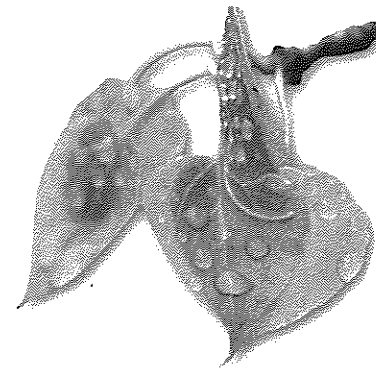




Community Market a Big Seller in The Pas



Photo courtesy of Val Berscheid

Like great community markets everywhere, the market in The Pas offers something new and different each week, including a great selection of seasonal produce.

By Avery Ascher

THE SATURDAY MORNING TRADITION of the community market is alive and well in The Pas, 610 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg. Customers arrive at the market beside Berscheid's Meats on Highway 10, just north of The Pas, well before the doors open at 10, eager to stock up on locally produced vegetables, pickles and jams, meats, honey, baked goods and handi-crafts, and to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Delores Dion and Michael de Tremaudan are two of the market's mainstays, there most Saturdays selling potatoes, beans, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, beets and other seasonal produce. They've set aside 12 acres for market gardening on their property west of The Pas in the area known as the Carrot Valley.

For both, ties to the land run deep. De Tremaudan's family settled in The Pas area in 1896. Now 42, he remembers selling onions from his family's farm to Western Grocers as young as 6 years old. Similarly, Dion's grandfather grew vegetables on his property in the Rall's Island area, travelling to The Pas to sell them.

Natural Pest Control

Both also take pride in de Tremaudan Farms as a pesticide-free operation, opting for natural solutions to problems such as insect control. "You can plant goldenrod beside cabbages to keep cabbage worms away," de Tremaudan says, citing one example. "But you have to control the goldenrod, too, or it just takes over." Diligent manual weeding takes care of that, he's found.

"We get a real sense of fulfilment in providing such great-tasting vegetables locally, growing them pesticide-free and growing such a great variety of vegetables right here," Dion says. "It feels good to produce something so natural."

And all the hard work really pays off. "In two hours, they [shoppers] clean us out," de Tremaudan says. "I need a bigger truck!"

Dion and de Tremaudan first tested the waters last year, selling at the community market on an irregular basis. Both also have other employment, Dion with the provincial government, and de Tremaudan with a

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local landscape company as well as trapping. Their experience at the market went so well last year that they decided they wanted to do more.

A Growing Business

"This is how it started," Dion says. "We thought, we've got the garden, we may as well start with that." She hooked into the federal government's Self-Employment program, which provides funding for people to create jobs for themselves through starting a business. Over the next few years they plan to grow the market garden, at the same time finding the right balance between that and the other types of work they do.

Kathy LeSann has been gardening a long time, too – 34 years to be exact. Originally from Winnipeg, she met future husband Armand when she moved to The Pas in 1971. In 1974 she planted chokecherry, currant and raspberry bushes, as well as strawberry plants and crabapple trees on their Carrot River Valley property, and she makes a variety of jams and jellies each year, as well as cucumber pickles and pickled beets.

LeSann and several other women formed a farmer's market co-op in 1989 which did well for about 8 years, but then faded due to decreasing levels of interest or time to commit, as well as to changing times.

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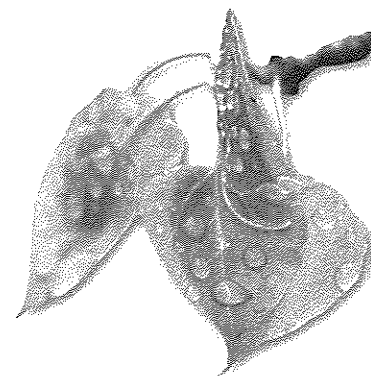
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Executive Director's Letter

SUMMER OF 2008 will be remembered in many circles as the summer of high gas prices. As crude oil hit unprecedented per barrel values, consumers and many industries saw a corresponding price jump at the pumps – and this has had many repercussions, all the way from higher costs for many consumer essentials including food, to the collapse of discount airlines, leaving travelers stranded in many parts of the world. The situation also had the effect of bringing the issues of commuting and urban form into much sharper focus in many areas as workers started looking a lot closer at the cost of filling the tank to drive long distances to work, and wondering if their housing location was such a great decision after all.

A Watershed?

While spending some time in the US this summer, I was interested to see how many newspaper feature articles dealt with exactly this issue – does suburban sprawl make sense? The emerging consensus seemed to be that the summer of high gas prices will be a watershed in the way that cities and communities are designed, that we'll be seeing a lot more attention to mass transportation and mixed use urban planning. Since this only makes sense for a whole lot of other social and ecological reasons, we can hope that this is really the case.

Hope in Winnipeg

Meanwhile, there are lots of heartening signs on the transportation front – from the trend away from SUV use across North America (we still have a long way to go on that score) to plans in the ever-progressive San Francisco to make employer-provided transit passes mandatory, to the encouraging decision (finally) right here at home – where arguably the suburban sprawl/expensive commute issue is still not a top-of-mind topic for most citizens – to proceed with the first leg of the rapid transit system. The Rapid Transit Coalition, spearheaded by the Sierra Club's Winnipeg group, should take some credit for keeping the pressure on governments to make that decision. There are also some really good signs on the self-propelled transportation front here in Winnipeg – Bike to Work Day was a terrific success, and word has it from Bike to the Future that there has been a 25% increase in cycling in Winnipeg this year over last year. The Car Share idea is also gaining ground (see Liz Dykman's article in this issue).

More Debate

Since personal vehicle use accounts for a large chunk of Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions, these are developments that we need to see. The upcoming federal election promises lots more debate about the price of gas, the price of carbon and taxes on transportation fuels. A big question will be who can propose to implement a fair system that ultimately benefits people and the earth – without paying the price at the polls. We'll stay tuned.

Reading tip of the month: for cyclists and bike-o-philes, the magazine *Momentum* is a great read. Available at Mountain Equipment Coop and cycling venues around the city – and we usually have a few copies floating around the EcoCentre.

Anne Lindsey

Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network

OCTOBER

IWalk month Join hundreds of Manitoba schools and thousands of kids in over 42 countries in celebration of walking to school this October! Registration is free – enter online at www.resourceconservation.mb.ca and you will receive a confirmation package filled with great ideas of how to plan day, week or month long events! Your participation will make you eligible for a prize pack with a value of over \$1000! For more information in Manitoba, please contact the Manitoba Active and Safe Routes to School Program at (204) 925-3773 or asrts@resourceconservation.mb.ca

3 Alternative Fuel Vehicles Odyssey Day. The National Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Odyssey Day, is a one-day event to promote alternative fuels, advanced vehicle technologies, idle reduction technologies and other forms of sustainable transportation. The Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition (RRVCCC) Winnipeg Chapter is hosting an Odyssey day that will include conference presentations, a networking lunch, a trade show exhibit, and an alternative fuel and advanced vehicle display. Conference fees range from \$20-\$45. **Victoria Inn Winnipeg, 1808 Wellington Ave.** See www.cleancitieswinnipeg.org.

4-5 Wilderness Committee Nopiming Park Protection Ride. Join a two-day, 100 km cycle tour from Lac du Bonnet to Tooth Lake. Includes meals, camping, canoeing, fishing, park talks and photo/video expo. Cost is \$40 for food and transportation. For more info, or to register contact contact@wildernesscommittee.mb.ca or 942-9292.

11 Manitoba Naturalists Society Garage Sale at Westminster United Church (Westminster at Maryland). 9:30 am to noon. Items can be delivered to the basement of the church on **Friday, October 10 between 6:00 and 9:00pm.** Call Terry or Susan at 943-9029.

15 Bike to the Future Fall Forum "Why Not Winnipeg?" Visionary videos, panel of experts, skit, breakout discussions, and refreshments served. Have input into the future of cycling in Wpg! All welcome. **6:30-9:30 at the University of Winnipeg** (subject to change). See www.bikeforthefuture.org for more information.

16 World Food Day Events. Manitoba Food Charter Golden Carrot Awards. Help celebrate Manitoba's Own Community Food Champions at a ceremony at the **Manitoba Legislature on World Food Day, October 16, 2008.** Call the MFC office at 943-0822 if you would like to attend.

19 Migration Farewell Concert at Oak Hammock Marsh. Live classical music concert performed by a String Quartet (featuring members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra) in the privacy of our 120-seat theatre. Enjoy two 45 minute sets of music as you watch a slide show in the background. During intermission, bid on a number of great prizes during our silent auction and enjoy a wine and cheese selection. **7:30 pm. OHMIC members \$25, Non-members \$30.** Call 467-3300 to purchase your tickets

24 Native Orchid Conservation Inc. Annual Members' Night. In honour of International Polar Year there will be two presentations by members on their experiences in the North. Bill Blight spent time in the Yukon and NWT about 50 years ago, and Doris Ames, Eugene Reimer, and Peggy Bainard Acheson visited the same area this summer. The evening will include an update on the field trip season and other club activities, displays, and a raffle for "The Birds of Manitoba". All are welcome. Refreshments served. **7:30 pm at the Dakota Lawn Bowling Centre at 1212 Dakota.** For more information contact Peggy at 261-9179 or bainardp@mts.net.

27 A public forum is being held as part of The Red Zone: Chemicals, Currents and Change Conference The round table discussion will include David Schindler, Robert Hecky, Hans Peterson and

Lloyd Axworthy, moderated by former Premier Gary Filmon. **7:00 pm in Convocation Hall, University of Winnipeg.** See www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/conf-the-red-zone-index and page 11 of the Eco-Journal for more info.

NOVEMBER

6&20 Climate Change Connection hosts: A Film and Discussion. Both evenings will feature a different climate change film, followed by a short moderated discussion. Films will be viewed at the **Millennium Library between 6-9 pm** and are **FREE** of charge. For more information visit www.climatechangeconnection.org.

Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program

October 20: Diamonds (And Their Impacts?) Are Forever with Tim Byers (MNS Member) Canadian diamonds: where do they come from, how is the land disturbed in getting them, who monitors this disturbance and ... how much rock has to be dug to fill a 2-litre jug with diamonds? Tim Byers, a board member of an independent watchdog agency, will take us through the monitoring of environmental impacts from mining on the diamond-laden Barrenlands of the NWT. He'll tell us what is being monitored and how, and why the need for independent watchdogs.

October 27: Studies On The Coastal Marshes Of The Manitoba "Great Lakes" with Dr. Gordon Goldsborough. The presentation will examine coastal wetlands of large lakes in Manitoba, focusing on Delta Marsh on Lake Manitoba, and Netley-Libau Marsh on Lake Winnipeg. These wetlands are threatened by a variety of factors, including altered hydrology, chemical contamination from the surrounding landscape, and invasion by exotic species. Some reasons coastal wetlands are culturally and economically important will be explained.

November 10: Bipole III - A Major Reliability Improvement Project with C.B. (Carl) Johnson, Manitoba Hydro. The Bipole III project is a major transmission line project that will see Manitoba Hydro construct a third High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line in this province. The line will originate at a new converter station near Gillam and will travel south and west of Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba, and will come south of Winnipeg and terminate at the Riel site immediately east of the Red River Floodway.

November 17: Invasive Species In Manitoba: Unwanted Invaders with Julie Pelc, Invasive Species Council of Manitoba. Invasive species do not respect borders, watershed boundaries or land ownership. The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) was formed in 2006 to encourage a province-wide approach to the prevention, early detection, management and potential eradication of invasive species in Manitoba.

\$2 for members, 6 for non-members

7:30pm at the Pauline Boutal Theatre

Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 340 Provencher Blvd.

Call 943-9029 to register.

Water Caucus Activities The Manitoba Eco-Network water caucus will be meeting (date TBA) in October. Join us to discuss water issues and action plans, and to hear from guest speakers. **COMING UP:** environmental capacity-building in rural communities, raising awareness against bottled water and water systems privatisation, protecting Lake Winnipeg, and groundwater management planning. Contact Sacha at 943-0318 or sacha@mbeconetwork.org for further details.

See more workshop and conference listings on page 11.



Increasing Transportation Options in Winnipeg

By Liz Dykman

GREENER TRANSPORTATION is a hot topic these days. In September, there was a long-awaited announcement of the beginnings of a rapid transit system for the city. Cycling advocacy groups have been making headway in terms of cycling infrastructure, and rising gas prices are increasing the interest in alternate forms of transportation. While these recent developments will make it easier for more individuals to avoid driving for many of their trips, there are still times when an automobile seems necessary.

Examples might be a trip to the hardware store, a monthly "stock up" trip for groceries, or taking a family member to a medical appointment. Many people would be able to do without a car except for those occasional times. Once one owns a car, however, the big capital expense may be a disincentive to pay bus fare when the car is available, and having it sitting in the driveway makes it far too convenient to drive, even when biking or walking would be feasible.

Another Option

Enter "carsharing". This service rounds out the options for getting around without having to own a car. Here's how it works. By phone or internet, reserve the car for the time you need it. At the designated time, walk a block or two to the nearest shared car, unlock the door with your keycard, and drive away. It's that simple. And when you're finished, return the car to its parking spot, and you're done. Each month you receive a bill in relation to the amount you've driven. Insurance, maintenance, and gas are all included.

This is a service that has been available in other Canadian cities for some time, and the benefits are many. If you don't drive to and from work or school every day, and put less than around 10,000 km on your vehicle per year, cost savings can be significant. Owning a vehicle when you only use it occasionally is a big expense that many people underestimate. All the hassles involved with insurance and car repairs are taken care of. Members of a carshare typically reduce their vehicle use by 40-60%, and each shared car replaces 7 cars on average, reducing traffic and parking pressures.

The Right Vehicle for Each Occasion

Carsharing is not just for those people looking to be car-free. Some households can eliminate the need for a second car by using the carshare when-



Photo courtesy of Jessie Klassen

The Winnipeg Car Share Feasibility Group, (l to r: Liz Dykman, Susan Lindsay, Beth McKechnie and Bruce Berry) hopes that Car Sharing will take off in Winnipeg.

“Members of a carshare typically reduce their vehicle use by 40-60%, and each shared car replaces 7 cars on average, reducing traffic and parking pressures.”

ever needed. An additional benefit of the carshare model is the ability of members to access different types of vehicles. Rather than owning a large truck or minivan for the few times each year when they are needed, carshare members can select the right vehicle for each occasion.

This sounds great ... so why doesn't Winnipeg have one? Last summer a group of individuals concerned about transportation issues got together and decided to see if carsharing might be a viable option in the city. With funding from the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, work is underway to study the feasibility of carsharing in Winnipeg. Information

has been gathered from the literature and by interviewing key people at other Canadian carshares. Based on demographic profiles of typical carshare users in other cities, two Winnipeg neighbourhoods have been identified as potential pilot locations. The Osborne Village area and Broadway-Assiniboine will now be surveyed to determine the level of interest, followed by community meetings to discuss the details of the operation. Anyone interested can find more information by visiting www.wpgcarshare@mts.net or by e-mailing wpgcarshare@mts.net. The Winnipeg CarShare Feasibility Group is Bruce Berry, Susan Lindsay, Beth McKechnie and Liz Dykman.

Eco-Journal asks Environmentalists: “What’s Your Election Wish?”

A FEDERAL ELECTION is on the horizon and now more than ever, environment is a hot topic for debate amongst the various political parties.

Eco-Journal asked a few environmentalists engaged in different issues around the province to share their environmental wish, no matter which party forms government. Here are some of their responses:

Sharon Taylor

works on a number of initiatives with the Organic Food Council of Manitoba/Canadian Organic Growers, including the Farm Mentorship Program and Growing Up Organic projects:



“I would like to see more funding and resources for organic producers in Manitoba and across Canada. It’s also important to provide more opportunities for entrepreneurs involved in environmentally sustainable initiatives.”

Lyle Lockhart

A retired water scientist at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Freshwater Institute here in Winnipeg, Lyle now plays an active role with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation:

“I would like to see governments manage our water on the basis of the best scientific understanding available at the time decisions must be made, and where possible, adjusting management actions continuously as new knowledge is developed.”

Sandra Madray

A researcher and activist with Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, Sandra is also on the Coordinating Committee for the Children’s Health and Environment Project locally, and a Board member of Prevent Cancer Now!, a national organization.



“To make cancer prevention a priority with regulations that would ensure that consumer products containing known or possible carcinogens are disclosed on product labelling and that industry works towards the replacement of these substances with safer alternatives.”

Natasha Szach

is a student at the University of Winnipeg, and active with the on-campus environmental group, EcoPIA (Ecological People In Action):

“I think it’s important for a space to open up for dialogue regarding the Security and Prosperity Partnership, as I believe most citizens are completely in the dark about the process and it must be discussed through a system of democracy and transparency.”

Glen Koroluk

Local organizer with Beyond Factory Farming, and former Water Caucus Coordinator at MEN: (Note: BFF has extensive policy documents that can be read at www.beyondfactoryfarming.org. Here is a selection from their “wish list” on food and agriculture issues:

“Any new agriculture policy should include a program to reduce GHG emissions and build the sector’s capacity to deal with the challenges associated with an increasingly unstable climate.”



Michael Goodyear

is the Executive Director of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.

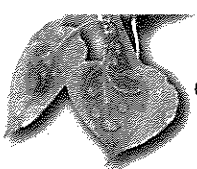
“My election wish would be for all candidates to put aside party politics and establish a unified approach to dealing with our country’s most pressing environmental issues.”

Bill Paton

Professor of Biology at Brandon University and Chair of the Brandon and Area Environmental Council also opted for a water-focussed wish:

“We have always been pushing for a National Water Policy with some legal teeth and enforcement.”





Awards for Good Work

By Anne Lindsey

THE ECO-NETWORK'S 2008 Environmental Awards were presented at our AGM/Barbecue in June at the Crescentwood Community Centre. **Peter Miller** was the recipient of this year's "individual" category award. Nominated by Steve Rauh, Peter has been an activist in the environmental community since the early 1980s when he volunteered with the Recycling Council of Manitoba at its waste collection depots, and worked for a comprehensive recycling system in Manitoba. He was a founder of the TREE coalition – fighting the establishment of a bleached kraft pulp plant at The Pas and for more sustainable forest practices in Manitoba. He has continued to pursue sustainable forestry, often working behind the scenes to change the mindset of the forest industry, including a long-term commitment to the Manitoba Model Forest. More recently, Peter has been an intervenor on behalf of TREE and Resource Conservation Manitoba, at the Public Utilities Board, advocating for energy conservation, and more sustainable practices at Manitoba Hydro. He has a long history of service with government boards, including the former Manitoba Environmental Council, the Round Table on Sustainable Development and the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (or the East Side Planning Process).

An Inspiration to the Community

The "Idle Free Girls" accepted the award in the "group" category: This group of 4 Grade 6 students from Stonewall: Katelyn, Destiny, Neely and Rachel, have a mission to make the Town of Stonewall "idle

free", because of their strong commitment to fighting climate change. Drawing on their considerable research and study of the issue, the girls have taken their message on the harmful effects of engine idling on health and the environment to all the key agencies in town, including Stonewall Council and Chamber of

Commerce, and succeeded in establishing "idle free zones" throughout the community. In their spare time, they created a display, pamphlets and a presentation on the issue, and have not shied away from media interviews. Their teacher and nominator, Kari Kinley, calls them an "inspiration to the community".



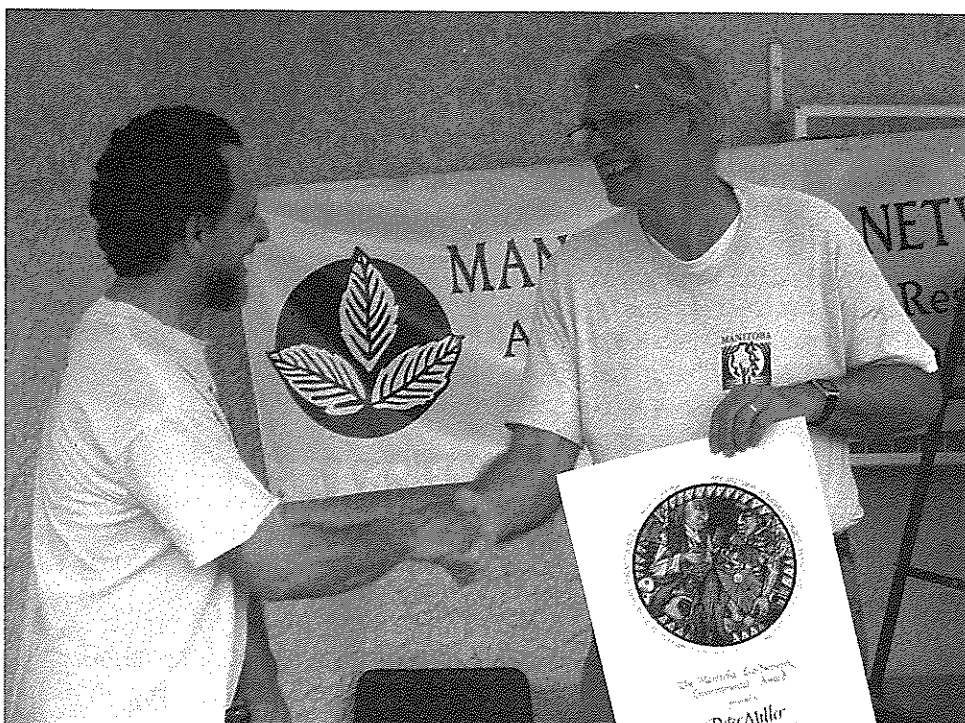
Stonewall's Idle Free Girls with teacher Kari Kinley

Photo courtesy of A. Lindsey



Zev Rumstein and Ian Band cooking up some wicked burgers

Photo courtesy of A. Lindsey



Steve Rauh presents award to Peter Miller

Photo courtesy of A. Lindsey

Environmental Values Equal Good Business

Dave Pancoe, was chosen in the "special" category. Nominated by Tim Lutz, Dave has created a company – Northern Soul Wilderness Adventures – that is truly an example of a sustainable business. While the core of his tour business is to demonstrate to Manitobans and other folks alike the natural wonders of our province, he does this in ways that are consistent with protecting the environment. From sourcing food locally and organically whenever possible, to transporting visitors in a van fuelled on waste



Dave Pancoe: a "Northern Soul"

vegetable oil, to the practice of low impact camping, Dave ensures that his values are reflected in his business practices. He has also made many contributions to the local community whether this be by providing free canoe expeditions to new Manitobans on the Seine River, providing time, logistics and experience to the mapping project on the Manigotagan River, assisting with infrastructure development and a campground on the Bloodvein First Nation, or many other examples.

The Manitoba Eco-Network would also like to recognize the many accomplishments of all the other nominees this year: Alan Baron, Anders Swanson and Lindy Clubb, recognizing that nomination by one's peers is high praise for work and commitment to a better environment.

Protecting Our Children's Environment

By Kristle Calisto-Tavares

CAMPAIGN FOR PESTICIDE REDUCTION,

Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, Clinic Community Health Centre, Manitoba Eco-Network and the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg are pleased to introduce the Children's Health & Environment Partnership. Building on the ground-breaking work of the Children's Environmental Health Project, this Partnership is a coordinated voice committed to establishing children's environmental health as a primary concern amongst caregivers, health practitioners, decision-makers, and the public.

Building Community Capacity

Children are the most vulnerable members of our population and uniquely susceptible to contaminants in the spaces they learn, play, dream and eat. It is our hope to empower those caring for and working with young children by equipping them with accessible information and action-oriented health promotion strategies. In doing so, we can build community capacity to create environments that enhance children's health and well-being. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to maximize his or her potential. We recognize that every individual has a stake in the health and environment of today's children and future generations. We know that every person will benefit from taking action.

Invitation to our Launch

This core group of 5 founding Manitoba-based organizations and a growing number of other groups working across sectors are collaborating to facilitate the effective protection of our children's environment and advance the state of children's health in Manitoba. Please join us in November for an evening reception launching the Children's Health & Environment Partnership. Visit www.childrensenvironment.ca for details.



children's
health &
environment
partnership

“Children are the most vulnerable members of our population and uniquely susceptible to contaminants in the spaces they learn, play, dream and eat.”

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An Experience of a Lifetime

The Climate Project Canada Conference

By Sean Petty (Sierra Club, Winnipeg Group) and Celes Davar (Earth Rhythms)

ON THE WEEKEND of April 4, 5, and 6, we joined 250 other Canadians in Montreal, where we had the incredible privilege of being personally trained by former U.S. Vice-President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore to deliver presentations on climate change. The presentations are similar to the one that Mr. Gore gives in the 2006 Academy Award winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, but are specifically tailored to Canada. The weekend was a truly extraordinary experience – an experience of a lifetime.

Manitoba Examples

The instruction we received was first rate. Leading it was Mr. Gore, who proved, in the nearly ten hours we spent with him, extremely knowledgeable, and surprising funny. Mr. Gore specifically mentioned Manitoba, referring to the tornado that hit the town of Elie last June – the strongest confirmed tornado in Canadian history, with 400-500 km winds – as an example of the kind of unpredictable weather that Canadians will increasingly see as a result of climate change. Besides Mr. Gore, we learned from Canadian scientist and icon, Dr. David Suzuki; Dr. Andrew Weaver, a noted University of Victoria climatologist; and David Runnalls of the Winnipeg-based International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Inspiration

We also learned a great deal from our peers, a diverse group of Canadians, including Olympians and civil servants; students and retirees; lawyers, doctors, and academics; immigrants and the disabled; and environmental activists and oil patch executives. From them, we gained inspiration and found out first hand how climate change is affecting different parts of the country.

New Research

The training itself focused on three areas: the science of climate change; the solutions; and presentation skills. Our study of the science was comprehensive, moving from the pioneering work of British physicist John Tyndall in the 1860s to the present day findings of former World Bank chief economist Sir Nicolas Stern and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). We were briefed on the most advanced scientific research, much of it so new it has yet to be published.

Global Warming is "Unequivocal"

What became clear from our study of the science is that climate change is taking place, and faster than

many had predicted. While the public may have the impression that there is disagreement about it (a misconception deliberately created by those who oppose government action), the scientific community has concluded, to quote the IPCC, that global warming is "unequivocal."

It also became clear just how serious the climate crisis is. It will give rise to more extreme weather: more storms, floods, and droughts that will potentially affect millions of people. The UN estimates that it

with climate change, there were those who cried that the challenge was too big, as the CFC family was inextricably linked to modern life. As we know though, our world's leaders – spurred on by immense public pressure – took decisive action, and we have started to turn things around. There is no reason that the world cannot come together again to solve a global environmental challenge.

The second is that solutions exist. According to Princeton professors Robert Socolow and Stephen

“While the public may have the impression that there is disagreement about it (a misconception deliberately created by those who oppose government action), the scientific community has concluded, to quote the IPCC, that global warming is ‘unequivocal.’”

could create 150 million environmental refugees by 2050. This would be an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, and one that could have grave impacts on international stability and security.

Threats to Biodiversity and Economy

Climate change will affect biodiversity as well. Already in the midst of what Gore has called an “extinction crisis,” a 2004 study in the journal *Nature* found that it could drive a million more of the world's species to extinction by 2050.

Finally, the economic consequences will be catastrophic. In his seminal 2006 report on global warming and the economy, Stern concluded that unchecked climate change could lead to a devastating global economic downturn comparable to the great depression and the two great wars.

Reasons for Optimism

While the situation is dire, there are three good reasons to be optimistic about our ability to overcome the climate change challenge.

The first is that we have solved a global environmental crisis before: the depletion of the ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and their cousins. As

Pacala, we already possess the fundamental scientific, technical, and industrial “know-how” to solve the climate challenge – at least, for the next fifty years.

Political Will

The third is that what's really needed to solve climate change is political will, which fortunately, to quote Mr. Gore, is a “renewable resource.” Political will is created by public pressure – by you, your family, neighbours, all of us, forcefully telling our political leaders that we want action on climate change. That means calling, e-mailing, and sending letters to our elected representatives emphasizing that climate change is a priority; telling our politicians the same thing when they come to our doors during elections; and, above all, voting for people and political parties that are committed to solving climate change.

Celes Davar is the President of Earth Rhythms and Sean Petty is the President of the Sierra Club of Canada's Winnipeg group. Both are trained climate change presenters for the Climate Project Canada in Manitoba. Their presentations can be booked for any audience, large or small, by visiting the Climate Project Canada website: www.climateprojectcanada.org

<< continued from page 1

Community Market a Big Seller in The Pas cont'd...

Local Fare

LeSann is happy to see interest in the community market coming back strong. On a recent Saturday her daughter Edith was there too, selling her own homemade cheesecakes by the slice, whole berry pies and cookies.

Restaurant-style booths and tables set up in the middle of the market allow people to enjoy Edith's cheesecake, homemade soups or whatever other fare enterprising local people make and sell on any given Saturday. It's not fancy, but the market definitely offers something people are looking for – local goods served up with a generous helping of community connection.

Manitoba Food Charter was Inspiration

"We wanted to create a market for local produce, to create a closer tie from the producer to the consumer," explains Jim Berscheid, owner of Berscheid's Meats which produces and sells locally-produced beef and pork products. "It was originally the Manitoba Food Charter concept that spurred us to put this community market in place."

Berscheid credits Carol Drake of North Glen Deer Farms, local producer of venison products, for much of the growth the community market has enjoyed over the past couple of years. "Carol's given this a major push from day one to make sure the market is successful," Berscheid says.

Now with the market increasing in popularity, he says it's just a matter of local growers and producers allocating more of their operations for additional production to keep the doors open, and happy customers coming back each week.

Editor's note: The Manitoba Food Charter is marking World Food Day on October 16, with two major events: a Northern Community Food Forum in Thompson, and the presentation of their Golden Carrot Awards in Winnipeg. Contact the MFC at 943-0822 for more details.

Launching MBECOYOUTH.ORG

By Erica Young, Manitoba Environmental Youth Network Coordinator

CALLING ALL ECO-YOUTH! I hope you'll check out our new website and sign up so that mbecoyouth.org truly reflects the full breadth of the environmental youth movement in Manitoba. On the site, you'll find profiles of the different environmental youth organizations in our province, announcements of events, blogs and links to some great resources, among other things. For example, you'd find out about our second annual GreenSpace youth forum being held on October 29: a day of sharing stories, collecting ideas, learning about issues, building skills and planning for joint actions between some of the many environmental youth groups out there.

will create millions of jobs, improve our health and reclaim Canada's position as a global leader."

You'll find a link at mbecoyouth.org to some of the materials created by the CYCC if you'd like help in organizing some climate change actions in your school or neighbourhood.



Manitoba Environmental Youth Network

Vote the Climate!

You might also find out that as the Manitoba Environmental Youth Network, we belong to the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC). As part of this national body, we are in the company of a pretty inspiring roster of members from coast to coast to coast, including labour unions, indigenous groups, green energy groups, student unions, environmental groups and more. The CYCC's current focus can be summed up in an excerpt from the PowerVote pledge, a tool used during election time by the CYCC to encourage young people to "vote the Climate":

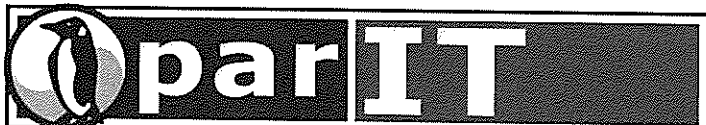
"Our generation has the power to change the country. By choosing to not endorse dirty energy sources like the tar sands and instead working towards a just transition to a clean energy future, we

A Valuable Service

So drop by soon and then come back often. Whether you're new to the environmental youth movement or already have plenty of experience under your belt, we hope this website will offer a valuable service by linking up Manitoban youth interested in the environment with each other and to the wider environmental community.

The Manitoba Environmental Youth Network and the GreenSpace youth forum are possible thanks to the generous support of the Winnipeg Foundation, and the Manitoba Community Services Council.

Editor's note: If you are not a youth, but know some young people who might be interested, please pass along the word!



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New In the Library

NEW! Books and DVDS on Water Issues Available for loan now in the Alice Chambers Memorial Library

by Sacha Kopelow, Water Caucus Coordinator

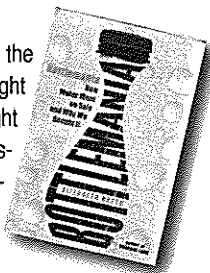
All the materials in the ACML may be loaned out free of charge. If you are not in Winnipeg, contact Erica Young, Resource Assistant at the Library, 947-6511, to arrange for no-charge postal delivery.

New Books:

Bottlemania : How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It

Elizabeth Royte

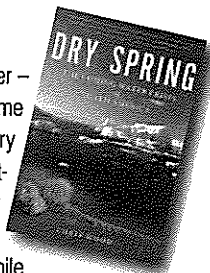
As she visits filtration plants and natural springs, Royte lays out the issues that surround the seemingly simple matter of what we ought to drink: Who owns the water that flows underground, and is it right for corporations to profit from it? How do the manufacture, transportation, and disposal of plastic water bottles affect the environment? Is the stuff coming from our taps ok to drink? What can we do about privatization?



Dry Spring : The Coming Water Crisis of North America

Chris Wood

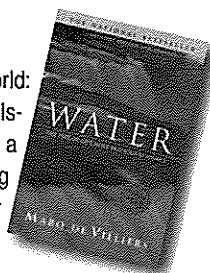
As global warming heats up, our world is running out of fresh water – fast. Lakes, aquifers and rivers are disappearing, but we consume more water than ever. What will this mean for North Americans? Dry Spring shows dramatically how water loss will devastate countless communities over the next 25 years, challenging some of our fastest growing regions – the arid plains of Western Canada, the cross-border Great Lakes Basin, and the American Southwest. While unprecedented dryness afflicts these areas, violently wet storms will pummel many others. Wood concludes with inspiring examples of choices we can make that will help preserve our water for future generations.



Water: The Fate of our Most Precious Resource

Marq De Villiers

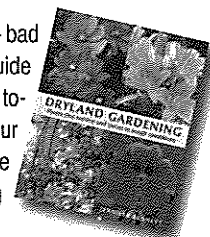
De Villiers describes dire events in arid regions all over the world: southwest Africa, the southwest USA and Mexico, Egypt and Israel, and parts of India and Central Asia. This book presents a compelling and engrossing account of why water is emerging as one of the central issues of the new century, and how water scarcity is shaping the human future.



Dryland Gardening: Plants that Survive and Thrive in Tough Conditions

Jennifer Bennett

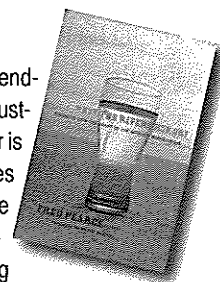
The world is getting warmer – and the weather less predictable – bad news for many of today's gardens. *Dryland Gardening* is your guide to selecting and growing plants especially chosen to survive in today's tough conditions, based on gardening techniques that favour not only water conservation but also low-maintenance, easy-care plants. This is also an excellent resource for people converting water demanding lawns to alternative landscapes.



When The Rivers Run Dry

Fred Pearce

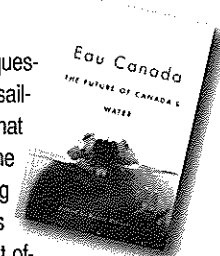
Engagingly written by a seasoned journalist (The Independent, former news editor of New Scientist), this book is a must-read to understand just how profoundly jeopardized water is in every part of the world. Pearce shows how water moves around the planet "virtually" – traded in commodities like food and cotton, and provides many examples of massive water engineering projects, at first thought to bring health and economic benefits to masses but now proving ecologically and socially disastrous. Some of the saddest stories are from Bangladesh and India, where highly touted backyard tube wells are tapping into water poisoned by natural deposits of arsenic or fluoride, wreaking havoc with the physical health and wellbeing of millions. Gloomy scenarios, but ones which point out the directions to positive changes for the better – captured in the latter chapters of the book.



Eau Canada: The Future of Canada's Water

Karen Bakker, ed.

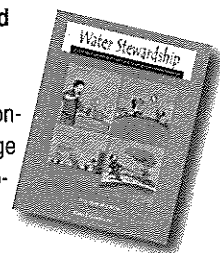
As sustainability of our natural resources is increasingly questioned, Canadians remain stubbornly convinced of the unassailability of our water. Mounting evidence suggests, however, that Canadian water is under threat. *Eau Canada* assembles the country's top water experts to discuss our most pressing water issues. Perspectives from a broad range of thinkers – geographers, environmental lawyers, former government officials, aquatic and political scientists, and economists – reflect the diversity of concerns in water management. Arguing that weak governance is at the heart of Canada's water problems, this timely book identifies our key failings, explores debates over jurisdiction, transboundary waters, exports, and privatization, and maps out solutions for protecting our most important resource.



Water Stewardship: A 30 Day Program to Protect and Conserve our Water Resources

David Gershon

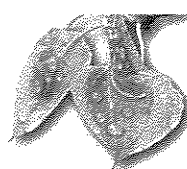
This book offers a common-sense approach to environmentalism in a program format accessible to any age group. Based on voluntary change and community support, these steps give neighbourhoods what they need to change the ingrained habits of how they use resources.



New Videos:

Dead in the Water: National Film Board of Canada with Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (DVD)

One in four people on earth don't have access to clean drinking water. Many governments lack either the resources or the will to provide this essential commodity to their citizens. In recent years, a number of powerful companies have spotted this crisis and seen a business opportunity. And from the deserts of California to the streets of Soweto, and several thousand other cities and towns throughout the world, often with the involvement of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, they have attempted to privatize what many consider a public trust. *Dead in the Water* investigates the results of these efforts at privatization in several key locations and chronicles what many see as the first in a wave of battles in the years to come.



OCTOBER

3-5 Take & Eat: A Conference on Food and Creation Care. Explore Christian approaches to the growing, processing, distributing, buying, and eating of food. At Providence College and Seminary, Otterburne, Manitoba (50 km from Winnipeg). Presented by A Rocha, C.P. Loewen Foundation, Providence College and Seminary, The Buller Foundation, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Canadian Mennonite University. Email takeandeat@prov.ca or visit <http://www.prov.ca>.

Basic Composting Workshops

Dead leaves are perfect for your compost bin! This workshop will teach you how to maintain an effective compost heap and discover the benefits that composting has for you and the environment. Pre-register for one of the following free workshops by calling 925-3778, or online at resourceconservation.mb.ca.

- **Millennium Library:** Friday, October 10 at noon
- **St. James-Assiniboia Library:** Saturday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Bibliothèque de St-Boniface:** Le mercredi 22 octobre à 19h00
- **West Kildonan Library:** Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m.

16-17 Northern Harvest Forum in Thompson, Manitoba. This exciting food security conference will feature innovations in northern agriculture and community stories that share traditional knowledge about food production. There will also be a World Food Day Dinner and the 2008 Golden Carrot Awards honouring Northern Community Food Champions the evening of the 16th. Keep posted to the MFC website at www.manitobafoodsecurity.ca for all the conference details.

27-28 The RED ZONE: Chemicals, Currents and Change. A symposium bringing together scientists from throughout the watershed and beyond to share their experience. *Presented by the University of Winnipeg Richardson College for the Environment and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation.* The symposium will be of interest to people who work in any area of water management in the watershed, to academic scientists, to educators, to non-government environmental agencies, to students at all levels, and to interested members of the public. For more information, or to register see www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/conf-the-red-zone-index.

NOVEMBER

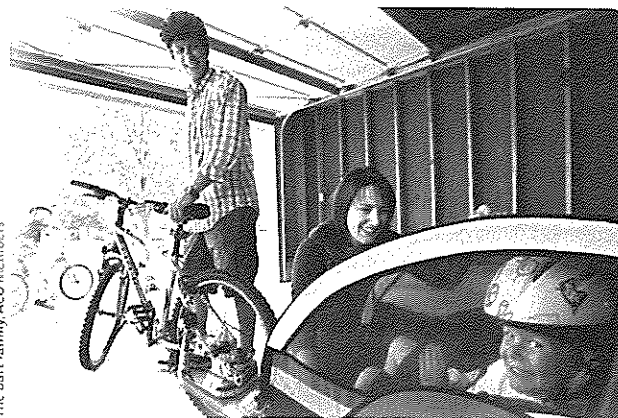
5&12 Youth Conferences on Climate Change. These conferences are tailor made for high school students in Winnipeg. Focussing on the key issues contributing to global warming and the action youth can take to reduce greenhouse gases. For more information visit www.climatechangeconnection.org.

New In the Library cont...

Thirst: Alan Snitow & Deborah Kaufman (DVD)

Is water part of a shared "commons," a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? *Thirst* tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions. Over a billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Each year, millions of children die of diseases caused by unsafe water. The numbers are increasing. These facts drive a debate in the opening scenes of *Thirst* at the 2003 Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan. Politicians, international bankers, and corporate executives gather to decide who will control global fresh water supplies. Their consensus for large dams and privatized, corporate water systems is challenged by experts and activists who assert that water is a human right, not a commodity to be traded on the open market. The film looks at community examples of challenges to corporate control from California to Bolivia to India as residents create a grassroots coalitions to demand a say in the process. They are worried about access, price hikes, water quality, and layoffs. American water plant supervisor Michael McDonald sees democracy itself at stake in this battle. Special features include a speech by Maude Barlow, Chair of the Council of Canadians, on two visions of the future of water: one corporate, and one representing the global commons.

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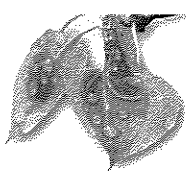
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MANITOBA WILDLANDS



Mountainside Community Woodlands Project Becomes Reality

*By Chris Reynolds, Woodlot Forester for MAFRI's Manitoba Agro Woodlot Program
Reprinted with kind permission of the Woodlot Association of Manitoba.*

THE COMMUNITIES of Hilltop and Scandinavia could become a new attraction for residents and tourists of the Onanole / Riding Mountain Park area. Located only a few miles from Erickson, these communities have been chosen as the site of a pilot project for the "Mountainside Community Woodlands Project".

The MCWP Project is a community-based initiative, aimed on promoting biodiversity, healthy watersheds, and economic opportunities through ecologically sound woodlot management practices. The project could provide a site for workshops and learning activities covering topics such as woodlot management, low impact logging, chainsaw safety, milling, drying, grading, marketing and building techniques geared to landowners and schools. Activities would follow the logical steps of trail construction, installing interpretive signage, preparing a log deck and milling site, selective harvesting, milling, and construction of classroom/ cabin and solar kiln. All of these activities could be delivered as instructional activities on an ongoing basis. The focus would be on emphasizing community based forestry, where jobs are provided for a local workforce, high value products are produced in an environmentally responsible way and the revenue stays in the community.

Daryl Neustater, a local landowner and woodlot enthusiast, made the proposal for the project. "The original concept was for a demonstration woodlot", says Neustater, "but it has grown to include things such as a trade fair showcasing local products and developing a local brand or logo for locally produced and ecologically responsibly produced goods and services". This could include products such as softwood sawlogs, specialty wood products, firewood, high quality hardwood lumber, non-traditional forest products, including fruits, berries, mushrooms and maple syrup, as well as recreational and eco-tourism opportunities.

The Mountainside Community Woodlands Project is a partnership between the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, MAFRI's Manitoba Agro Woodlot

Program, Nature Conservancy Canada, and the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District.

The first MCWP community meeting was held on Feb. 11, with more than forty landowners in attendance. Representatives from the Manitoba Agro Woodlot Program as well as Nature Conservancy Canada explained how woodlot plans and conservation agreements are compatible, as well as the ways that woodlot management plans can be used to maintain and improve the existing forest.

According to Shane Tornblom of the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives most landowners don't realize how important managing their bush is. "Trees are like people, as they get old they get weaker and become increasingly susceptible to disease. Carefully planned woodlot management actually improves the quality and health of the stand, while reducing the risk of wildfire." For more information about woodlot management or the Manitoba Agro Woodlot Program, please contact Chris Reynolds at 385-3492.

Sandy Walter of Nature Conservancy Canada spoke about the potential benefits and opportunities through conservation agreements. "Our conservation easements allow the landowner to retain ownership of their land, yet still participate in woodlot management" said Walter. "Using an approved woodlot management plan with a conservation easement will not only be a sustainable means of forest management, but will enhance biodiversity, water quality, and overall ecological health, benefiting both us and our future generations". For more information about conservation easements or Nature Conservancy Canada, please contact Sandy Walter at 729-3512.

Watershed management is the guiding principle behind the Little Saskatchewan River Conserva-



Photo courtesy of Chris Reynolds

Daryl Neustater felling trees marked for selective logging in the Agro Woodlot program.

tion District's involvement in the project. "Educating landowners about what is a watershed and the role our woodlots have in the Little Saskatchewan River watershed makes all residents more conscientious stewards" according to Colleen Cuvelier of the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District.

All landowners in the area are encouraged to participate and provide input for the Mountainside Community Woodlands Project. If you have any ideas, questions, or comments, please feel free to email Daryl Neustater at wtrails@mts.net, or phone Valerie Pankratz of the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve at 848-4574, or phone the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District at 1-866-820-1512.

Update:

The Mountainside Community Woodlands Project has presented two events, and has several more to be scheduled. Firesmart took place on May 10th, and focused on how landowners could learn to identify hazards and reduce wildfire risk on their property. A Square Timber Building workshop took place on July 29th and 30th, where participants learned how to construct a structurally sound building using jointed square timbers. Upcoming events will include Low Impact Logging (2 days, late October), as well as Chainsaw and Sawmill workshops (sessions available upon request). If you are interested in attending, contact Chris Reynolds at 385-3492 or creynolds@mhmc.mb.ca.



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