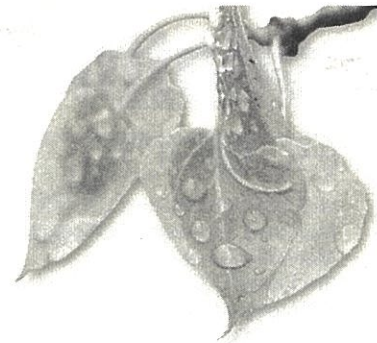


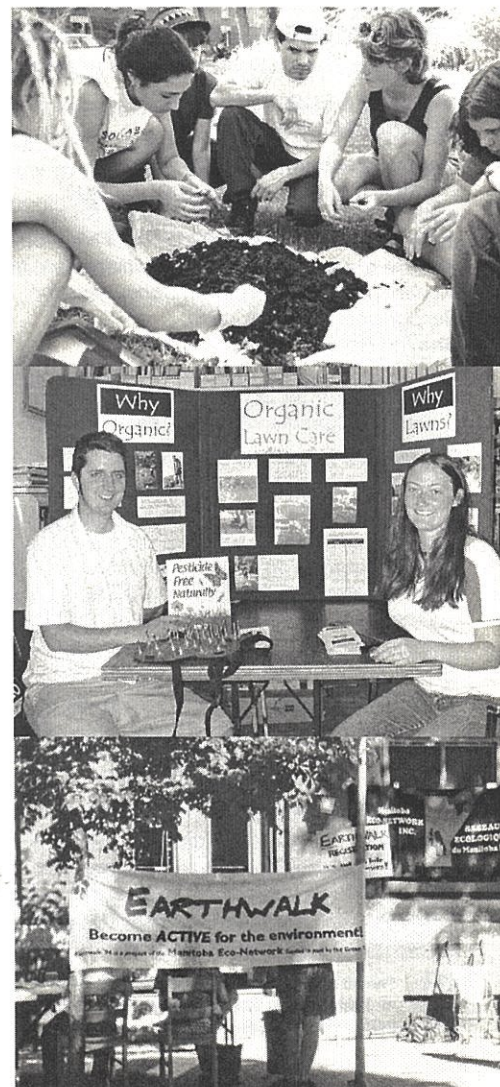


Manitoba Eco-Network looks back over 25 years

Publication Mail Agreement No 40010075

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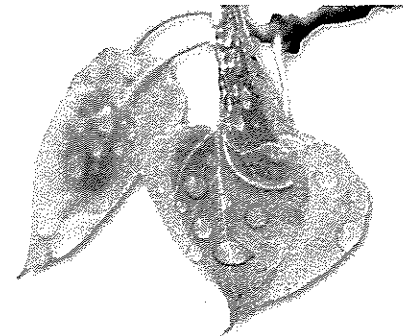
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or its member groups.



Anne Lindsey in Exchange
District office, 2002



Executive Director's Letter

WELCOME TO THE SPECIAL EDITION OF ECO-JOURNAL celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Manitoba Eco-Network! In this issue, we focus on looking back on those years through the eyes of some of our member groups, and some of the people who have played major roles in developing the organization. We thank everyone who responded to our call for memories and stories. I'm impressed by the number of people who have "stuck with it" over the years, celebrating their various successes, and persisting when much-needed changes in policy and behaviour still haven't happened.

There has definitely been good news along with the bad, and perhaps the best news is that the environmental movement is still at it, and the global population is climbing on board like never before.

I've been looking through the pages of *Eco-Journal* (and before that, the Manitoba Environmental Network News), as far back as 1988, and it's an education on the history of the environmental movement in this province. Here are a few headlines that jumped out at me from way back:

"Conawapa Workplan Released" - October, 1989
"Stop the Spray" - March, 1991
"Is Manitoba Forestry at the Threshold of a New Era?" - March, 1992
"Drop Everything to Fight NAFTA, lawyer advises" - September, 1992
"What is a Park?" - January, 1993
"Manitoba Goes Hog Wild" - November, 1995
Sound familiar?

It can be mighty discouraging looking at all those issues that are still unresolved years later. But, on the other hand, consider these headline samples:

"Street Gardens Grow Out of Neighbourhood Project" - July, 1993
"Citizen Action Wins New City Park" - January, 1994
"Province-wide Volunteer Network Base Aids Injured Wildlife" - September, 1994
"Compost Education Program Launched" - July, 1995

There has definitely been good news along with the bad, and perhaps the best news is that the environmental movement is still at it, and the global population is climbing on board like never before. It may take a few more years - hopefully not another 25 - but the policy and decision-making for environmental protection just **has** to catch up.

The current staff and Board of the Eco-Network wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have gone before us in our work here - all our volunteers; our funders; our allies in government, business and the media; and the incredible, dedicated group of people who are environmentalists in Manitoba! May you all keep on making a difference.

With this issue, we also say goodbye to Heather Laird and David Henry, editor and designer respectively, of the *Eco-Journal* for the past several years, and welcome to our new team of Jonah O'Neil (editor) and Tracey Shillington (designer). We hope you will enjoy the changes that Jonah and Tracey will bring to the *Eco-Journal*. Heartfelt thanks to Heather and David for their many contributions to our eco-publishing efforts. We wish them both much success in their future endeavours. ♡

Anne Lindsey
Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network



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eco-events in Manitoba

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

UNTIL MARCH 1

A Canadian Injustice - By Margaret Tatlock. An exhibit of over 40 colour posters that look at environmentally sensitive Canadians, their urgent need for medical treatment, and how Canadian provinces have failed them. This display is a must-see for those who value healthcare, believe in human rights, and care about fellow Canadians. MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury. Ph: 888-6781.

FEBRUARY

- 12 MB Chimney Swift Initiative** *Manitoba Naturalists Society, Presentation by Mike Quigley.* The MCSI was formed to monitor nesting and roosting sites and to provide roosting towers for this species that has been steadily declining in Canada since the 1960s. Find out more about the Chimney Swift, and the efforts being made to halt its decline. 7:30 pm, Rm 31, Kelvin High School. \$5 for MNS members, \$10 for non-members. Call the MNS at 943-9029 to register.
- 14 Go Fair Trade for 30 Days! Register Now for the One-Month Challenge** *Fair Trade Manitoba*, a program of MCIC, is encouraging Manitobans to support fair trade. You are invited to join the One-Month Challenge and pledge to drink fair trade coffee/tea and eat fair trade chocolate for 30 days, beginning February 14. Register at www.fairtrademanitoba.ca.
- 16 Seedy Saturday at the Conservatory** Don't miss this opportunity for gardeners to mingle and exchange ideas, seeds, wisdom, and humour! In addition to the mix of educational displays & presentations, the Conservatory has invited 'green' vendors, started a used garden tool and supply swap, and added a rainbow auction and workshops. 9am-4pm. Ph: 986-7051 or 986-2400. Email: btuloch@winnipeg.ca or msscouter@winnipeg.ca.
- 26 Lake Ecosystems: A primer for cottagers and canoeists - Part 2** *Manitoba Naturalists Society, Instructor: John Shearer, past MNS President & retired Senior Biologist & Operations Manager of the Experimental Lakes Area.* Many of us spend a lot of time around lakes. How well do we understand these ecosystems and how do our activities affect them? This presentation will describe a typical lake food web and discuss how human activities can alter the balance. Of particular interest to cottagers, canoeists, and naturalists. 7:30 pm, Rm 31, Kelvin High School. \$5 for MNS members, \$10 for non-members. Call the MNS at 943-9029 to register.

27 EcoFilms at the Park Theatre -

The Fight for True Farming See Below

MARCH

- 7-8 Conference: Growing Local, Getting Vocal: Cultivating a Food Secure Future for Manitobans** *Manitoba Food Charter.* Hands-on workshops, discussions, and displays will encourage participants to learn new skills, discover food security projects and issues around the province and connect with other food-minded Manitobans. Held at the University of Winnipeg. Ph: 943-0823. Email: growinglocal@mbfoodcharter.ca. www.manitobafoodsecurity.ca
- 8 Manitoba Eco-Network 25th Anniversary Gala** We're celebrating a quarter century of promoting environmental action! Join us for a gala evening of dining and dancing. Enjoy a meal featuring local organic cuisine, followed by entertainment and highlights of environmental activism in Manitoba. Tickets are \$45 per person, in advance. 6:30pm, Radisson Hotel, 288 Portage Ave. Ph: 947-6511. www.mbeconetwork.org/gala.php
- 26 EcoFilms at the Park Theatre - Thirst** See Below

APRIL

- 9-11 Beyond the Tipping Point: From Awareness to Action** The annual *Green Communities Canada* member conference is open to anyone interested in the innovative environmental work being done in Manitoba and across Canada and the chance to network with the many green organizations that will be gathered. Hosted by Resource Conservation Manitoba. Radisson Hotel, 288 Portage Ave. Ph: 925-3770. Email: randall@resourceconservation.mb.ca. www.resourceconservation.mb.ca

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Eco-Wednesday Film Series

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

Feb. 27: The Fight for True Farming - offers alternatives to the social and environmental impact of factory farming

March 26: Thirst - explores grassroots campaigns against the privatization of water

April 30: Crapshoot - looks at the failure of our current sewage disposal system and alternatives

May 28: Slow Food Revolution shows regional, Slow Food movements around the world

ADMISSION:

\$5 for members, students, seniors, low-income
\$8 regular admission, or a 3-film pass is \$20
Tickets at the door

7pm at the Park Theatre
698 Osborne St. South
The last Wednesday of each month.
Ph: 947-6511 for more information,
or visit www.mbeconetwork.org.

Please join us!

Milestones for the Manitoba Eco-Network

By Anne Lindsey, Executive Director

OUR FIRST OFFICE, BACK IN 1987, was off in a corner of the Manitoba Naturalists Society office on James Avenue. John Barker, the Coordinator and Jack Dubois, the Chair, along with the early Board members from groups like the MNS, the (then) Recycling Council of Manitoba, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, the Solar Energy Society, and others, laid the foundations for developing an official organization. Incorporation was accomplished in 1988, around the time that we moved into our own office – a windowless cubbyhole downstairs from the MNS. (We still shared their photocopier, however, in a tradition of sharing resources that continues to this day.)

I took over the position of Coordinator when John Barker left to work full-time with the Resource Recovery Institute, one of the precursors to curbside recycling in Winnipeg. Eventually, we graduated to a space with windows. We still had the occasional mouse, and it was a bit smelly, but it was large enough to accommodate our burgeoning collection of resource materials and all the people who wanted to use them. This collection eventually grew, of course, into the Alice Chambers Memorial Library.

Heady times

The late 80s and early 90s were heady times for environmental groups: the hole in the ozone layer and the record hot summer temperatures grabbed front page coverage with Time Magazine. Suddenly, everyone was concerned. Our phone rang constantly. People wanted information, they wanted to know what they could do, and they wanted speakers at their events. It was hard for our tiny NGO with absolute minimal resources to keep up.

Some of the major issues on which Manitoba environmental groups were working at the time included: recycling and waste reduction (yes, we eventually got curbside recycling), nuclear waste (Concerned Citizens eventually declared victory in its bid to get nuclear waste legislation), pesticide use – especially, you guessed it – mosquito spraying (unfortunately, we're still working on that one), new environmental legislation for Manitoba, mercury pollution from hydro dam flooding, and the list goes on.

In the midst of all this, MEN gained charitable status in 1990, thanks largely to the dogged assistance of lawyer and Board member, Brian Pannell, and to long-time supporter Hugh Arklie. This was a huge boost for MEN, as it meant we could now potentially access more funding for public education



Current staff of the Manitoba Eco-Network, 2008

and awareness of environmental issues. Our first foundation funders were local: the Winnipeg Foundation, the Thomas Sill Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

From green homes to ozone regulations

Our five-year plan for development, led by Brian Pannell and Steve Rauh, called for strengthening the "hub" of environmental activity, setting up sustainable funding, and developing communications vehicles. The Eco-Journal was born with Toby Maloney as its first editor. Sandy Hurwitz came on board to help develop funding opportunities. Sharon Segal delivered our "Greening the Home" program, with funds from the City of Winnipeg. Lindor Reynolds agreed to write the text for "The Green Guide to Winnipeg", our bestseller book, with support from Environment Canada's Environmental Partners Fund. We brought together numerous sectors for a forum on Ozone Depletion, and participated in the development of ozone regulations. Our list of member groups grew, and we implemented environmental awards to recognize the work of our peers.

All this meant plenty of scrambling to keep up with financial, managerial, and logistical necessities. Most of our Board members and staff (especially me!) came to this work as activists, not managers. It was a steep learning curve, and we are still on it.

A wake-up call?

Next, the era of "sustainable development" entered the picture, with much fanfare surrounding the Rio Conference and the Brundtland Commission. Many hailed this as the much-needed wake-up call for government and industry action, and it's true that many initiatives were begun. But how much of the hype resulted in "greenwash"? While many members of the public were comforted by the newly-instituted recycling programs and green labeling of supermarket products, most NGOs remained uneasy about the state of affairs, both globally and locally. This attitude is born out today by research reports such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Toward an EcoCentre

The Eco-Network and many Manitoba ENGOS, large and small, have persisted through all these years. We saw three more moves: to our space on Westminster Avenue, where Jan Westlund joined us as Volunteer Effectiveness Coordinator, and eventually Network Coordinator; to our first "EcoCentre" on Albert Street, where Glen Koroluk engineered our sharing of space with RCM (which became Resource Conservation Manitoba), and eventually with the Boreal Forest Network and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee; then finally to our wonderful



Board and staff retreat, LaBroquerie, 1991

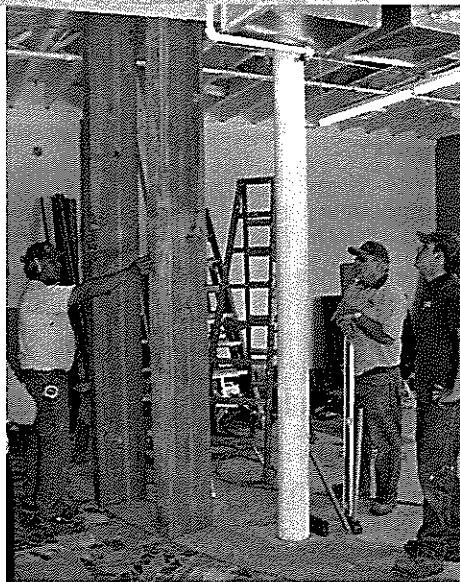
new green office EcoCentre here on the third floor of Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC). Liz Dykman took over the crucial role of Coordinator in 2001, and kept us all sane and organized as we frantically raised funds and prepared for our biggest move yet: a partnership with MEC, one of the country's major sustainable member-owned businesses.

Work and fun

We've hosted and organized important events such as the 1992 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Environmental Network, which brought 250 people, including the "archdruid" of the US Conservation movement, David Brower, to Hecla Island. We've packed auditoriums for the Manitoba provincial election Leaders' Debates on the Environment. We've held capacity building workshops for our member groups on communications, fundraising, and legal issues. We've done some fun things, too, like the Earthwalk, which was also in '94. We've auctioned desserts, learned ballroom dancing, and played outdoor hockey at 40 below. We've had our share of financial woes, almost closed down several times, and laid off all staff on two occasions. There has never been a dull moment.

Strides

In the past decade, we've built a bigger, more solid organization. Many Manitoba environmentalists have spent time on our Board to help guide the organization. We've been tremendously well supported in our extensive project work by a number of Canadian Foundations and all three levels of government. The provincial government's financial support since 2001 has been instrumental in helping to maintain our core of operations, though this aspect of our budget remains challenging. Highlights of our activities include helping to organize three Organic Agriculture Conferences, the Capacity Building Project, the Biotechnology Working Group, Sustainable Communities work, and the ongoing



Inner City Renovation installing beams for EcoCentre boardroom, 2005

ing Organic Lawn Care Education Project. We have several successful ongoing program areas: the Eco-Journal, the Alice Chambers Memorial Library, and the Volunteer Program, to name three. Over the years, the media has consistently turned to the Eco-Network for credible, independent commentary and referrals on all critical environmental issues.

Our current projects, Climate Change Connection, the Water Caucus, and the GIS/Mapping Centre, are blessed with dedicated and knowledgeable staff who work hard with our member groups and citizens to make Manitoba's environment better. We've made many strides, but today we are working against a backdrop of environmental challenges that have never been greater.

Please join us on March 8th at the Radisson Hotel to collectively celebrate the achievements and milestones of the Manitoba Eco-Network over the past 25 years – and to look ahead and reaffirm our commitment to creating a sustainable future for ourselves and our children!



Liz Dykman in Exchange District office, 2002

Seven Years in the Net'

Liz Dykman has been the Coordinator of the Manitoba Eco-Network since 2001. She's the person most likely to answer the phone when you call. Liz is also our volunteer coordinator, webmaster, IT consultant in the office, helpful editor, person who makes sure we have office supplies, GIS fieldwork volunteer, Green Drinks organizer... You name it, Liz has probably done it!

When I was deciding what to be when I grew up, I was determined to make a difference. After my science degree, I figured out that, although scientific research is essential, it didn't provide the direct link to making the change that I was seeking. After another degree in environmental studies, I was getting closer to where I wanted to be, but didn't have much in the way of organizing skills or experience in the ENGO community. I had gotten involved by volunteering for the Eco-Network, and as a board member of Resource Conservation Manitoba, when Jan Westlund, my predecessor, resigned her position to move to BC.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given when hired as the Coordinator of the Manitoba Eco-Network. I've learned so much in the last seven years! The small size of our staff means that I get to do a little bit of everything, and no two days are the same. From fixing the photocopier to meeting with Ministers, I get to do it all. The best part of working for Network is the opportunity to be a part of the great variety of issues and initiatives that our member groups and we tackle. The sense of community I feel, both within the organization and in the wider network, provides me with inspiration and motivation. This is indispensable when the problems we are all up against can seem so overwhelming. I feel lucky to be part of this organization, and hope that we can continue to help the environmental community make a difference in Manitoba



So Glad to Be Part of This Community

Sharon Segal served as the Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network from 1993-94. She also developed the Greening of the Home program, as she describes below, and together with Toby Maloney and Sandy Hurwitz, developed the concept and proposal for our Volunteer Effectiveness Program, eventually funded by the Winnipeg Foundation.

It was in 1989-90, while I was at home with my two young children, that I became aware of how much we consume, the amount of garbage we create, the products we buy, and what impact this has on the environment. With this in mind, I started collecting information on home environmentalism, and took my information to small community groups.

One of the programs that I started was the first Gifts That Keep On Giving holiday gift fair. Here I met Kris and Willy from Green Earth, and then met Anne Lindsey, and a host of other true environmentalists, and I was so impressed by these people, and so glad to be part of this community.

Anne managed to get a grant to further develop my Greening The Home program. I then met the other groups under the Eco-Network umbrella, and was moved by their dedication and commitment to their own causes. I especially enjoyed the vegetarian potlucks and speakers we would have a few times a year. It was good to socialize as I noticed that environmentalists can be a very serious bunch!

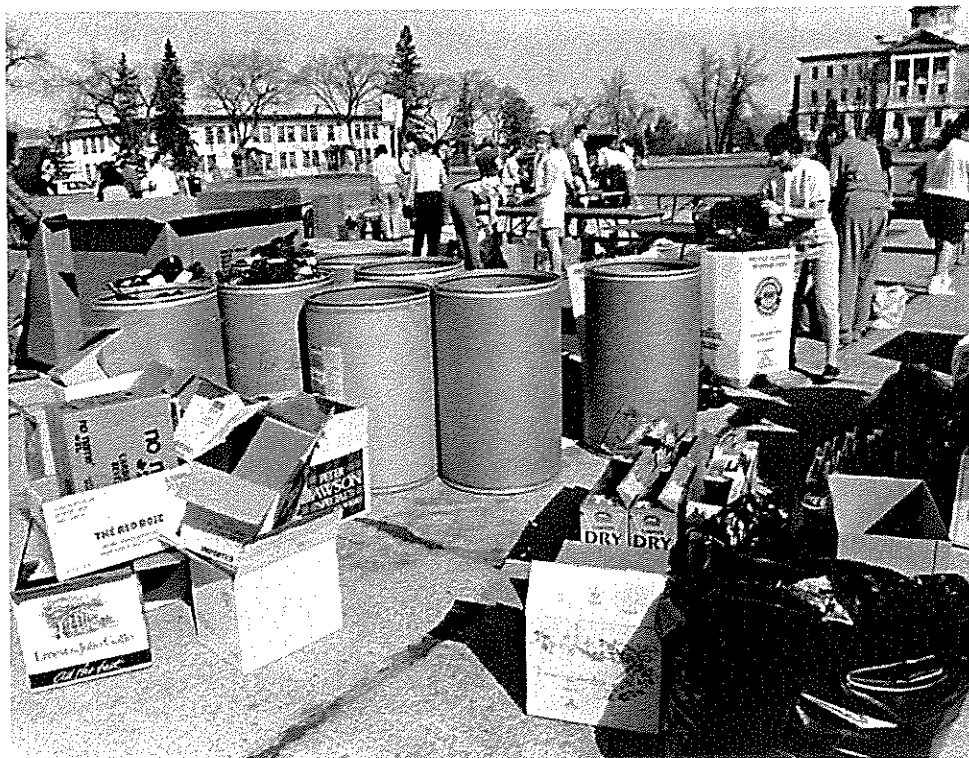
I was working with Anne, Toby, and Sandy in the early 1990s in an old warehouse building on James Avenue. I became Acting Executive Director during Anne's maternity leave, during which time we decided to move from an old, very large space in the warehouse district to a new space on Westminster Avenue next to Prairie Sky Books. It was a much smaller space, but we now had more visibility and more people coming to us. We needed to be involved with the community, and Wolseley was the right area at the right time.

It was harder to get people really interested in the '90s, but now every one seems to be more involved and concerned. The Eco-Network, its member groups, and individuals still play a vital part in education, action, and awareness. But we still have a long way to go!

Happy 25th anniversary Eco-Network. It was a pleasure to know and work with you, and here's to many more years ahead!

Grassroots Action Launched Recycling in Manitoba

By Resource Conservation Manitoba



Recycling Council volunteers sort materials at depot day, circa 1986, photo courtesy of RCM

IT IS ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT environmental successes of the past 25 years – the achievement of community recycling programs. It's a story, like many others, based in the energy and leadership of ordinary citizens rallying for environmental change.

For recycling in Winnipeg, it began in the early 1980s. People dismayed by the indiscriminate landfilling of valuable materials got together at Westminster Church to do something about it. Following some debate about how to structure a new organization, the Recycling Council of Manitoba was formally incorporated on February 14, 1985, with Jack Blandford, Robert Fenton, and Rod McCormick as its founding directors. Bob Fenton was the first President.

Members of the Council initially focused on promoting paper recycling at the Legislature and at the University of Winnipeg. The first direct Council-sponsored activity was aluminium can collection at the Walk for Peace in 1986. A depot day that October attracted over 100 people who brought newspapers, cans, and bottles for recycling. Eventually depots were established at four locations around the city. Committees outside Winnipeg carried the banner in their own communities.

Harvey Stevens was elected the second President. Other early activists included June Cowan, Tony

Kuluk, Jim Ferguson, Louise Archer, Dorothy Wise, Susan Snead, Louise Worster, Bill Goddard, Adolf Andres, Dave Thompson, Peter Miller, Carl Wenaas, and Jenny Hillard. Securing trucks, sorting materials, and loading recyclables for transport to market were huge tasks for a largely unpaid work force. Many new volunteers stepped forward, including Glen Koroluk who would subsequently follow Heather Macdonald as the Council's Executive Director and Rick Penner who would later take on the Presidency.

When 700 vehicles turned up at a collection event on Tuxedo Drive, it was clear that popular pressure for recycling was unstoppable. Elected officials got the message. A Waste Reduction and Prevention Act was proclaimed in 1990 and a new agency, the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation, was established. Blue box programs and community recycling services followed.

Through their volunteer efforts, members of the Recycling Council of Manitoba had convincingly demonstrated both the practicality of recycling and the public demand for it. In June 1996, members of the Council voted to focus the mission of the organization on promoting ecological sustainability and to change its name to Resource Conservation Manitoba.

The work continues.

Wilderness Committee

THE WILDERNESS COMMITTEE has been operating in Manitoba since 1999, and in Canada since 1980. We are the largest member-based and citizen-funded wilderness protection group in the country. Through strategic research and education we publicize the need to protect Manitoba's wild and natural areas, and provide citizens with tools to affect change in our province.

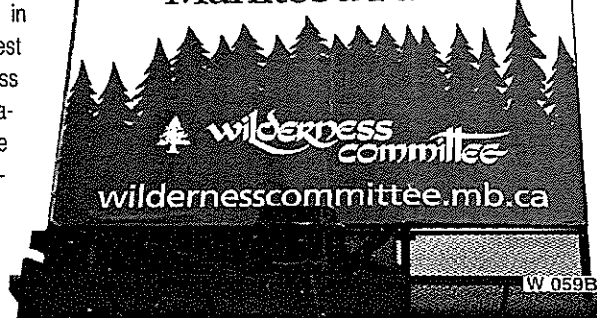
In the past few years, our successes have included helping establish Manigotagan River Provincial Park, and getting woodland caribou protected under the Manitoba Endangered Species Act. The Wilderness Committee has also been instrumental in keeping 14 park reserves in interim protection until they can receive permanent designation. Over 890,000 hectares of Manitoba wild lands are currently set aside from development due to our work.

Preserving the integrity of the east side of Lake Winnipeg continues to be a major campaign. We have delivered over 10,000 letters from Manitobans to the provincial government, asking that conservation come first when planning development on the East Side.

Getting industrial clearcut logging stopped in our provincial parks is also an ongoing priority for

RUN FOREST RUN

Help Stop Logging Manitoba Parks.



the Wilderness Committee. In 2007, several areas of Nopiming Provincial Park were temporarily set aside from clearcutting, but multinational logging giant Tembec has said they will clearcut these areas in the near future.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the years. Every citizen in Manitoba is encouraged to stand up for your right to undisturbed wilderness. Natural areas are a legacy of environmental consciousness that we must leave for future generations.

I'd also like you to join the Wilderness Committee in congratulating the Eco-Network for being at the center of forward-looking environmentalism for 25 years.



eco-journal

Project Peacemakers

By Dianne Cooper, for the Board

THANKS FOR ASKING Project Peacemakers to share in your special celebrations.

At our yearly eco friendly dinners we are inspired by speakers who care for the earth. As early advocates against landmines, our staff-person drew attention to the cause by biking around town with a one legged mannequin.

From our long list, I would highlight the activities that focused on children. Lead by Ruth Taronno and the Building Peace Through Play network, we sponsored annual toy festivals attended by about 400 people to share non-violent toys and cooperative games. Speakers went to schools, daycares, and church groups to talk about the issues and to pass out brochures. Our current brochures on the effects of violent videos and our annual Toy Store Inspection continue this education. More recently, funded by the Winnipeg Foundation, we have produced and promoted three resource books for use in private and public schools that help students and teachers learn how to be peacemakers.

Please call us if you would like to see these resources. And may the years ahead bring all of us as individuals and communities and countries closer to the vision we share of a world of peace and justice for all.

We'll Teach You About the Environment, and You Teach Us About Fundraising

Sandy Hurwitz was the Director of Development at the Eco-Network from 1991 through 1993, funded by a grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation. Sandy taught us a lot about fundraising ("Rule 1: If you don't ask, you'll never receive."). We continue to benefit from her initiatives, with efforts such as our Annual Appeal.

I'm a teacher and fundraiser by profession. When I joined the Manitoba Eco Network I was looking for new challenges; I knew fundraising, but little about environmental issues.

I still remember Anne saying, "We'll teach you about the environment, and you teach us about fund-

raising." That is how my involvement with the Eco-Network, and with the environment, began.

I learned a lot about environmental issues and what could and should be done to save and maintain a healthy planet. The Board, Anne Lindsey, and Toby Maloney never gave up on me and my consumptive

ways. The lessons I learned are still with me, and now I think I am sensitive to our environment and what is important.

The Eco-Network learned about fundraising, but I learned too: the difficulties of raising people's awareness of environmental issues, and how unpopular environmental issues really are (and especially were 15 years ago). We all persevered and the Manitoba Eco-Network is still here and celebrating 25 years in Winnipeg.

I still live by the lessons I learned. I congratulate the Eco-Network on their 25th anniversary. Caring for the environment and human rights will always be their legacy.



**BLUESTEM
WILDLIFE**



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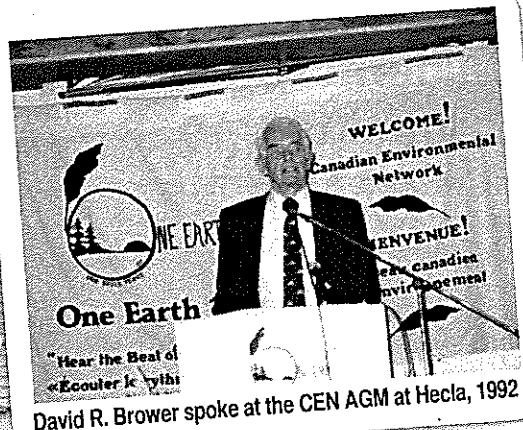
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transparency@parit.ca <http://parit.ca>



Idle Free Zone sign, Morden



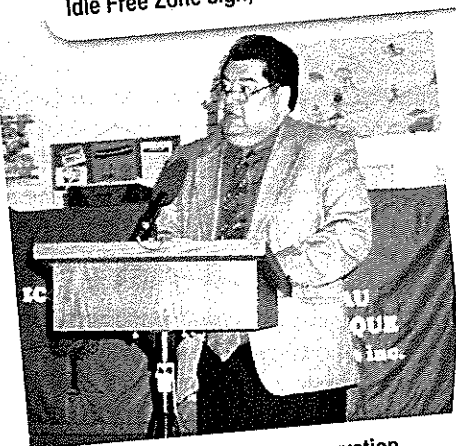
Jan, Anne, Rick, and Toby outside our Westminster office, 1994



David R. Brower spoke at the CEN AGM at Hecla, 1992



Gary Raven accepts award for Anishinaabe Turtle Island Protectors, 1998



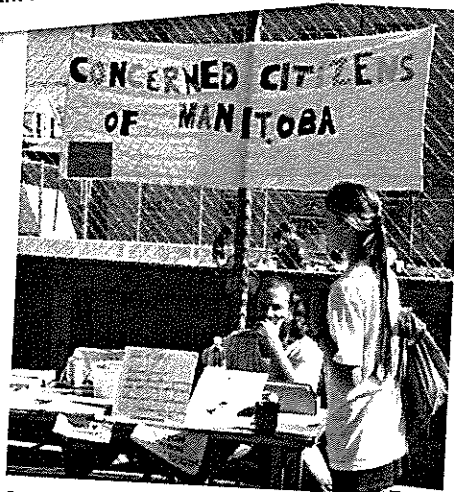
Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Conservation announcing Government of Manitoba operating grant to Manitoba Eco-Network, 2001



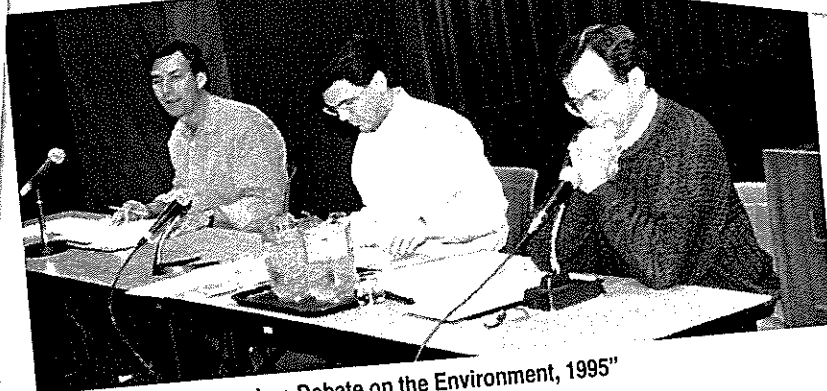
Anne Lindsey and Lindor Reynolds at the launch of the Green Guide to Winnipeg, 1992



Ecotopia Youth Activist Meeting, 1997



Concerned Citizens of MB display at Earthwalk, 1994



Provdebate "Party Leaders Debate on the Environment, 1995"

Protecting Children's Environmental Health

By Steve Rauh, Founder, Environment Committee of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

IN 2002 THE SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL of Winnipeg initiated an Environment Committee with a mandate to develop environmental initiatives that focused on low-income families and on children's health. The Committee was made up of representatives from environmental and health and civil society organizations, including the Eco-Network.

The Committee's first initiative was to organize *Exposed for Life: A Conference on Children's Health and the Environment*. The Eco-Network joined with SPCW



in playing a major role in the planning and fundraising for this successful event. The conference laid the groundwork for ongoing educational and policy work in the media, in government, in the health sector, and in the community at large. The Committee has since undertaken a number of initiatives, including two health practitioner roundtables, public educational presentations, and a successful screening of the film *Toxic Trespass*, followed by a workshop for health and childcare workers on children's health and the environment.

This work has led to a proposal to develop the Children's Health and Environment Partnership. The Eco-Network, Klinik, the Social Planning Council, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, and the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction are the founding organizations of the Partnership. The mandate of the Partnership will be to increase community knowledge and promote policies that will protect children from the increasing dangers to their health posed by environmental contaminants and environmental degradation.

Manitoba lags considerably behind other jurisdictions in implementing policy and practices to protect children's environmental health. The Partnership has the potential to become a key player in alerting Manitobans to the need for child-friendly and socially equitable environmental policies.

The Committee congratulates the Manitoba Eco-Network on 25 years of promoting and supporting environmental action!

Roseisle Creek Watershed Association

By Francene Adelman

NOT TOO FAR FROM the prairie town of Roseisle, along the escarpment of the Agassiz glacier, lies the Roseisle Valley. It is heavily forested with hardwoods, is defined by a meandering stream, and provides a habitat for a large variety of woodland plants and animals, including rare or endangered species. In the early 1970s, the Valley experienced an influx of "back-to-the land" idealists attracted to the idea of a lifestyle of self-sufficiency and resourcefulness. The current Valley residents were of like mind, wanting to protect the area's environment and wildlife. A community rich in diversity grew.

The Pumpkin Creek Faire was formed, a non-profit corporation which presented a yearly arts festival. In 1994, the focus of the Faire shifted from cultural to environmental, and the Roseisle Creek Watershed Association (RCWA) was formed.

In the late '90s, water quality tests on the Roseisle Creek showed indications of elevated nitrate and phosphate levels. The pristine creek of the late '70s became a thing of the past. Riverbank erosion became aggravated by increased run-off, and there were further threats to water quality from mineral resource operations. Recently, the wave of industrialized pork production has added a new threat, with several intensive livestock operation (ILO) barns being constructed within a few miles' distance.

Over the past 30 years, in public and personal ways, Valley residents have worked towards living

respectfully with the plants, animals, and people with whom they share their lives. The RCWA responded to all opportunities to speak at public hearings, as well as lobbying before the Municipal and zone planning councils. For the past 25 years, residents have taken roadside weed control into their own hands, opting to mow, at their own expense and time, all roadsides with tractor mowers and hand-operated brush trimmers, rather than accept chemical spraying by the RM. There is – finally! – the possibility of their own RM providing assistance to continue the project.

In personal ways, residents continue to make choices that reflect their early ideals. The approximately 20 homes that dot their way through the Valley show evidence of passive solar heating, super-insulated frame construction, alternative building materials and methods such as stackwall and straw bale, wind energy, composting toilets, gravity feed water systems, ground water cooling systems, careful woodlot management with milling of local trees, recycled materials and buildings, organic gardens, orchards, meat production, xeriscape plantings, and innovative building designs. There are even a couple of homes that continue to live off the Hydro grid!

Valley residents have changed over the years, and have made compromises, but strive to use traditional knowledge in ways that foster and sustain the environment.



Climate Change Connection Steering Committee receiving funding from Dave Chomiak, Minister of Energy, Science & Technology, 2005

Coalition to Save the Elms

THE COALITION TO SAVE THE ELMS' mission is to preserve and protect the urban forest, and we are proud to be carrying out this work on Broadway with our Adopt-a-Tree Program.

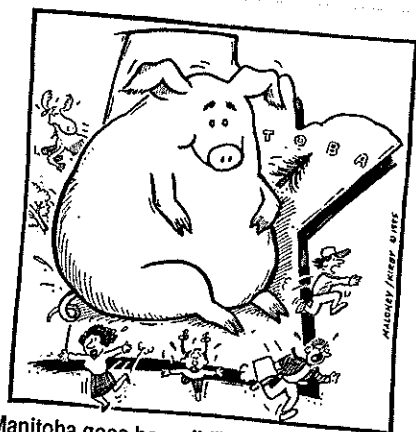
Begun in 2005 in partnership with the City of Winnipeg as a way to help save the boulevard elms on Broadway, the Program is one of the highlights of our work.

The Program has been a great success for several reasons. It has made a significant difference in the appearance of the trees; it has begun to provide us with information that lets us understand how the trees respond to their environment, and what we can do to help them; and it has allowed us to bring the community's efforts together with scientific and technical expertise.

Businesses on Broadway have been invited to "adopt" a tree for a five-year period, with the funds provided going to the care of their tree. The response from the private sector has been outstanding from the private sector. We have also received significant support for the project by way of grants, such as from the Thomas Sill Foundation, the Winnipeg Foundation, SDIF, and the Tree Canada Foundation under the Green Streets program.

The elms are annually washed and banded, and they were pruned this past fall. Over the course of the Adopt-a-Tree Program, they have also received technical treatments designed to improve their health. We are very excited about how the trees are looking, as well as about our ongoing research component, which is giving us new insights into the trees' health. We hope to be able to take what we have learned from this project and expand it to other parts of the city, to benefit as many trees as possible.

Winnipeg's trees are part of our city's living infrastructure. On behalf of all of us at the Coalition to Save the Elms, I invite you down to Broadway to enjoy the wonderful trees.



"Manitoba goes hog wild". Kirby and Maloney predict pork excess in the province's future. Nov/Dec. 1995

Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems TREE Sprouts

By Peter Miller

TREE SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY IN THE SPRING of 1989 at a press conference in front of a grove of trees at the Legislative Building. The night before, we adopted our platform of calling for a thorough environmental assessment and firmed up our name: Time (not Try) to Respect Earth's Ecosystems (TREE). The press conference coincided with the public signing of a deal that gave REPAP (now Tolko) in The Pas a Forest Management License for 40% of Manitoba's forests.

Turns out, a lot of environmental groups shared concerns about harm to forest ecosystems and water (a shift to chlorine bleached pulp was planned) and the absence of markets for recycled paper. Within a year, TREE became a coalition of groups that included the Brandon Natural History Society, CPAWS, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba, Greenpeace, MNS, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, RCM, Sierra Club, Westman Wilderness Club, student groups at U of W and U of M, and several others.

I remember one debate about whether to participate in a flawed environmental assessment or to protest. We did both, setting up a fortress of bundled newspapers and oil drums outside the Art Gallery to call attention to the paper glut and dioxins and furans from chlorine

bleach, and then going inside to make our case. Together we hammered out A Forest Agenda for Manitoba that has guided TREE ever since, through multiple interventions, policy consultations, and the establishment of Manitoba Model Forest, of which TREE and the Manitoba Naturalists Society are founding partners.

Early instigators and later volunteers included Harvey Williams, President; Jack Dubois, Secretary; Hugh Arklie, Treasurer; Peter Miller, Vice-President; Brian Pannell, legal counsel; Anne Lindsey; Markus Buchart; Nick Carter; Kim Monson; Ken Emberley; Melinda McCracken; Christine Houghton; Heather Henderson; Steve Rauh; Mike Sutherland; Dave Barnes; Alison Elliot; Ian Greaves; Kate Maddigan; Kemlin Nembhard; Bill Zaretsky; Art Allan; Roger Turenne; Glen Koroluk; Dan Soprovich; John Sinclair; and the indefatigable Alice Chambers.

[Note from Anne Lindsay: How did TREE get its name? When someone realized that REPAP was "paper" spelled backwards, we determined that our group must be called "tree". Thereafter ensued several hours' perusing of the dictionary in Brian Pannell's law office in search of a suitable title which would render "TREE" as an acronym!]

Trust in Wisdom

Toby Maloney coordinated our Hazardous Waste community project in 1990 and went on to become the founding editor of Eco-Journal and our Director of Communications until 1996.

My introduction to Manitoba Eco-Network was in 1990 when I worked on a project to facilitate community decision-making for a proposed hazardous waste facility in Manitoba.

At that time several small communities were considering hosting the facility, and our job was to bring some resources to citizens groups to balance the debate. One of the resources we provided was in the form of Great Lakes United founder and veteran (even then) toxic waste activist John Jackson from Kitchener, who traveled with me to western Manitoba to meet with citizens.

As part of our efforts he participated on a panel at a community forum in Hamiota along with several representatives of the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Corporation. The forum was attended by a couple of hundred people because there had been a protracted debate while MHWC tested prospective sites in the community.

A lot of people spoke, but mostly past each other. That wound down at some point, and the moderator was about to wrap things up when John, who seemed to be watching a fellow fidgeting in the third or fourth row, spoke up to say, "I think this gentleman has something to say."

The guy jumped to his feet as if spring-loaded and commenced to articulate all the feelings in the room, including his own sincere struggle between wanting jobs for Hamiota, and wanting to trust the engineering. He insisted that there were no sides, that everyone wanted both, and that the question wasn't whether to have the hazardous facility, but what kind of development Hamiotans wanted for Hamiota. That pretty much summed up the process in Hamiota.

MHWC investigated several other communities but the momentum to build a physical-chemical facility evaporated and eventually all that was built was a contaminated soils treatment site at Letellier. Fifteen years later I'm still in awe of John's trust in the wisdom of ordinary citizens to make a good decision, and to recognize that wisdom in someone who almost didn't say a word.

Native Orchid Conservation, Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Manitoba Eco-Network on its 25th anniversary! Our organization, Native Orchid Conservation Inc. (NOCI), is dedicated to the conservation of native orchid species and their habitat, and we enjoy being a member of the Eco-Network.

One of our most significant accomplishments has been securing a high degree of protection for the Brokenhead Wetland. The Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve is 563ha (or three times the size of Assiniboine Park), and is home to many rare and unusual plants, including 28 species of native orchids. On Friday, June 24th, 2005, Premier Doer announced the creation of a new ecological reserve located just 70km north of Winnipeg, near the south-east corner of Lake Winnipeg. NOCI had worked since 1998 to have this area protected and it was a happy day when we attended the ceremony at Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. Our organization worked closely with Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, the Eco-

logical Reserves Board, and the other stakeholders to make this a reality.

Since then we have been working with the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and the Manitoba Model Forest to have boardwalks and interpretive trails installed, in order to prevent damage to the wetland and the rare plants and animals that live there, and to allow the public to visit the wetland safely.

In 2007, we set up a new non-profit corporation, Debwendon Inc., the purpose of which is to promote and preserve the Brokenhead Wetland; to fund raise for the installation of boardwalks; and to educate the public about, one, the cultural connection between the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and the wetland, and two, about this rare wetland's intrinsic value.

For further information about the project please visit www.debwendon.org and for information about the wetland, its rare plants, or to make a donation please visit www.nativeorchid.org.

The Manitoba Naturalists Society

By Les McCann, President

FOUR MNS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST 25 years include first, recovery from a tragedy; second and third, two of our publications; and fourth, an environmental undertaking.

The tragedy was the loss of our Mantario cabin to fire. Out of the ashes of loss came a steeling of our members' resolve not to let this event interfere with our program to promote Manitoba wilderness opportunity. This expressed itself in the reconstruction of a state of the art cabin at Mantario Lake.

While there have been numerous publications on bird watching in Manitoba, I believe all would concede that *Manitoba Birds* is the definitive book on Manitoba bird watching. The publication of *Naturescape Manitoba*, compiled in partnership with a number of other organizations, took another direction in Nature appreciation, giving Manitobans the information they needed to add a bit of prairie to their yard, their home, and their community.

An environmental undertaking was bringing to the Manitoba Government's attention our membership's displeasure at the fact that very little of our province was put aside for non-hunting purposes. While the MNS recognizes the benefits of hunting, we also understand wildlife's need for refuge. This is a complex issue over which our organization struggled and met several times with Manitoba Conservation representatives. The effort culminated with a public workshop, which included panel representation by Minister Struthers, several of his department heads, and the MNS. This concluded our effort to bring this issue to the government's attention.

Our objective is always to be a strong voice for Nature through our various programs of field trips, indoor programs, habitat conservation efforts, and environmental actions.

My Memories of the Early History of the Manitoba Eco-Network

Jack Dubois was instrumental in the early years of the both the Manitoba Environmental Network and the Canadian Environmental Network. He chaired our organization from 1986 to 1996.

The Manitoba Environmental Network was founded by Bill Goddard after attending national meetings of the Canadian Environmental Network held from 1982 to 1984. My involvement with the Manitoba Eco-Network began, I believe, in 1985 when I started attending meetings, both in Manitoba and of the Canadian Environmental Network. At the MEN Provincial Meeting in March 1986, I became Chairperson of the steering committee, a position I held for the next ten years. The steering committee was fairly small – some of the names I remember are Bill Goddard, Dorothy Wise, Jean Harding, Ken Gibbons, Ilene Orr, Ken Emberly, Dennis Breed, Anne Wieser (now Lindsey), Dennis Muldrew, Atish Menir, Mary Stuart, and Alice Zeiler.

Just to give a sense of how the organization has grown, in 1986 the Network had a total budget of less than \$2,000, of which \$800 was revenue from Environment Canada. When I took over, Bill handed me the organization's files virtually in a shoebox, and for the next few years the Network's "office" consisted of a filing cabinet drawer in my office at the Museum. But many people worked hard to develop the Network, and we never looked back. We hired our first (half-time) Coordinator, John Barker, in late 1985. Our first newsletter went out in early 1985, at irregular intervals, and was cut and pasted, literally, by yours truly for the first year or two. In November 1987 we committed to a monthly newsletter. It became even more polished with the commitment of Toby Maloney to be the editor in January 1990. In October 1990, the Network was granted charitable status by Revenue Canada.

Some of the other milestones I recall during the early years of MEN were the hearings held in Ottawa in 1985 by the World Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Commission, that produced the report to the United Nations entitled "Our Common Future"; MEN hosting the annual meeting of CEN at Hecla Island in the early '90s; me chairing the CEN national steering committee at the time when that body hired its first full-time Director, Stephanie Cairns, and really solidified into its role in Canada today; and of course persuading Anne to become the first full-time Executive Director of what we by then had renamed the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Overall I would say that the early days of the Network were very exciting. We had a strong sense of community, both provincially and nationally, of commitment, and of making a difference. Of course, the best thing about being involved was the wonderful people I met who truly enriched my life with their wisdom and camaraderie.



Larry Laliberté and Adam Melnyk, GIS Project staff, 2003. Photo courtesy of Winnipeg Foundation

Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association

THE DISCOVERY OF THE OZONE "HOLE" IN 1985 shocked and woke-up the world. It is regarded as one of the 20th century's major environmental challenges. Today, the challenge continues with ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and their chemical alternatives still being used in a variety of applications by nearly every nation on earth.

It took years of assessment, debate, research, and negotiations to promote the first general ozone Agreement, *The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer*. Further specific commitments were made in 1987 with the signing of *The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* by twenty-four nations, including Canada. *The Montreal Protocol* is recognized as the globe's most successful international environmental treaty and is also the world's first pledge to address climate change. There are now 192 nations that have committed or ratified *The Montreal Protocol*.

In Manitoba, a Private Member's Bill (18) in 1989 called the Ozone Layer Protection Act, was introduced into the Manitoba Legislature to address ozone depletion. The Government invited a variety of stakeholders to form a working group to help develop regulations. Manitoba Eco-Network representatives Nick Carter and Anne Lindsey participated in these inaugural meetings that helped shaped the embry-

onic success of the program and eventually the formation of the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA).

The stakeholder group advised the Government on the emerging and evolving regulation with regard to specific technical trades, environmental issues, and industry challenges. Eventually the stakeholder working group emerged as MOPIA in 1994. With this effort, Manitoba took a leadership role in being the first province in Canada to appoint an ozone protection stewardship organization. In addition, Manitoba was the first to implement mandatory certification training for persons working with regulated ODSs within the air conditioning and refrigeration sectors. Since 1993, nearly 11,000 Manitobans have been trained and certified. Eventually certification training became mandatory across Canada.

A multi-stakeholder volunteer Board of Directors selected from among its 5,000 members directs MOPIA's activities. MOPIA derives nearly all of its income from mandated regulated sources, has been nominated for various international environmental awards, and was a recipient of the 1999 Manitoba Sustainable Development Award of Excellence. MOPIA has developed a unique partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme and has coordinated international capacity building study tours. See www.mopia.ca. 

Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Winnipeg (CPR! Winnipeg)

By Ian Greaves

CPR! WINNIPEG HAS BEEN AROUND FOR about 10 years. The organization's mandate has always been to educate the citizens of Winnipeg about the hazards of chemical pesticides used on lawns and gardens, and to work with the City of Winnipeg to create a by-law to restrict this non-essential use of pesticides.

When CPR! Winnipeg started in the late 1990s, there was very little going on in the cosmetic anti-pesticide movement in Canada. At that time, only a few municipalities in this country had any protection from lawn and garden chemicals. In fact, doing research on the issue back then, I could find out more about what was going on in the US than I could in Canada. And I was envious of the better protection provided for citizens south of the border. However, that has changed completely, and there are now people in the US that are envious of some of the very strong by-laws in Canada.

The issue really started to take hold in this country when Halifax became the first big city to pass an

anti-pesticide by-law. Since then, there has been a tide of by-laws rolling across Canada. Municipalities of all sizes have passed pesticide by-laws, the largest being the City of Toronto and the smallest being Sainte-Paule, Québec. (There are now over 13.8 million Canadians, or 43.9% of Canada's total population, benefiting from enhanced protection from unwanted exposure to lawn and garden pesticides.) Sadly, and despite our best efforts, Winnipeg still isn't on that list. Last year's by-law may assist a little with education, but really does nothing for protection. However, we hope it is the first step in the right direction. Many Winnipeggers believe that the use of synthetic chemicals for lawns and gardens will soon become socially unacceptable, much like smoking. Winnipeg will one day have a strong pesticide by-law in place so that its citizens, young and old, will be protected from these unnecessary chemical exposures. 

A Positive Mid-Life Crisis at MEN

Jan Westlund joined the Eco-Network to manage the Volunteer Effectiveness Project in 1994, eventually becoming the Eco-Network's Coordinator a couple of years later. She played an instrumental role in this position until departing for the West Coast in 2001. While in Manitoba, Jan also played a leadership role as President of Resource Conservation Manitoba for two terms.

The swell of '80s environmental concern had passed, leaving ENGOs beached like wildlife after a west coast oil spill. The Eco-Network, RCM, and others had occasionally voiced the necessity of pooling resources, but pressing issues like the new BFI landfill site, Louisiana Pacific's OSB plant proposal, and pressures to develop recycling drained energy for anything more than pipe dreaming.

Even though all that potential was hard to heat, ... it instantly felt like the heart of something vital.

In the mid '90s, finally stretched to the limit, Glen Koroluk, then Executive Director of the Recycling Council of Manitoba, Anne, and I squeezed out a time to view likely EcoCentre locations in the Exchange District. Disheartened after futile touring, we retired to the Fyxx where a dog-eared notice advertised a huge, affordable walk up with hardwood floors at 70 Albert St. AVAILABLE NOW! We quickly confirmed the space had potential written all over it, and started packing.

Even though all that potential was hard to heat, the floor's mud magnets, and our sparse office furniture being lost in the space, it instantly felt like the heart of something vital. The contract ink was barely dry when Eco-Network staff organized a consultation in our new boardroom. Satisfaction at successfully completing the first of many fruitful events in these digs was humbled by having to scrub the resulting dishes in the shared bathroom sink upstairs.

Eventually, the photo studio/apartment at the back was absorbed to acquire our own bathroom, utilitarian kitchen, and the infamous shower (awkwardly overheard through so many mid morning meetings). Camaraderie flourished as we ventured further out on this blossoming branch by including the Boreal Forest Network and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

It felt a bit tentative at first, but by pooling resources, acting with intention, and stretching to accommodate one another's needs, we were (and the EcoCentre still is) a microcosm of that which is required for survival. 

Organic Food Council of Manitoba

By David M. Neufeld, with our Board and staff: Janine Gibson, Julie Fine, Adolf Andres, and Sharon Taylor. www.organicfoodcouncil.org

HOW DO WE FEEL ABOUT THE MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK?

Warm, cared for, well represented. Seeing as how we live in the southwest corner of the province, I rarely get into Winnipeg and therefore haven't even been to the new Eco-Net office. My intimate feelings for you as an organization may therefore seem strange. Perhaps this is your genius. Not in making us appear strange, although I have nothing against that, but rather in the way you project yourself so beautifully as an organization.

It was through our creation of the Organic Food Council of Manitoba that I came to know of MEN. Your office was our anchor through the early years - putting on three *Our Food, Our Health, Our Future* conferences and publishing the early *Guide to Organic Food in Manitoba*. Thank-you Anne Lindsay and Jan Westlund. We're now more stable as an organization but we still rely on you for information on fundraising, finding partners, and functioning as a low-admin Board. Thank-you Anne and Liz for all you are, for all you do.

Are we winning the sustainability versus greed battle? Probably. I hope those of us who've been in the trenches can recognize a critical mass when we see it. There will always be distractions. The poise with which we fight, the caring we express along the way - these things matter just as much. You, our organizational mentor and friend, represent a working model of gentle, persistent, celebratory, and collective love in action. Good people of Manitoba Eco-Network - OFCM members thank you. We offer great, sustaining hugs of appreciation. ☺

Decades of Reading the Eco-Journal

David Henry did the layout for Eco-Journal from 1997 to 2007. He's also been involved in many Winnipeg environmental efforts.

After eleven full years of doing layout for the Eco-Journal, my over-enthusiasm and stubborn commitment were starting to wear out a bit. So, it was a sense of relief for me to know that Tracey Shillington is taking up the challenge of layout, and Jonah O'Neil that of editorial. They have my grateful thanks, as well as fervent wishes that the Eco-Journal brings as much joy to them as it brought to me.

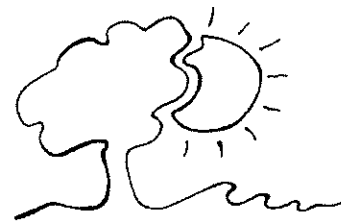
When I started with the Eco-Network in 1997, I inherited a good little newsletter/magazine with some sound environmental publishing requirements, such as 100% recycled paper stock. At the time, it had become possible to move to pure vegetable inks, so I was happy to specify that. The print shop sometimes had difficulty with the order (especially the paper), but we were glad to be pushing the "green" envelope. Fifty-five editions later, I am proud to say that we kept inching up the quality and never compromised on principles, despite frequent temptations.

Prior to all this layout stuff, I had been part of a number of groups that were, or became, Eco-Network members. Way back in 1991, I worked for Earth Corps, the people who brought you the Community Bicycle Project, and who first turned the soil for the Sherbrook Community Garden. That was where I got the "community-based" bug that has guided me since. And that's when I started reading the Eco-Journal.

Now, with a bit more time to spend on two of the organizations with which I'm currently involved, I'm also free to be a bit more outspoken. When being paid to do layout, it is a good idea to be absolutely impartial. Anyone who knows me well also understands that I can be very, um, insistent. So, I'm looking forward to having another crack at changing the world, and writing about it. And maybe even reading about it in the Eco-Journal. ☺



Save Hockey Day - raising climate change awareness in -40 weather, 2006



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Remembering Alice

By Roger Turenne and Donna Danyluk, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter

The following is excerpted from an article that appeared in Eco-Journal Vol. 10, No. 1, January/February 2000.

ALICE CHAMBERS, CPAWS Manitoba Vice-President, died in Pinawa, Manitoba, on December 13, 1999, at age 62, after a lengthy battle with cancer. She leaves an incomparable legacy.

In one respect, Alice's life was unremarkable. Young woman interrupts career to become stay-at-home mother, spends the rest of her life in a small town, and does volunteer work. But



to recast an expression from Churchill: Some mother! Some volunteer!

When Alice was first invited to attend a CPAWS chapter meeting, she said, in her usual self-effacing manner, "I'm not sure that I would be able to contribute anything..." That comment is a shoo-in for "understatement of the century". Alice soon became our most active volunteer, and most important of all, our inspiration and motivator.

[After being diagnosed with cancer,] far from slowing down, she re-doubled her efforts, and between treat-

ments, put all of her energy into furthering the cause of conservation. She remained passionate about nature, passionate about her family, and passionate about life.

Alice's work will carry on, and her legacy will continue to grow. We will follow her vision of a country where its citizens live in harmony with their natural environment. It is our way of saying, "Thank you, Alice, for what you have done and what you have been."



Recognizing Alice Chambers with tree planting at St. Norbert Arts Centre, 1998

The Eco-Net is Essential

John Sinclair chaired the Board of the Manitoba Eco-Net from June 2002 to June 2003, representing Resource Conservation Manitoba.

When Anne told me about her idea of getting past Chairs of the Manitoba Eco-Net to reflect on what was happening during their term, three things came to mind. One: The great group of people that were on the steering committee at the time from whom I learned a great deal and who made Anne and my jobs easier. Two: Our success in expanding the number of member groups, with organizations such as the Winnipeg Humane Society, Living Prairie Museum, and Greening West Broadway joining and contributing to a very exciting members' forum that included everything from keynote speeches from Ministers to capacity building workshops on activism. And three: The 2003 election and the potential for new thinking about conservation and the environment with the NDP's second term.

I had to think more carefully about the issues that dominated member groups and the steering committee time during this period. The ones that I remember best relate to my keen interest in environmental assessment. The Wuskwatim "consultations" started, with a formulaic approach to involving ENGOs late in the process and through town hall type meetings. And there was the Simplot hearings into potato processing, the result of which was members writing about the problems with information dissemination and timing of decisions in the EA process. I also remember spending a fair amount of steering committee time discussing the formation and implementation of Climate Change Connection and our role in those activities in 2002. The issue of hog production was also front and centre with numerous individuals and member groups helping people with the decision processes that were going on in their municipal councils, since the province refused to get involved other than through the licensing of sewage lagoons. And it seems to me that the perennial favorite, mosquito fogging, was also on the table with arrests having taken place locally.

It is interesting to reflect, during the Eco-Net's 25th anniversary celebrations, on how we have progressed on these and other issues. The role of the Eco-Net is at least as essential now as it was when the organization was founded – especially since we still wait for governments to embrace a "new think" on conservation, precaution, and the environment.



2008 MANITOBA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE and EARTH FORUM

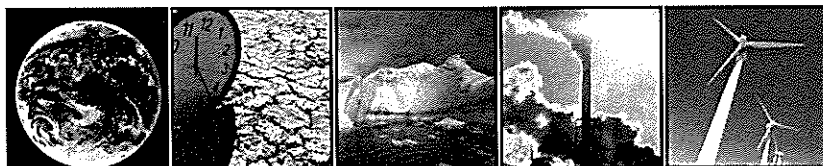
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Earth Day, April 22 & April 23, 2008

Two days of concurrent workshops and an evening public forum on alternative energy, a trade show and poster design competition.

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Register today online at www.climateforum.ca - or - www.mopia.ca



eco-education & workshops

Feb. 19 - Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop

Manitoba Naturalists Society, Instructor: Jackie Avent, Resource Conservation Manitoba. Join Jackie, National Outdoor Leadership School graduate and LNT Master Educator for a workshop on minimizing your impact on the environment when camping, paddling, or hiking. The workshop will include an introduction to the idea of "Leave No Trace" and emphasize the skills and techniques essential to the philosophy. Participants will receive an Awareness Workshop Certificate and suggestions on how to access more information about "LNT". 7:30pm, Rm 31, Kelvin High School. \$5 for MNS members, \$10 for non-members. Call MNS at 943-9029 to register.

March 25-June 3 - Exploring Voluntary Simplicity

The Simplicity Practice and Resource Centre (SPARC); Instructor: Mark Burch, M.A.; author; featured guest on CBC's "Discovering Simplicity", "Ideas", "Man Alive", and "What On Earth?"; consultant for Vision TV's "The Simple Way"; 35 years as an adult educator; voluntary simplicity practitioner since the 1970s. "Exploring Voluntary Simplicity" is an 11-week community-based course. Tuesday evenings, March 25-June 3, 6:30pm-9:00pm, R. A. Steen Community Club, 980 Palmerston Ave. \$250, includes all textbooks, materials, and refreshments. Limited to 30 people; must pre-register. Ph: 475-4233. Email: info@simplicitycentre.org. www.simplicitycentre.org.

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

A successful company with heart

At Assiniboine, social responsibility is at the heart of everything we do. And it's making a difference in the lives of thousands of Manitobans.

In addition to once again being named one of Canada's Top 100 and one of Manitoba's Top 15 employers, we are pleased to have been recognized with the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community.

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Good things happen here.

25 Years of Rewarding Good Work

Groups and individuals in Manitoba's environmental community have garnered numerous prestigious awards over the past years. Here is just a sample of those.

Alice Chambers

- Manitoba Sustainable Development Lifetime Achievement Award: 2003

Manitoba Naturalists Society

- Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Award: June 4, 1991
- Canadian Nature Federation Affiliate Award: 1994
- Heritage Now Outstanding Contribution Award: April 25, 1998
- Wildlife Society 2004 Conservation Award, Manitoba Avian Research Committee, MNS: March 25, 2004
- Best Illustrated Book of the Year Award, for *Naturescape Manitoba*: April 23, 2004
- Mayor's Volunteer Service Award: April 18, 2007

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

- Certificate of Recognition, by Premier Gary Filmon on behalf of the Manitoba Roundtable for Sustainable Development, for valuable contribution towards sustainable development: April 14, 1999
- Premier's Volunteer Service Award in the Community Category, for working to protect native orchid species and their habitat: April 26, 2006
- Canadian Environment Awards, Silver in the Conservation category, for efforts to protect the Brokenhead Wetlands: June 4, 2007

Sophia Bittern Rabliauskas, Poplar River First Nation

- Goldman Award: 2007

Resource Conservation Manitoba

- Healthy Communities Distinguished Service Community Award, from the Manitoba Public Health Association, for the promotion of active transportation: June 13, 2002.

Save Our Seine Environment, Inc

- Mayor's Volunteer Service Award: April 2004
- Prairie Crocus Award, Manitoba Naturalists Society: 2004
- Canadian Environment Awards, Finalist: 2004

John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba, past Chair of MEN

- Campbell Outreach Award, University of Manitoba: 2002

Don Sullivan, Gaile Whelan Enns, and Anne Lindsey

- Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medals: 2002. All were nominated by Senator Mira Spivak.

In addition, take a look at our website for a list of all the individuals and groups who have been recipients of the peer-selected Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Award since its inception in 1990.

Manitoba's Lands & Waters

ManitobaWildlands.org
EnergyManitoba.org



MANITOBA WILDLANDS

Manitoba Eco-Network's 25th Anniversary Gala

Our Gala Celebration of the Manitoba Eco-Network's 25th anniversary is coming up soon! We are excited about bringing our wide community of environmentalists together for this event at the Radisson Hotel. Great organic and local food, organic wine, and dancing to the local band, Karma, in company of friends and colleagues will make for a fun evening. Make sure to purchase your tickets soon, by visiting the Eco-Network website and using the PayPal option or sending us a cheque. (Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.)



Dinner & Dance
Featuring local, organic cuisine
March 8, 2008, 6:30 pm
Radisson Hotel, 288 Portage Ave.
Tickets \$45 per person
204-947-6511
www.mbeconetwork.org
info@mbeconetwork.org



The Eco-Network thanks
you for your membership!



Manitoba Eco-Network
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