

ECO-JOURNAL

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The Green Map Project

By Krysty McIntyre and Anke Kirch

It's been a hard day at the office for Joe, who works in the city's downtown core. After being stuck in traffic for far too long driving to his home in the nearby Spence Neighbourhood, he remembers why he really ought to walk to work instead of driving; he needs serenity, and badly! Besides, he chides himself, driving rather than walking or taking the bus isn't healthy for the environment. Joe takes a moment to change into some more comfortable clothes, a pair of sneakers, and stops at the computer. He has a query, a question—where can he find the serenity he needs so desperately when he lives so close to the city's centre?

Joe types an important address into his internet browser and a Green Map of the Spence Neighbourhood fills his computer screen. He scans the icons and searches for what he needs most right now. *Dog park?* No. *Eco-friendly playground a block away?* No.

Ahh, there it is—a green and white icon with the location of a nearby bird sanctuary catches his eye. Setting off on his quest, Joe is about to indulge in a few moments of bliss—close to nature, and surprisingly close to home!

What exactly is a Green Map?

Green Maps are maps of large and small places, from whole cities and large regions, to individual communities and neighbourhoods. Each Green Map identifies places that mean something to the people living in the mapped area. Some locations might have social significance, such as a place to put posters for meetings or yard sales. Other places on the map might be bike or walking paths, or places where wildlife gather and can be observed in peace and quiet.

Green Maps are an opportunity for existing organizations in a neighbourhood to make the people more aware of what is going on around them. With links to community gardens and cultural centres, Green Maps become community directories

that everyone can access. Categories include Culture and Design, Fauna, Flora, Land and Water, Renewable Resources, and Toxic Spots. Also available on a Green Map are the locations for Green Mobility, Infrastructure, Conserver Economy, and Information and Social Resources. At first, some of these terms might sound confusing. Conserver Economy actually identifies places such as fair trade shops or farmers' markets. Culture and Design icons help to identify places on a Green Map that might have historical significance, such as locations for the Spence

Neighbourhood walking tours. And very important as well are Information and Social Resources.

Imagine a map that will have an icon for every community centre, aboriginal centre or women's resource centre that's available in your own neighbourhood. Imagine how powerful that information can be once it is available to everyone! Using a system of icons to identify different types of categories or sites, a Green Map could help Winnipeg residents make informed and environmentally and socially responsible lifestyle choices.

The Winnipeg-Manitoba Green Map is currently being created and published with the joint efforts of the University of Manitoba and the Manitoba Eco-Network. Professor David van Vliet in the Department of City Planning has established a detailed list of places and a menu explaining each of the different categories. These are available at <http://www.arch.umanitoba.ca/greenmap> (click on the "Winnipeg Places" tab).

Geographic Information System interactive map

The Manitoba Eco-Network's GIS/Mapping Centre is currently in the process of converting this information into a Geographic Information System (GIS) that will display all places as an interactive map. This map will be available on-line and show the places in front of a backdrop of City data which includes streets, parks, natural areas, recycling depots, bike and walking paths, transit stops, libraries, schools, community centres and much more. Layers can be toggled on and off and people can zoom into and out of the map. Once a working map has been published, the Manitoba Eco-Network will consult member groups regarding contents and future directions.

To add further relevance to the Winnipeg—Manitoba Green Map, a partnership with the Spence Neighbourhood Association was established in the spring of 2007. This is a pilot project

see "The Green Map Project" on page 8 ►



Spence Neighbours sign in for community clean up. Photo by Kathryn MacKenzie

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member groups.

Celebrate 25 Years With Us!

By Anne Lindsey, Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network

My first Manitoba Environmental Network meeting was in 1984, at Westminster United Church. My group, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba, had heard about this gathering of environmental groups, and we were curious to see what it was all about—and whether it could help us in our campaign.

We found a small group of earnest people at that first meeting. We also had a guest—a Member of the Legislative Assembly—and one major thing I took away from that meeting was his advice: “the squeaky wheel gets the grease”, referring of course to the activism, communication and persistence about an issue that gets the attention of governments. It was excellent advice that remains absolutely relevant today. We were educated by these folks that we met and decided to join up.

30 years for the CEN

The network had been around for a number of years—along with similar bodies in other provinces—set up initially by the federal Department of Environment to enable consultation with environmental groups around the country on new legislation and initiatives. This network of networks was (and still is) called the Canadian Environmental Network, this year marking its own 30th anniversary.

I’ve been privileged to have been around the Manitoba Eco-Network (we changed our name in 1989) ever since that time and as I reflect on those 23 years, I see some amaz-

ing changes that have taken place—both for the organization, and for the environmental movement as a whole, not to mention the “state of the planet” and the kinds of issues we all work on.

Growing and evolving

The Network turned out to be a valuable resource for our small citizens’ group—and it has played an important role for many other groups since that time. The Network has grown and evolved, alongside the many organizations—both large and small—that make up the environmental movement in Manitoba.

In the next issue of the Eco-Journal—our first in the anniversary year, we’ll look back on the last 25 years of environmentalism in this province through the eyes of some key players in the Network and in the member groups—and maybe some observers as well!

Meanwhile, we want to draw your attention to the invitation postcard enclosed with this issue. Our celebration event is taking place on Saturday, March 8 at the Radisson Hotel. The hotel staff are working closely with us to create a meal featuring organic and local foods—no small feat for Manitoba in March! We would be so pleased to have you join us.

If you have a recollection or story that you think should be included in our “looking back” feature, please send your idea along. Call me at 947-6511, or e-mail anne@mbeconetwork.org. **ECO**

Diversity of views

One characteristic of the environmental movement (as in healthy ecosystems) is diversity. Environmental organizations and activists may agree on broad overall goals, but often select different strategies and methods for achieving them. Nowhere is this more true than in the area of forest and species conservation. In this edition of Eco-Journal, 3 articles illustrate the point. Dave Nickarz, a long-time activist with a variety of groups, takes issue with the recent certification of forest com-

pany Tembec by the Forest Stewardship Council, while Ron Thiessen of CPAWS describes a collaborative approach to the issue of caribou habitat conservation—also involving Tembec. Meanwhile, Gaile Whelan Enns of Manitoba Wildlands takes the larger perspective examining the provincial record of protecting natural areas over the past year. All three contribute to a broader understanding of these important questions. Eco-Journal welcomes your reactions!

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MEN Member Forum

Connecting Environmental Youth

By Sandy Klowak

On October 19, I had the opportunity to attend "GreenSpace: Connecting Environmental Youth," a daylong conference bringing together young environmentalists from around Winnipeg. The event, organized by the Manitoba Eco-Network, arose out of a concern that youth are not visible enough in the Winnipeg environmental scene, and a desire to engage them in a concrete way—a topic addressed at last March's Member Forum. The conference was held at Crossways in Common, and was well attended by students from various high schools (Churchill, Shaftesbury, Kelvin, St Boniface Diocesan, Vincent Massey, MBCI) and post-secondary institutions (U of Manitoba, U of Winnipeg, Red River College), as well as a couple of young people in professional positions. Most students represented an environmental or related social justice group.

After an introduction from organizers, the day kicked off with an ice breaking activity that shed awareness on the often overlooked environmental impact of clothing—lining us up in order of unsustainable outfit. Following that, info sessions were presented on environmental topics of relevance to the city and province. These workshops included a presentation from Susan Lindsay of Climate Change Connection, and Billy Granger of the Wilderness Committee, as well as one on organic farming and transportation.

Local environmental topics and concerns explored

Inspired by these workshops, the group partook in Open Space—a conference tool that facilitates group creation of the agenda. Participants were encouraged to come up and write down local environmental topics or concerns they wished to explore, and then the group broke off into these different topic discussions, leaving flexibility for anyone to come and go from

one discussion to the next whenever they felt compelled. Open Space is an effective way to empower conference participants and allows an equal sharing of ideas, instead of blindly following a pre-set agenda.

After a delicious lunch, workshops resumed, this time as an Open Space on "capacity building needs," or skills for effective activism. After participants had time to discuss concerns and issues they were having in their activism, organizers each led an info session/discussion group on relevant topics such as Lobbying, Direct Action, Fundraising, Marketing, and Event Planning. These workshops were informal discussions with the benefit of a knowledgeable, experienced facilitator.

As the day wrapped up with a closing exercise, we were asked to share what we had learned or taken away from the event. Many students shared interesting facts and tips for effective activism, while others talked about gaining confidence, and the value of networking. Students left with the commitment to stay connected one way or another, whether it be to meet again, or stay connected

via an Internet email group.

Events like this are essential to effective activism for youth. In addition to providing useful information and skill building, networking is the key to success, and the more groups that become connected, the stronger we are. As the coordinator of a university environmental group, I am often overwhelmed by the isolation I feel when planning events and sharing ideas, which is especially surprising considering the small, interconnected nature of our city. That disconnect can be seriously counter-productive. It is very frustrating to learn that two groups have planned virtually the same event with no contact or support from one another—what a waste.

Networking the key to success

Events like GreenSpace are working to remedy that divide. There is certainly strength in numbers, not to mention the potential for emotional and creative support. Some young people aren't lucky enough to attend a high school with a socially and environmentally active student body. These youth may have the urge to get involved with activism, but have no idea where to start. Enthusiasm can be squashed pretty quickly, especially in young people who are uncertain about how to get involved—they need to be offered resources and a community in which to grow and learn. Connections between pre- and post-secondary groups are also important in order to maintain momentum when students transfer from one institution to another. GreenSpace has planted a seed of collaboration for young environmental activists in Winnipeg, and any activist community feeling the pangs of isolation should act on the example of the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Sandy Klowak is Co-Coordinator of ECOMAFIA (Ecological Males And Females In Action) at the University of Winnipeg.

ECO



Participants discuss common issues at GreenSpace for Youth. Photo by Liz Dykman

Eco-Network Annual Appeal

It's December. And that means Annual Appeal time at the Manitoba Eco-Network. Once a year, we send a letter to all our members and donors, asking them to once again make a financial contribution to the Eco-Network. Donations by individuals form an important part of our operating budget. They help us to keep the organization going, so that we can continue to host projects, and provide the various services that the community has come to expect.

Your donation gains a charitable tax receipt (for this year, if we receive your contribution before December 31), and the knowledge that you are supporting local environmental education and action. You can mail us a cheque, drop by the EcoCentre in person, or use our handy online donation option at www.mbeconetwork.org

All donations over \$30 will be entered in a draw for Chris Turner's new book: *The Geography of Hope*. Thanks in advance for your support!

What's Happening

Dec 8—International Day of Action on Climate Change. Rally at the Manitoba Legislative Building, 2 pm.

Dec 10–12—Manitoba Conservation Districts Association 32nd Annual Conference *Our Landscape: What does the Future Hold?* at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. Details can be found at: <http://www.mcda.ca> or call 204-571-1097.

Dec 15—Christmas Bird count at Oak Hammock Marsh. Calling all bird enthusiasts! Explore the marsh and surrounding area during the Annual Christmas Bird Count. Help us count our winter residents and learn more about what braves a Manitoba winter. \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Fee includes count and hot lunch. Please register with Paula (467-3243) by December 13.

Dec 17—Gasification/Pyrolysis and Bio-Energy Sources. Join the Air & Waste Management Association, Cdn Prairie and Northern Section for a half-day workshop to hear presentations and participate in discussions regarding an emerging technology's potential positive and negative impacts on Manitoba's air quality. Speakers include Eric Bibeau, U of M Faculty of Engineering, Tracey Braun, Manitoba Conservation, Bob Parsons, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, and Deny St. George, Manitoba Hydro. Registration is at 11:30, workshop runs until 4:30. In the Flin Flon Rm, 207 University Centre, U of M. Tickets are \$20 for students, \$45 for AWMA members, and \$60 for non-members. Register no later than Dec. 6 at renata.raina@uregina.ca or call (306) 585-4012.

Jan 7—The Prairie Pollinators with Dr. Diana Robson (Curator of Botany, Manitoba Museum). Hear about the results of a two-year study of Tall-grass Prairie insect pollinators in Manitoba. Contrary to what many people believe, the most common pollinators were not butterflies or bees. Climate change will likely be causing a shift in pollinator communities in the future. Part of the Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program. Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 340 Provencher Blvd. 7:30 pm Admission \$2 for MNS members and \$6 for non-members. For information call 943-9029.

Jan 19—River Secrets: Paddling the Path Less Travelled and the Paddle Manitoba Annual General Meeting. Held at the Fort Whyte Alive Interpretive Centre. AGM starts at 6:00 pm, "River

Secrets" presentation from 7–9 pm. The public is welcome. Free to all Paddle Manitoba and Fort Whyte Alive members. A \$4.00 dollar donation from non-members is gratefully accepted. Coffee and soft drinks will be served. Beer is for sale. Manitoba's top river guides will wet your traveler's appetite with stories and pictures of faraway places that await your paddle. From the shores of Hudson Bay to the Arctic Tundra to South America—come explore the land beyond the guide books. See <http://www.paddle.mb.ca/> for more info.



Amerorchis rotundifolia, from the NOCI Calendar (see page 5)

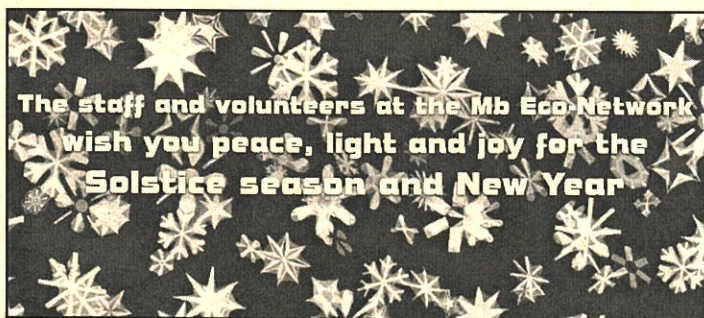
Jan 21—Karst and Caves of Manitoba with Kim Monson. Come and enjoy an evening of adventure and beauty as Kim takes you to Manitoba's underground world. Manitoba is blessed with spectacular, thick geologic beds of Limestone, dolomite and gypsum rock. When exposed to water and time, these underlying beds of rock create vast karst landscapes. Caves are part of a mature karst landscape and Manitoba has many caves, some of which have become bat and bear hibernacula. Kim Monson, a long-time caver, will explain the whats, hows, whys, and wheres, of karst and caves in Manitoba. Part of the Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor

Program. Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 340 Provencher Blvd. 7:30 pm Admission \$2 for MNS members and \$6 for non-members. For info call 943-9029.

Jan 28—Promoting Environmental Sustainability. Presenters will be Mary Melnychuk, Resource Conservation Manitoba, and Stuart Hanks, Baha'i Perspective. 7pm at Wolseley Family Place, 691 Wolseley Ave. Sponsored by Match International, MB.

Feb 4—"Healing" Nature by Mike Stainton, Freshwater Institute. Complex aquatic ecosystems like Lake Winnipeg have an intricacy that is not often understood by the general public. This talk will discuss recent understanding of the "health" of Lake Winnipeg, why it might be changing and whether proposed "treatments" are supported by a sufficient level of understanding to avoid unwanted side-effects. Part of the Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program. Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 340 Provencher Blvd. 7:30 pm Admission \$2 for MNS members and \$6 for non-members. For information call 943-9029.

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The staff and volunteers at the Mb Eco-Network wish you peace, light and joy for the Solstice season and New Year

Manitoba's Lands & Waters

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MANITOBA WILDLANDS

Celebrating Manitoba's Own Community Food Champions Golden Carrot Awards a success

By Kreesta Doucette

The first annual Manitoba Food Charter Golden Carrot Awards were a great success. On October 16, over 100 people attended an awards breakfast at the Manitoba Legislature. The awards were created to recognise Manitoba's own Community Food Champions. Both awards ceremonies were part of Manitoba's World Food Day events, which included an interfaith service and Right to Food Conference in Winnipeg, and the Northern Harvest Forum in Thompson, that focussed on northern food production.

Over 30 nominees were honoured through the Golden Carrot Awards which included individuals or groups working towards a more just, sustainable food system for all Manitobans. The six award categories were Rural, Northern and Urban Community Food Champions, and Media, Business, and Education. The annual awards have been launched to shine the spotlight on community members working towards good food practices in Manitoba. This year's award winners are:

Northern: Leaf Rapids Sherridon Community Council, and Leaf Rapids Mayor Nick Benyck, for engaging community families and school children in gardening and food preservation

Rural: the Agriculture Committee of the Turtle Mountain Community Development Committee, for their Small Farms Challenge and stimulating dialogue around revitalizing agriculture and promoting rural living.

Urban: Cori Reimer, for her work in developing the Get Together Community Garden at Mount Carmel Clinic.

Education: Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg, for their work with the sustainable development student group on healthy food choices in the school, and planning a rooftop garden.

Media: Lorraine Stevenson: for ongoing coverage of food and agricultural issues in the Manitoba Co-operator and the Winnipeg Free Press

Business: Bread and Circuses Bakery Café; nominated by Art City for over ten years of providing nutritious food for the young artists in their programs for inner city kids.

There are many other individuals and organisations working towards a more just and sustainable food system for Manitoba and we would like to hear about them. If you know of someone you think might be a community food champion please let us know. A call for nominations

for the 2008 Manitoba Food Charter Golden Carrot Awards will begin in the spring. Please contact the Manitoba Food Charter at 943-0822 (in Winnipeg) or 1-800-731-2638, email info@mbfoodcharter.ca or visit our website at www.manitobafoodsecurity.ca for more information, to receive our quarterly e-newsletter, or to become involved in the Manitoba Food Security network.

ECO



Media category nominees Lindsey Wiebe, Lorraine Stevenson, and Laura Rance, Photo by Jennifer Heinrichs

Fundraising Calendar Launched

Native Orchid Conservation celebrates

By Peggy Bainard Acheson

Native Orchid Conservation Inc. (NOCI) is celebrating ten years of conservation and public education work in 2008 with a useful and beautiful calendar that features native Manitoba orchids and other original nature photographs on every page. NOCI was incorporated in 1998 as a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting native orchids and their habitat.

Their first project was the protection of 563 ha in the Brokenhead Wetlands located close to Gull Lake on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The area contains 28 of Manitoba's 36 orchid species as well as 23 rare plant species including eight species of carnivorous plants. Due to NOCI's diligent work the wetland area, which is part of a wetland known as a fen, was declared under the Province's Protected Areas Initiative as an Ecological Reserve in 2005, the highest form of protection conferred by the Province.

Award-winning group

Over the ten years of its existence NOCI began to be recognized for its work; the group received the Premier's Volunteer Award in 2006 and in June 2007 they received Silver at the Canadian Environment Awards sponsored by the Canadian Geographic Society in the Conservation category.

NOCI is dedicated to public education. The group makes presentations and displays featuring orchids, conservation, and

their projects. Members of NOCI may participate in field trips to learn about orchids and how to protect them. In 2005 they published a field guide, *Orchids of Manitoba*, which is a comprehensive guide to recognizing and finding wild orchids in Manitoba. They also produced a video, *Zoom in on Native Orchids*, which is aimed at school children and the general public and features Al Simmons, a local children's entertainer.

Protecting sensitive ecological areas

Recently they produced a new video to promote their newest project to raise money for a boardwalk and interpretive trail on the edge of the Brokenhead Ecological Reserve. The boardwalk will be built with two purposes: first to protect the orchids and the wetland that are sensitive to compaction by visitors, and two to make it easier for interpreters to lead guided tours into the wetland for educational purposes.

The publication of this 2008 calendar is in honour of NOCI's tenth anniversary. All proceeds will be directed to Debwindon, the board walk project in the Brokenhead Wetlands. Calendars are \$10.00 each and may be ordered by contacting Huguette Calvez at 237-9325 or by ordering online at www.nativeorchid.org.

ECO

Tembec's Logging Plan FSC Certification Ineffective

By Dave Nickarz

On October 11, 2007, Tembec held an Open House seeking input into their 2009 to 2028 twenty-year logging plan. Just the day before, Tembec received Forest Stewardship Council certification as responsible managers of Forest Management License area 1 (FML 1), the 9,000 square kilometers of public land located east of the southern basin of Lake Winnipeg.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) bills itself as an international organization that brings people together to find solutions that promote responsible stewardship of the world's forests. FSC accredits independent third party organizations to certify forest managers and forest product producers to FSC standards. Smartwood is one of those third parties, and they have certified Tembec in Manitoba. FSC includes conservation groups like Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund.

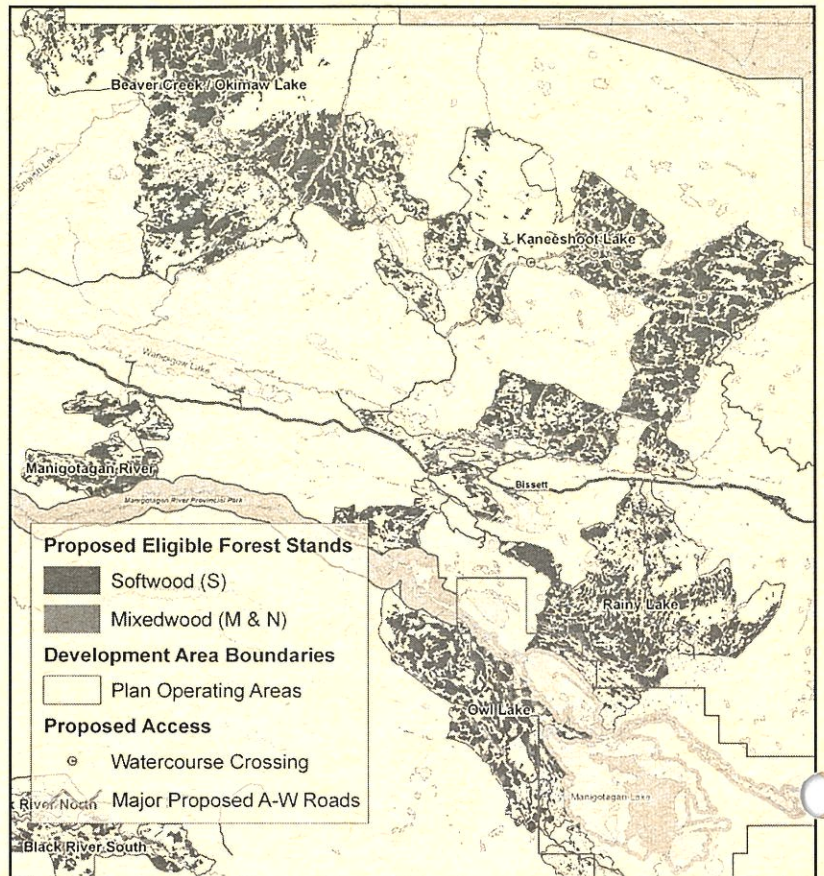
There have been rumblings in the forest conservation movement about FSC for several years—questions about whether or not it really is changing the way forestry is done in the world. I've been involved in the forest conservation movement for 17 years and have seen way too many clear cuts in my time. I must admit that I was hopeful at the prospect of the FSC being a way out of our current industrial forestry model that is doing so much damage to the boreal forest in Manitoba. (For more about FSC and Tembec see Eric Reder's article in the January/February 2007 edition of the Eco-Journal).

Certification according to mill requirements

At the Open House, I spent a lot of time with Vince Keenan, Divisional Forester for the Tembec mill in Pine Falls. He eagerly told me about their plans to maintain levels of older forests through their computer modeling. He told me that Tembec has goals for maintaining older forest types on FML 1. One example is lowland Black Spruce forests; the ones with the deep sphagnum moss. Tembec's goal is to maintain 22% of lowland Black Spruce as old trees—meaning over 100 years in age. That sounds great until you look at the forest inventory map and see that 43% of lowland Black Spruce trees are already classified as old. What that means is they plan to cut down half of the old Spruce trees—which happens to be the majority species required to make paper in their Pine Falls mill—in the next twenty years. For all the conservation-speak of the FSC Boreal Standards, the measurement used to decide if Tembec's operations qualify for FSC certification, it turns out the forest will be carved up according to what the mill requires.

As far back as 2001, research published by Nicole Freris and Klemens Laschefske expressed this very concern about the FSC certification scheme; "The environmental sector of FSC uses its pressure to progressively tighten the criteria for certification, reducing the volume of wood extracted. However for certified companies to be economically viable production quotas need to be maintained."¹

At Tembec's Open House what I found was more of the same problems we always find with forestry in Manitoba. There was no indication of fundamental change in the way Tembec plans



Detail of about half the 9,000 square kilometres of FML 1, east of the Hollow Water and Black River First Nations. Map by Tembec

to clear-cut log, make paper or respect protected areas. Tembec will continue to clear cut as its sole means of tree harvesting, which Manitoba's Deputy Premier Rosann Wowchuk insisted must be stopped some 14 years ago.² Tembec will still get its wood from Whiteshell, Nopiming, and Duck Mountain provincial parks, an illegal practice across most of this country. Tembec will continue to use herbicides like Vision (a Roundup product) to suppress the growth of hardwood trees after logging, a practice that has been banned in many jurisdictions across Canada. They will also continue to operate in the habitat of threatened species like Woodland Caribou and rare species like

continued next page ►

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CPAWS and Tembec negotiate historic agreement

Woodland Caribou Habitat Protected

By Ron Thiessen, CPAWS Manitoba

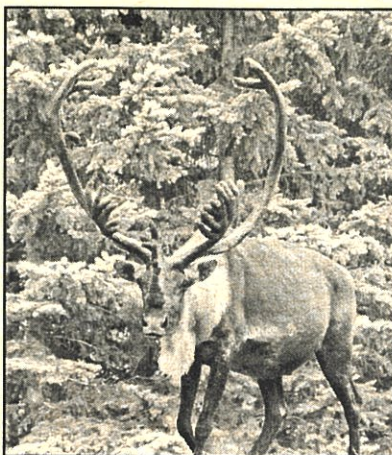
In October, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and forestry corporation Tembec negotiated a minimum 50-year halt on logging in an area used extensively by woodland caribou on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. This action provides protection for important woodland caribou habitat while allowing ongoing research in the region about survival needs of this species at risk.

Habitat protection is key to maintaining populations of this threatened species, as they are extremely sensitive to human developments. The area deferred from logging is the "winter core zone" of the Owl Lake woodland caribou herd. In other words, lands the herd uses most during Manitoba's cold months—a challenging time of year for caribou.

Healthy caribou important for us all

Woodland caribou need big swaths of intact boreal forest so they can spread out to avoid predators and contact with deer, which carry a contagious parasite that's lethal to caribou. We rely on large healthy boreal forests for global ecological services.

In light of climate change, it's critical we maintain the boreal's huge carbon stores contained in its trees and soils. As the caribou's boreal forest home is the world's largest source of fresh water and the northern lungs of the planet, protecting it is essential for everyone's future. By keeping the large boreal forests caribou require for survival, we secure a fundamental part of Earth's life support system that we all depend on.



Woodland caribou require protected boreal forest. Photo courtesy CPAWS.

That's why CPAWS is working with all involved to protect millions of hectares of boreal wilderness in Manitoba.

Next steps for caribou and its boreal forest home

Saving the Owl Lake caribou herd's winter core habitat sets a strong example of what can be achieved when industry and conservationists work together. We hope this process and its result will be used as a model across Canada for other cooperative efforts involving conservation groups and logging companies.

There is still plenty of work to do to ensure survival of woodland caribou.

We are currently planning a joint workshop with Tembec and independent biologists to examine caribou protection in relation to forestry operations on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. It's our hope that outcomes from the workshop will lead to other important caribou habitats being removed from Tembec's harvesting plans. Negotiating caribou habitat deferrals and other protection initiatives with industry is a component of CPAWS' national strategy to protect at least 50% of Canada's boreal wilderness in a large protected areas network.

Caribou conservation is an invitation for us to think big about safeguarding untamed boreal wilderness, and in turn, protecting one of Earth's essential lifelines for the benefit of all. Please go to www.cpawsmb.org to learn how you can take personal action to protect woodland caribou's boreal forest home.

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FSC Certification Ineffective

continued....

the Green and Mink Frogs. Over the past several years, Tembec has violated the Wildlife Guidelines by clearcutting larger areas than allowed. This has resulted in repeated warnings and fines. In 2006 Tembec was fined \$10,000 for violating the Wildlife Guidelines for a clearcut in Nopiming Provincial Park. Instead of complying with the law, Tembec is currently lobbying the province to weaken the guidelines. The only difference between what Tembec is doing now and how they operated 8 years ago is that they can display a logo that misleads consumers into thinking Tembec's operations are more 'responsibly managed'.

Pat Popp is a deer hunter and outfitter, one of many individuals whose livelihood is affected by Tembec's logging. Popp was not impressed by Tembec's plan. "We're talking 20 years here. I was hoping to see a commitment to phasing out some of their more destructive practices, like clear cutting and spraying herbicides, but the only thing they seem intent on doing is to keep destroying as much wilderness as possible to feed their mill. How FSC can certify an operation that clear cuts massive areas, use herbicides, and is one of the worst polluters in the province, is beyond me," said Popp.

A New Authority

The FSC has become a new authority in the forest. I find myself asking questions of the certification company, Smartwood,

as if they are a government agency. I have found I need to aggressively lobby them to get my concerns about what is happening in our forests addressed. I was refused a list of problems found before Tembec's certification by Alexandre Boursier, a regional manager of the certification company Smartwood.

I am not the first to question the legitimacy of the FSC. Some forest activists now find themselves in the unenviable position of lobbying a large conservation group to protect old growth and primary forests.

In July 2007 the 'e-activist' network Ecological Internet launched a letter-writing campaign aimed at Greenpeace, asking them to withdraw their support for FSC-certified 'ancient forest logging'. The campaign demanded that Greenpeace publish a report on questionable FSC certificates, which is believed to have been under investigation by the green group for many months, but has remained unreleased.

If the FSC meant even a marginal benefit to forests then I could see the need to support the effort. As to the legitimacy of the FSC, in terms of a true effective effort to protect forests, I assert that it has failed.

Notes:

1. *Seeing the Wood from the Trees*, By Nicole Freris and Klemens Laschefski, *The Ecologist* Vol. 31, No 6, July/August 2001
2. Manitoba Legislative Assembly Oral Question Period, July 19, 1993

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The Green Map Project

continued from page 1....

with the goal to create a detailed community Green Map. Place suggestions for the Spence Neighbourhood Green Map have been gathered during various community meetings and through a wall-size map that has been posted at 615 Ellice Ave and Magnus Eliason Recreational Centre on 430 Langside St. Passers-by can place sticky notes onto the map to nominate places. As places have been added, the digital Spence Neighbourhood Green Map has been continuously updated. Soon this map will be available interactively on-line as described above.

Green Maps are community tools and we will invite everyone to participate in this exciting project. You will soon be able to contribute your ideas for what sorts of locations and organizations should be included on the Green Map through our interactive website. Keep your eyes open for our announcement on the Manitoba Eco-Network's website.

We wish to thank our funders, the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement, the Winnipeg Foundation, the Thomas Sill Foundation and Assiniboine Credit Union for their support. We would also like to thank the City of Winnipeg for their donation of data and our volunteers for their donations of time and expertise.

ECO

Planners Network Conference 2008

By Richard Milgrom

In July 2008, Winnipeg will host the annual Planners Network Conference. The title for PN 2008 is Planning in Challenging Climates, and as the subtitle notes, we are not just referring to the weather. Planners Network is an organization interested in social and environmental justice issues, so while issues of winter cities and global warming may be addressed, we are also referring to the challenging social, political and economic climates within which advocates of social and environmental justice currently operate.

The conference organizers are inviting local, grassroots community groups like Bike to the Future, the Manitoba Eco-Net-

work, and Save Our Seine to participate. We have also approached neighbourhood organizations like the West Broadway Development Corporation and the Spence Neighbourhood Association.

PN 2008 will draw about 300 participants from across the continent, as well as a few from Europe and South America.

PN 2008 is being organized by Planners Network Manitoba (www.pnmb.org), one of the fastest growing local chapters of PN. If you are interested in participating, organizing a session, or helping design the mobile workshops, please visit the website, or contact the organizers at info@PNmb.org.

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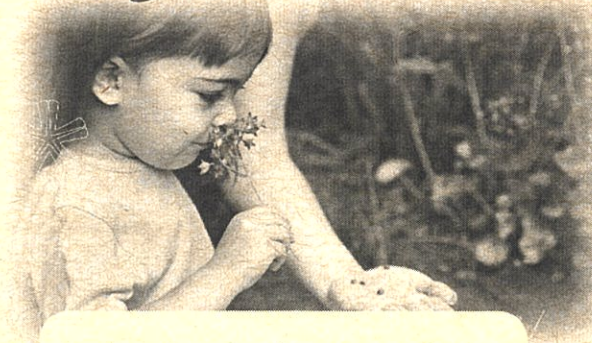
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Trends in Lands and Waters Protection in Manitoba Protected Areas Audit 2007

By Gaile Whelan Enns, Manitoba Wildlands

Manitoba Wildlands released the 2007 Protected Areas Audit on November 14th. This year, several issues cause concern. Is the Manitoba government walking its talk?

Protection standards are entrenched in Manitoba public policy, legislation, regulation and cross-Canada reporting. Several pieces of legislation designate protected areas in Manitoba. The Manitoba Conservation standard for a protected area confirms that "At a minimum, protected areas prohibit, through legal means, logging, mining (including aggregate extraction), and oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro-electric development." To be considered 'protected' by Manitoba government standards, two regulations are needed—one for the protection standard, and one to withdraw Crown mineral rights.

The Audit and The Grade

Each year, Manitoba Wildlands releases a statistical audit of government's protected areas steps. The Audit is an unbiased tool to monitor government progress and action on the rate of protected areas establishment, and to 'keep the government honest' with respect to its announcements. The Audit is a companion to the annual Protected Areas Grade, which reports on cumulative protected areas actions, partnerships for protection (private or urban lands), protection standards, technical methods, and action towards completing Manitoba's networks of protected areas across regions. The Audit and Grade are both based on public actions and government regulations and data. To view the 2007 Audit and previous Audits and Grades, visit Manitoba Wildlands' protected areas webpages (http://manitobawildlands.org/pa_grades.htm). The Protected Areas Grade for 2007 should be available by the end of November.

The numbers in the 2007 Protected Areas Audit tell the story. New gains in protected lands in 2007 totalled 6,361 ha—but 13,985 ha of land was removed from protection this year. This represents a net loss of 7,624 ha. The total amount of Manitoba's land base protected to date is 5,329,051 ha. In contrast, the amount of protected land in Manitoba as of the 2000 Audit was 5,579,883 ha. What is going on here?

Despite numerous commitments (2007 was an election year,

after all) the 2007 net loss situation is because government took little action to protect lands and waters. The government also committed in December 2005 to act on the requests of Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids First Nations to protect their traditional territories on an interim basis while planning occurs. This promise also remains unfulfilled, even though 2007 election promises commit to protect boreal forest lands. (For details regarding the 2007 election survey and a record of election promises from all parties, visit Manitoba Wildlands' elections webpage, http://manitobawildlands.org/govern_elections.htm)

election promises from all parties, visit Manitoba Wildlands' elections webpage, http://manitobawildlands.org/govern_elections.htm)

Boreal Protected Areas

Lots of talk and little action was the overall theme this year for boreal lands on the province's east side. Promises to support community-based land use planning for East Side First Nations have not been acted upon. Lands planning hold the potential for decisions about which lands to protect. Land use plans and formal protection are also a requirement for the east

side boreal World Heritage Site nomination process—initiatives the Manitoba government pledged to support, and another instance where little concrete action has occurred and resources have not materialized.

Little Limestone Lake (4,095 ha) is the only new area protected in 2007 within our forested Natural Regions. Based on the Conservation First principle, we need protected areas decisions before forestry companies file licence applications or new hydro developments are decided. With forest protected areas emerging as important in the face of climate change, we cannot afford government inaction on promises for protected lands in forest regions.

Will 2008 be Different?

The Manitoba government made progress in conservation and protection of private lands in 2007. A new memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the City of Winnipeg in June, for protection of important waterways and natural areas within the City. The MOU will ensure that some Winnipeg natural areas meet provincial standards. There is also slow, but steady progress being made to acknowledge and protect private lands held by Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. Habitat for the great grey owl was protected, albeit too small an area.

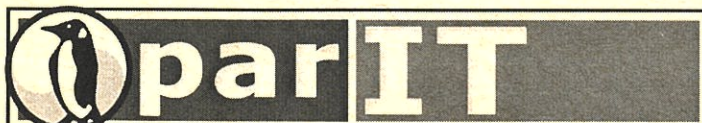
Protected lands in our province decreased this year. Any loss of protected land must be offset with new protection elsewhere. The government is lagging behind in its commitments to protect our lands and waters, especially in our forest regions—where all three forest companies are preparing for new logging plans and long term licenses.

Manitoba must put real effort and resources into consultation for the more than 100 prospective areas waiting for decisions, and return to a steady pattern of protected areas establishment in 2008.

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Poplar River is still waiting for protection.



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Book Reviews

Cold Nights Reading

Canoe Atlas of the Little North, By Jonathan Berger and Thomas Terry

Book Review By David Pancoe

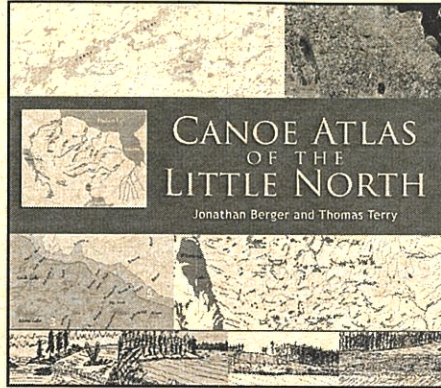
Christmas shopping for the outdoor enthusiast on your list just got a whole lot easier with the release of *Canoe Atlas of the Little North* by Jonathan Berger and Thomas Terry (Boston Mills Press, 144 pages, hardcover). This atlas covers an area known as the Little North (*Le Petit Nord* as it was called at the height of the fur trade era), which encompasses the land from the shores of the Hudson Bay, North-West Ontario and Eastern Manitoba, to the U.S. border.

To this day, travelling by canoe is the only practical option in the Little North; therefore the heart of the atlas is detailed canoe routes of the fur trade era and First Nations. Berger and Terry show great cartography skills by dividing the Little North into 57 separate maps. On one page is a map of the route at 1:400 000 with portages and rapids marked; on the facing page is a comprehensive description of the routes' historic use, hydrographic features, and simple landscape sketches.

Not to be mistaken as a canoe route guidebook, *Canoe Atlas of the Little North* is truly an atlas in every way, complete with thematic maps, in-depth geological descriptions, and human history. *Canoe Atlas of the Little North* reminds us of a bygone era and places where we'd still want to go. This exceptional book is an excellent addition to any reference collection.

David Pancoe is owner, instructor and guide for Northern Soul Wilderness Adventures.

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Travel by canoe in the Little North

humanitarian movement arising from the bottom up." "Historically," Hawken writes, "social movements have arisen primarily in response to injustice, inequities, and corruption. Those woes still remain legion, joined by a new condition that has no precedent: the planet has a life-threatening disease, marked by massive ecological degradation and climate change."

Hawken wrestles with how to understand the meaning of this unprecedented global movement that is diverse, local, diffuse, and for the most part leaderless; but is also large in aggregate, global, and representative of humanity's most sincere and deeply felt aspirations. Underpinning the movement, Hawken writes, are two basic shared values. The first is the golden rule, and the second is that life is sacred.

Unprecedented global movement

Hawken has already had a profound effect on the way we view environmentalism through his previous books, most notably *The Ecology of Commerce*, and *Natural Capitalism*. These books brought him invitations to speak all over the world and gave him an opportunity to meet people who were "informed, imaginative and vital, and offered ideas, information, and insight;" people who are rooted in place and caring for their neighbours, or for some part of the earth where they live. Hawken began to sense that this global movement is unprecedented and meaningful. *Blessed Unrest* is his effort to understand how this movement is having a profoundly positive impact on humanity.

Hawken provides a brief, informative and compelling history of the movement, and then he discusses several characteristics of the movement that have the potential to restore meaning and health to humanity's inhabitancy of the earth. For example, he draws fascinating parallels between our own immune systems which silently protect us in the most miraculous ways, and the movement which he believes could very well be functioning as a sort of species immune system.

Blessed Unrest provides a hopeful perspective on the value and meaning of our work and an insightful discussion on how our movement can help heal the pain resulting from injustice and ecological destruction. I believe *Blessed Unrest* is a book well worth reading.

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Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming, By Paul Hawken

Book Review By Steve Rauh

Being depressed, feeling hopeless, and feeling like no one is listening might not be signs of mental illness. It might mean that you are a grassroots environmentalist hearing a lot of bad news and not much good news. Your only consolation might be that other grassroots environmentalists get your point and feel like you. Even so, the media, government, and corporations are not on board, and the inertia of global collapse feels unstoppable.

So why continue, what is our purpose? Could it be that our work is achieving more than we know? Are we part of an emerging positive change that even we cannot see? You might find an answer to these questions in Paul Hawken's new book, *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming*, (Viking, 342 pages).

The "movement" Hawken writes about has both social and environmental goals and is "tentatively emerging as a global



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Member Group Profile

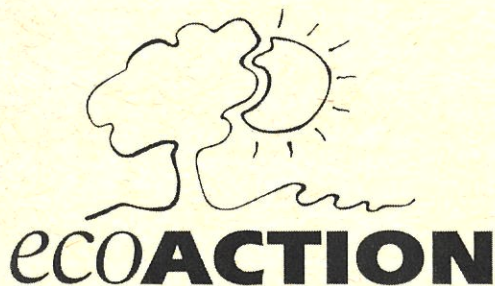
REACT: Community Taskforce

By Karl Daher

Rockwood Environmental Action Community Taskforce (REACT) Inc. was formed in 1990 as a local volunteer-based non-profit, non-governmental organization in Stonewall, Manitoba that is committed to environmental responsibility. Our mission statement is to assist our members and the community (R.M. of Rockwood, and the towns of Stonewall and Teulon) as a whole to become more environmentally responsible. Our goals are to promote education and awareness of environmental concerns leading to positive actions; to co-ordinate, promote and participate in recycling activities within the community; and to co-operate with other agencies and organizations within the community and province that have environmental concerns. Currently, REACT Inc. has approximately 35 volunteer members committed to these ideals.

Over the years, REACT has been involved in a range of projects such as:

- providing cloth lunch bags to school children;
- providing cloth grocery bags to local residents;
- providing composters to schools;
- providing articles for the Stonewall Argus and Teulon Times;
- hosting information sessions for schools and the community as a whole;
- establishment of the Tall Grass Prairie beside the hospital in Stonewall;
- hosting several household hazardous waste collection days;
- hosting Habitat for Humanity Re-Store collection days;
- hosting e-waste collection days; and



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- providing environmental information to the citizens of the area through the South Interlake Regional Library.

After steady progress for the past 16 years, REACT moved into high gear this year this April. We decided that we needed to become more visible in the community, so we began by launching our website, <http://www.reactinc.org> in May. Our website features a record of the projects we have completed, a list of the activities we are currently involved in, and a mailing list to keep informed on our activities. In addition, the site provides people in the community with environmental tips, as well as a comprehensive list of local venues to take their reusables and recyclables.

In early June, we hosted a well-attended community forum on climate change presented by Dr. Danny Blair from the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Blair shared his passion and knowledge about climate change through his dynamic slide show and informative talk.

Later in June, REACT organized a household hazardous waste collection day. Approximately three pickup trucks of paint, batteries and other such nasty household waste was diverted from our landfills and sent off to be environmentally disposed of.

This August, REACT partnered with Resource Conservation Manitoba and hosted an information booth during Quarry Days, Stonewall's summer fair. To entice people to our booth, we offered a free draw... for finished compost!

September featured a seed collection day by our members for an expanded Tall Grass Prairie habitat beside the hospital in Stonewall. The weather couldn't have been better for us that day, and we managed to get a great deal of seed collected within a couple of hours. We completed the expansion in early November, thanks in large part to the equipment and expertise provided to us by John Morgan from Prairie Habitats of Argyle.

October featured another community event. This time, REACT partnered with the town of Stonewall to host an e-waste collection day. This time around, we managed to divert a mostly full 45' semi trailer of broken or obsolete electronics equipment from our landfills, and sent it off to be recycled instead.

October also saw us partner up again with Resource Conservation Manitoba to host a Master Composter Course in Stonewall. The course was well attended, and has inspired a number of members in the community to help others begin a household composting program.

This November saw us kick off our most ambitious project yet. The goal of the "Trim Our Trash Environmentally" (TOTE) project is to provide every household in our area with a reusable tote bag. We have begun to receive funding for this project, and plan to begin distributing the totes to households next year.

REACT hopes to keep this pace up in 2008, by continuing the events we hosted this year, and expanding into even more areas. To do this, we're looking for energetic members of our community with a passion for the environment to join our group. For more information on becoming a member, volunteering and providing us with new ideas, you can visit our website at <http://www.reactinc.org>, e-mail us at info@reactinc.org, or attend our monthly REACT meeting at the Stonewall Town Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of every month. **ECO**

Eco-Film Series

Manitoba Eco-Network's Eco-Film Series returns to the Park Theatre

Our 2008 series of monthly film and discussion events highlights the issues of food and water. Each evening we will show a feature film and a short, followed by moderated discussion on the issues.

Slow Food Revolution describes the revival of regional food through Slow Food movements around the world.

Thirst explores grassroots campaigns against the privatization of water in three communities.

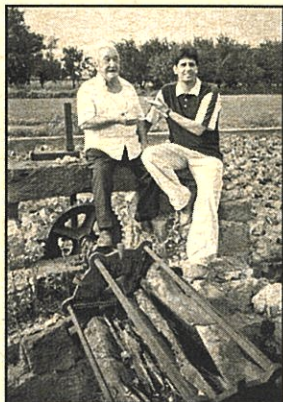
The Future of Food exposes the forces behind the genetically-engineered foods that fill our grocery store shelves.

Banana Split takes viewers on a journey to discover the daily challenges of producers in banana-growing regions.

Crapshoot looks at the failure of our current sewage disposal system and presents alternatives.

Dates are the last Wednesday of the month from January to May. Admission is \$8 per event, or buy a three pack of tickets for \$20! \$5 for members, students, seniors and low-income. The Park Theatre is at 698 Osborne Street South. Call (204) 947-6511 or visit www.mbeconetwork.org for the full film schedule.

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From *Slow Food Revolution*

Member Group News CROW Directors Vote to Disband

Dear Members and supporters of CROW (Concerned Residents Of Winnipeg),

The Directors of CROW Inc. (a grass roots anti-pesticide initiative) have voted to dissolve this not for profit corporation. Our former Executive Director Glenda Whiteman advises that she is maintaining her dedication to the movement to protect human and ecosystem health by eliminating pesticides. Glenda is continuing to use the brand 'CROW!' (not 'CROW Inc.') and for the time being the existing website address will remain unchanged (www.crowinc.org). We, the remaining former Directors of CROW Inc., wish her success.

Winnipeg's media coverage of pesticide use has changed in recent years to acknowledge some of the consequences and risks of pesticide exposure. We certainly have a long way to go, but we also celebrate some real progress. CROW Inc. has played an important role in facilitating that transition, raising consciousness, awareness, and support for a world less poisoned.

We thank Glenda, Sheila Pizey-Allen, and the many volunteers who have worked on various events and projects with CROW Inc. Further, we recognize that all of CROW's work has been built on the efforts of many other individuals and groups throughout the years of this continuing struggle. Our thanks to everyone who supported and participated in CROW Inc. Sincerely, Shayne Robinson, Dan Moroz, Robin Faye, and Dave Nickarz

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The Manitoba Eco-Network

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- \$60 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.

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

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

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.

