

Poplar River Celebrates International Environmental Prize

Submitted by Gaile Whelan Enns, Manitoba Wildlands

"We have quite a history—our people have survived off that land—so it's important to us, there's a very strong spiritual connection to the boreal forest. It's quite alive, that's how I see it, with the trees and the river and the animals and the fish that live in the river. It's very vibrant." These are the words of Sophia Bittern Rabliauskas describing her home. Her efforts with her community, to secure permanent protection from development for the traditional lands of her people, have resulted in international recognition—in the form of a \$125,000 award.

The Goldman Environmental Prize is awarded annually to six grassroots environmental heroes—one from each continent—and is the largest award of its kind in the world. This year, the North American prize was awarded to Sophia Bittern Rabliauskas, of Poplar River First Nation.

Recognition for her whole community

Sophia views the award as being recognition for her whole community, "It means a lot to our community. Our community is just 1,200 people—no one has ever heard of Poplar River—but I think we've put it on the map, because we've stood firm and strong in our commitment to get permanent protection for our traditional territory. It's a great honour, and I'm really proud to accept it on behalf of my community and my people."

The traditional territory of the Poplar River First Nation is located on the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba, and forms a significant part of Canada's boreal forest.

Sophia is the only Manitoban to ever win the award; only four other Canadians have won the award in its 18-year history. Former Assembly of First Nations grand chief Matthew Coon-Come won in 1994 for a campaign to protect the Cree wilderness in Quebec from a hydroelectric mega project. Norma Kassi

of the Gwich'in (2002), Bernard Martin (1999) and Colleen McCrory (1992) were the other recipients.

The story of Sophia's involvement in grassroots protection efforts and Poplar River's journey as a community to protect and manage their traditional lands can be traced back over two decades and is still in progress today.

The Elders of Poplar River told their sons and daughters that

the Aboriginal wisdom wasn't enough to protect the land and their way of life anymore. They worried loggers would come to cut down the trees and governments would dam the rivers without consulting them. They were strong in their belief that returning to the forest is the key to a healthier future.

"Our elders told us if we want to heal, we have to go back to the land. When we do, when you listen to the land, that is what you will find, that healing," Rabliauskas said.



Sophia Bittern Rabliauskas. Photo by Tom Dusenbery

In 1998, the community requested that their lands be protected through provincial regulation. Protection—on an interim basis—has been in place since 1999. Poplar River First Nation has formally requested that the Manitoba government take steps to make the protected status of their traditional lands permanent.

A say in the future of their traditional lands

At the same time, the community took direction from the Elders and began work to confirm that the land had a purpose beyond the bottom line, and to support the assertion that the people of Poplar River had a right to demand a say in the future of their traditional lands. This eventually evolved into the development of a comprehensive land protection and management plan—the Asatiwisiipe Aki Lands Management Plan—a precedent-setting effort among First Nations in the world's boreal region.

As Sophia puts it, "We wanted to have control of what happens in our territory—we didn't want any development that would destroy our land. Over the years the whole community has been involved in developing the land-management plan, and it's finally completed."

Once Sophia Bittern Rabliauskas and Poplar River's current efforts to secure permanent protection of their land from the

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Have a truly Green yard this summer! MEN Organic Lawn Care Workshops

By Anne Lindsey

Summer is fast approaching, and with it—lawn and garden season! A delight for some, and a chore to others, care for the yard and garden involves making a few choices about methods and products.

Once again, the Manitoba Eco-Network is happy to have the opportunity to teach Winnipeggers about the benefits and techniques of organic lawn care. We started this educational project six years ago to fill a gap in local resources. People were looking then (and are still looking!) for affordable, pesticide-free organic lawn care services. We can't provide the service, but we can assist the do-it-yourselfers. Courtesy of funding from the City of Winnipeg, and the Province's Urban Green Team, two young people—including Jenn Sparling, last year's Organic Lawn Care Educator—will be presenting free workshops at City Library branches during the summer months. The workshops cover why to go organic, empha-

sizing an ecosystem approach to the lawn and garden area, and how to go organic with tips and techniques for turf care, and suggestions for lawn alternatives. Over the years, attendance at the workshops has increased steadily, as people become more aware of the hazards of lawn care chemicals to the environment, and to human and animal health.

This year's summer staff will also be working part of the time for Friends of Churchill Parkway, under our Urban Green Team partnership with that community stewardship organization. They'll be tending the various plantings carried out by the Friends in their restoration and protection efforts for the past several years.

For a full list of free Organic Lawn Care workshops, and local resources and lawn tips, visit http://www.mbeconetwork.org/projects_lawncare.asp#Workshops or call the office at 947-6511 to find a workshop near you.

ECO

Golden Carrot Awards

By Jennifer Heinrichs

The Manitoba Food Charter's Golden Carrot Awards will honour six Manitoba individuals or groups who are working towards a more just, sustainable food system for all Manitobans. Award categories include Rural, Northern and Urban Community Food Champions, and Media, Corporate, and Education Community Food Champions. Food is the single strongest connection between individuals and their environment, friends and family, and their own health and well-being.

Starting this spring keep your eyes peeled for the Golden Carrots growing in

your community. If someone you know has a unique farm or garden, is working quietly behind the scenes to get good food to Manitoba tables, schools or community centres, or is sharing their food traditions with others, we want to hear from you.

Nominations for the Golden Carrot Awards will be accepted until August 31 and the awards will be given out at an event on World Food Day, October 16, 2007. For information about becoming a signatory to the Manitoba Food Charter or about the Golden Carrot Awards, contact us at info@mbfoodcharter.ca or 1-800-731-2638.

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MEN Member Group Forum 2007

Engaging Youth in Environmental Work

By Liz Dykman

How do environmental organizations recruit and retain individuals from the younger generation? This was the theme of the annual Manitoba Eco-Network Forum. Held on March 31, in the green addition to the Dalnavert Museum, the event brought together 34 individuals representing 23 organizations for a day-long workshop to address the challenges and opportunities of integrating more young people in environmental groups.

The day began with an activity to highlight the generation gap in a fun way. Differences between the youth and non-youth (for want of a better term) mostly relate to historical knowledge and familiarity with current technology and trends. While the "seasoned" environmentalists can remember the names of the founders of Greenpeace, or the various locations that have housed the Eco-Network, they may not be aware of the latest electronic communications gadgets or what is hip in pop culture. There are also some things that environmentalists have in common, regardless of their age, and it seems that wool socks with Birkenstocks is a fashion statement that transcends all generational boundaries.

Youth bring insight to bridging the generation gap

The morning included a panel discussion involving three youths who are, or have been, engaged in environmental initiatives. They had insights to offer about what works well when communicating with youth, and some of the barriers that exist. The challenges of bridging the generation gap between young and "not as young" activists are not insignificant. Sometimes youth are hesitant to allow the older generation the opportunity to offer their expertise, since the older generations are seen to have brought about current environmental problems. Questioning authority can extend to questioning the motives of anyone over 30. Youth can be characterized by older activists as unrealistic, unwilling to listen to the voice of experience, and uninterested in the "boring" stuff that is sometimes the reality of day to day work.

On the other hand, when we explored the positive experiences that participants have had working inter-generationally, there was reason to hope. Older activists spoke of the benefits of having youth involved because of their unbridled idealism and enthusiasm, which can be inspiring. Youth spoke about constructive situations where experienced activists acted as mentors, but gave youth responsibility and ownership of projects. Recognizing that people of various ages can all come from a place of caring deeply for the environment helps to break down the barriers between young and old(er).



Participants at the annual Eco-Network forum include a substantial number of youth. Photo by Les McCann

Brainstorming strategies to help draw more young people to the movement provided some food for thought. Suggestions for more effective communication to youth included keeping the message concise, having youth speak to youth, and making it as fun and interactive as possible. Other tactics include providing incentives, such as academic credit, and formalizing mentorship programs. Taking advantage of interactive electronic communication tools such as blogs and podcasts was also offered as an effective way to get youth engaged.

Manitoba Eco-Network will be following up on the suggestion to organize an event to bring together the various student and youth environmental organizations in the fall. Anyone interested in helping out with this initiative, please contact us at 947-6511 or info@mbeconetwork.org.

Eco

Poplar River Celebrates

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Manitoba government are realized, they will focus their energy on another goal—achieving UNESCO World Heritage listing for a large boreal forest region in Manitoba and Ontario that encompasses Poplar River's lands.

For more information:

- Manitoba Wildlands Brief about Poplar River protected lands http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/BriefProtectedLands_MWL.pdf
- Goldman profile and photos of Sophia Rabliauskas <http://goldmanprize.org/node/607>
- Poplar River First Nation website <http://poplarriverfirstnation.ca>
- CBC video clip about Sophia and the Goldman Prize: Quick Time <http://www.cbc.ca/clips/mov/duncombe-enviroaward070422.mov>

Real Media <http://www.cbc.ca/clips/rm-hi/duncombe-enviroaward070422.rm>

- April 22, 2007 Winnipeg Free Press:
Article 1 <http://manitobawildlands.org/docs/22april07Goldmanwfp1.doc>
Article 2 <http://manitobawildlands.org/docs/22april07Goldmanwfp2.doc>
- Winnipeg Free Press slideshow about Sophia and Poplar River First Nation http://winnipegfreepress.com/man/soundslides/poplar_river/index.html

Sources:

- Poplar River First Nation
- *The Grist* (First Things First, April 25, 2007, by Michelle Nijhuis <http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2007/04/25/nijhuis-rabliauskas/>)
- Goldman Environmental Foundation
- Winnipeg Free Press

Eco

What's Happening

June 3-9—Commuter Challenge 2007. For more information, see www.resourceconservation.mb.ca.

June 6—Clean Air Day Commuter Challenge for Schools. Visit www.resourceconservation.mb.ca to register.

June 7—Climate Change: Past, Present and Future—Tense!, a presentation by Professor Danny Blair, University of Winnipeg, reviewing the causes of climate change and how human-caused changes are likely to transform the global climate for coming decades. For the kids: Bill Nye the Science Guy. Stonewall Quarry Park Interpretive Centre 7:30 pm. For more info, call REACT 467-5963.

June 10-14—Current Perspective, the 2007 Canadian River Heritage Conference. This four day event brings you face-to-face with experts from around the globe and the latest information on how communities are implementing environmentally sustainable management practices. See www.riverswest.ca for info.



June 17—Native Orchid Conservation Inc. is co-hosting an **Orchid Festival in Senkiw, Manitoba** together with the Franklin Crow Wing Trail Association and the Parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Nativity of St. Mary. The day includes an interpreted orchid field trip (starts 10:30 am), displays, a slideshow on native orchids, a talk on the pioneer history, a tour of the beautiful old church, and a BBQ lunch (hotdog and drink) all for the price of admission (\$10 adults, \$5 children between 12 and 5). Enjoy a family outing on and walk across the historic suspension bridge on the Roseau River recently restored by the Crow Wing Trail Association. To register call NOCI's fieldtrip coordinator Iris Reimer at 475-9878 or irhymer@shaw.ca. For more information and directions, go to www.nativeorchid.org.

June 21—Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in the Red River and Assiniboine River Basins. A workshop hosted by the Manitoba Eco-Network Water Caucus. Confirmed speakers from Friends of the Earth, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Manitoba Water Stewardship, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, the Red River Basin Commission, and the University of Winnipeg. Held at Crossways in Common, Winnipeg. For more info, call 943-0318.

June 19—Eco-Tuesday monthly film series—An Inconvenient Truth (extended edition) presented by Manitoba Eco-Network. 7:00pm at the Park Theatre, 698 Osborne St. S. Tickets are \$6

for members, students and low-income and \$9 regular, available at the door. Discussion to follow. Call 947-6511.

June 24—Oak Hammock Marsh Summer Bird Census. Come and help us keep track of which species occur at Oak Hammock during the summer. Teams cover an area as thoroughly as possible. A lunch will be served and prizes awarded. If you are interested, please call the Centre at 467-3300 before June 22.

June 24—Fairmont Winnipeg Paws in Motion Walk-a-Thon in support of the Winnipeg Humane Society. 8:30 am to 1 pm at Assiniboine Park. For info on how to register, visit www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca.

June 28—Wildflower Noon Hour Workshop at Oak Hammock Marsh. Discover the diverse number of wildflowers found in our province. Take home seeds to plant in your garden. \$5 workshop fee. For information call (204) 467-3300.

July 28—Manitoba Naturalists Society Natural Garden Tour. The tour illustrates the creativity of gardeners who produce floral spaces that are very different from each other. The tour gardeners have tended their gardens with loving care and attention to detail, which hopefully will stimulate and inspire other gardeners. Tickets are \$10 each (open to adults and children 12 and up) for this SELF-DIRECTED tour. Information on each garden and the addresses and directions are included on the tickets. Carpools are suggested to avoid traffic congestion. Tickets will be available at the MNS Indoor Program and at the workshop evenings at Kelvin High School, or by calling the MNS office at 943-9029.

July 28—Whitewater Lake Ecotour at Oak Hammock Marsh. Visit this Important Bird Area (IBA) known as a major staging area for waterfowl and shorebirds with the help of a knowledgeable guide. Pre-registration is required. Call (204) 467-3300.

August 24—Sawmills, Park & 'Spirits' Educational Charter Bus Tour presented by the Manitoba Forestry Association and the Manitoba Model Forest Network. A fun and educational tour for landowners interested in woodlot management, Provincial Parks, sawmills and value added processing. Stops include a sawmill operation, Camp Morton Provincial Park and Diageo Gimli Distillery. Cost is \$30 for non-members and \$20 for members and includes transportation, lunch and refreshments. Contact the Manitoba Forestry Association Woodlot Program at (204) 453-3182 for more information or to register.

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MANITOBA WILDLANDS

The Threat (or Promise?) of Air Travel

By Curt Hull, Climate Change Connection

Before you whisk off to that holiday in Mazatlan, or that conference in Vancouver, you should pause before you get on the plane. I'm not talking about threats from terrorists; I'm talking about the threat your plane ride poses to the environment. In the effort to minimize the coming changes to our climate, air travel is going to be our toughest challenge.

Air travel is harmful to the atmosphere and it is becoming a bigger percentage of our greenhouse gas contribution. It will be tough to address this issue because we really like to fly and we don't have a viable substitute. There is no other way than the airplane to move large numbers of people, long distances, really fast (especially over water). There are other forms of transportation that can satisfy two of these requirements (such as trains and boats) but only air travel satisfies all three. The promise behind this threat is that maybe it will cause us to look at why we need to go so fast, and to ask, why not slow down?

It produces a lot of greenhouse gases

Aircraft use an incredible amount of fuel, and they burn it high up in the sky where the air is thin and the chemistry is complex and fragile. Some of the stuff emitted by aircraft heats the planet and some cools it.¹ The overall impact is a warming effect that is 1.9 times that of carbon dioxide alone.²

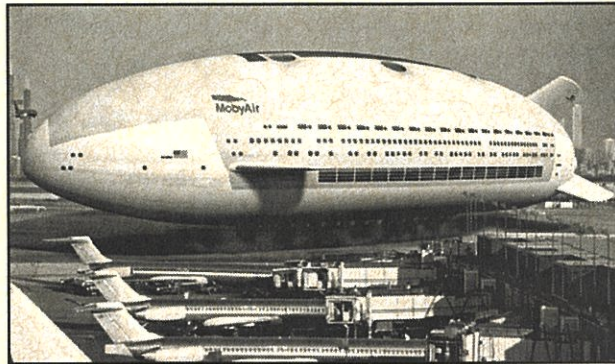
- **Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)**—Air travel produces almost as much carbon dioxide per passenger kilometer as having a single occupant in a small car.³ However, instead of going to work or to the store for groceries, plane trips are hundreds or thousands of kilometers. A small car creates about 5 tonnes of CO₂ a year. A plane trip to London and back generates about 1.4 tonnes of CO₂,⁴ or more than three months driving—and that's just the carbon dioxide.
- **Nitrogen oxides (NOx) and Ozone**—Nitrogen oxides are greenhouse gases and the NOx that planes produce also increase ozone concentrations. Increases in ozone in the upper troposphere are more effective at warming the planet than increases at lower altitudes.
- **Water Vapour**—Water vapour is a greenhouse gas. Most aircraft water vapour is released at lower altitudes where it's removed by precipitation within one to two weeks but whatever is released in the stratosphere (above 10,000 metres) builds up.
- **Contrails and Cirrus Clouds**—Those thin trails behind high flying aircraft tend to warm the Earth's surface, especially at night.
- **Sulfate and Soot Aerosols**—Soot tends to warm while sulfate tends to cool the Earth's surface. Because aerosols influence the formation of clouds, their accumulation from aircraft plays a role in enhanced cloud formation and changes the properties of clouds.

We're doing more of it

Air travel accounts for a rapidly growing piece of our greenhouse gas emissions. In 1992, it accounted for just 2% of total

human-created (anthropogenic) carbon dioxide emissions or about 13% of CO₂ from all transportation sources. The world's air passenger traffic more than doubled from 1985 to 2000, and air cargo traffic grew even more quickly.

There was a decrease after 9/11 but it's growing again, and making up for lost time. In 2004, Boeing and Airbus forecast that passenger air travel and air cargo would double the 2004 level before 2020. In 2006, they increased that forecast by 30%, mostly due to demand from new markets like China. This means 22,700 new passenger and freighter aircraft will be required over the next 20 years, 5,400 more than they predicted in 2004.⁵



Is this Aeroscraft the answer to the challenge of GHG emissions from air travel?

During the coming years, we hope to be very successful in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from every other source: coal-fired electrical generation, fossil fuel car travel, and home heating. If air travel keeps increasing and other greenhouse gas sources decrease, air travel will become a bigger and bigger part of the problem.

Why would air travel increase if the others don't? We like to go places and we want to get there fast. Perhaps this is the toughest problem.

We can convince people to drive hybrid-electric cars, ride their bike, or insulate their homes, but giving up that trip of a lifetime, the ability to manage a global business, or a visit to see loved ones is just too much to ask. Also, travel opens our eyes. We meet new people. We see new perspectives. Anyone who has travelled knows that the awareness and appreciation for another culture that comes from smelling it, tasting it, touching it—living it is far more profound than the insights gained from what you see and hear on the TV or internet. People who are concerned about the prospect of floods in Bangladesh or droughts in Africa (and hence, global warming), are often people who've been there.

Looking for a substitute

How else can we move lots of people quickly over long distances? What alternatives are there?

- **What if we change the fuel?**—Hydrogen produces no carbon dioxide but it has 1/4 the energy density of kerosene. So, the volume of the fuel is much greater, increasing the size of the vessel, and therefore the drag. Also, a plane burning hydrogen would produce 2.6 times as much water vapour as a plane flying on kerosene, and water vapour is a problem when planes fly in the stratosphere.
- **High-speed magnetic-levitation (maglev) trains**—The least expensive high-speed train routes in France cost about \$12 million per km to build. At this rate, a line from New York to L.A. would cost \$48 billion and take many years to build. Since they travel near the ground, wind resistance is relatively high and increases dramatically at high speed. A train moving at 350 kph uses almost twice the fuel per kilometer as one travelling at 225 kph (6). At 350 kph, the

see "Threat of Air Travel" next page ►

Threat of Air Travel

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train would use more fuel than an Airbus. High-speed trains would only cut carbon if they ran on electricity from renewable sources—and they won't get you over the ocean.

- **New-generation dirigibles**—One such dirigible being proposed is the Aeroscraft⁷. It would not be lighter than air; only 2/3 of its weight would be lifted by helium. It would be two football fields long, fly below 3000 metres, and carry a 400-tonne payload. It would use six turbofan jet engines for takeoff and landing, have a range of several thousand miles, and would have an estimated top speed of 280 kph using hydrogen-powered electric propellers for propulsion. It would cross the continental U.S. in about 18 hours. One model is in production now and is expected to fly in 24 to 36 months. Who knows what promise or problems it holds when it actually starts to fly?

What can we do now?

The dirigible idea looks pretty exciting to me but it means we need to open our thinking beyond the vehicles themselves, to look at the requirements. Why do we need to travel so fast? People used to travel by regular trains and they had time to meet people and have romances.

Even within the realm of airplanes, the faster the plane, the more fuel it uses. Turboprop airplanes use about 60% of the fuel of current jets⁸. Supersonic aircraft use about 30% more fuel at cruising altitude than passenger jets⁹ and a lot more to get up there.

Sometimes we may not really need to travel at all. Some people take more than one air flight vacation a year. Why not one trip for a longer time—really experience the place. A lot of business travel is done more for the status and prestige of frequent flier miles than for real need. Video conferencing technology is getting better and cheaper all the time. It can be nearly as effective as meeting in person, much more efficient in time, and a lot cheaper.

Maybe the real threat of air travel is how it raises our expectations for speed and the promise is that, if we take this climate change problem seriously, we may start to ask—why not slow down and start enjoying the journey?

Notes

- 1 Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report—Aviation and the Global Atmosphere—Summary for Policymakers, 1999
- 2 IPCC -2.7 has been used previously (e.g. George Monbiot, Heat) but 1.9 is now preferred
- 3 John C. Ryan, Over Our Heads: A Local Look at Global Climate (Seattle: Sightline, 1997), p.43
- 4 <http://www.terrapass.com/flight/flightcalc.html>
- 5 ATW Daily News, Airbus raises 20-year forecast more than 30% to 22,700 aircraft, Nov 23, 2006, <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=7161>
- 6 Roger Kemp, Transportation Energy Consumption, Lancaster University, 2004
- 7 <http://www.aeroscraft.com/>
- 8 Avions de Transport Regional, The Latest Generation Turboprop: The Green Power of Tomorrow, no date.
- 9 www.aef.org.uk/downloads/Howdoesairtravelcompare.doc



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Hog Industry Sustainability Where do we go from here?

By Glen Koroluk, Beyond Factory Farming Coalition

The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) recently held public consultations as part of a review of the sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba. In total, seventeen community meetings were held with close to two hundred presentations. The CEC panel will issue a number of technical reports by the end of June for further comment from the public, and then issue its final report to the Minister of Conservation by the end of the year.

The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition (BFFC) has been involved throughout the review process, and is preparing a report with recommendations for the CEC. BFFC is calling for a transition to sustainable farming and socially responsible agriculture as an alternative to large-scale, high-volume hog operations that are unsustainable and polluting. As a pollution prevention strategy, making a transition to sustainable agriculture is by far the most effective way to build community and improve the environment. Technological fixes will for the most part create other unforeseen problems.

Socially responsible meat production is an integrated approach to raising animals that respects the environment, treats animals humanely, supports local communities, and is economically viable for farmers. In areas where small-scale organic and socially responsible farms are common, there is a higher degree of social and cultural development, as well as more viable local businesses. Socially responsible farming includes: certified organic farming; farms under holistic management, on-farm bio-diversity that integrates crops and animals; no hormone implants or injections or use of non-therapeutic antibiotics; manure production not exceeding what can be utilized by crops grown on the land; family or co-operatively owned and operated farms; and animals raised in an environment where they are able to behave naturally.

Several proposed solutions

BFFC's report to the CEC will offer several proposed solutions to help guide Manitoba towards sustainable agriculture and vibrant communities. To begin with, however, it should be noted that citizens must have full access to data about the Manitoba hog industry in order to make informed decisions. Currently,

complete information about the industry has not been compiled, analyzed and made available to the general public. BFFC will recommend that more thorough information gathering takes place before the final report.

Public participation will be key to any responsible regulation of the hog industry. To that end, BFFC also recommends that the Planning Act must be amended to enhance community decision making and public participation. This would include a citizen's right to go to court on an infraction of the Planning Act. It could also include allowing local decision-makers to place a higher level of environmental protection on the conditions of project approval. At the same time, conflict of interest legislation for municipally elected officials must be vastly improved.

Subsidies that support unsustainable practices must be withdrawn, and replaced with incentives and best management practices that prevent pollution. A major concern has always been the large amounts of manure produced by large-scale hog operations, and how to dispose of it. Careless waste management can result in pollution of groundwater and nearby waterways—the high phosphorus content of manure is damaging to aquatic ecosystems. BFFC will recommend that phosphorus must be regulated based on residual soil nutrient levels and that application rates must not exceed the average requirements of the crop grown. Application of manure to fields should be subject to approved manure management plans and soil testing must be done by an independent, accredited third party.

Regulated under the Environment Act

As well, we must acknowledge the peer-reviewed research that intensive livestock operations (ILOs) impact human health. ILOs must be regulated under the Environment Act. This will ensure that the public has the opportunity to get involved in environmental assessments and decision making.

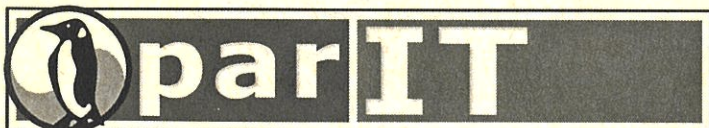
The more specific impacts on human and animal health must also be considered. Sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in feed must be phased out, and the resources and infrastructure must be developed to respond to major disease outbreaks and epidemics. Siting of barns must be based on community health impact studies and regulated through the Public Health Act. Hog barn workers must be included within the Employment Standards Code.

The odours and emissions associated with hog production (hydrogen sulfide, ammonia from manure), must also be regulated under the Environment Act. Citizens must be afforded their rights to enjoyment of property. This means citizens must be given back their right to sue factory farms for nuisance under our common law.

Finally, sufficient public and private resources (both human see "Hog Industry Sustainability" next page ►



Socially responsible farming creates a range of benefits for farm communities. Photo by Cindy Murray



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Youth Activist Retreat (August 2007)

By Shelagh Pizey-Allen

Planning has begun for this year's Youth Activist Retreat, which will be held from August 13 to 17, in Clearwater, Manitoba. The Youth Activist Retreat (YAR) has been an annual event since 1999, and brings together young people who are interested in activism and social change. YAR is a free weeklong retreat that uses workshops, skill building working groups, and other activities to help improve participants' organizing skills and develop their knowledge of contemporary social, political and economic issues. The retreat is geared towards youth aged 16 to 20.

Ecological Justice theme

The theme of this year's retreat is Ecological Justice, and will focus on how the environment is related to social justice issues. Participants at the retreat will hear about labour, indigenous, women's, and economic issues, and how they are connected with environmental damage.

Workshop topics in past years have included Unlearning Patriarchy and Sexism; Worker's Rights, Unions, and Activism; Political Ideologies; Current Issues in Global Justice; Anti-Racism Education and Action; Globalization; Non-Violence Theory and Skills; and Gender/ LGBTT issues.

For the second year in a row, YAR will be held in Clearwater, Manitoba, home of the Harvest Moon Society and the Harvest Moon Festival (www.harvestmoonsociety.org). We are excited

about the possibilities for local programming and a focus on rural and local food issues that this will create. Last year, members of the Harvest Moon Society made a presentation about the learning centre that they are creating, and some participants interviewed town residents for a radio documentary.

One of the most exciting parts of YAR is the Open House at

the end of the week, when participants get to present what they've created during the retreat. Last year's presentations included a radio documentary, a video, a theatre piece, spoken word performances, and the distribution of a zine. This year's Open House will take place on Friday, August 17th, and is tentatively scheduled to be at the newly opened Rudolf Rocker Cultural Centre on the 3rd floor of 91 Albert St. YAR is hoping to attract more folks to the event by including some local musical acts.



Participants at YAR 2006 collide into a group hug. Photo by Bram Adey

Get involved!

People interested in getting involved with the planning of YAR 2007 can get in touch with us by email at youthactivistretreat@graffiti.net or call 944-9408. People interested in attending the retreat as participants can download a registration form available at www.youthactivistretreat.ca or can get in touch with us at the info above. To stay tuned for details about the Open House, you can check YAR's website, www.youthactivistretreat.ca

ECO

Hog Industry Sustainability

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and financial) must be allocated within government to allow for increased monitoring, data collection, enforcement, research and program review. The province must develop a comprehensive database that identifies the locations of all intensive livestock operations in Manitoba, their type and capacity of storage facilities, and spread fields used in their manure management plans. This database can also include soil test nutrient results and well water quality test results in proximity to ILOs.

Detailed public soil surveys, and comprehensive hydrological and ground water supply data must also be completed. Surface water quality sampling must be more frequent. As the database is developed, it must be made available to the public and updated at regular intervals. Public partici-

pation in the review process and ongoing consultations about the hog industry is essential.

For more information about the CEC review, go to <http://www.cecmanitoba.ca/index.cfm?pageID=89#>

Visit the BFFC at www.beyondfactoryfarming.org or call the Beyond Factory Farming Coalition at (204) 943-3945.

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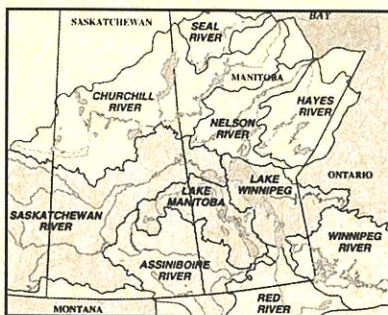
Water Caucus Update

By Glen Koroluk

The Manitoba Eco-Network's Water Caucus continues to take on and research issues affecting water quality and the health of aquatic ecosystems throughout Manitoba. The following is an update on some of our more recent projects.

Lake Winnipeg Planning Workshop

The Manitoba Eco-Network is part of a planning advisory committee which held a workshop to further the goals of the Healthy Lake Winnipeg Charter. The Charter derives from the Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee's November 2006 report, "Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg: Canada's Sixth Great Lake". Over fifty participants responded to the invitation and attended the one-day workshop (held in February) involving key active Manitoba interests in Lake Winnipeg and some selected interests in the basin outside the Province. There was overwhelming support to establish a larger community-led governance structure within the Lake Winnipeg basin to further the goals of protecting the ecological integrity of the lake. A recommendations report will be released by the end of May 2007. The Province of Manitoba responded to the event by releasing a news release the day before, indicating that the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board (an appointed body of the Minister of Water Stewardship) has been given an expanded mandate to continue the protection of Lake Winnipeg. No details of their plan or financial commitments were included in this news release.



Major drainage basins empty into Manitoba. Map by Gov. of Manitoba

The Upper Assiniboine Watershed Planning Advisory Team (WPAT)

The Manitoba Eco-Network is a member of the WPAT which is comprised of approximately 60 members including local stakeholders, science information agencies and Conservation District board representatives. The WPAT is tasked to bring local and science knowledge into the watershed planning process. The Upper Assiniboine watersheds region includes four watersheds, three conservation districts and Lake of the Prairies, a reservoir that is a major water supply for industrial, agricultural, irrigation and municipal users in southern Manitoba. It is anticipated that three separate plans will result from this process within a three-year timeline. The watershed management plan must include a State of the Watershed Report (within 12 months), a Watershed Report Card, a Source Water Protection Assessment and a Source Water Protection Plan. The Terms of Reference for the preparation of the plan and Memorandum of Understanding for the designation of a water planning authority were

completed in late summer 2006 amongst government officials and the project management team. The decision to combine the four watersheds and three conservation districts into one planning process was made "because of resource constraints". These constraints have included the inability to retain a senior watershed planner for any length of time (they have now hired their third planner) and delay in obtaining crucial data from government sources. Ten WPAT meetings are scheduled for year one ending November 2007.

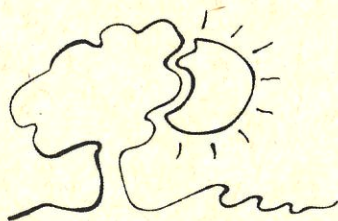
Water Quality Management Zones for Nutrients

The public comment period for establishing Manitoba's first regulation under the Water Protection Act was extended to January 2007. We expect the regulation to go through an order-in-council after the provincial election. It is anticipated that amendments will occur under the Ground Water and Well Water Act to incorporate source water protection measures. In November of 2006, the Minister of Conservation amended the Manure Management and Mortalities Regulation under the Environment Act to incorporate phosphorus limits in manure management plans. At the same time, a temporary pause was placed on the permitting of new earthen manure storage facilities, and the government called on the Clean Environment Commission to conduct an investigation of the sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba.

Prairie Water Network

The Manitoba Eco-Network continues to assist in the development of a Statement of Expectation (SOE) for Water Sustainability in the prairie region of Canada. Over the course of the next two to three months, a final draft SOE will be available for the Manitoba Eco-Network to solicit input and support from the larger civil society community in Manitoba. The Prairie Water Network and SOE is a collaboration of the Alberta Environmental Network—Water Caucus, Saskatchewan Environ-

see "Water Caucus Update", next page ►



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Living by Water

By Margaret Skeel, Nature Saskatchewan

It is becoming increasingly challenging to conserve our shorelines as special places with the growing pressure on these areas for recreational use. Caring for our shorelines is important to consider for both those who live along and those who visit a shoreline.

A healthy shoreline—one that fulfils the ecological functions of acting as a filter to keep sediments and pollutants out of our water, and as a sponge for moderating the effects of wet and dry periods—can be recognized by looking at the natural features of the surrounding area. Enjoying a shoreline while maintaining it in a healthy state is easy and more relaxing than the work that often goes into altering a shoreline; for a degraded shoreline, it is well worth the effort to take steps to restore it to a more natural state.

The much-applauded Living by Water 152-page handbook, *On The Living Edge* (SK/MB edition), is available to provide a

wealth of ideas and tips to you and others along your shoreline or around your lake. The 2007 bulk rates—as low as \$5.88 per book (while supplies last)—make it possible for everyone

around your lake to own a copy! In some communities, cottager groups are providing the handbook to all shoreline residents at their lake. Take this idea to your cottager group, get together with others to order a box, or show your copy to others. *On The Living Edge* also makes a great gift if you are a cottage guest!

On The Living Edge is enjoyable to read and provides easy-to-understand tools to protect your cottage life. To order, please download an order form

from the Nature Saskatchewan website www.naturesask.ca, or call Nature Saskatchewan at (306) 780-9273 or toll-free in SK at 1-800-667-4668. For more info on Living by Water contact the NS office or Margaret at mskeel@naturesask.ca. **ECO**



Photo provided by the Sierra Club

Water Caucus Update

continued from page 9

mental Society and Manitoba Eco-Network—Water Caucus and is coordinated and managed by the Sierra Club of Western Canada. (Editor's Note: an article on the Prairie Water Network appeared in Vol. 17 # 2 (March/April 2007) of the Manitoba Eco-Journal, on page 9.)

Town of Minnedosa Water Supply Upgrade Project

Fueled by additional water needs for a new Husky Oil Ethanol Plant, the Town of Minnedosa, which supplies potable water to Husky, applied for an Environment Act license to increase its withdrawal of groundwater in the region. A working group was established, through the Water Caucus to raise public concern, ask for a thorough investigation through a Clean Environment Commission hearing and protect the aquatic ecosystem of the Little Saskatchewan River. The Little Saskatchewan River is the source of the alluvial aquifer which the town draws its water from. The Minister of Conservation issued a license to allow for the project to proceed and built in the requirement to implement a passable water quality and quantity-monitoring program as a condition for the license. In response, a number of organizations appealed the issuance of the license, but to no avail. Since the appeal, a voluntary water conservation planning exercise was initiated by the Town of Minnedosa and Green Manitoba, a special operating agency of the provincial government in charge of implementing water and energy conservation programs.

Red River Valley Water Supply Project

The Manitoba Eco-Network hired a consultant in December of 2006 to develop a policy sign-on document in support of an in basin solution to North Dakota's perceived water supply problem in the Red River Valley. The document will promote a wa-

ter conservation ethic and the many soft path alternatives that were promoted in the Pembina Valley Water Co-op project environmental review process (see the article in Eco-Journal Vol. 16, # 5, p. 5.). The final public release of this policy sign-on document will be timed to coincide with the political decision-making process on the Garrison Diversion. **ECO**

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Spring Butterflies in Manitoba

By Lindy Clubb

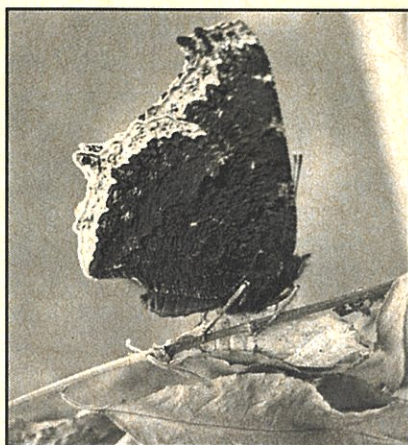
On a recent trip to the University of Manitoba's Delta Marsh Station, I was delighted to hear the steady chorus of wood frogs, watch wood thrushes pick over the piles of snow on the sandy shoreline of the lake, and listen to the songs of returning migratory birds, which are several octaves higher and much more complicated than the honks of geese. Then I saw butterflies. Butterflies when there was snow in sheltered places, and we still needed wool blankets at night? Those can't be Mourning Cloaks or Tortoise Shells, I thought, although I had spent time with entomologists and had dog-eared my copy of *The Butterflies of Manitoba*.

But, they were large colourful Mourning Cloak and Tortoise Shell butterflies, and they are the first of the order *Lepidoptera* to appear in the early spring. They fly so early since they hibernate over the winter, and they come out on sunny afternoons with as much exuberance as children. Both of these butterflies overwinter as adults hidden in crevices of bark or rock, and they emerge to feed on sap from tree wounds and stumps, or the nectar from early flowers on trees.

Mourning Cloaks have two inch wide deep purple wings edged with yellow, and their flight pattern (like hawks), is to take a few rapid flaps and then glide. When they mate, they spiral up in the air and then one drops to the ground suddenly, while the other one slowly glides down. It's quite a sight.

Tortoise Shells resemble calico cats in color, with marbled grayish brown wings. They fold these wings when they rest and are well camouflaged by the forests they inhabit.

By late spring they've mated, laid eggs and died, leaving the coming winter for the next generation. They've lasted about ten months. The larvae feed on a wide variety of tree species (cottonwoods, birch, elm, willow and aspen) and if you spot a caterpillar that's black with white speckles, has a row of red spots, and sports branched spines, it's a Mourning Cloak butterfly to be. The Tortoise Shells produce pale green larvae, also with numerous branched black spines. Birds beware.



Mourning Cloak, Nymphalis antiopa. Photo by Sheila W.

Between the butterflies, bird nests, ducks, herons and the sunsets and sunrises over the lake, plus a little dip-netting excursion to a nearby pond, I can see why people are attracted to both the wildlife and the accommodation on Lake Manitoba's shoreline. The marsh is just as magnificent, and the canoes stacked by the dock invite paddlers to explore. If you go out in late spring, you'll know which kind of butterflies are dancing in the winds

from the lake, and fluttering by the reeds in the marsh.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Aglais milberti. Photo by David Cappaert



Monarch Teacher Network Canada Butterfly Workshop for Educators

By Jan Kushnier

How many of you have marveled at the beauty of a Monarch butterfly, or watched in wonder as a caterpillar munched its way through a patch of milkweed?

The Monarch Teacher Network (MTN) began in New Jersey in 2001 when 18 American teachers were trained to use monarch butterflies as a teaching tool in the classroom. In 2004, Monarch Teacher Network Canada was formed, and in the summer of 2006, the first Monarch Workshop was held in Winnipeg. I was fortunate to be amongst the 50 participants in that workshop.

For three packed days, teachers from Canada and the U.S.A. shared their knowledge, experience, and resources. Through presentations and hands-on activities I learned to use the Monarch as a way to teach science, literacy, social science, art. I also learned ways to connect the Monarch to cultural, environmental and global issues. It's a great way to connect to the excitement of a child who brings a butterfly or caterpillar to the classroom, and wants to know more.



**Monarch
Teacher
Network-
Canada**

Each fall these Monarchs begin a 4000 km journey to Mexico—the longest migration of any insect in the world! Yearly, MTN offers two one-week trips to Mexico to visit two Monarch sanctuaries and learn more about the Mexican culture. These trips are open to teachers who have participated in the Monarch Workshop. I had the experience of a lifetime when I joined a tour this past March. To see and hear the fluttering of thousands of tiny orange and black wings is indescribable! Knowing that I will soon be greeting the great grandchildren of those Monarchs has made me plan for more milkweed in my garden this summer. I would encourage you to begin your journey into learning and teaching using the Monarch.

Sign up early for the Monarch Workshop to be held in Winnipeg this July 24, 25 and 26. Space is limited. Info can be found on the Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba website, or visit www.monarchcanada.org. Once infected, you may have to join "MA"—Monarchs Anonymous! **ECO**

MEC Joins One Percent for the Planet

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), Canada's largest consumer co-operative and a recognized leader in sustainability practices, called on the Canadian business community to join it in making a significant commitment to the environment. MEC set the bar by announcing its membership in One Percent For The Planet (1% FTP), an alliance of some 500 companies in over 20 countries that are committed to a healthier planet. Members of One Percent For The Planet commit at least one per cent of their revenues each year to supporting environmental causes. As a result of its membership, MEC will donate an estimated \$2.25 million to environmental causes in 2007 alone.

MEC CEO Peter Robinson said, "Business can and must be a force for change, if we are to overcome the environmental challenges facing the planet. In Canada, we have vast ecological wealth in our backyard that every day supports our communities, our businesses and our quality of life. The time has come for the business sector to take stock of what is most important, and move now to support community efforts to protect the environment."

MEC's membership in One Percent For The Planet will deepen the outdoor retailer's already firm commitment to Canadian conservation and environmental initiatives. It also provides a significant step forward for 1% FTP, by giving the organization a cross-Canada profile.

"This is a wonderful, profound step forward for us," said Terry Kellogg, Executive Director of One Percent For The Planet. "Along with our other members, MEC is signalling a critical change in course for the way business is conducted around the world. MEC's support will have significant impact for us and for the environment."

The momentum of this announcement will be carried to rural and urban communities across the country by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), the membership association for Canada's 155 community foundations.

"Our national network of community foundations plans to spread the word about One Percent For The Planet to businesses across Canada," said Monica Patten, President and CEO of CFC. "We will help connect business and environmental organizations and programs in their communities and we will build local environmental endowments-creating a source of ongoing funding for each community's priorities."

Canadian community foundations currently manage more than \$30 million in environmental endowment funds for businesses and other donors.

One Percent For The Planet members have the right to display the 1% FTP logo, which provides consumers with third-party validation of the strength of a member company's commitment. MEC is backing up its commitment to One Percent For The Planet through an invitational lunch to be held in Toronto, where senior business leaders from a variety of companies will be introduced to One Percent For The Planet and Community Foundations of Canada.

"Environmental philanthropy is about looking beyond the next quarter or shareholder value," said Robinson. "It's about assuming responsibility for our natural heritage so that our children—and their children—can breathe and drink clean air and water, relish the wonders of the Earth's flora and fauna, and wander in wild places."

MEC has given over \$9 million to Canadian environmental initiatives since 1987.

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

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 Telephone # () _____ E-Mail _____
 Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____
 Area(s) of interest _____ Volunteer skills _____

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

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

