

ECO-JOURNAL

Volume 15, Number 1

Jan./Feb. 2005

It's Time to Reduce Waste

By Liz Dykman, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Moving toward sustainability requires that we think about this place called "away" to which we throw our waste. Out of sight should not mean out of mind, because the results of our consumer culture (piles and piles of garbage) can come back to haunt us in the form of contaminated water, toxins in our foodchain or climate change.

In 1989 Manitoba's government set a goal of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill by 50%. While we've made some progress in the diversion of several types of waste, there is a long way to go. The target for achieving this goal was 2000, yet by 2002, our total diversion rate was not better than 22%. Manitoba used to be leading the way in terms of reducing waste, but no longer. B.C. and Nova Scotia are implementing effective waste reduction measures while we fall behind.

First, the relatively good news. The amounts of printed material and cardboard currently being recycled are at 91% and 81% respectively. 79% of used oil is being recycled. However, we are not doing so well with other materials. Just over a third of aluminum and steel cans are being diverted from landfill. Organics is trailing at 8% and consumer electronics is a dismal 0%.

Manitoba not doing well at all

Particularly for the kinds of waste that are most environmentally damaging, Manitoba is not doing very well at all. Manitobans are expected to dispose of 5,000 tonnes of used electronics (e-waste) in 2005 but there are no programs in place for recycling it. E-waste contains heavy metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead, as well as arsenic and toxic fire-retardant chemicals. These must be disposed of properly to avoid risks to human health. Electronics also contain materials which are refined with energy-intensive processes, such as copper and

aluminum—an energy investment which can be recovered.

A research and demonstration project by the Electronic Products Stewardship Organization of Manitoba (EPSOM) in October 2002 collected 93.5 tonnes of e-waste, filling 11 tractor trailers. All this in just one weekend at 5 sites in Winnipeg and Stonewall (Manitoba Electronic Product Stewardship Research and Demonstration Project Report, EPSOM, August 2003). Old monitors, CPU's, dead televisions and fax machines continue to gather dust in closets and basements everywhere, or get casually dumped into waste bins. Clearly there is need for a formal e-waste collection program.

Another area that needs attention is organics. Currently only 8% of organic waste is being diverted, although it accounts for about 35% of residential waste. When organics are landfilled they decompose anaerobically to form methane, a potent greenhouse gas. They can also react with other wastes to form toxic leachate that

can contaminate groundwater if not captured and properly treated. Nova Scotia is leading the way by banning organics from landfills, providing curbside pickup of organics, composting education projects for households, and centralized composting for business.

Household hazardous waste (HHW), which includes substances such as lawn and pool chemicals, cleaners, batteries, solvents, antifreeze and waste paint, is another component of the waste stream not dealt with effectively in Manitoba. Currently there are depots and collection events, but they are not meeting the public demand for service. As of 2002, only 21 per cent of HHW was being collected. If we don't start capturing these wastes, they will continue to pose a hazard for water and soil contamination. A draft regulation to create a product stewardship program for 11 HHW products was introduced in 2001 but put on hold in December 2002.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Although voluntary programs, such as the many blue box programs in Manitoba, have achieved considerable reductions for some materials, going the extra distance may require a new model. Resource Conservation Manitoba is calling for a waste reduction strategy that includes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as the primary tool for achieving a 50% reduction



Illustration by David Henry

Inside This Issue

HASTA Changes World	Page 3
Plan Winnipeg Abandoned	Page 5
Building with 4Rs	Pages 6-7
Civic Environmental Committee	Page 9
IISD Explores Carbon Offsets	Page 11

see "It's Time to Reduce ..." on page 3 ►

Volume 15, Number 1
January/February, 2005

(date of issue: February 1, 2005)

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.mbeconetwork.org

Editor

Heather Laird

email: hlaire@mts.net

Contributors this issue:

Dennis Cunningham, Liz Dykman,
Elizabeth Fleming, Kristine Koster, Anne
Lindsey, Rodney McDonald, David
Neufeld, Jim Ritskes, Ray Sokalski

Layout

David Henry

Manitoba Eco-Network Executive

Chair

Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food
Council of Manitoba

Vice Chair

Lise Smith, Consumers Association of
Canada, Manitoba Chapter

Treasurer

Joseph Prymak, Consumers for
Responsible Energy (CoRE)

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.

New Commitments, Differing Views East Side Update

By Anne Lindsey

Since the last edition of *Eco-Journal* was published, there have been several developments pertaining to the East Side (of Lake Winnipeg) Planning Initiative. Minister of Conservation, Stan Struthers, gave a public response to the report on December 13th, 2004, in which he indicated that the government is moving forward on a number of recommendations contained within the report.

Foremost amongst these is the formation of a new East Side First Nations Council, comprising representatives



Warbler from *Origin of Species*

from each of the 16 First Nations on the east side, a Métis representative, and four representatives from industry and non-First Nations communities. The new Council is mandated to continue the work of the planning initiative.

Other recommendations that the government is planning to move forward with include developing a protocol of agreement with First Nations on the east side, supporting the licensing of the ex-

tension of the existing Rice River Road to the Bloodvein First Nation, seeking partnerships with the federal government and outside agencies for community land-use planning, and advancing eco-tourism opportunities for the east side through the Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, amongst others.

Associate Chair of the new First Nations Council, Ed Wood, sent a letter to the Manitoba Eco-Network, taking issue with comments in the *Eco-Journal* regarding the adequacy of the ESPI process. In

it, he disputes some of the points raised in the brief article which were critical of the way the final report was released, and about the overall implementation of the Planning Initiative. Our concerns about the process stand.

To view Mr. Wood's complete letter, and our response, please visit the Manitoba Eco-Network's website: www.mbeconetwork.org/archives/woodletter.asp

ECO

Campus Commuter Challenge March 7 to 11, 2005

The Campus Commuter Challenge is an annual sustainable transportation event for students and staff at Winnipeg's post-secondary institutions—designed to showcase, reward, and help increase the commitment to use methods other than single-passenger motor vehicles to get to and from school. Cycling, walking, tak-

ing the bus, carpooling, and any other emissions-reducing alternative are ways to take the Challenge. If you are interested in helping to promote the Challenge on your campus, please contact Jillian Wolfe, Resource Conservation Manitoba's Campus Commuter Challenge Coordinator, at 925-3775.

ECO

Eco-Network Steering Committee, 2004-2005

Allan Diduck, U of W Environmental Studies

Elizabeth Fleming, Member at Large

Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food Council of Manitoba

Kristina Hunter, U of M, Faculty of Environment

Alana Lajoie-O'Malley, Eco-MAFIA

Lori Nichols, Living Prairie Museum

Joseph Prymak, Consumers for Responsible Energy (CoRE)

Lise Smith, Consumers Association of Canada, MB Chapter

Pete Walker, Manitoba Federation of Labour

Member Group Profile

HASTA: Hopeful Aware Students Taking Action

By Ray Sokalski

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."—Margaret Mead

Many of us have read this inspirational thought before, but students at Kelvin High School in Winnipeg attempt to live out Mead's sentiment in their efforts every school year. Hopeful Aware Students Taking Action group—far better known as HASTA—is a group of 25-35 students aged 14 to 18 who act as a kind of activist educational collective, drawing on community resources (including the Eco-Network and Off-Ramp Manitoba) to become aware of social justice and environmental issues, and reaching out to their school community and beyond to share that awareness.

Their efforts have included everything from holding up "Idle-Free" signs in the frigid morning air and passing out information to commuting parents, to rapping before hundreds at a celebration distributing Winnipeg Foundation funding to city charitable organizations. More recently, HASTA harvested its first crop of organic vegetables and herbs from the Kelvin Community Garden, with all food donated to Winnipeg Harvest. The garden began as a seed in the mind of Coral Maloney, an active HASTA leader, and was inaugurated by former Mayor Glen Murray, who shared his green vision for the City of Winnipeg with 1300 Kelvin students during one of his last public appearances as Mayor.

Recognized for their efforts

HASTA has been recognized for their efforts at building peace by the YM/YWCA, winning its 2001 Peace Medal for Manitoba. The following year, the group was awarded the Manitoba Teachers' Society's Youth Humanitarian Award. HASTA benefited from the media recognition to promote its ongoing causes: creating awareness on issues surrounding human rights, consumerism, and globalization.

Members from Senior I to Senior IV have weeded crops on organic farms together, and attended and led Human Rights Symposia. They have danced in the hallways to promote "Buy

Nothing Day" and organized panel discussions on the War on Terrorism and its impact on the Muslim world. As members of Amnesty International, they write dozens of letters to free those unjustly imprisoned.

For the past six years, they have taken part in the Winnipeg Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy project. They surveyed dozens of social service organizations in Winnipeg, and disbursed over \$25 000 of much-needed funding to many of them.

Name Your Price bake sales

They regularly hold *Name Your Price* bake sales in support of international causes (from supporting initiatives to halt rain-forest destruction to assisting landmine survivors in Afghanistan). Traditionally, no prices are assigned to the baked goodies they sell. Posters proclaim the cause and students decide what that cause is worth. Invariably, the hundreds of dollars raised far exceed what could reasonably have been expected if the goodies had been pre-priced!

Year after year, HASTA hauls thousands of kilos of paper and drink containers for recycling and has advocated before students, staff and superintendents of Winnipeg School Division for schools to use

recycled paper stock. They were recently informed that the Division paper supplies are now almost entirely 33% recycled stock—a victory slow but sweet in coming.

This past December, HASTA organized an Eco-Friendly Fashion Show to inform students about organic fabrics, second hand and child-labour free clothing alternatives. They are planning another Human Rights Symposium in the new year, with dozens of speakers sharing their environmental and societal issues with every student and staff person at Kelvin.

Meetings are held weekly, always arranged around a circle and with a rotating chairperson. Though sparsely populated by young males in past, this year's HASTA crop includes many young (Senior 1) and male (about 7 of 35) participants—cause for optimism! HASTA is proud to be a supporter of the Manitoba Eco-Network.

ECO



HASTA members deliver goods from Kelvin Community Garden to Winnipeg Harvest. Photo by Megan Hodgson.

It's Time to Reduce Waste

continued from page 1

target by 2010, keeping 1989 as the base year for calculating the reduction.

EPR is a model that puts the responsibility for the lifecycle of products, including their packaging, with the manufacturer. These are normally industry-led programs with government setting targets and overseeing the process. This encourages producers to design products that are longer-lasting, less hazardous, easily recycled, and have minimal packaging. This follows the principle of "polluter pays" so that waste manage-

ment is not paid for by all taxpayers, but rather by the producers and consumers of the products. EPR also requires efforts to educate consumers about the ultimate effects of their choices.

Waste reduction—particularly in the areas of e-waste, hazardous waste and organics—needs to be addressed. Resource Conservation Manitoba recently prepared a brief to the Provincial Government on the topic, and hopes we can get back on track to meeting (and exceeding) the goal of 50% waste reduction. The full report, *Regaining the Lead: Creating a New Waste Minimization Strategy for Manitoba*, is available on the RCM website at www.resourceconservation.mb.ca.

ECO

What's Happening

Sunday, Feb. 6—Kid's Papermaking Workshop at Fort Whyte Centre. Take old paper and create something beautiful! 12-3pm. Free with regular admission. Call (204) 989-8364 for more info or to register.

Feb. 6, 23, Mar. 5—Native Planting Workshops John Morgan of Prairie Habitats will be conducting 3 hour workshops on prairie gardening complete with digital presentation, discussion and planting lab. Feb. 6 (1-4pm), Feb. 23 (6:30-9:30pm) and Mar. 5 (10am-1pm). To register, call the Living Prairie Museum at 832-0167. Members: \$35 + GST, Non-members: \$40 + GST.

Thursday, Feb. 10—EcoEclectica. Eco-MAFIA, the U of W Student Environmental Group, presents their annual fundraiser at The Pyramid Cabaret (see p.12 for list of performers). Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, available at EcoMafia Office, Info Booth U of W, and Into The Music. Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm. Proceeds to U of W Community Garden Project and CROW Inc.

Thursday, Feb. 10—"Is Managing Dutch Elm Disease Worth it?" presented by Coalition to Save the Elms. Dave Domke, City Forester, will discuss the effectiveness of Dutch Elm Disease management in Winnipeg, new tree pests that appear more difficult to control than DED, and what individual homeowners can do to protect their trees. 6:30-8:30pm (Refreshments provided) at Henderson Library, 1-1050 Henderson Hwy. Free! Call 986-4314 to reserve your spot.

Feb. 10-15 and Mar. 10-15—Churchill Northern Studies Centre Learning Vacations. Live and learn at an active research station on the shores of historic Hudson Bay. Evening lectures, daily tours, interact with research scientists and experience northern aboriginal culture. **Feb. 10-15**, Winter Skies: Aurora and Astronomy, \$950. Join Roger "Starman" Woloshyn for an incredible journey across the winter sky amid curtains of stunning aurora. Ride through the taiga by dogteam and learn about Inuit culture at the World-famous Eskimo Museum. **Mar. 10-15**, Sub-Arctic Survivor: Tradition and Culture of Winter Survival, \$950. Join Michael Goodyear for a fascinating look at how plants, insects, animals and humans thrive during the long subarctic winter. Ride through taiga by dogteam and travel out onto the sea ice by snowmachine. Build your very own igloo and Quinzhee. Hostelling International members save 15%. For more info visit www.churchillmb.net/~cncs

Tuesday, Feb. 15—Learning for a Sustainable Future presents "Sustainable Communities: Linking Education to Action Youth Forum and Teacher Workshop". This day-long event features skill-building workshops and an opportunity for students to develop action plans for sustainability projects in their community. Registration is \$100 per school (5 students + 2 teachers) and deadline is Feb. 4. Education Building, University of Manitoba 8:30am-4pm. See www.lsf-lst.ca for more info.

Thursday, Feb. 17—Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba hosts a public meeting on Waverley West, from 7-9pm at 630 Westminister Ave. Christopher Leo, Professor of Politics, University of Winnipeg will lead the discussion. For more info, please call 992-2751.

Friday, Feb. 25—NOCI Annual General Meeting, "Focus on Churchill". Dr. Graham Young, Curator of Geology and Paleontology at the Manitoba Museum, will speak on Churchill area bedrock geology, including the Ordovician fossil beds which contained the world's largest trilobite. Eugene Reimer and John Neufeld will give a presentation on their visit to Churchill in July 2004, including many beautiful photographs of northern native orchid species and other rare plants and animals. A Silent Auction will be held and refreshments served.

General public welcome. 7:30pm at the Dakota Lawn Bowls Club, 1212 Dakota Street in St. Vital.

Feb. 26—Winnipeg's 5th annual Seedy Saturday, 10am to 3pm at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory and Seeds of Diversity Canada. Swap your favourite seeds with other gardeners at the seed swap, hear presentations about native planting, changes to Canada's Seeds Act and Plant Breeders Rights Act that threaten seed saving, and highlights of a biodiversity survey of the new Criddle/Vane

Homestead Provincial Park and see the Nature video "The Seedy Side of Plants".

Mar. 4-5—Quest North: The Circumpolar Reality, Global Citizens Respond. The second OmniTRAX/Broe Quest conference at the University of Winnipeg on the topic of the Arctic as a barometer for global climate change. Featuring speakers from the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Aboriginal & Circumpolar Affairs Division of Foreign Affairs Canada, Universities of Winnipeg, Western Ontario and Regina among others. For more info see www.quest.uwinnipeg.ca

Wednesday, Mar. 9—"The Biography and Speciation of N. American Birds" with Christian Artuso, MNS Birder and Traveller. 7:30pm at Kelvin High School, Room 31. An introductory look at the forces that shaped the variety of birds found in North America, from continental drift to glaciation. By examining distribution patterns, we'll probe the evolutionary relationship between some common species and even hypothesize a little about their future. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Call 943-9029 for info.

Mar. 18-20—Native Orchid Conservation Inc. will have a display on Manitoba's native orchids at the Manitoba Orchid Society show 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. Come out and see all the beautiful orchids and get a head start on spring!

Thursday, Mar. 31—"The Care and Pruning of Coniferous Evergreens" presented by Coalition to Save the Elms. Mike Allen, a professional urban forester and certified arborist, will teach pruning and care of coniferous evergreens trees and shrubs such as spruce, fir, pine, cedar and juniper. Common pests and diseases of evergreens will be included. Pruning is not difficult to learn, but often done poorly by the inexperienced. 6:30-8:30pm (Refreshments provided) at St. Boniface Library, 100-131 Provencher. Free! Call 986-4331 to reserve your spot.

April 6-7—The Red River Basin Institute presents "Research and Education in an International Watershed: Implications For Decision Making" Second International Water Conference at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg. See http://www.tri-college.org/watershed/water_conference.htm for more info.

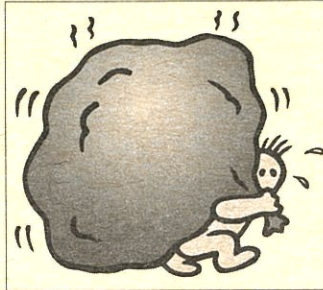


Illustration by Jim Kirby

Waverley West: Plan Winnipeg Abandoned?

By Elizabeth Fleming

Winnipeg's land development industry and the City's Planning, Property and Development Department came out in force to support amending Plan Winnipeg—redesignating Waverley West from a "Rural" to a "Neighbourhood" policy area—during Executive Policy Committee (EPC) public hearings on 4 January 2005. The redesignation of the 3,000-acre parcel of land in the southwest of Winnipeg permits a suburban development the size of Brandon, Manitoba's second largest city.

The next day, a series of citizens came to the microphone on the floor of City Council. One after the other, they presented EPC with reasons why Waverley West should not go ahead. Many articulate young people spoke to the "Downtown First" thrust of Plan Winnipeg, supporting sustainable development, the environment and democracy. Phyllis Watson of the Councils of Women of Winnipeg noted that Waverley West was not so much a Plan Winnipeg amendment as a Plan Winnipeg abandonment. Many asked what effect such a large development would have on the revitalization of the core area and existing neighbourhoods such as the Spence district.

Fundamental questions unanswered

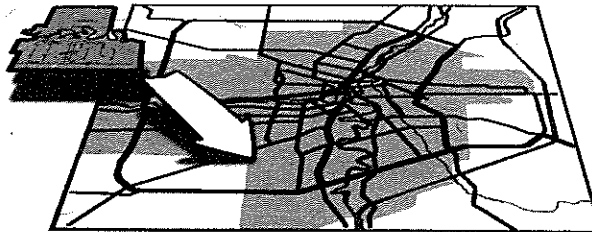
Other fundamental questions on the needs for and alternatives to Waverley West were asked but remain unanswered:

- Where are the 40,000 people going to come from to fill the proposed 13,000 housing units? The Conference Board of Canada's population predictions for Winnipeg are considered very optimistic. If Waverley West's homeowners simply relocate from existing city neighbourhoods, there will be no overall population gain, and taxpayers will still have to shoulder the cost of new infrastructure on top of the city's already sizeable infrastructure deficit.
- Why has the city not investigated the most obvious alternative, i.e. the 20,000 potential residential lots on lands already identified in the city's own land supply study?
- Why the rush? Why can't this amendment wait and be considered in the context of the next overall review of Plan Winnipeg with proper public consultation?
- Why was the public denied access to the financial reports until just before the Christmas holiday?
- Why do the consultants' cost-benefit study and the City's own financial impact analysis indicate an almost three-fold difference in estimated revenues to the city from Waverley West?
- Why is there no independent, outside analysis of the Waverley West proposal?
- Where are the data for proper transportation and transit planning and budgeting, including greenhouse gas emissions associated with a range of possible transportation options?
- Why are there infrastructure improvements required for Waverley West to proceed that are not in the cost-benefit analysis nor in the city's capital budget?
- How would Waverley West affect and be affected by land use in neighbouring Rural Municipality of Macdonald? The

City of Winnipeg has little control over Capital Region land use planning. The Province approves ex-urban development that is then marketed to encourage the exodus of Winnipeg residents to neighbouring municipalities.

- What planning and budget is there for new schools in Waverley West when existing divisions are struggling?

The largest landowner in Waverley West is Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC), a crown corporation chaired by the deputy minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing, and made up of senior department officials. Although EPC invited Minister Christine Melnick to address Council, it was left to an MHRC land consultant and a representative of the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative to present briefly on behalf of the Government. The major spokespersons



A city the size of Brandon could fit in Waverley West—not just 13,000 houses. Scale graphic by David Henry.

for the development were the president of Ladco Company, which is the second-largest landowner, and a consultant commissioned by the developers. According to the President of the Manitoba Home Builders Association (MHBA) and former city councillor, Garth Steek, MHRC and Ladco spent about half a million dollars on Waverley West related studies and events. MHBA has allegedly organized more than eight promotional meetings to lobby political and media support.

Waverley West wins this round

On 19 January 2005, Mayor Sam Katz' Executive Policy Committee (EPC) voted to recommend City Council approve the Plan Winnipeg amendment. City Council voted to approve on January 26. Now, the decision will be referred back to the Province of Manitoba. The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs will likely ask the Municipal Board to hold a public hearing and make a report and recommendations. The minister will then forward his response to the City which then has the option of giving the amendment third reading.

The Government of Manitoba is both the major landowner and the regulator of land use. There is therefore the public perception of a fundamental conflict of interest. The Government has refused a request by the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba (PCWM) for participant funding should Waverley West be referred to the Municipal Board.

There's still time to fight

PCWM is hosting a public meeting on Waverley West from 7-9pm Thursday, February 17 at 630 Westminster Avenue. Christopher Leo, Professor of Politics, University of Winnipeg will lead the discussion. For more information, please call 992-2751.

For further information about Waverley West, check the following websites: www.geocities.com/waverleywest/, www.ladcocompany.com, www.winnipeg.ca/CLKDMIS (for EPC agendas, dispositions and minutes for January 4 and January 19, 2005).

ECO

Youth Group to Build Enviro-Friendly Rec Centre

By Jim Ritskes

Youth for Christ/Portage Inc. is well on the way to building a new Youth and Family Recreational Centre in Portage La Prairie. The new structure will be built to the Canadian Green Building Council's LEED Building system standards. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the new environmentally friendly building concept that has seen success in Manitoba in buildings such as the Mountain Equipment Co-op store, the Winnipeg Humane Society, the Aboriginal Personal Care Home and The Strand on Waterfront Drive. (Note: see the article on the Green Building Council for more on LEED).

The planning for this new project began in 1999 in response to the city's need for a supervised recreational building in an area of the city that had little to offer. The project started off as a conventional building concept, and after some advice and research into the LEED system, the target was set to use this innovative approach and construct a 'first of its kind' for a recreation centre in Manitoba.

Multi-use facility developed in partnership

Youth for Christ/Portage Inc. partnered with Portage Neighbourhood Connections early in the design of the building, as they were also looking for a site to help them deliver their services. The building will house a 12,000 square foot recreational area, a 4,000 square foot rental area for other family support organizations, offices for both Youth for Christ and Portage Neighbourhood Connections, multi-purpose rooms, a food court area and some retail space (total space of approximately 26,000 square feet). The construction will take place on the foundation of the former Westco Cold Storage building that burnt down a number of years ago, and adjacent to a brownfield site. The project will serve as a place to access community services, and revitalize an area of Portage la Prairie that has been seen as run down.

Prairie Architects, from Winnipeg, was contracted to do a feasibility study on the project. The study determined that the project had the potential to be rated at a LEED Gold score, the second highest available in this building concept. Prairie Architects have also been signed on to design the project. Their past experience with designing the award winning Mountain Equipment Co-op building in Winnipeg has been a positive step to making this project happen. The construction manager for the Mountain Equipment Co-op building, Milestone Project Management, has also been signed on.

Community and government support

The project has already seen some great support from both the community and different levels of government. Canada/

Manitoba Infrastructure, Community Places, the City of Portage la Prairie, the Portage and District Community Foundation, the Rotary Club, The Thomas Sill Foundation and many others have already given or have earmarked funds to help bring this unique building into reality.

"We are still a ways off of our financial target of phase one of the project" says Jim Ritskes, the Assistant Executive Director of Youth for Christ/Portage and Project Co-ordinator. "It has been an exciting learning curve as we train our minds to think in this new way of building. I have realized that this new system of building does not have a lot of support from many communities that are in the process of building a new building. Many have the idea that building 'green' has a huge extra price tag to it. We have found that if you follow the concept of LEED fully, it actually will make it an easier financial goal as well as a more sustainable building when it is done. LEED works with a community mindset that has the opportunity for volunteer labour, using approved recycled materials that are often readily available, and has a great educational component before, during and after the building is up and running."

"Often, building a new building is only one part of the existence of the new structure.

Once the doors open, how does a non-profit, registered charity pay for the heat, water and upkeep? This new concept in building helps us realize that we will be using less water, less energy... this translates into less cost."

Educational component involves community

The building and construction committees of this project are made up of local volunteers in trades, community services, education and interested individuals. The educational component of the building will be a big part of community participation. There are plans for an Eco Steering Committee that will help track such areas as construction/landfill waste, a recycling program to be followed by all who occupy the building, an education program for community awareness of recycling and other environmental concerns, as well as a learning wall that will show how the new project cuts back on wastewater, power usage, and green house gases. The opportunity will also be there to help design a community wide Eco program that could help other businesses in Portage la Prairie to evaluate their recycling programs and energy reduction.

The organization welcomes input and support for this project. You can contact them at Youth for Christ, 60 Tupper St. North, Portage la Prairie, MB. Phone 204-239-6763, or email jimr@yfc.ca.

ECO



Left to right: Steve Hildebrand, Platform Skate Park Director; Kevin Beauchamp, Platform volunteer and skater; Ruben Todd, Platform volunteer and skater; Jim Ritskes, Youth for Christ/Portage; Dennis Hallick, Portage Neighbourhood Connections; Ken Brennan, City of Portage la Prairie; Tanya Angus, City of Portage la Prairie; Ernie Shwaluk, Community Foundation of Portage and District; Ian Gray, Portage Rotary. Photo from The Daily Graphic.

An easier financial goal as well as a more sustainable building

Progress on the Relocation Project

By Anne Lindsey

It's great to be able to report on the progress we are making with our planned move to the Mountain Equipment Co-op Building. Since the last report in Eco-Journal, there have been some new developments.

An application to the Community Incentive Grants Program at the City of Winnipeg resulted in two community committees recommending funding to assist with the more public areas of the space. Councillor Steeves of Riel CC, and Councillor Pagtakhan of Lord Selkirk/West Kildonan CC both supported the project and spoke in favour of its benefits to the community in Winnipeg. We are grateful for their interest and involvement in the project.

Andy Sheppard, a local musician, generously donated the proceeds from a benefit concert to the effort. The family of the late Alice Chambers has made a significant pledge to assist in the relocation of the library named in Alice's memory, and the Winnipeg Foundation increased their contribution by agreeing to match up to \$15,000 the funds that have been donated by our members and supporters to date.

In short, we have achieved our goal for fundraising for this project, and are hopeful that we can keep it within the budget expectations.

A development that will assist with this endeavour has arisen with Manitoba Hydro's donation of significant amounts of materials from the buildings they are deconstructing on Portage Avenue to make way for their new corporate head office. Dudley Thompson of Prairie Architects is working with Hydro to assist in achieving LEED Platinum status for that building.

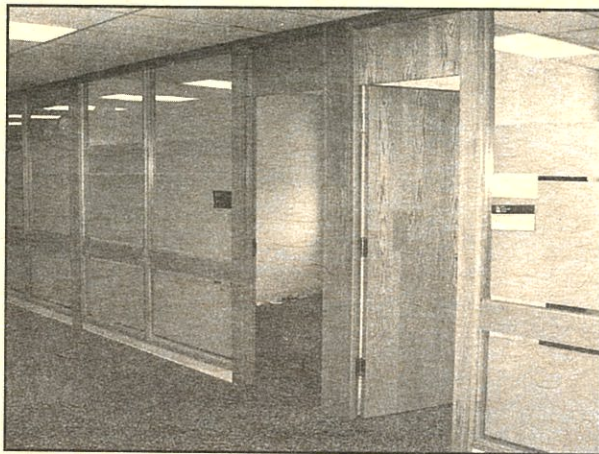
Recycling materials and minimizing waste

An important component of this effort is the minimization of waste—in other words—diverting materials that would otherwise be headed for landfill, into other construction projects. It's the principle that was utilized by Mountain Equipment Co-op for the rest of its building, and we are excited about

being the recipients of previously-used materials from Manitoba Hydro. Maximum re-use of materials was something we emphasized early on in the planning for this project.

The list of items to be gently removed from the Royal Bank and Midtown Buildings includes acoustic ceiling tiles, oak and glass partition walls, kitchen cupboards, window blinds, and various kinds of hardware.

It's largely due to the efforts of Tom Akerstream, a dedicated member of Hydro's new building team, along with the goodwill of his colleagues on that team, and Hydro's management, that these materials are being made available to us.



A lot of very good-quality interior finishing materials will come from the Royal Bank's former space, including wood trim, glass walls, and kitchen cabinets.

Even with the best of intentions, it's often so much easier for big organizations to go the conventional route of demolishing buildings and sending perfectly good materials to the landfill. According to recent figures from Statistics Canada, less than 10% of construction and demolition waste in Manitoba is currently diverted. As is true when implementing any innovative idea, overcoming the inertia of the status quo always requires some additional effort before it becomes mainstream. We salute Tom Akerstream's efforts to improve on this record.

Benefits stay in community

Finally, we are very pleased that Inner City Renovation will be the builder for this project. ICR is a community-development/social capital construction company that aims particularly to revitalize housing in Winnipeg's inner city, and to provide quality, secure jobs and training opportunities for inner city residents.

ICR has completed more than 50 projects since it started up. While most are residential, its commercial projects include the beautiful new Urban Circle Aboriginal Training Centre on Selkirk Avenue. ICR's involvement in our project ensures that much of the financial benefit of this project remains in the local economy—another goal that we strive to meet. **ECO**

Local Green Building Council to Launch

By Rodney McDonald

A group of local professionals is working to establish a Manitoba Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC). "Our goal is to officially launch the Chapter before the summer arrives", says Rodney McDonald, Chair of the Manitoba Organizing Group.

The CaGBC, sister organization to the twelve year old U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), was formed two years ago to accelerate the design and construction of green buildings in Canada. It is a coalition of public and private building industry leaders and the Canadian licensee of the USGBC's popular

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. The CaGBC officially launched the Canadian version of the rating system, called LEED Canada, on December 1, 2004.

Points for meeting specific criteria

LEED(tm) is a voluntary, consensus-based rating system that provides third-party verification of green buildings. It awards points for meeting specific performance criteria, which are

continued on next page ►

Green Building Council

continued from page 7

organized into the five principal categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality. Green building projects using LEED are certified with ratings—Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum—based on the total number of points earned by a project.

There are presently about a half dozen LEED certified buildings in Canada, and over 50 in the process of certification, construction or design (including the Mountain Equipment Co-op store on Portage Avenue, The Strand on Waterfront Drive, and Manitoba Hydro's new downtown office building). Also, following the lead of many cities in the U.S., the City of Vancouver and the City of Calgary have both adopted LEED as the green building standard for all new municipal construction.

Establishing a vision of green building

The Manitoba Organizing Group is about to begin its strategic planning process to establish the Chapter's vision, objectives and future direction. It is expected that the objectives of

the local chapter will include promoting the benefits of green building here in Manitoba and helping to educate local professionals involved in building development, design, construction and management.

Green building is gaining momentum and chapters are in various stages of formation across the country. Our committee is excited about being engaged in the launch of a chapter here in Manitoba. It will connect Manitoba to Canada's green building community.

For more information about the Canada Green Building Council, the Manitoba Organizing Group, and LEED Canada visit www.cagbc.org

ECO



RRSPonsive.



Invest in You. Invest with Us.

At Assiniboine Credit Union, our job begins with careful listening. Our qualified Investment Advisors ask the right questions, gather key information and respond with personal, knowledgeable advice that will help you reach your financial goals. Talk to us about retirement. We're RRSPonsive.

Call us today or visit us online.
(1-877) 958-8588 / TTY 957-1587
www.assiniboine.mb.ca

ASSINIBOINE
CREDIT UNION

ORGANIC PLANET Worker Co-op

*Winnipeg's Only Collectively-Owned
Organic Market*

**JUICES ★ COFFEES ★ DELI
PRODUCE ★ BULK ★ GROCERIES**



Open Mondays: 8 AM - 6 PM, Tuesday - Saturday: 8 AM - 8 PM
877 Westminister Avenue • 772-8771 • opwc@mts.net

DRAGONFLY

Scent-Free BODYWORK and
MASSAGE THERAPY

Robin Faye
Massage Therapist, AMTWP Member

146 Arlington St.
Winnipeg, MB R3G 1Y5 **774-9547**

Meet the Civic Environmental Committee

By Kristine Koster

On July 18, 2001, Winnipeg City Council created the Civic Environmental Committee (CEC). The role of the CEC is to advise Council on matters of environmental concern and to advocate for sustainability at the civic level. The Committee consists of eight citizen volunteers plus Councillors Gord Steeves (Committee Chair), Donald Benham, and Harvey Smith; as well as James Allum, Environmental Coordinator (interim); Kristine Koster, Policy Assistant; and Annitta Stenning, Chief Administrative Officer.

The Civic Environmental Committee was established for a term of four years expiring December 31, 2005. Committee Members are environmental professionals recognized for expertise in their fields. They are appointed on an annual basis and are eligible for reappointment. Members volunteer their knowledge and experience in order to enhance understanding of environmental issues and to promote the principles of sustainability.

Ken Klassen is an engineering technologist recognized both nationally and internationally for his expertise on improving the energy and environmental performance of buildings. He is also well known for his extensive community advocacy on land use, transportation and municipal fiscal issues.

Michele Kading has over 20 years of experience in environ-

mental education plus community advocacy experience in Winnipeg. Her involvement brings an environmental science and biology perspective to the committee.

Terri Willard has an impressive academic background as a Rhodes Scholar with degrees in international relations and forestry. She brings knowledge of land use planning, as well as strategic communications and new media experience.

Ken MacKinnon works as an architecture professional. His scope of experience in architectural theory, the construction industry and the business of architecture have provided him with insight into the problems and solutions associated with environmental building concerns.

Rodney McDonald has an extensive background in environmental economics and sustainability. His scope of knowledge includes environmental purchasing, corporate sustainability practices, green building design, and environmental issues affect-

ing First Nations.

Bob Foster is a professional engineer with 35 years experience in the consulting business, in engineering, community planning and environmental management. Bob brings a mature and practical approach to the technological, organizational and economic aspects of environmental issues.

Shannon Stunden Bower is a doctoral candidate in the discipline of Geography. She studies the management of surface water in Manitoba, with special attention to drainage and flood mitigation. She is particularly interested in the relation between social and environmental issues.

Tony Zienkiewicz is a member of the Winnipeg Labour Council and has served as chairperson for the Manitoba Federation of Labour Environment Committee for the past eight years. He has over 30 years of experience in the trade union movement, including extensive knowledge of environmental issues concerning Manitoba workers.

Giant Leaps Forward

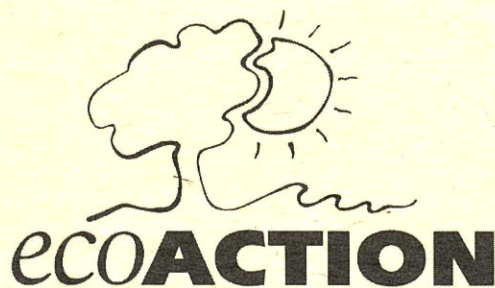
On Wednesday October 27, 2004, Council voted to adopt in principle a report prepared by the CEC titled Sustainable Winnipeg: A Comprehensive Environmental Strategy. As the culmination of over two years of research and public consultation, this document reflects the concerns of Winnipeggers. Sustainable Winnipeg identifies areas where there are opportunities to adopt or enhance practices that conform to the principles of sustainability:

- Sustainable Land Use and Development—The CEC promotes infrastructure renewal over expansion. Renewal can improve health as well as reduce automobile-oriented infrastructure, homogeneous development and destruction of natural habitat.
- Pesticides in the Urban Environment—The CEC promotes the development and implementation of cost-effective and

continued next page ►



CEC members try out new bike racks at City Hall.



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



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

Environmental Committee

continued from page 9

environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical pesticides.

- **Sustainable Transportation**—The CEC promotes the development of a comprehensive Transportation Demand Management strategy that emphasizes alternatives to automobiles.

- **Solid Waste and Materials Management**—The CEC promotes the adoption of progressive means of conceptualizing producer responsibility. For instance, a polluter pay system will minimize the amount of household solid and hazardous waste entering landfills so that environmentally responsible citizens do not subsidize the unsustainable practices of others.

- **Sustainable Governance and Corporate Management**—The CEC promotes a pro-active and preventative approach to urban sustainability. The establishment of an Office of the Environment would assist in producing long-range plans for addressing the interconnected issues in Sustainable Winnipeg.

The completion of Sustainable Winnipeg prompted the Chief Administrative Officer to develop Embracing Sustainability: An Environmental Priority and Implementation Plan for the City of Winnipeg 2004-2006. Embracing Sustainability identifies the principles and policy objectives identified in Sustainable Winnipeg. Never before in the history of the City have the organization's environmental priorities been bundled together under one cover. Collectively, these documents repre-

sent a long-term action plan to promote a sustainable city.

In anticipation of Council's decision to adopt Sustainable Winnipeg, the CEC created two sub-committees. One will address land use planning and the other will address green building practices. As Sustainable Winnipeg has now been adopted, the sub-committees have a green light to contribute to the development of new policies and the adoption of new practices through public and private channels. With spring approaching, the CEC is considering the establishment of a pesticide sub-committee to perform in-depth research and foster two-way communication links between the public and the CEC.

As well, The CEC promotes active transportation. In the fall of 2004, the Committee provided a grant to purchase bike racks, and cooperated with Public Works, Planning, Property and Development and the Parking Authority to have them installed at City Hall. In 2005, the CEC will continue to promote sustainability and responsible decision-making within the City of Winnipeg.

Get Connected

In order to circulate important sustainable development information and provide updates on Committee activities, the CEC has created an E-newsletter. If you are interested in receiving our E-newsletter, please email Kristine at x-kkoste@winnipeg.ca. To learn more about the CEC and local environmental events, please visit our website at www.winnipegcec.org.

ECO

HARRY'S FOODS

**Hundreds of Grocery Items
'NEW' at Harry's Foods**

Natural Meats

Beef, Sausage, Pork, Chicken & Deli

Tall Grass Bakery Products

Fair Trade Coffee & Tea

Organic & Vegan Foods

Culligan Water Refill Station



**905 Portage Ave. at Burnell
Customer Service 987-8849**

Our Selection Never Stops Growing!!

karen meek design

IISD Explores Carbon Offset Options

By Dennis Cunningham

As part of its commitment to operating as a carbon neutral organization, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is again purchasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) offset credits. IISD's internal sustainable development assessment and reporting team is the driving force behind the efforts to track, calculate, and reduce operational and project-related emissions—all part of our carbon management strategy.

For the data collection period 2003-2004, the reporting team worked with Resource Conservation Manitoba on a transportation demand survey to identify opportunities to reduce our commuter emissions (which we will calculate and offset in our 2004-2005 fiscal year purchase); expanded the range of emissions information collected to include energy usage for heating, cooling, lighting and equipment in our Winnipeg office, and air travel for IISD associates and Earth Negotiations Bulletin reporters; and, tried to identify potential Manitoban sources of offset credits. Of the three tasks the final one proved most difficult, but more on that later.

Commuter habits survey

RCM's Green Commuter Initiative provided IISD with extensive support in developing and managing a commuter habits survey for the Institute. The survey results revealed that the majority of IISD staff are regular green commuters and have suggested the practicality of developing specific tools and policies to assist all IISD staff in 'greening-up' their commuting habits. Much credit is due to Serge LaRochelle for his continued assistance and advice in this area.

Our building manager provided us with hydro and natural

gas usage figures for the entire building and we were able to calculate the annual energy consumption for our office space based on those numbers. Much of IISD's work involves international travel and in 2003-2004 we racked up 2.8 million air

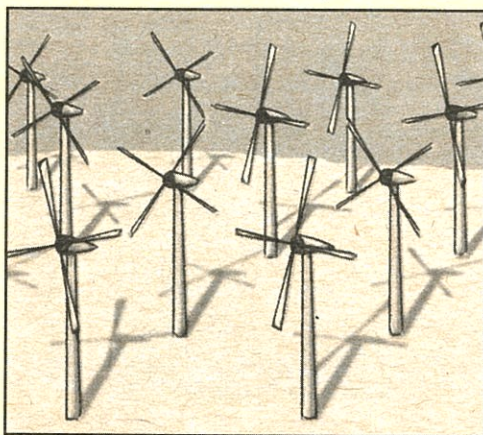


Illustration by David Henry.

nautical miles of project related travel producing 527 tonnes of CO₂. Natural gas consumption for the year produced 78 tonnes of CO₂. We used two different rates of calculation to determine carbon emissions for electricity use. Using the Canadian average calculation factor our emissions equalled 95 tonnes of CO₂. The second calculation uses a marginal calculation, and assumes that any electricity conserved by IISD will displace electricity generation emissions in the Mid-Area Power Pool region of the United States (where Manitoba Hydro sends its surplus electricity). This gives a higher value to savings, but also a higher calcu-

lation factor for emissions IISD creates. Using the marginal calculation IISD's electricity usages created 375 tonnes of CO₂. Our total offset purchase for 2003-2004 is 980 tonnes.

The source for our 2002-2003 offsets was identified by the brokerage firm of CO₂.com. For 2003-2004 we wanted to purchase offset from a Manitoba-based provider if one existed. Around the same time we were setting that goal we were approached by a Manitoban company called Ice Kube, that retrofits community recreation centres and hockey rinks with a geothermal heating/cooling and ice manufacturing plant providing up to 40 to 60 percent reductions in energy costs. It seemed like a perfect fit—Manitoba-based, hockey, and big energy-efficiency savings creating lots of potential offsets that would be relatively easy to calculate, verify and certify. In the end, we didn't pursue the opportunity this time around.

Purchased 980 tonnes of offset credits

However, we have entered into a contract with Vision Quest Wind Energy in Alberta to purchase 980 tonnes of offset credits. The wind farm we have purchased offsets from is made up of 38 1.8 megawatt wind turbines on 65 metre towers and displaces electricity generated by coal power plants. We are still working on identifying potential offsets generated in Manitoba. The St. Leon wind farm, when it is operational, may be one source.

In the meantime we are continuing to pursue emission reductions. One of the first opportunities in this regard is a change at the IISD head office. We will be reducing our current office space by 25 per cent and our building management company will be carrying our mechanical system and exterior upgrades to increase energy efficiency. We had looked at moving to a new green building, but the construction schedule did not make this a currently feasible option. As well, we have just begun a research project involving the information sector and sustainable development in which the funder is allowing us to include international travel offset purchases as a budget item—which is incredibly progressive for a funder.

ECO

**Manitoba's
Lands & Waters**
Go to:
manitobawildlands.org®

**Hydro
Developments**
Go to:
energymanitoba.org®

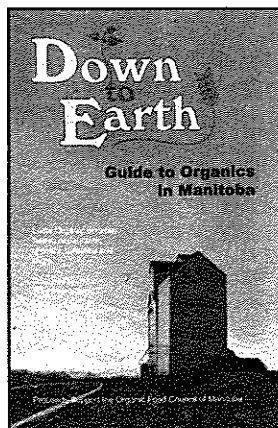
New Guide to Organics in Manitoba

By David Neufeld

Friends, let's imagine a life in which we allow ourselves the time we need to find food of the highest quality and we have the information we need to locate this fine food as closely as possible to our respective kitchens. With the new *Down To Earth: Guide to Organics in Manitoba* we've satisfied one of these conditions. The information is compiled in an 80 page, engaging, easy-to-use format.

The Organic Food Council of Manitoba (OFCM) with funding help from the citizens of Manitoba (through the Manitoba Agri-Ventures Initiative) interviewed more than fifty organic/natural food farmers and gardeners in Manitoba and summarized their stories. We also spoke with more than one hundred Manitoba-based processors, retailers and distributors of organic/natural foods and included advertising information for you to refer to. Then we contacted a broad spectrum of government and non-governmental organizations that want to be associated with and be a further resource to the food security /

quality food revolution we are experiencing, and included their contact information. Finally, we have given the guide an atmosphere of celebration by including a collection of creative writings, a quiz, drawings and a fabulous rural prairie full colour front and back cover.



The Guide is available at all urban and rural (Manitoba based) stores that sell local, quality food. And if you find one that isn't selling the Guide we want to know about it. It sells for \$6.95 with the proceeds going to the education and promotion work of the OFCM. It's also available from some NGO's who have been stalwart supporters of OFCM over the years. Perhaps you'll want to buy a number of copies for an event or small group. Bulk copies (ten or more) are available from Sharon Taylor at (204) 779-8546 or staylox@hotmail.com at the cost of \$6.00 each plus shipping.

We offer this resource as an encouragement—so you can more easily do yourself, your family, some local farm families and our planet a favour. Enjoy.

ECO

EcoEclectica: Annual Eco-MAFIA fundraiser

Thursday, February 10, at the Pyramid Cabaret

Eco-MAFIA, the UofW student environmental group, is holding their annual fundraiser at The Pyramid Cabaret. Performers include Serena Postel, Rob Vaarmeyer, Jay Ewert, Under The Radar, The Antigravity Project, Jeremy Proctor and Dan

Frechette. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, available at EcoMafia Office, Info Booth U of W, and Into The Music. Doors open at 7pm, show starts at 8pm. Proceeds to U of W Community Garden Project and CROW Inc.

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 _____ Volunteers 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.