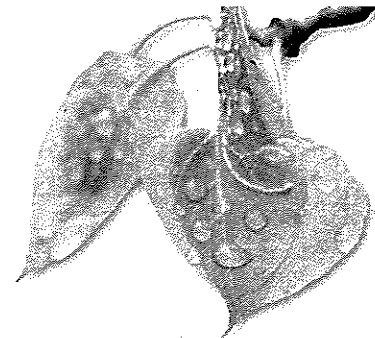




Rapid Transit Finally On Tap For Winnipeg?

By Anne Lindsey

WE'VE GOT TO HOPE that there is some serious backroom discussion going on between Broadway and City Hall regarding how to get the first leg of our Bus Rapid Transit system funded. The Winnipeg Rapid Transit Coalition (WRTC), spearheaded by the Sierra Club's Winnipeg group, is building a major movement of citizens who want this issue settled once and for all. This city missed the boat the last time the federal government committed dollars - Mayor Katz preferred to spend the infrastructure funding on community centres - but now the Feds have come up with \$17.9 million, to be spent on implementing the 2005 Rapid Transit Task Force recommendations (designated busways, other transit improvements) and/or bike paths. Advocates for Rapid Transit are lobbying for the former, of course, and it will be up to the Province and the City to top up the Federal contribution. Now is the time to get this project underway, they say, especially since the projected cost of the first leg of the RT system, from downtown to the Pembina/Jubilee interchange, has almost doubled from \$43 million in 2004 to \$70 million today. With construction costs continuing to escalate, this trend will not be ending soon. Rapid Transit proponents have some clear-headed suggestions of how this might be done, even if governments do not find the cash for the entire amount.

Financing

Councillors Jenny Gerbasi and Mike Pagtakhan argued in a Winnipeg Free Press article (April 9) that other major capital projects in the city (the Disraeli Bridge, Chief Peguis Trail) are financed over 20- or 30-year time horizons. There is no reason, they insist, that the same should not apply to Rapid Transit. They suggest that the Province could match the City's contribution to the Rapid Transit Reserve Fund on a yearly basis, established in the latest City budget, and use this funding to finance capital investment in Rapid Transit. Paul Hesse, spokesperson for the WRTC, supported this approach in his presentation at the recent Lunch and Learn session on Rapid Transit and Sustainable Cities, sponsored by the Downtown BIZ. Hesse also

Evidence from other cities shows that rapid transit can facilitate and promote both economic and social benefits, more than justifying the initial cost of implementation.

showed slides of the route already designated for the dedicated busway, along the Fort Rouge rail yards, demonstrating that there is plenty of room for both the busway and for associated commuter cycling paths. He urged citizens concerned about this issue to contact their councilors and MLAs to demonstrate their support. Members of the Coalition have been busy presenting to Council, meeting with Ministers, and talking about this issue with anyone who will listen.

Support is building for Rapid Transit

If the packed room at the Millennium Library for this session is any indication, there is already a high level of support, and the Coalition is still adding signatures to the several thousand they collected in the space of one week to present at City Hall. WRTC members were obviously pleased to note that Provincial Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Steve Ashton, was present, as well as the Mayor's assistant, Sarah MacArthur; Manitoba Liberal leader Jon Gerrard; and MP for St. Boniface, Raymond Simard. Stefano Grande, Chair of the Downtown BIZ, noted in his introduction that 90% of that group's membership is asking it to lobby in favour of BRT. Business understands the value of such a system to the future of Winnipeg. Planners and environmentalists understand it too - rapid transit facilitates denser, more sustainable residential and business development along its routes, encourages commuters to leave their personal vehicles at

Inside this Issue:

Rapid Transit Finally On Tap for Winnipeg?	cover
Executive Director's Letter	2
Eco-Events in Manitoba	3
Green Renovations	4
Voluntary Simplicity and the Sustainability Challenge	6
A Rocha Establishes a Field Study Centre in the Pembina Valley	7
Developments in Manitoba's Paper Industry	8
New in the Library	10
Eco-Education & Workshops	11
Planting the Seeds of a New Youth Network	11
Greening the Manitoba Marathon	12

home (thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions), and facilitates more active transportation. As Jenny Gerbasi pointed out in her presentation, Winnipeg is one of the last major cities in Canada that hasn't at least begun its rapid transit development. Evidence from other cities shows that rapid transit can facilitate and promote both economic and social benefits, more than justifying the initial cost of implementation.

Cool cities

Jean Langlois, Campaigns Director for the Sierra Club of Canada, said that Winnipeg could become a "cool" city if the rapid transit plan is implemented. (Coolcities.ca is a Sierra Club website with resources, solutions and examples of cities reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Canada). He was encouraged by the commitment of the Manitoba government to meeting Kyoto targets, and by the fact that Manitoba's energy Minister, Jim Rondeau, signed on to the "Kyoto-Plus" pledge - a mechanism whereby elected politicians commit to implementing targets for the post-Kyoto period.

The WRTC is doing a great job of uniting citizens and elected politicians of all stripes in the goal of establishing a Rapid Transit System for Winnipeg. They encourage Winnipeggers to make their voices heard. Check out their website at www.winnipeg-rapidtransitcoalition.ca for more information and ideas on how to become involved in the campaign.

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Executive Director's Letter

ANOTHER EARTH DAY HAS PASSED, and there was a wonderful array of celebratory and informational events to choose from in Winnipeg and around the province. By all accounts, many Manitobans took advantage of those events to learn and to take action. But "at the end of the day", what do we have to show for it?

Ontario citizens received a major Earth Day present from their provincial government in the form of provincial legislation to ban cosmetic pesticides, province-wide. This move will protect people in the country's most populous province from the unnecessary exposure to chemicals that has been linked to a wide variety of serious human health and environmental issues. When will our provincial government join Québec, and now Ontario, in offering similar protection? As I write this, the City of Winnipeg is moving to pass its extremely minimal pesticide-management by-law (though Mayor Katz has received an award from Manitoba's landscapers association for his "measured" approach on the issue). The Manitoba Eco-Network will once again provide our educational workshops to citizens wishing to take the voluntary route for pesticide-free lawn and garden care (with the assistance of the Urban Green Team program, and, ironically, the City). We've already had plenty of requests for sessions – even from as far away as Selkirk, Steinbach, and Dauphin – but this is a tiny effort compared to the impact that a province-wide ban would have. I'm putting this on my wish list for Earth Day next year.

Our provincial government offered up its new Climate Change Plan during Earth Week, and it has been praised for its steadfast commitment to reaching the Kyoto goal of a 6% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 2012. Rather than being concentrated in a few industrial facilities, Manitoba's emissions are widespread through many sectors, meaning that the new Plan has to reach broadly to obtain reductions. Climate Change Connection's Curt Hull has crunched the numbers and feels that the Manitoba targets are achievable. So, some congratulations are in order. The question now is just how significant these reductions will be to Canada, and the planet as a whole, as the tar sands development escalates and GHGs continue to rise worldwide.

Winnipeg's Rapid Transit Coalition would have liked to see an announcement of provincial funding for Winnipeg's Rapid Transit system as part of the Earth Day Climate Change package, especially because personal transportation in single-occupant vehicles is such a large proportion of Winnipeg's and Manitoba's emissions (sadly bucking the trend in the rest of the country). Talk continues on this issue, but Winnipeggers are ready for action (see article on page 1). Maybe by World Environment Day on June 5th we'll have this commitment in place.

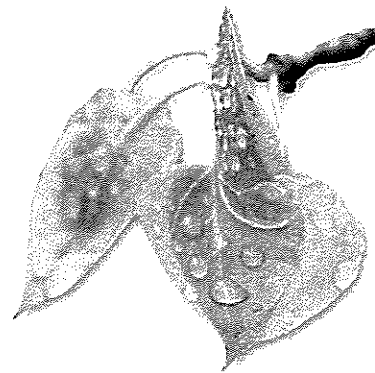
While performance might be patchy on the government side of things, environmental issues are definitely once again in the public consciousness, and this time, concerns seem to go a bit deeper than the push for recycling back in the '80s. We've come a long way on that score, but surely now we are ready to look a lot closer at the reuse and reduce end of things (plastic bags come to mind). Green building and renovation is a solid trend and I'm encouraged by the upsurge of interest in all things green in the business community – and not just the people out to make a quick buck with some "green consumption". Major kudos to Home Depot and Canadian Tire for voluntarily taking toxic pest control products off their shelves by the end of the year, even in areas with no by-laws!

Spring is here for sure, and as you set about the annual cleaning ritual, give some serious thought to the products you are using. It makes little sense to "clean" with something that is toxic to the environment, and to the air quality in your home. Tip of the month: check out www.less toxicguide.ca for some excellent suggestions for alternative household and personal products! And if you haven't done so already, attend one of our organic lawn care workshops – see our website for dates.

Happy spring and summer from everyone here at the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Anne Lindsey

Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network



eco-events in Manitoba

For more environmental event listings, see our website calendar at www.mbeconetwork.org.

JUNE

1-7 Commuter Challenge Resource Conservation Manitoba invites you to participate in a friendly competition to promote clean air commuting. Bus, bike, walk, skate, carpool, or telecommute to work to get active, win prizes, and be part of a shift to sustainable modes of transportation all year long! See www.resourceconservation.mb.ca.

4 Clean Air Day Cycle, walk, skateboard, run or roll by Esplanade Riel for a free juice or coffee, Tall Grass Prairie muffin, and a pat on the back. A thank you for using active transportation – healthier for you and the earth! Stop by on your morning commute between 6:30 and 8:30 am. Contact Resource Conservation Manitoba at 204-925-3773 for more information.

7 International Trails Day Events are planned for the Northeast Pioneers Greenway (Chalmers & Raleigh) from 10 am to 12 pm, including a bike rodeo, historic walk, active lifestyle pit stops, snacks, and prizes. For information see www.winnipeginmotion.ca, www.winnipegtrails.com, or call 204-940-3648. Hosted by Winnipeg in Motion, Winnipeg Trails Association, and Friends of Northeast Pioneers Greenway.

Native Orchid Conservation Inc. is running the following field trips this spring. Participants must be NOCI members (you can sign up the day of the trip). Cost is \$10. Contact Iris Reimer at 204-475-9878 or irhymer@shaw.ca.

- June 7 Belair Provincial Forest
- June 14 Mt. Nebo near Miami, MB
- June 21 Carrick, Woodridge bog, Carrick Wildflower Festival
- June 28 Brokenhead Wetlands
- August 23 Fall Flower Festival in Senkiw and Crow Wing Trail near Franklin

8 Manitoba Paddlefest Manitoba's biggest paddling event returns. Paddlers of all skill levels and interest will enjoy the chance to take part in clinics and workshops throughout the day. Participate in a mini Paddle Canada kayak lesson, learn how to campfire cook like a gourmet, and check out the latest gear and boats to hit the water. Admission is free, children and families welcome. 10 am to 4 pm at FortWhyte Alive. Presented by Paddle Manitoba.

15 Arbour Day at Assiniboine Park This free event includes live local bands, educational and informational displays, a children's bouncy slide, bucket trucks and zip-line ride, and talks by local tree experts. Barbecue with silver collection. Call Coalition to Save the Elms for more info at 204-832-7188.

20 Bike to Work Day Gear up for Winnipeg's first official Bike 2 Work Day! For information, see www.BiketotheFuture.org.

22 Paws in Motion: Assiniboine Park Duck Pond Get your Paws in Motion by walking with or without your furry friend or gather your family and friends and form a team! Registration fee is \$10. See www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca for more information.

JULY

17-20 PN2008 Planners Network Conference: Planning in Challenging Climates The conference includes sessions on Sustainable Transportation, Urban Aboriginal Issues, Mobile Workshops on Gentrification, Homelessness, Urban Ecology, Revitalization, Green Building, and more. Conference fees range from \$40 to \$240. For more info or to register, see www.pnmb.org.

JULY & AUGUST

Churchill Northern Studies Centre Learning Vacations

- July 3-8 Into the Wildflowers, Flora of the Subarctic, \$900
- July 26-31 Belugas in the Bay, biology of the Beluga Whale, \$1050
- August 9-14 Wild Planet, Ecology of the Subarctic, \$1250

For more information and for reservations, contact Churchill Northern Studies Centre at 204-675-2307 or visit www.churchillscience.ca.



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MANITOBA WILDLANDS

Green Renovations

By Liz Dykman

IN THE SPRING many of us get motivated to make some improvements to our nests. The question is how to do this without too much damage to the collective planetary nest. Home improvement projects can be an opportunity to make our lives a little greener, and a little healthier, with some research into the kinds of materials available to us.

The kinds of improvements we make are also a major consideration. Adding another wing to the estate, or putting in a heated swimming pool, are likely to have some negative environmental impacts. Thoughtful renovations, however, have the potential to improve indoor air quality, increase the efficiency of our homes, and generally make them more pleasant places to be.

The Home Handyperson

For the home handyperson, even if you don't feel all that comfortable in a tool belt, there are lots of little things you can do. We've all heard about the benefits of more energy efficient lighting and plumbing fixtures, increasing our home insulation, and sealing up air leaks with caulking and weather-stripping. Home heating and cooling represents a huge chunk of our personal greenhouse gas emissions. By undertaking thorough energy efficiency measures you can reduce your energy use by a third, and your GHG emissions by up to four tonnes, on average. Making investments in the efficiency of your home can have lasting impacts on the environment because of the cumulative savings over many years.

Two websites to visit for information on energy efficiency measures and incentive programs are the Manitoba Hydro PowerSmart website at www.hydro.mb.ca/your_home/index.shtml, or the Natural Resources Canada website at www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca. The NRCan ecoEnergy Retrofit program provides grants of up to \$5000 for homeowners. The program requires that you get pre- and post-renovation audits, and provides set amounts for each eligible upgrade. The cost of the two evaluations is around \$300, so you may want to investigate whether this program will be a net benefit to you.

Whether you are doing the work yourself, or hiring a contractor, undertake research into the materials and finishes you plan to use. Many products are marketed as being environmentally friendly, but it is important to peel back the veneer and investigate the total impact of the product, including transport and disposal. A seemingly green material can turn a less attractive hue if, for instance, it requires the use of toxic adhesives, or is transported from halfway around the globe. With a little legwork, and some time on the Internet, it is possible to find green alternatives.

Photo courtesy of Dobie Properties Ltd.



(Above) Eco4 Condos at 193 Horace feature geothermal heating and cooling, R-50 insulated walls, low-flow plumbing, and energy efficient lighting.

Photo courtesy of Urban Zen Developments.



(Left) Urban Zen Developments prove that "extreme green" home renovations can mean stylish and chic.

Reuse

Some building materials lend themselves to reuse. A stainless steel sink, for example, can easily be picked up second-hand. Other possibilities are interior doors, door knobs, cabinet pulls, and other hardware. Wood, brick, ducts, and cabinets take a little more effort to reuse, but it is possible. Some local sources for used building materials are Salvage Supermarket, The Old House Revival Company, Habitat Re-Store, and websites dedicated to facilitating local trade, such as FreeCycle.org, UsedWinnipeg.com, Kijiji.ca and BuySell.com. Other sources are auction sales, and your network of family, friends, and neighbours. Try to salvage as much material as you can as you deconstruct, if not for your own reuse, then to pass on to someone else.

While ripping out a particleboard vanity, you might also take the time to ponder the durability of the materials you use. Choosing good materials and quality craftsmanship over a cheap alternative may eliminate the need to renovate again in five or ten years. Tim Krahn of Building Alternatives speaks of "...the difficulty of pricing more responsible work and materials in a market that does not accurately account for costs".

Like most things, there are trade-offs, and there are, of course, no impact-free materials. Some of your decisions will come down to a personal aesthetic preference or the absolute cap on your budget. But if you consider environmental impact in your choices, you can go a long way to making your renovation as green as possible.



Local Green Contractors: (although this is not an exhaustive list)

Inner City Renovations is a general contractor and construction manager. They offer a complete range of services in the commercial and residential markets.

Dobie Properties Ltd. offers a wide range of renovation services on the leading edge of eco-friendly construction. They specialize in infill development to support urban revitalization.

Building Alternatives is a consulting engineering company that specializes in natural building materials and energy efficient designs.

Urban Zen Developments offers consulting services in green design and construction, and project management services.

I.R.I.S. (Intelligent Renovation and Inspection Services) offers a complete range of contracting services.

David Nickarz is a general handyperson who will accommodate your green building wishes. Call 204-770-5095.

Angstrom Builders are working toward becoming LEED certified and promote passive solar hot water heating in partnership with Building Alternatives. They also act as full service contractors and project managers.

Indoor Air Quality

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are released into your home from various products used in home renovation, including strippers, paints, stains, varnishes, and adhesives. Formaldehyde in homes is one of the main culprits for poor indoor air quality. Sources of formaldehyde contamination are mainly particleboard, plywood, and adhesives. Many of the larger building supply stores are carrying low-VOC paints. Again, re-

search the products you plan to use. Natural materials such as milk paints or linseed oil are good alternatives.

Other hazards when renovating include asbestos and lead paint, which can be stirred up during deconstruction. Take precautions, and if you suspect that you may have lead or asbestos in your house, get it tested.

The Major Renovation

A major renovation is a potentially overwhelming experience. You might want to consider getting professional help. Find a contractor, architect, or consultant who will adhere to your green ideals. One way to find a local professional is to consult the Canada Green Building Council website for a list of LEED accredited professionals in your area.

If you are planning a major renovation, consider the ways in which you can decrease energy use. Orient windows to take advantage of southern sun, buy energy saving appliances, make sure your building envelope is well sealed, and increase the insulation of your walls, roof, and basement. Reusing, and buying locally produced products, can also reduce the embodied energy of your materials. Consider renovations that improve efficiency a long-term investment, even though the initial costs may seem higher. Cam Dobie of Dobie Properties Ltd. considers eco-friendly building methods to be the way everyone will build in the future.

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Voluntary Simplicity and the Sustainability Challenge

By Mark A. Burch, *Simplicity Practice and Resource Centre*

THE GOOD NEWS IS, we already know how to resolve most of the sustainability challenges facing our world. No new technology, massive investment, political movements, or mass enlightenment are required - though all would undoubtedly help. The voluntary adoption of a materially simpler way of life - voluntary simplicity - while certainly not solving all the world's problems, has a great deal to offer. The chief obstacles on our way to sustainable livelihood are not primarily economic, or political, or technical. They are in fact attitudinal, psychological, and cultural.

It is self-evident that a society that consumes more will have a greater environmental impact than one that consumes less. All material consumption - whether "environmentally friendly" or not - uses resources and energy and produces waste. As Ecological Footprint Analysis teaches us, environmental impact is increased when: (a) population increases; (b) technology is inefficient or toxic; or (c) when people believe that a good life requires ever-increasing material consumption. Environmental impact can be reduced by: (a) reducing population; (b) improving technology; (c) changing attitudes about the role that consumption plays in a good life; or (d) any combination of these.

And yet the three are not strictly equivalent in importance. Voluntary simplicity focuses on (c) radically questioning the dogma that increasing material consumption increases human wellbeing.

We take it for granted that Earth is over-populated, but our society is well aware of this challenge. We will either address it effectively or nature itself will reduce our population.

We also take for granted that more efficient, more environmentally-benign technology is desirable. We believe such technology is, and will continue to be developed, simply because much existing technology is expensive, toxic, dangerous, and ugly. Money can be made from new technology. As more of us sicken and die from the "lifestyle diseases" of affluence, there will be an increasingly eager market for better technology among the survivors.

The limitation we see with population- and technology-focused approaches to meeting the sustainability challenge is that neither one addresses the psycho-cultural roots of our problem head-on. Even if population was reduced to a billion humans, and even if technology was made vastly more efficient, people would still eventually exceed the carrying capacity of the planet if they believe that to have a good life they must always consume more. Even a billion people, each of whom must have a private island,

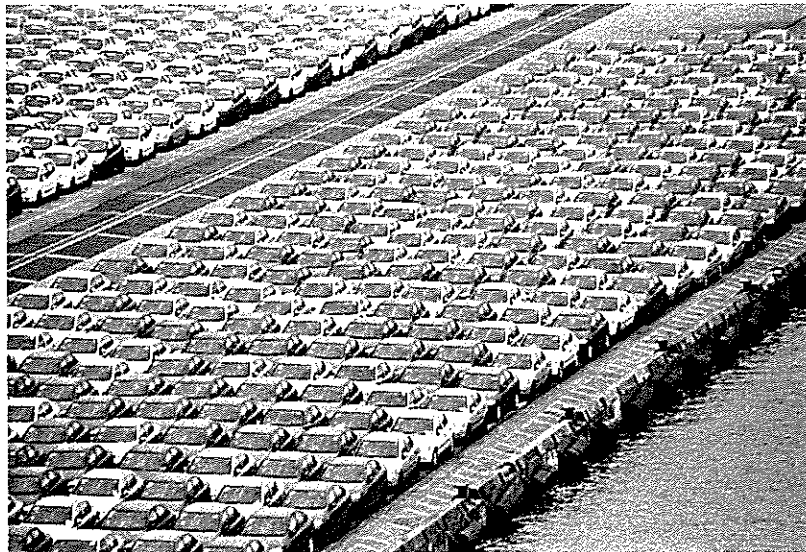
style based on the free choice to discover how little consumption is needed to sustain well-being - radically questions the fundamental premise of consumerism: "More is better". This begins not with cleaning closets, but with a decision to cultivate mindfulness in community with others. It entails an ongoing effort to deconstruct the many supposed "certainties" that serve consumerism so well: That standard of living = amount of consumption; that a high standard of living (amount of consumption) will surely deliver a high quality of life;

that increasing consumption can be maintained indefinitely by technical innovation; that over-exploitation of resources can always be offset by innovation; that technological or economic substitutes can always be found for extinct species, decimated ecosystems, and altered climates; that the digital representation of something as an item of information is the same as the thing itself (reality is virtual). All of these notions, and many more, must be psychologically deconstructed on the way to practicing a joyful and enriching simplicity.

Among the happy truths we discover along the way to greater simplicity is that reducing the quantity of our material

consumption can actually increase wellbeing. We discover that it may not be necessary to drive whole taxa of other species to extinction in order to be happy. We find that contributing to planetary sustainability is within reach of nearly everyone - not through expensive technology or bloody revolutions, but simply by changing our minds about what we want. As we learn to distinguish what actually differentiates wellbeing from mere consumption, our consumption declines, and with it, our ecological footprint, and bingo - it becomes possible to imagine ourselves having a future. Just like that.

Mark Burch is Co-Director of SPARC, the *Simplicity Practice and Resource Centre Worker Cooperative, Inc.*, a community-based organization dedicated to research and public education on voluntary simplicity. www.simplicitycentre.org



Rows upon rows of brand-new vehicles await transport across the globe.

Earth can feed us well,
but she can't stomach
the limitless expansion of
our fantasy consumption.

a 10,000-square-foot house with a heated pool, an indoor waterfall for bathing, tropical vacations three times a year, their own yacht, fleet of antique cars, etc., would eventually hit the wall of ecological reality. Earth can feed us well, but she can't stomach the limitless expansion of our fantasy consumption.

This leaves the simple, though difficult, work of examining our expectations, values, and beliefs, where they came from, how they work in us, and what effects they have when expressed through our reproductive and economic behavior. Voluntary simplicity - a life-



A Rocha Establishes a Field Study Centre in the Pembina Valley

By Jonah O'Neil

A ROCHA CANADA, a group member of the Manitoba Eco-Network, is an international Christian nature conservation organization based in Surrey, BC. Named after the Portuguese word meaning "the rock", A Rocha was founded in Portugal in 1983 and has since grown to include projects in 18 countries. Its work in Surrey began with a field study centre in 2003, and a field study centre was established near the Pembina Valley Provincial Park south of Morden, MB in 2005. While the Pembina Valley Field Study Centre has been in operation for three years, this spring A Rocha has some very exciting news: a major expansion is in the works.

The A Rocha Pembina Valley Field Study Centre is located on property that formerly belonged to Henry and Elma Martens. The Martens had a vision of buying up and preserving environmentally sensitive land in the Pembina Valley and building a home conducive to welcoming large groups of people, and one of Henry's life-long goals has been to promote environmental awareness in the region. So, it is not surprising that the Martens continue to live on the property and are, in fact, the local directors for A Rocha.

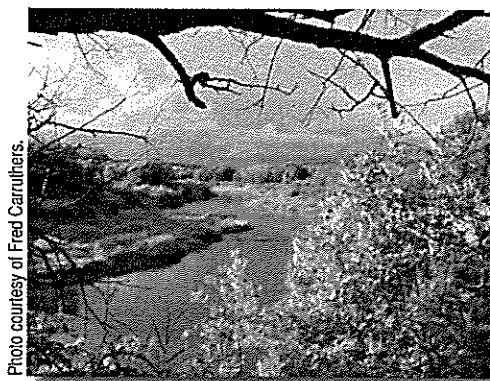


Photo courtesy of Fred Carruthers.

The Valley is abundant with white-tailed deer, red squirrels, and wild turkeys, and it is a migration corridor for massive amounts of raptors, including eagles, vultures, hawks, and falcons.

The Pembina Valley site is ideally located for research, education, and engaging the public in conservation. "The Pembina Valley site presented us with a tremendous opportunity," says Stanley Martin, board chairperson for A Rocha Canada. The Valley is abundant with white-tailed deer, red squirrels, and wild turkeys, and it is a migration corridor for massive amounts of raptors including eagles, vultures, hawks, and falcons. More than 200 species of birds breed in the Valley, including some that are designated as at-risk. The area sees large amounts of human beings as well - over 10,000 people pass through every year, drawn in part by the Pembina Valley Provincial Park. "We see our project greatly enhancing the adjacent provincial park as well as being a draw to the Morden area," says Henry Martens. "This project offers an exciting opportunity to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the Pembina Valley and our place in it."

The planned development will allow the Field Study Centre to hire more staff, take on interns who will live on-site, expand the public education program, and build an Interpretive/Conservation Centre accessible to the public via the provincial park with display areas, classroom space, an assembly point, and work area. The A Rocha main house will be equipped to host groups, and will provide community living space and a residence for the host family.

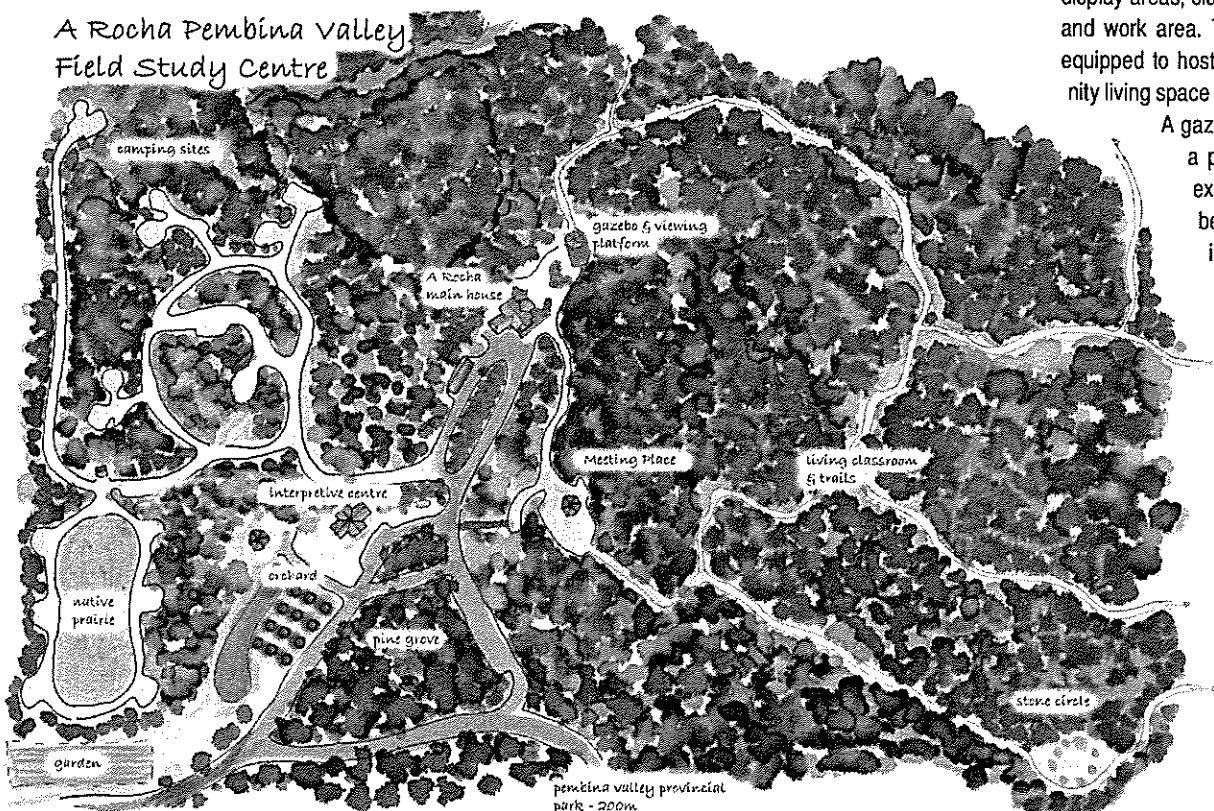
A gazebo and viewing platform will offer a panoramic view of the Valley. The existing network of hiking trails will be expanded and will include a "living classroom" clearing. A garden, orchard, and native prairie are set aside as places for study, research, and reflection, and there will be an education centre with an amphitheatre. A campground is also planned.

A Rocha intends to continue to work closely with local municipalities and organizations, and has for been involved several years in numerous conservation projects in the Pembina Valley region.

The organization conducted month-long raptor migration monitoring projects in March and April of 2005, 2006, and 2007, and

continued on page 9 >>

A Rocha Pembina Valley Field Study Centre



approximately 15 acres shown of 100 acres total - image not to scale

Moving Backwards on Recycling

Developments in Manitoba's Paper Industry

By Donna Krawetz

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING is one success story that environmental organizations, industry associations, and governments can all agree has achieved its original goals envisioned back in the early 1990s when waste reduction and prevention programs were introduced. Last year in Manitoba over 90% of newspapers, flyers, magazines, and telephone directories in residential use was collected for recycling, an outstanding accomplishment by any standard.¹ Now imagine all that paper, about 35,000 tonnes per year, leaving the province in a row of 4500 garbage trucks stretching 50 kilometres bound for points east, south, and overseas, and one might question whether a different chapter of the story is unfolding.

Until recently, most old newsprint in Manitoba was used by the Tembec pulp and paper mill in Pine Falls to manufacture paper with some recycled content. With the closure of this facility in early April 2008, there is no capacity in the province to use recycled paper fibre for manufacturing purposes.² Nor is there a local source for printers or publishers who want to purchase newsprint with recycled content.

In making its decision, Tembec representatives cite very challenging changing global market conditions. Their business is being squeezed between rising prices for old newsprint, driven by off-shore demand, and flat domestic prices for newsprint as North American readers reduce their consumption due to the Internet. To illustrate, the price for old newsprint has risen from approximately \$40 per tonne to over \$80 since 2000, and about 67% of old

paper collected in the U.S. is now exported to China, up from less than 20% in 2000.³

Tembec's de-inking facility at Pine Falls opened in 1995 with a capacity to process 100 tonnes of old paper per day during a time when similar operations were expanding across North America. Governments encouraged, and in some jurisdictions required, the use of newsprint with recycled content, while the supply of old paper became accessible with the spread of public collection programs. In Canada, the growth in mills capable of manufacturing recycled content newsprint grew from 1 in 1989 to 22 in 2005, resulting in large decreases in landfill wastes from paper products. By 2005, 26% of fibre for paper manufacturing in Canada came from recycled paper, some of it imported or back-hauled from the U.S. on the same trucks delivering new paper south of the border.⁴

The environmental consequences of discontinuing the use of old paper at the Pine Falls mill are worrisome. It has been estimated that replacing the amount of fibre previously coming from recycled paper could result in the cutting of an additional 200,000 trees per year.⁵ Tembec has stated that it will obtain replacement fibre from "residuals" such as bark, shavings, and chips from regional saw mill operations. As well, with the depressed market for lumber, the company has scaled back production of wood products and is currently using most of the trees it cuts down in Manitoba for paper.⁶

Consequences that go beyond Tembec's mill, such as greenhouse gas production to ship recycled fibre around the world for processing and reselling,

are more difficult to assess and to assign responsibility. The unaccounted carbon footprint of recycled paper in the global market place is an environmental cost that must be factored into the equation.

Tembec's Pine Falls operation has positioned itself as an environmentally friendly producer by receiving Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in October 2007 for its forestry practices on Forest Management License 1 in eastern Manitoba. This certification was granted from the Rainforest Alliance's Smartwood program after an audit to ascertain Tembec's compliance with FSC standards. This means any one of the FSC range of certified-paper labels could potentially be used on Tembec's paper, including the symbols for "100%" from forests managed to FSC standards with no recycled content; "Mixed Sources", a product group including content from forests managed to FSC standards, controlled sources, and/or with optional recycled material; and "Recycled", using only post-consumer reclaimed material.⁷

Will the decision to stop using recycled content at Pine Falls affect Tembec's FSC certification? According to a spokesperson for Smartwood, the answer is "no", as long as Tembec does not exceed its allowable cut for logging or permit forest materials from uncertified or unauthorized sources to enter into its manufacturing process.⁸ The FSC certification does not require that any recycled material readily available in a geographic area be used as a first choice to meet fibre requirements in paper manufacturing. In fact, the certification may have inadvertently made it easier for Tembec and other companies to drop their

References

1. Statistics on recycled paper in Manitoba drawn from Stewardship Circle: Newsletter of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation, Spring 2007, and Fact Sheet: Newspaper, both available at www.mpsc.com. Please note these statistics only include material from residential programs.
2. Jim Fogg, General Manager, Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation, Personal Interview, April 30, 2008.
3. Richard Fahey, Vice-President Communications, Tembec, Personal Interview, May 6, 2008.
4. Forest Products Association of Canada, Canadian Pulp and Paper Buyer's Guide To Environmental Assurance, 2005, p. 8, http://www.fpac.ca/en/pdfs/buyers_guides/paper/FPAC_BuyerGuide-Paper_ENG.pdf
5. "Tembec switching from recycled paper to trees," CBC News, March 14, 2008, <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2008/03/14/tembec.html>
6. Richard Fahey.
7. Forest Stewardship Council, "Use of the FSC Trademark: New FSC Labels," http://www.fsc.org/en/getting_involved/use_trademark/new_labels
8. Alexandre Boursier, Canadian Regional Manager, Smartwood Program, Rainforest Alliance, Personal Interview, May 1, 2008.
9. Forest Stewardship Council Canada, Committed to social and environmental responsibility?, Toronto: Forest Stewardship Council Canada, 2006, <http://www.fscCanada.org/SiteCM/U/D/2A6E3DC19244E1FC.pdf>
10. Forest Products Association of Canada, ASK* - FPAC 2007 Annual Review, p. 9, http://www.fpac.ca/pdfs/annual_reviews/fpac_annual_review_e_2007.pdf



Backwards on Recycling cont'd...

use of recycled content, since they can still sell their newsprint as environmentally friendly without reclaimed fibre.

The FSC certification for paper at least ensures that consumers know what they are getting, if they look closely and understand what the symbols mean. The labeling system is not perfect, but it is an improvement from the ubiquitous recycled loop symbol that can be used by anyone and is not regulated or licensed by any organization.

An FSC brochure about its commitment to social and environmental responsibility uses the phrase "Beyond Recycled".⁹ The problem outlined by the Council is that not enough paper is collected, with only enough recycled material to produce 35% of the market demand for paper. Obviously, these words were not written with the current situation in Manitoba or elsewhere in mind. With fundamental market shifts and restructuring in the paper industry, it may be time for the FSC to revisit its assumptions and the scope of its standards.

In its 2007 Annual Review, the Forest Products Association of Canada maintained that the best way for our domestic industry to compete in the shifting global marketplace will be to capitalize on Canada's reputation for sustainably produced and environmentally friendly goods. Consumers increasingly want forestry products that are legally sourced, certified to recognized standards, and produced with minimal environmental impact. Achieving this vision in the forestry industry "will require greater recovery and recycling of wood and paper, increasing the capacity of forests as carbon sinks, and further reducing fossil-fuel use in the manufacturing and delivery of our products".¹⁰ All the right words. Now where are the right actions?

Donna Krawetz is a volunteer writer and a retired public policy advisor.

A Rocha cont'd...

<< continued from page 7

is looking forward to something similar for 2008. In conjunction with the migration projects, they have also held a Raptor Awareness Day in Morden, which was a huge success. A Rocha volunteer Paul Goossen is working with the Important Bird Area (IBA) program, an international conservation initiative that designates protected areas for birds. In cooperation with the IBA program, Manitoba Conservation, and the Pembina Valley Conservation District, Goossen is working towards having 43 square kilometres of the Pembina Valley officially designated as an Important Bird Area.

The planned enhancements to the Field Study Centre are possible in part due to the fundraising efforts of A Rocha. According to Markku Kostamo, executive director of A Rocha Canada, they are one-third of the way to achieving their goal of \$975,000. However, A Rocha's long-term goal is not the site development of the Field Study Centre in and of itself. A Rocha's intention in raising funds is for the broader vision of conservation in the Pembina Valley region. A Rocha sees a need for a comprehensive inventory and monitoring of the Valley's biodiversity, and thus is making it a priority to monitor much of the flora and fauna in the area, and to partner with landowners and conservation agencies regarding agricultural land use in the Valley. Therefore, if the funding is slow to come in, the priority is still to facilitate the research and fieldwork with the existing structures at the site.

The planned growth at the Pembina Valley Field Study Centre will no doubt contribute greatly to A Rocha's conservation efforts in the area, and help bring them to the forefront of public awareness. "We expect the A Rocha Pembina Valley Field Study Centre to become a gathering point for people from across the country and around the world," says Markku Kostamo.

For more information on A Rocha Canada and the Pembina Valley Field Study Centre, please email manitoba@arocha.org or call 204-246-2059. The A Rocha Canada website is www.arocha.org.

Manitoba Herbal Medicine Course

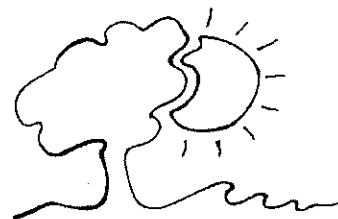
Join us as we explore our
local plant medicines.

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The Chemical Empire,
The Herbalist,
Wild Harvesting Plants,
Our Local Plants,
The Circle of Life,
Greeting Your Green Community,
The Elements and Ayurveda,
A Herbal Vocabulary,
Herbal Preparations, and others.

Local Medicinal Plant walks will also be taking
place throughout the summer in various areas of
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New In the Library

The Alice Chambers Memorial Library has the following new titles. Check them out!

New Books:

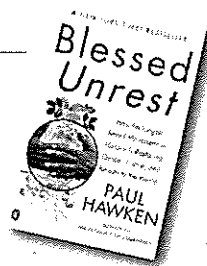
Blessed Unrest

By Paul Hawken

Published by Penguin Books, Toronto, 2007

Paul Hawken has spent more than a decade researching organizations dedicated to restoring the environment and fostering social justice. From billion-dollar nonprofits to single-person dot.causes, these groups collectively comprise the largest movement on earth, a movement that has no name, leader, or location and that has gone largely ignored by politicians and the media.

Blessed Unrest explores the diversity of the movement, its brilliant ideas, innovative strategies, and centuries of hidden history. A culmination of Hawken's many years of leadership in the environmental and social justice fields, it will inspire all who despair of the world's fate, and its conclusions will surprise even those within the movement itself.



Blue Covenant

By Maude Barlow

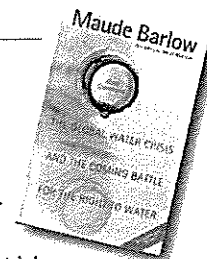
Published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 2007

An Inconvenient Truth of water.

"Imagine a world in twenty years, in which no substantive progress has been made to provide basic wastewater service in the Third World, or to force industry and industrial agriculture production to stop polluting water systems, or to curb the mass movement of water by pipeline, tanker and other diversion, which will have created huge new swaths of desert.

"Desalination plants will ring the world's oceans, many of them run by nuclear power; corporate nanotechnology will clean up sewage water and sell it to private utilities who will sell it back to us at a huge profit; the rich will drink only bottled water found in the few remote parts of the world left or sucked from the clouds by machines, while the poor die in increasing numbers. This is not science fiction. This is where the world is headed unless we change course." - Maude Barlow

Dubbed "Canada's best-known voice of dissent" by the CBC, Maude Barlow has proven herself again and again to be on the leading edge of issues Canadians care deeply about.



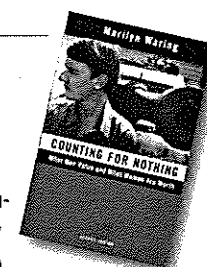
Counting for Nothing: What Men Value and What Women are Worth

By Marilyn Waring

Published by the University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1999

Safe drinking water counts for nothing. A pollution-free environment counts for nothing. Even some people - namely women - count for nothing. This is the case according to the United Nations System of National Accounts. Author Marilyn Waring, former New Zealand M.P., now professor, development consultant, writer, and goat farmer, isolates the gender bias that exists in the current system of calculating national wealth.

Counting for Nothing, originally published in 1988, is a classic feminist analysis of women's place in the world economy brought up to date in this reprinted edition, including a sizeable new introduction by the author.



Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal

By Eric Schlosser

Published by Harper Perennial, New York, 2002

Fast food has hastened the malling of our landscape, widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad.

Schlosser's myth-shattering survey stretches from California's subdivisions, where the business was born, to the industrial corridor along the New Jersey Turnpike, where many of fast food's flavours are concocted. Along the way, he unearths unsettling truths - from the unholy alliance between fast food and Hollywood to the seismic changes the industry has wrought in food production, popular culture, and even real estate.

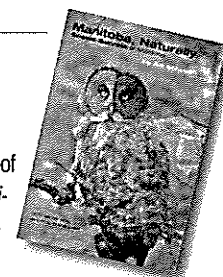


Manitoba, Naturally: Scenic Secrets of Manitoba

By Bill Stilwell

Published by William Street Publishing, Neepawa, 2006

Winner of the Outdoor Writers of Canada 2007 Outdoor Book of the Year Award, *Manitoba, Naturally: Scenic Secrets of Manitoba* by Bill Stilwell takes us to 60 special places in Manitoba - places that are relatively unknown, and places that are right next door. Beautifully illustrated and easy to read, this book invites you to explore and enjoy Manitoba's scenic secrets, and tells you how to get there.

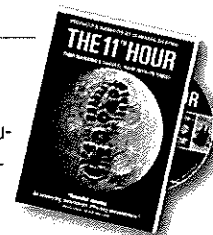


New Videos:

The 11th Hour

Produced and Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, (DVD; 2007)

Leonardo DiCaprio's *The 11th Hour* is a feature-length documentary concerning the environmental crises caused by human actions and their impact on the planet. *The 11th Hour* documents the cumulative impact of these actions upon the planet's life systems and calls for restorative action through a reshaping of human activity. With the help of over fifty of the world's most prominent thinkers and activists, including reformer Mikhail Gorbachev, physicist Stephen Hawking, and Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, *The 11th Hour* documents the grave problems facing the planet's life systems, and offers hope and solutions.



Can Winnipeg Get A Handle...?



Photo credit Chris Brown.

Following up on our story 'Can Winnipeg Get A Handle on Our Plastic Bag Problem?' (Vol 18. No. 2), plastic bags continue to be a scourge on the Winnipeg landscape. This photo shows Empress between St. Matthews and Ellice Ave. on May 8, 2008.



JUNE

6 Water Caucus Workshop on Water Issues

Topics covered will be water retention and scarcity, and action at the personal, community, and watershed levels. The intended audience is community water operators, municipalities, and conservation district planners to implement programs, policies, and practices to prevent/adapt to drought and flood events. Keynote speaker is Bob Sandford, Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative, United Nations Water for Life Decade, and Director, Western Watersheds Climate Research Collaborative, Portage la Prairie. Registration is free. **Please contact Sacha at 204-943-0318 or sacha@mbeconetwork.org for more info.**

6 Let's Get Planting - Proper Tree Planting Workshop

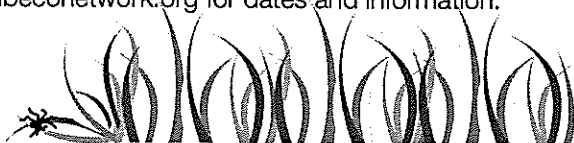
Victoria Beach Community Centre. Come and learn how to plant and transplant trees! Step by step hands-on demonstrations, seedling sources, varieties and sales information, and dig-your-own tree information. Outdoor field demonstrations - Tree care, transplanting tips, digging your own trees, landscaping with native plants. **Registration: \$5.00 per person, lunch included.** Pre-register by contacting The Cottager Magazine at 204-756-8381, or cottager@granite.mb.ca.

14-15 Two-Day Wilderness Skills Workshop

Instructors Dwayne Logan and Laura Reeves will guide you through a number of key survival skills that everyone can use. Learn how these skills can be easily incorporated into everyday life and reaffirm your connection to the Earth. Dwayne and Laura have taken classes from Tom Brown's Tracking, Nature, and Wilderness Survival School in New Jersey and practice these skills in their daily lives. At Room to Grow, a woodland sanctuary in the Turtle Mountains, 15 minutes southwest of Boissevain, MB. **Cost: Adults \$220, youth \$170 (maximum 5), plus taxes.** For info see www.roomtogrow.info, or contact David Neufeld 204-534-2303 or roomtogrow@xplornet.com.

Manitoba Eco-Network Organic Lawn Care workshops. Please visit www.mbeconetwork.org for dates and information.

Resource Conservation Manitoba Composting Workshop. Please visit www.resourceconservation.mb.ca or www.mbeconetwork.org for dates and information.



Planting the Seeds of a New Youth Network

By Erica Young, Youth Network Coordinator

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR to be thinking about planting seeds and preparing for new growth. For a while now people - of all ages - have been helping to plant the seeds of a fresh environmental youth network in Manitoba. Over the years, there have been various incarnations of a youth caucus or a youth network within, or alongside, the Manitoba Eco-Network. The youth groups who took part in a forum last fall (see the article in Vol. 17, No. 5 of the Eco-Journal) identified the need for that sort of network again.

There are plenty of reasons to organize across generations, but as youth we also need spaces where we can connect with each other on our own terms. Many youth-led groups are organizing within the context of a high school or university campus-environments that hold their own unique set of opportunities and challenges. It is helpful to know what other youth groups are out there and to have a way to easily get in touch.

A network allows us to:

- spread the word about inspiring youth-led initiatives that are making change as we speak;
- highlight opportunities for new youth to get involved;
- share resources and ideas, so that when one of us comes across a great website or speaker or way to grab the attention of a student body, we can all benefit;
- notice the opportunities for groups working on similar issues to plan joint events and campaigns;
- be challenged to expand our horizons by groups that are working on very different issues;
- and be reminded that we aren't alone in this work.

If you see yourself as a young person who is active in an environmental organization or would like to be, then it's time we got together. (If you don't fit this category yourself but know of someone who does, then please pass this along!) Watch for information about our new website in the months to come so that we can connect with each other in cyberspace. Come fall, we will host a forum so that we can also gather in person.

In the mean time, I'm here to help those connections happen. Drop me a line (erica@mbeconetwork.org) to tell me about what your group is up to. Tell me about what you'd like to be working on. Tell me about what kind of group you're looking to join. Tell me about the greatest resource you've seen that other groups won't want to be without any longer.

I can't wait to hear from you.



We believe sharing knowledge and unleashing creativity, allowing communities to freely engage themselves and each other, is fundamental to community economic development. Others agree: <http://www.fsf.org/>

transparency@parit.ca <http://parit.ca>

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Greening the Manitoba Marathon

By Darren Anderson, Manitoba Marathon

ORGANIZING A LARGE-SCALE sporting event is difficult enough, but organizing a large-scale sporting event that is also environmentally responsible is even tougher. In addition to making the event an enjoyable experience for all the athletes and spectators, you must also be prepared to handle all the by-products of your hospitality. Namely garbage, recycling, and composting.

As far as these large-scale events go, the Manitoba Marathon is right up there. It is the second largest event of its kind in Canada, and it's only getting bigger. The rising numbers make sustainability a definite priority with the organizers.

On average, one Manitoba Marathon participant will go through 10 cups of water while on the course, and a bottle of water, piece of fruit, and a yogurt in recovery. The resulting amount of waste and recycling would be easily manageable...if it was a one-person race. Last year, the Manitoba Marathon hosted 13,000 average participants - or 140,000 cups and 10,000 bottles of water, and boxes upon boxes of fruit.

Diverting the resulting waste away from the dump is a seemingly impossible task - unless you are the Manitoba Marathon Green Team. Thanks to a very thorough sorting process and some dedicated volun-

teers from the University of Manitoba and Red River College, the Manitoba Marathon diverted 4109.5 lbs of waste; a mere 155 lbs of garbage went to the Brady Landfill. (See sidebar.)

Organizers realize that waste diversion is but one piece of the sustainability puzzle, and plan to make strides each year towards a fully sustainable event. For the 2008 edition, taking place on Sunday, June 15th, the Manitoba Marathon Green initiatives will include:

- Using print materials that are FSC certified
- Using reusable inflatable arches instead of balloon arches
- Using compostable cups along the course at all water stations
- Educating youth volunteers pre-event on the benefits of sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Working with Trees Canada to offset CO₂ emissions

There is much more to be done, but with the support of quality volunteers it is well within reach. Anyone interested in being a part of the Manitoba Marathon Green team can contact us at 204-925-5748 or by e-mail at technical@manitobamarathon.mb.ca.

Sorting waste at the Manitoba Marathon

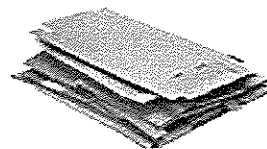


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Diverted Waste Weight (lbs)*

3000 lbs
Cardboard

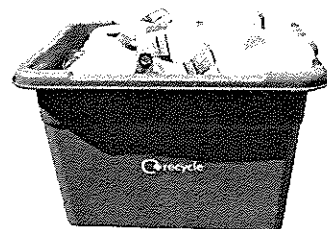


750 lbs
Compostable Organics**

265 lbs
#1 PETE Plastic

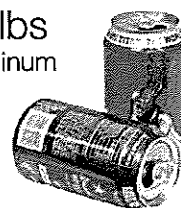
48 lbs
#4,5,7 Plastic

8 lbs
#3+6 Plastic



17 lbs
#2 HDPE Plastic

12 lbs
Aluminum



9.5 lbs
TetraPacks
& Cartons

negligible
Glass & Steel



**4109.5 lbs
TOTAL WASTE DIVERTED**

55 lbs
Cups sent to landfill

100 lbs
Other garbage
sent to landfill

**96%
DIVERSION RATE**