

April, 1990

ECO-NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 5 at First Mennonite Church, 922 Notre Dame Ave. 9:30am to 3:30 pm.

AGENDA

BUSINESS - 9:30 - 10:30

- * Welcome
- * Chair's report
- * Staff/Financial Report
- * Election of Steering Committee members.

UPDATE FROM MEMBER GROUPS - 10:30 - 11:30

LUNCH (bring your own) AND INFORMAL NETWORKING - 11:30 - 1:00

WORKSHOPS - 1:00 - 2:30

CLOSING PLENARY - 2:30 - 3:30

The agenda is still being developed, but will feature a slightly different format than in the past. This time we will feature workshops on two or three current issues, rather than our usual guest speakers. One workshop is confirmed on the role of environmental groups in the environmental assessment process, at least one more is in the works. **Continued P.10**

ECO-NETWORK UPDATE

The Network is getting back on its feet! I'm happy to report that our office and resource centre will be staying open, thanks to the great support that we have received from the community.

Our emergency appeal for funds was successful in securing several donations, ranging in size from \$10 to \$500, from member groups and individuals. This enabled us to "stay in business" during the month of February, while we worked on a proposal to the provincial department of Environment for funding our information and referral services. Also in this month, Canada Employment and Immigration accepted our application for two term employees under their Section 25 work experience program. A \$1000 grant from Inco and a provincial offer of a contract for our services under the new Environmental Innovations program came in at the beginning of March, ensuring that the Network could confidently look ahead to the next year's work.

A big vote of thanks is due to all those who provided both moral and financial support in our time of need, especially those who took the time to write or phone the government on our behalf. **Continued P. 10**

Prairie Organics Presents
United Front

By Bryan Johnson

On April 7, 1990, 44 representatives of the prairie organics industry met in Regina. They represented every sector of the clean foods industry. With the consensus of all 44 people, they developed a work plan for unifying the organics industry across Canada.

The work plan, containing 8 major headings, was developed through the Canadian Organic Unity Project (COUP). It calls for the unification of the industry across Canada with respect to such diverse issues as certification standards, an organic philosophy and negotiations with the European Economic Community. The work will be completed, with input from Canada's other bio-regions, in Montreal later this month.

If Canada can maintain national consensus, it will set a world wide precedent. Already members of the European Economic Community have expressed the hope that high Canadian standards will force the EEC to raise its standards of organic production. Being the first country to develop consensus driven and industry generated standards of excellence, supported by government, will make Canada a global leader in sustainable agriculture.

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The Manitoba Eco-Network exists to facilitate communication among environmentalists, especially in Manitoba, and between environmentalists and government decision-makers. Membership is open to any non-government, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or carrying out environmental education.

CO-ORDINATOR.....Anne Lindsey

EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN.....Jack Dubois

VICE-PRESIDENT.....Brian Pannell

SECRETARY.....Bill Goddard

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE.....Brian Pannell

STEERING COMMITTEE

Arnold Baker	-Westman Wilderness Club
John Barker	-Resource Recovery Institute
Jack Dubois	-Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Bill Goddard	-Crossroads Resource Group
Bryan Johnson	-Sustainable Agriculture Movement
Kate Maddigan	-Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Al Maki	-Manitoba Naturalists Society
Brian Pannell	-Manitoba Environmentalists, Inc.
Eldon Schmitz	-Sierra Club, Manitoba Chapter

The Manitoba Eco-Network Resource Centre and Office is located in Room 202-128 James Ave. (behind the Concert Hall).
Phone (204) 956-1468.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 21-22 Recycling Council
of Manitoba, depots 9:30-3:30
-Fort Osborne -

139 Tuxedo
-Versatech - 436 William
-River East - 295 Sutton
-Sturgeon Creek - 2665 Ness
-Earth Fair site, Assiniboia
Downs (Sunday only).

April 22 **EARTH DAY!!!!!!!**
Sunrise service, Recycling
Relay, Earth Fair, Dinner...
call 453-3744 for details.

April 23-24 Manitoba
Federation of Labour,
Occupational Health
Centre, 9th Annual Conference
including a workshop on
environment. Winnipeg Convention
Centre.
Contact 786-2721 for details.

April 26
Rock 'Till You're Green
with Citizens Against
Neurotoxins
A local organization interested
in spray issues, Citizens
Against Neurotoxins (C.A.N.),
is gearing up for Spring with
a funds and consciousness
raising evening. Featuring the
music of Gorilla Gorilla, Hula
Bassoon and Died Laughing, the
event will occur Thursday, April
26, at the West End Cultural
Center. With ticket prices of
a paltry \$4.50, this gala event
places the emphasis on fun
before funds. For further
information call 775 - 2785.

April 27 High School
Students Walk from the Forks to
the Legislature, Rally for
Environmental Education,
contact Yvonne Chung at
477-0244.

April 28 Manitoba Naturalists
Society Annual General Meeting.
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Monte
Hummel will speak on the
Endangered Spaces campaign.
Call 943-9029 for details.

May 5 **MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK**
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
First Mennonite Church, 922
Notre Dame. 9:30 - 3:30. All
are welcome. Bring a bag lunch
and a coffee cup.

May 5 Manitoba Environmental
Council Annual General
Meeting. Room 244 Legislative
Bldg. 8:30-5:00, call 945-7031
for details.

May 12 Second Riverview
Recycling and Environmental
Fair, Riverview Community Club.
Call 956-1468 for details.

June 2 Winnipeg Co-ordinating
Committee for Disarmament, 8th
Annual Walk for Peace, 11:30am,
Legislative Grounds. Theme is
"Protect Mother Earth",
speakers, music. Call 786-
8938 for details.

June 2 Oxfam. Social to follow
the Peace Walk: "Give Peace a
Dance". Call 772-3164 for
details.

June 2-9 Environment Week.



GREENING THE FORKS...

By Ross Dobson

One of the errors people make about "environmentalism" is to think it is all about clean air and water, green space and tree hugging. People are part of the environment too: their culture, history, economics and politics all have impact. An "ecological" approach is careful about how it *all* "hangs together." *Greening The Forks* approaches to Winnipeg's latest development scheme, on the former C.N.R. East Yards where the Red and Assiniboine join, is to understand *first*, before anything else, the historical, natural, cultural, human and urban ecology of that site.

"The Forks" was already designated as equal in *national* historical importance to Halifax' Citadel Hill and Quebec's Plains of Abraham. It is more than real estate. But our three governments built into their "development creature," The Forks Renewal Corporation, a mandate that this special land has to carry all its own costs. A "development" bias has distorted every proposal for The Forks, and created Winnipeg's last downtown land grab. Our urban environment doesn't need more buildings: it needs what "The Forks" can become: a major "Central Park" where the rivers and so much of our culture, history and urban reality all come together.

The Forks Renewal Corporation functions like a private developer even though it is funded by public money. Its vision for The Forks includes a thousand residential units, an 80-suite "character" hotel, a gigantic indoor water-park, an arena, and lots of parking lots - for boats as well as cars. All of their proposals may make good planning sense for our rapidly emptying downtown, but at The Forks they *compete* with downtown, and deny the special nature and historical importance of the site. Only 40% of the site is "public," and that includes roads, sidewalks and parking lots. Development at The Forks is commodity-oriented, and commodifies history, culture and nature to justify "development".

The Environment Act was used in March by amateur Metis archaeologist, Rene La Roche, to halt (temporarily) a "scoop and destroy" excavation of the Assiniboine Riverbank. The site he had worked last fall (at the birthplace of the Metis nation, the very ground where later immigrants first stepped onto the prairie land) was obliterated by backhoes and bulldozers after only preliminary archaeological examination. Forks archaeologist Sid Kroker said it was just a modern garbage dump. Rene had unearthed artifacts there that predated the historical era. He has to continue his search for Metis cultural remains at a Panet Road dump.

The Forks has afforded no money for a full and proper archaeological study of the site. They have done little more than is required of *every* developer in Manitoba - checking the ground before basements are dug - which they augment with a supervised "digging circus" for enthusiastic amateurs: better than no digs at all, but hardly a serious attempt to study and understand this most important unexplored historical and cultural site in North America.

The Forks is the jewel of Manitoba's natural and cultural history. It cannot achieve the importance it deserves in the hands of a corporation whose mandate is to increase its real estate value. The Forks has to be held in trust for and by us and *protected from* development. *Greening The Forks* intends to bring about a Land Trust with a *preservation mandate* for The Forks, and to do away with The Forks Renewal Corporation's conceptual pollution of our urban environment. Call your M.L.A. or City Councillor in support!

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION SOUGHT by Jeff Lowe

On March 19th, Winnipeg City Council rubber-stamped the latest in a continuing succession of increases that has seen transit fares rise from 40 cents to \$1.10 since 1979. Citing a desire to shield rate payers from seeing property taxes on an average home boosted by three dollars over the course of the coming year, councillors were instead prepared to saddle full-time transit users with minimal additional expenses of forty-eight dollars over the same period.

Quite apart from the severe impact this will have on low-income riders, Council's action is indicative of our leaders' ignorance toward the need to encourage more people to utilize Winnipeg Transit as a key means of curtailing air pollution and the build-up of greenhouse gases. Freezing fares - coupled with the electrification of its vehicle fleet and the implementation of rail-rapid transit - would help ensure that the aforesaid environmental imperatives are met. Instead, we have been moving in precisely the opposite direction.

That the quality of our transit system is getting worse before it gets better is probably the consequence of the fact that there is, at present, no advocacy organization in Winnipeg to speak out on behalf of public transit (or, the people who rely on it).

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS FUND

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Created by the Government of Canada, the Partners Fund is making available \$50 million over five years for projects to help local groups protect, preserve, enhance and restore our environment.

Anyone can get involved.

If you're a member of a service club, community organization, environmental group or a school or youth group, discuss ideas for environmental projects with your leaders. If you have a good idea, organize your own group. The Environmental Partners Fund can assist you in getting your project off the ground.

How much can a Partner receive?

Partners can receive up to \$200,000 over three years, depending on the size of the project. The federal contribution is limited to 50 per cent of the project cost.



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Many ways to be effective.

Rehabilitate the natural environment in local parks, lakes, or streams. Develop new community recycling programs. Use your imagination and get involved!

Apply soon.

The next deadline for applications is June 1st, 1990. For more information, or an application guide to get your ideas into action, please write or call Environment Canada at the address below:

Environmental Partners Fund
Environment Canada
10th Floor, Rm. 1000
266 Graham Avenue
Winnipeg, Man.
R3C 3V4

In Manitoba Phone:
(204) 983-8574

In Saskatchewan Phone:
(306) 780-6002

Our thanks to the Environmental Partners
Fund for financial assistance in the mailing
of this newsletter.

**ANNOUNCING SPRINGTIDE:
MANITOBA'S FIRST EVER PRIMER ON
ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

Every morning someone, somewhere in Manitoba, wakes up and realizes that he or she just has to do something to protect the environment. Maybe it was a feature on recycling in the newspaper, maybe it was an alarming television report about the ozone layer, maybe it was the sign on a neighbour's mailbox rejecting ad flyers.

Suddenly that person is faced with a glaring information gap. He or she immediately wants to know, and needs to know, what an individual can do to protect the environment. "What are the issues in Manitoba? Where can I recycle? Who can I call to find out more? Where can I buy recycled products?"

These are the questions the Manitoba Eco-Network intends to answer with the publication of **Springtide**, in May. Geared for people who are just starting to see the importance of environment issues, the publication will be useful for groups which, like the Eco-Network, receive general inquiries from the public.

With features like: where Manitoba is going with recycling, the conservation alternative to another large hydro project, an explanation of the Rafferty Alameda court cases and an overview of the Repap proposals, **Springtide** will act as a beginning of the decade update and a resource guide.

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**TREE APPEALS REPAP LICENSE
APPROVAL**

by Harvey Williams

On January 26, the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) approved Repap's application for conversion of the former Manfor pulp mill to the production of bleached pulp and expansion of the mill's production from 400 tonnes to 500 tonnes per day. TREE has appealed the CEC's action to Mr. Glen Cummings, Minister of Environment on numerous procedural and substantive grounds including:

1. No account was taken of the impact of the increased production on forests and forest ecosystems. At the CEC hearings, attempts by Al Maki, spokesperson for the Manitoba Naturalists Society to present concerns relating to forestry were cut off.

2. Repap was not required to provide information on bleaching processes that do not produce organochlorines such as dioxins and furans nor on methods and incentives relating to recycling of waste paper as an alternative to new wood fiber.

3. Expert testimony from independent scientific sources was not obtained, "independent" meaning independent of both the applicant and the government.

4. Procedures for analyzing, monitoring and reporting of pulp mill effluents and wastes were inadequately specified in the license.

5. The terms of reference for membership of a citizen advisory group were not stated prior to issuance of the license.

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THE "GREENING OF THE HOME"
by Sharon Segal

I'd like to introduce you to a new environmental program that I've recently begun in Winnipeg. It's called The Greening of the Home. I've developed lecture/handout material that teaches the basics of how to have a Green Home.

My target groups are primarily those people who know little about environmental issues, want to get started but don't know where to begin. Most of the people who have contacted me so far are women, and many are home-makers. I will talk to groups, and as well I'm pushing the idea of Green Home parties.

My lecture consists of a Green Household Quiz, Household Cleaning Recipes, the 3 R's, paper and packaging reduction, pollution, composting, cloth diapers, and a resource list. I have had tremendous positive feedback from the participants.

It's important to maintain contact with the groups and I plan to send out newsletters, have meetings with speakers and more in the fall, so that a support group can be formed reinforcing what has been learned.

It's important for me to keep up to date with environmental groups and issues so that I can pass this information on to others who hopefully will become active and get involved (perhaps in your group). As I cannot join every group, I would appreciate any info. that you can give me, newsletters, interesting speakers, something that you want to share with others, info. that isn't already in the Eco-Network newsletter. In return, I shall display this info. and make a Community Environmental Billboard to present to each group I talk to. Thanks for your co-operation.

**Contact: Sharon Segal, 357
Oakwood Ave Winnipeg R3L 1E9
453-1320.**

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Detach and mail to:

The Manitoba Eco-Network, P.O. Box 3125, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6

Please sign us up as a member group of the Eco-Network: ☐
Our cheque is enclosed for group membership and subscription: \$20/year
I/We support Network activities and wish to receive the Newsletter

_____ \$10 (Individual Subscription)
_____ \$5 (Limited Income)
_____ \$40 Organizations, agencies, government departments
and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for membership.

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

I would like to do volunteer work for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

Name or contact person _____

Group _____ Telephone # () _____

Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____

Area(s) of interest _____

*(Membership is open to any non-government, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.)

NEW MATERIALS IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE

"Due Process" A Report on the Network's Hazardous Waste Project, by Toby Maloney.

French language fact sheets on global warming and ozone.

"Pulp and Paper on the Athabasca: Economic Diversity vs. Environmental Destruction" Northern Perspectives.

"Towards a Management Plan for the Seal Heritage River" Manitoba Natural Resources.

Ozone Protection Kit. Friends of the Earth.

Recent issues of Alternatives, featuring good articles on Sustainable Development.

RECYCLING ACTION COMMITTEE HOLDS CONFERENCE

by Eve Dillistone

The Recycling Action Committee (RAC), appointed last year by the Minister of Environment, recently held a major conference, "Conserving Our Future: A Recycling Strategy for the 90's". Its purpose was to include public input into RAC's Action Plan to reduce Manitoba's solid waste by 50% by the year 2000.

The conference began with an outline of RAC's Draft Action Plan and a critique of the plan by a selected panel. The panel was generally positive about the committee's recommendations, though some felt that the goals could be more ambitious. The

panel's discussion gave direction to the afternoon workshops which covered a wide variety of topics.

Several observations emerged from the workshops. First, it seems pointless to discuss the specific strategies to reduce waste unless there is public incentive to participate. Two incentives were emphasized: education on the negative impacts of landfills and resource depletion, and the implementation of a system of rewards such as tax breaks for participation in reduction programs, along with penalties for non-participation. Second, it was discouraging to note that many workshop participants seemed to be expecting answers rather than producing them themselves. Third, the workshops were of insufficient duration. An hour did not seem adequate for the participants to get fully involved in quality discussion of the issues. An extra fifteen minutes would have produced more focussed suggestions and solutions.

In spite of these shortcomings, the conference was useful in several ways. Many valuable ideas were contributed by the public, helping to inform both other members of the public and the RAC. These ideas were brought forward in an open forum, and subjected to both positive and negative criticism, thus broadening participants' views. Finally, there was a strong feeling amongst participants that they were playing an important role in reducing waste in Manitoba.

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Recycling Action Continued

People interested in obtaining a copy of the report, due during Environment Week in early June, may write to:

Recycling Action Committee, 960-330 St. Mary Ave. Winnipeg, R3C 3Z5.

Repap Continued

6. Baseline data for organochlorines was inadequate.

7. New evidence relating to organochlorines has become available since the issuance of the license.

The above is an abbreviated list of the grounds for appeal of Repap's license. Anyone wishing to examine the appeal document in greater detail may do so by contacting the Environmental Network Office.

Mr. Cummings must now decide whether to overturn the CEC license. If he fails to do so, an appeal to the courts would have to be the next step. This would be an expensive and lengthy process. If it becomes necessary to go to court, TREE will need a great deal of assistance.

TREE BOOTH AT EARTH DAY FAIR

TREE's Earth Day booth will feature information about Sustainable Forestry in Manitoba. Volunteers are still needed to help staff the booth. For information, call Harvey Williams, 269-7477.

Transit Advocacy Continued

The absence of such an entity allows politicians to conclude that -in neglecting or penalizing the best interests of our transit system there is no political "price" to be paid.

Anyone who, therefore, is interested in seeing one launched is urged to contact

the writer of this item at the number listed below. An inaugural initiative might take the form of calling upon riders to refuse to pay any amount in fares than the \$1 which has prevailed since 1988.

For further information contact: Jeff Lowe, 484 Lipton St. Winnipeg, R3G 2H3

Springtide Continued

Perhaps the most important feature will be a mini-directory of environment organizations and resources and, with the support of the business community a "green pages" business directory of environmentally friendly services.

For more information about the publication of **Springtide** including how to advertise, call Toby at 783-8094 or leave a message at the Network office.

Update Continued

In the office, we now have Karen Zelanko as resource centre manager, getting our files and resource materials in order. We are currently looking for someone on unemployment insurance to perform the duties of researcher; putting together basic info packages on a variety of environmental issues (contact Anne Lindsey for further information).

We hope to resume regular publication of the newsletter, and to begin to expand our bookstore inventory. Come in and visit...the office will be open daily from 9-4:30.

AGM Continued At this annual meeting, emphasis will be placed on the sharing of information between groups: what their current activities are, what their plans are, how we can work best together as a Network.

Some space will be available for groups wishing to have a small display, please contact the office as soon as possible, as space will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Elections will be held. This year, 7 Steering Committee positions are up for re-election. All member groups are urged to forward names of potential representatives to Anne at the office. The Steering Committee meets once per month, and oversees all activities of the Network.

Each member group of the Eco-Network is allowed one voting delegate at the AGM. All members of environmental groups and the general public are invited to attend the meeting.

The Network will subsidize the transportation of out-of-town delegates at the rate of a return bus ticket. (One delegate per group please). Billeting can also be arranged if notice is given.

"THE GREEN PLAN"

Federal Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard announced earlier this month that a series of cross-Canada consultations will be held to find out what Canadians want done about the environment. The "Green Plan", as it is being called, was initiated after Bouchard's much-touted Environmental Agenda failed to win Cabinet support.

The discussion document asks a series of simplistic questions about the environment - questions to which the government should already have the answers if they have been paying any attention to public sentiments and scientific

evidence over the past several years.

The time allotted for the consultations is extremely short - they will be completed by the end of June. With the exception of travel expenses, no funding will be available to environmental groups to assist them in the preparation of briefs. To voice your concerns about the Green Plan, or to get more information, call Mr. Mike Ballshaw, Regional Director General of Environment Canada in Winnipeg at 983-4380.



Special Thanks to Harold Taylor for the use of his laser printer!

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Manitoba Eco-Network.
