waste has a gas production potential of 180 to 250 cubic metres over a period of 15 to 20 years. Since one cubic metre of landfill gas has an energy value of 4 to 5 kilowatt-hours (kWh) or 0.5 litre of heating oil, one tonne of household waste amounts to thousands of kWh or more than a hundred litres of heating oil.

With the capacity to grow ten times its present size of 5 million tonnes of waste to 50 million metric tonnes of waste over its expected lifespan of over one hundred years, Brady Landfill could result in hundreds of millions of dollars of gas generation. At its current size, Brady Road Landfill is expected to generate 6.7 megawatts of electricity in one year, while reducing 0.4 megatonnes of greenhouse emissions.

Although many municipalities are harnessing landfill gas power, Brady Road Landfill is operated by the City of Winnipeg without composting (other than yard waste), without flaring of methane and without recapturing of methane gas for energy. Although a blue box recycling program for paper and cardboard is in place, significant amounts of paper waste still enter the landfill—the recovery rate for paper was only 34 percent in 2000.

Many landfills currently generate electricity from captured gases to sell to the electrical grid (e.g., Keele St in Toronto, Waterloo, Optigaz in Kirland, etc.). In addition to greenhouse gas reductions, the capture and use of landfill gas provides the

ancillary benefits of limiting odours, controlling damage to vegetation, reducing owner liability, risk from explosions, fires and asphyxiation, and smog—all while providing a potential source of revenue and profit from a renewable green energy. Forty-one landfills in Canada presently capture methane resulting in a reduction of GHG emissions of more than seven megatonnes/year of CO₂ equivalents annually. An estimated 70 percent of the captured gas in Canada is used for energy generation at 13 facilities of which six generate electricity to sell to the grid (e.g., Keele St., Toronto) and seven use the gas directly as an industrial process fuel. The state-of-the-art composting and landfill gas recovery facility in Edmonton demonstrates the efficacy in multi-faceted environmental systems for waste management.

Benefits of composting

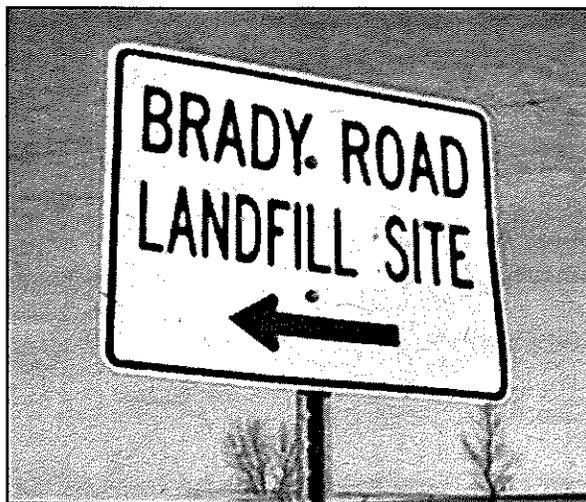
Landfill gas recovery is essentially an "end of pipe" solution, reducing only one of the impacts of landfilling biodegradable waste without tackling the root cause of waste generation. World-leading municipalities (e.g., Guelph, Halifax, etc.) collect organic waste for composting with rates of diversion as high as 68 percent, thereby reducing at the source greenhouse gases. Composting considers broader ecological issues such as resource-use efficiency, avoided ecological impacts, and improve-

ments in soil stability, fertility and moisture-retaining properties from using compost.

So, if Edmonton and many other municipalities are managing for greenhouse gases why isn't Winnipeg? Although slower off the mark, Manitoba Hydro and the City of Winnipeg recently conducted preliminary feasibility studies and some testing of landfill gas. For example, Tanaput and Thompson, from the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, found that it is possible and lucrative to harvest landfill gas through methane recovery and, at the same time, reap other resources through composting.

While each citizen should compost and limit waste and greenhouse gas generating activities, the City of Winnipeg should provide leadership by managing its landfills for greenhouse gases. This isn't rocket science. Most big landfills have either methane recovery or composting in place, or both, in the case of Edmonton. To maximize resource recovery, the combined approach of municipal composting and energy generation is recommended to turn Brady Road Landfill's powder keg of methane, which is presently an explosion and fire risk, into a goldmine.

Dr. Shirley Thompson is Associate Professor at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba. She is also a Board member of Resource Conservation Manitoba.



ECO

ORGANIC

Bring this Coupon
10%
off any deli item!

fresh Produce

Deli

Juice

Bulk

Espresso



ORGANIC PLANET
★ Worker Co-op

877 Westminster Avenue
204.772.8771

Hours: Monday 8-6
Tues-Sat 8-8

The Holiday Season

Looking Up During the Winter Solstice

by David Henry

Shortly after all the Back to School Sale flyers have been pitched into the Blue Box, the next major round of advertising hits. The Christmas sales. The endless reams of promotions to save by spending, or to ensure your family loves you by merely emptying your bank account and maxing out available credit.

Never mind that a significant percentage of Canadians are not practicing Christians. Muslims have just finished celebrating Ramadan, a month of fasting and reaffirmation of commitment to family, community and faith. Jews celebrate Hannukkah, ending December 20 this year—eight days demonstrating their commitment to family, community and faith.

Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs—each significantly represented faiths in Canada—also enjoy celebrations of traditional annual holidays that roughly accord with the winter solstice. Some examples (an exhaustive list is not possible in this short space!): From Tibet, there is Dosmoche, ushering out the old year by chasing away evil, feasting and prayer. From Japan, Hari-Kuyo, a festival of “broken needles” begun by tailors and dress-makers in 400 AD. From Pakistan, an ancient tradition of purification surrounds the gathering and delivery of prayers to Dezao, the supreme being.

A variety of First Nations traditions also coincide with the winter solstice, covering a spectrum of beliefs and practices. From dusk-to-dawn sweatlodges in the snowy fields of Manitoba to the wild fireworks of The Night of the Radishes in Oaxaca, Mexico.

There are new celebrations as well. Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration that developed following the tragedy of the Watts Riots of 1965. Some in the environmental movement will also be familiar with revivals of Druidic Yuletide traditions and Pagan celebrations.

No end of variety, with no common thread apparent. Except two: Every household gets those Christmas flyers and other advertising, and there is that tendency for people around the Northern hemisphere to celebrate some form of festival which

shows a cultural awareness of the astrological phenomenon we commonly refer to as the winter solstice.

So what is this solstice? It is not the shortest day of the year, because the atmosphere bends sunlight just enough that the sun appears to set a bit later and rise a bit earlier than it should. The actual shortest day or longest night of the year occurs just a couple of days ahead of the day pegged as the winter solstice.

And it is not the day the Earth is furthest from the Sun. That day is much earlier—in the first week of October. The slow heating and cooling of the Earth's oceans causes a lag in the change of seasons. The orbit of the Earth is actually closest to the Sun in the first week of January,

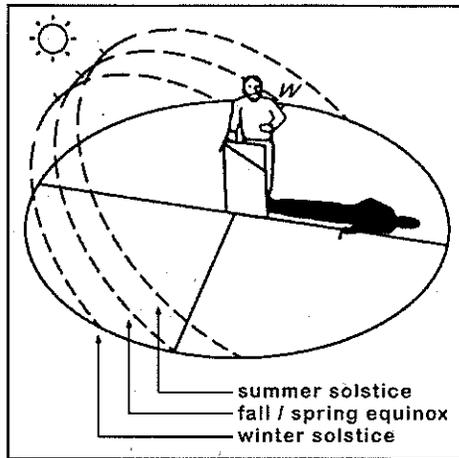
when it is usually coldest in Northern climes!

The Winter solstice, by definition, is the day when the axis of the Earth (meaning the North pole) is tilted furthest from the Sun. Twenty-three point five degrees, to be exact. It should be the shortest day of the year, but to human observers it is the day the Sun rises to the lowest apex. High noon is just not as high as other days.

Are there any conclusions one can draw from this? Possibly, yes. But maybe more importantly, the winter solstice is a night when it is worth going far from city lights and staring up at the stars—a night for pondering the seasons and the vastness of space travelled by this little marble we call Earth. Maybe bring along a thermos of Fair Trade hot chocolate.

The staff and Steering Committee members of the Manitoba Eco-Network wish everyone the greatest joy this holiday season and good fortune in the coming New Year.

ECO

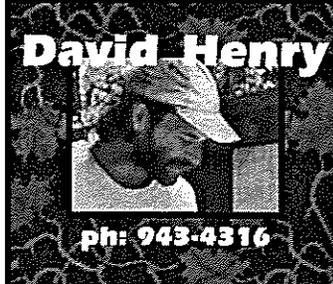


Calculating high noon and the height of the Sun's arc requires tracking shadows. Pic by D. Henry

Are Parks Protected?

manitobawildlands.org[©]

Is Your Favourite Park Safe?



David Henry community publishing services

Pick two of the following:

- Top quality
- Speedy service
- Low prices

Help plug the leaky bucket!

Buy Local this Holiday Season

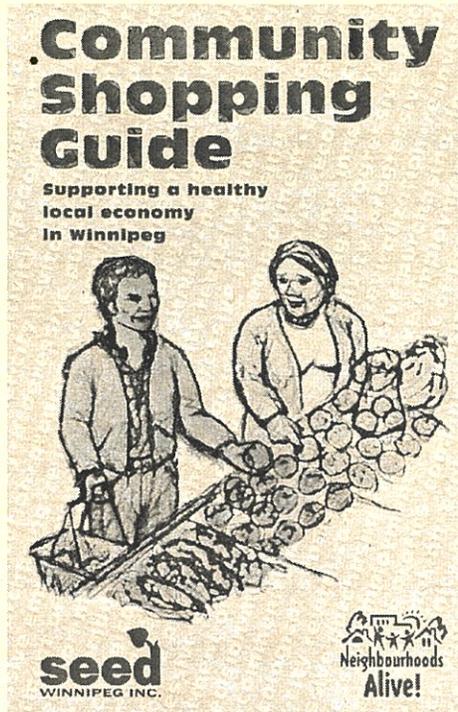
Are you a Winnipegger thinking about 'buying local' this holiday season? Or for that matter, at any time? A new publication from Seed Winnipeg can help you do just that.

As the introduction points out, millions of dollars come into inner cities every year through grants, schools, social assistance and other programs, but "much of the money that flows into the community flows right back out again without supporting locally-owned businesses or good jobs for community members". The CED model holds that the leaks can be plugged if members of a community purchase goods and services they need for their homes, organizations and businesses from local providers.

The Community Shopping Guide was produced to promote the many businesses in this city that are locally owned and operated and that demonstrate a commitment in at least three of the following areas identified as important components of Community Economic Development (CED): Purchasing locally or from other CED businesses; Progressive employment policies; Local re-investment of profits; Local decision-making; Participation in community-building activities; Ecological sensitivity. The criteria used was developed from a similar list of CED Principle drawn up by the worker-owners at Neechi Foods Co-Op.

The Guide contains listings and descriptions for hundreds of enterprises offering both goods and services, with a strong emphasis on inner city location. Businesses are indexed alphabetically and by community, making it easy to find those located in nearby inner city neighbourhoods. As well, a variety of community resources are listed in the appendix, from business financing and services to environmental groups.

The impetus for this project is the "leaky bucket" concept:



Everything from clothing to repairs to massage therapy to food to insurance to printing and more can be obtained from inner city CED businesses. The Community Shopping Guide is a great tool to help you do just that.

The Guide was produced in partnership with United Nations Platform for Action Committee (UNPAC), Local Investment Towards Employment (LITE) and with funding by Neighbourhoods Alive!

Copies of the Guide are available free of charge at SEED Winnipeg (phone 927-9935 to request a copy), and we have a small number available for pick-up at the Eco-Network office. A poster-sized Community Shopping Guide Summary is also available, listing all the businesses and their phone numbers. Get one soon, as supplies are very limited!

ECO

The Manitoba Eco-Network

2-70 Albert Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E7

Sign me up as a member of the Manitoba Eco-Network

Enclosed is a cheque for:

- \$25 Supporting member (individuals)
- \$40 Group membership
- \$50 Other organizations (businesses, government departments and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for group membership)

I'm also enclosing a donation of _____ to help with your public education activities.
[Charitable tax receipts available]

Total Amount enclosed _____

I'm interested in volunteering for the Eco-Network. Please call me!

Name(s) _____ Group (if applicable) _____

Telephone # (_____) _____ E-Mail _____

Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____

Area(s) of interest _____ Volunteer skills _____

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.



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.