

MANITOBA office copy ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK NEWS



the manitoba environmental
NETWORK

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1988

MANITOBA HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION ANNOUNCES PROPOSED FACILITY SITE SELECTION PROCESS

The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation (a Crown Corporation) has released a discussion document detailing their proposed planning process for the selection and evaluation of potential sites for a central hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility.

Included with this newsletter is a brief document that provides an overview of the site selection process. Integral to the process is the "full opportunity for involvement of all interested groups and individuals."

The Corporation invites comments from any interested party and is willing to meet to discuss their proposals in greater detail. If further information is required please contact Mr. Alun Richards or Mr. Graham Latonas at 945-1844.

Copies of the discussion document are available at the Network office or from the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation, 226 - 530 Century Street, Winnipeg, R3H 0Y4.

MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK RESOURCE CENTRE

The Network is currently expanding its activities through the development of a resource centre. Located in our office at 202 - 128 James Avenue (behind the Concert Hall and Planetarium) the resource centre is open Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A wide range of newsletters and journals from local, national and international environmental organizations on a variety of topics are available for viewing.

In addition, books on a broad range of environmental topics are available for sale (see page 10).

The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation has provided financial assistance for the distribution of this issue of the newsletter. Their support is gratefully acknowledged.

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THE MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 202-128 JAMES AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA. MAILING ADDRESS - P.O. BOX 3125, R3C 4E6 PH: (204) 956-1468

CLEARWATER LAKE WATER QUALITY DESIGNATION

The Environmental Management Division of the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health has developed a proposal for the application of a High Quality designation to the Clearwater Lake watershed (north of The Pas). A copy of the proposal can be seen at the Network office or is available from the Clean Environment Commission, Box 17, Room 550, 500 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, R3C 3X1, tel:945-7120.

It is likely that a public hearing in this regard will be held in The Pas sometime in October. Anyone wishing to make a presentation at this hearing should make a copy of it available to W. R. Stewart at the Commission before October 5, 1988 at the address listed above.

THE RECYCLING COUNCIL OF MANITOBA

The Council's report entitled "Container Recycling in Manitoba" has been received at the Network office. Among other things, the report contains an overview of the different recycling program options available and an evaluation of the options including analysis of supplies, markets and existing opportunities.

PCBs

A publication entitled THE PCB STORY produced by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers is available at the Network office.

The booklet provides a good overview of the PCB issue, including a history of PCBs, how they were used, the health effects, disposal concerns, and much more.

RAFFERTY-ALAMEDA DAM PROJECT

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Environmental Impact Statement is available for viewing at the Network office.

VOLUNTEERS

The Manitoba Environmental Network has several volunteer opportunities. If you have some time to commit and are interested in working on the newsletter or in the Resource Centre, please call John Barker at the Network office.

FREE SPACE in the MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK NEWS is available to any non-profit organization wishing to promote an event, advertise resource material or generate interest in an issue of concern.

The Manitoba Environmental 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.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT.....JOHN BARKER
EXECUTIVE
PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR.....JACK DUBOIS
VICE-PRESIDENT(ALTERNATE).....BRIAN PANNELL
SECRETARY-TREASURER.....vacant

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Arnold Baker	-	Westman Wilderness Club
Jack Dubois	-	Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Randy Eros	-	Solar Energy Society of Canada Inc., Manitoba Chapter
Bill Goddard	-	Crossroads Resource Group
Letty Last	-	Recycling Council of Manitoba
Dennis Muldrew	-	Manitoba Naturalists Society
Brian Pannell	-	Manitoba Environmentalist Inc.(MEI)
Anne Wieser	-	Concerned Citizens of Manitoba

THE MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK RESOURCE CENTRE IS OPEN
MON. 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. WED. & THUR. 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 17 Free Trade Forum. See insert.
- Sept. 19 WEB Workshop. The Network will sponsor a workshop on computer networking the week of Sept. 19. For more info call the office.
- Sept. 19 "People Matter More," VPW channel 11. David Orchard, chairman of Citizens Concerned About Free Trade analyzes the FTA. 5 - 6 p.m.
- Sept. 21 Where is Winnipeg Headed? Perspectives on Urban Planning. Noon, Eaton's Assembly Hall, 7th floor, downtown. Call Elizabeth Fleming at 453-4211 for more information.
- Sept. 22 Newsletter Design Workshop. Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. 7:00 - 9:00 pm at 60 Maryland St. For further information contact MCIC at 786-2106.
- Sept. 28-30 Toward Sustainable Recycling - Tools for Progress. Seventh National Recycling Congress in St. Paul, Minnesota. For further information contact Linda Craig, Lawrence & Craig Inc., P.O. Box 40244, 320 S.W. Stark, #411, Portland, Or 97240.
- Oct. 1 Recycling Depot. See page 5.
- Oct. 3-4 Canadian Power Alcohol Conference "Alcohol Fuels For Transportation." Winnipeg. For further info contact: Beth Candlish, Biomass Energy Institute, 1329 Niakwa Road E., Wpg., R2J 3T4. Ph: 257-3891.
- Oct. 10-14 International Symposium on the Fate and Effects of Toxic Chemicals in Large Rivers and Their Estuaries. Quebec City. Contact Dr. R.J. Allen, National Water Research Institute, 867 Lakeshore Road, P.O. Box 5050, Burlington, Ont., L7R 4A6, (416) 637-4303.
- Oct. 12-15 A National Seminar on the Law and the Environment: Problems of Risk and Uncertainty. Halifax, Nova Scotia. For further information contact the Network office.
- Oct. 16 World Food Day. See page 9.
- Oct. 16-19 Air Pollution Control Association Fifth Environmental Government Affairs Seminar, "Current Governmental Environmental Policy and Regulatory Reform - Will it Lead to Sustainable Development?" Ottawa, Ontario. For further info contact the Network office.
- Oct. 19 Food Irradiation Public Forum. See page 9.
- Oct. 23-29 Industrial and Hazardous Waste Management. A resource management seminar presented by the Banff Centre School of Management.
- Oct. 25-27 10TH Canadian Waste Management Conference. Winnipeg. For further information contact Dave Thompson at the Manitoba Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, 945-7083.
- Oct. 28-30 Tentative dates for a joint prairie meeting of the Manitoba Environmental Network, the Saskatchewan Eco-Network, and the Alberta Environmental Network to be held in Saskatchewan. For further information contact the Network office.

OPINION

Once again the Canadian Government has shown that where atomic energy is concerned the democratic process takes second place. The Report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Forestry entitled "High Level Radioactive Waste in Canada: The Eleventh Hour," raised some hopes among Canadians that nuclear power was finally going to be subject to public accountability and common sense. Two of the Committee's most important recommendations were a call for a moratorium on construction of nuclear plants until the waste problem is solved and the transfer of responsibility for the waste program and the Atomic Energy Control Board to Environment Canada).

However, Marcel Masse, Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources, dashed those hopes in his cavalier response to the report. The tone of the response is pro-nuclear and continues the short sighted assumption that we will not have to deal with the waste until sometime off in the future. The government continues to feel that the industry is doing an adequate job of regulating itself and sees no conflict of interest in this situation.

Perhaps most disturbing is the Minister's covering letter to Committee Chairman Bob Briscoe. In it he asserts the government's position that low-level radiation is not harmful to human health. Given the recent recommendations by the International Committee on Radiation Protection that low-level radiation exposure standards be tightened up again in light of recent studies, Mr. Masse's comments are ill-informed and frightening.

The parliamentary committee system was hailed as an important step in the democratic process. However, once again we are witnessing a case where one cabinet minister sees fit to overrule the unanimous conclusions of an all-party committee which took several months to examine an issue in detail.

Health Minister Jake Epp did the same thing to the Standing Committee which examined the issue of food irradiation. Whether or not Canadians want to see the continuation of the Nuclear Industry seems irrelevant in the face of our government's arrogance and commitment to this industry.

by Anne Wieser

GROCERY CHAIN PROTECTS OZONE LAYER

One of Canada's largest grocery chains will become the first in the country to discontinue the use of ozone-eating foam packaging.

The decision by Montreal based Provigo Inc. was influenced by a recent environmental conference aimed at reducing the production of chlorofluorocarbons. Provigo will replace foam egg cartons and meat trays with containers made of other products.

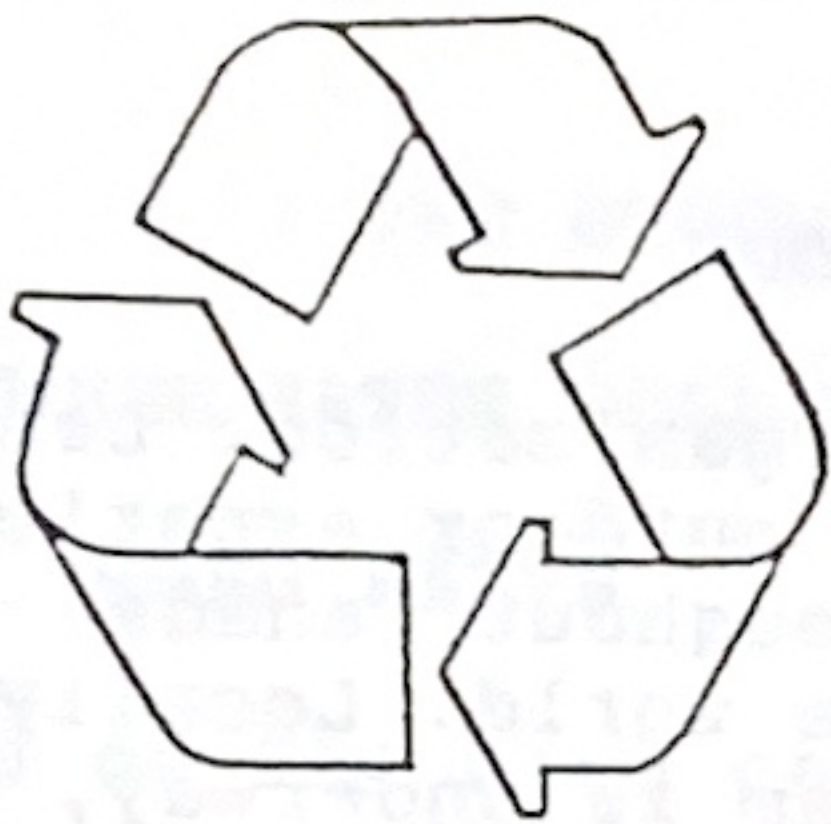
Scientists warn that the decomposition of CFCs produces chemical com-

pounds which attack and break down the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere. This layer blocks out cancer-causing shortwave solar radiation.

Environmentalists have been pressuring Canada's food retailers to abandon foam packaging and are hoping that Provigo's lead will provide the necessary incentive for manufacturers to switch to alternative materials.

With annual sales of about six billion dollars, Provigo may have the muscle needed to sway industry practices.

Source: Alternatives Vol. 15 No.3 1988



RECYCLING COUNCIL OF MANITOBA, INC.

1329 Niakwa Road

Winnipeg, MB. R2J 3T4

Telephone: 204 - 257 - 3891

The Recycling Council of Manitoba and Versatech Industries Inc. will operate voluntary recycling depots at two Winnipeg locations on Saturday, October 1, 1988.

The depots will be run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the provincial government complex at 139 Tuxedo Avenue and Versatech's plant at 436 William Avenue.

This joint effort marks the first expansion of an experimental series of depots begun by the Recycling Council in June 1987, assisted by local recycling firms.

Since then, the Council has held four successful depots at 139 Tuxedo Avenue. In total, depot volunteers have unloaded 1,347 vehicles, collecting 39.6 tonnes of newsprint; 17 tonnes of clear glass; 5.1 tonnes of scrap metal; 390.1 kilograms of aluminum cans; and 2,450 corkable wine bottles.

The experiment has been aimed at three short-term objectives: to heighten public awareness about the need to recycle; to provide an avenue for the public to respond positively to this need; and to demonstrate the feasibility of community-based groups operating regular collection outlets.

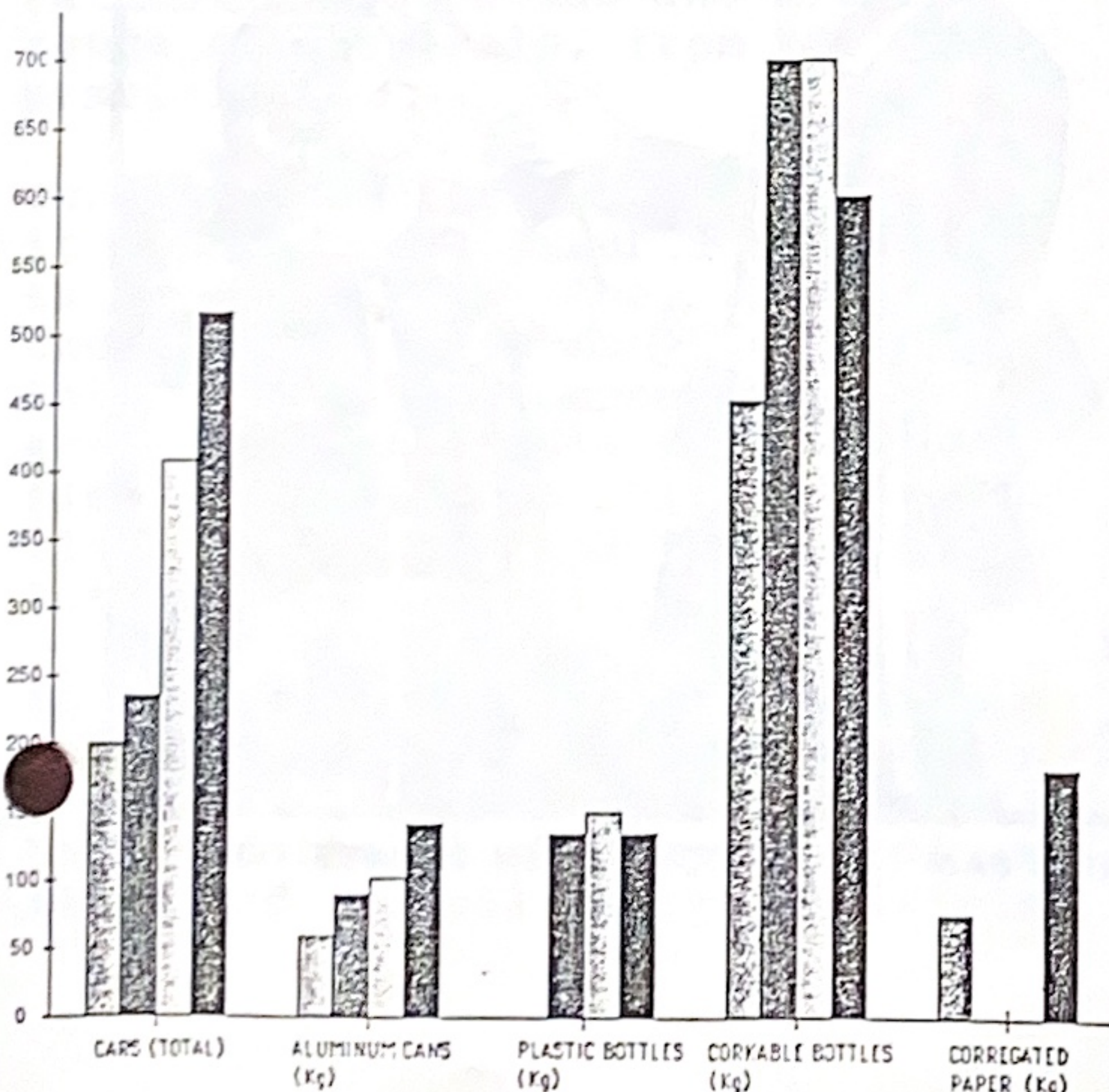
The longer-term objectives are to stimulate the establishment of permanent depots in Winnipeg and elsewhere in Manitoba, and to help build recycling industries and markets by providing assured supplies of materials.

For further information contact:

HARVEY STEVENS, PRESIDENT,
RECYCLING COUNCIL OF MANITOBA,
943-2561

TERRY CHEATER, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VERSATECH
INDUSTRIES INC., 942-0727

RESULTS OF RECYCLING DEPOTS



* LEGEND *

JUN/87

OCT/87

APR/88

JUN/88

The Recycling Council & Versatech Industries Inc. will accept donations of the following materials:

- *NEWSPAPERS
- *CARDBOARD
- *ALUMINUM BEVERAGE CANS
- *PLASTIC SOFT DRINK BOTTLES
- *CLEAR & COLOURED GLASS
- *CORKABLE WINE BOTTLES
- *SCRAP METALS & APPLIANCES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL 257-3891

SIERRA CLUB FORMS MANITOBA GROUP

The Sierra Club of Manitoba is a newly formed organization. We are a "Group" operating under the guidance of The Sierra Club of Western Canada "Chapter." Our purpose as a group is to influence decisions made at all levels of government, affecting the land, resources, and the environment in general. These efforts are concentrated locally by this Manitoba Group and worldwide by other Sierra Groups and Chapters throughout Canada and the United States. Plainly stated, we wish to achieve a world which allows all life forms to live and prosper, and in which we, as people, act responsibly to respect the rights of all living things.

We have an active executive of seven concerned members. As our Group represents all of Manitoba, we have tried for a cross-section from around the province. At present a large portion of our members reside in Winnipeg. As a result, three Winnipeggers sit on the executive. Our Vice-Chair is Ed Gaskell; our Treasurer, Hugh Cote; and our Newsletter and Publicity Person is Alex Narvey. Hailing from Virden is our Outings Chairman, Bob Hellman; our Secretary, Janet Kennedy lives near Carberry; Chair of our Environmental Committee is Arnold Baker from Strathclair; and from Goodlands, our Chairperson and driving force, Duncan Stewart. This executive has high hopes for the Manitoba Sierra Club. We would truly hope to see, as our Group grows, members from more, and different locales. We would like Manitobans from all over the province representing our stand on environmental and resource issues.

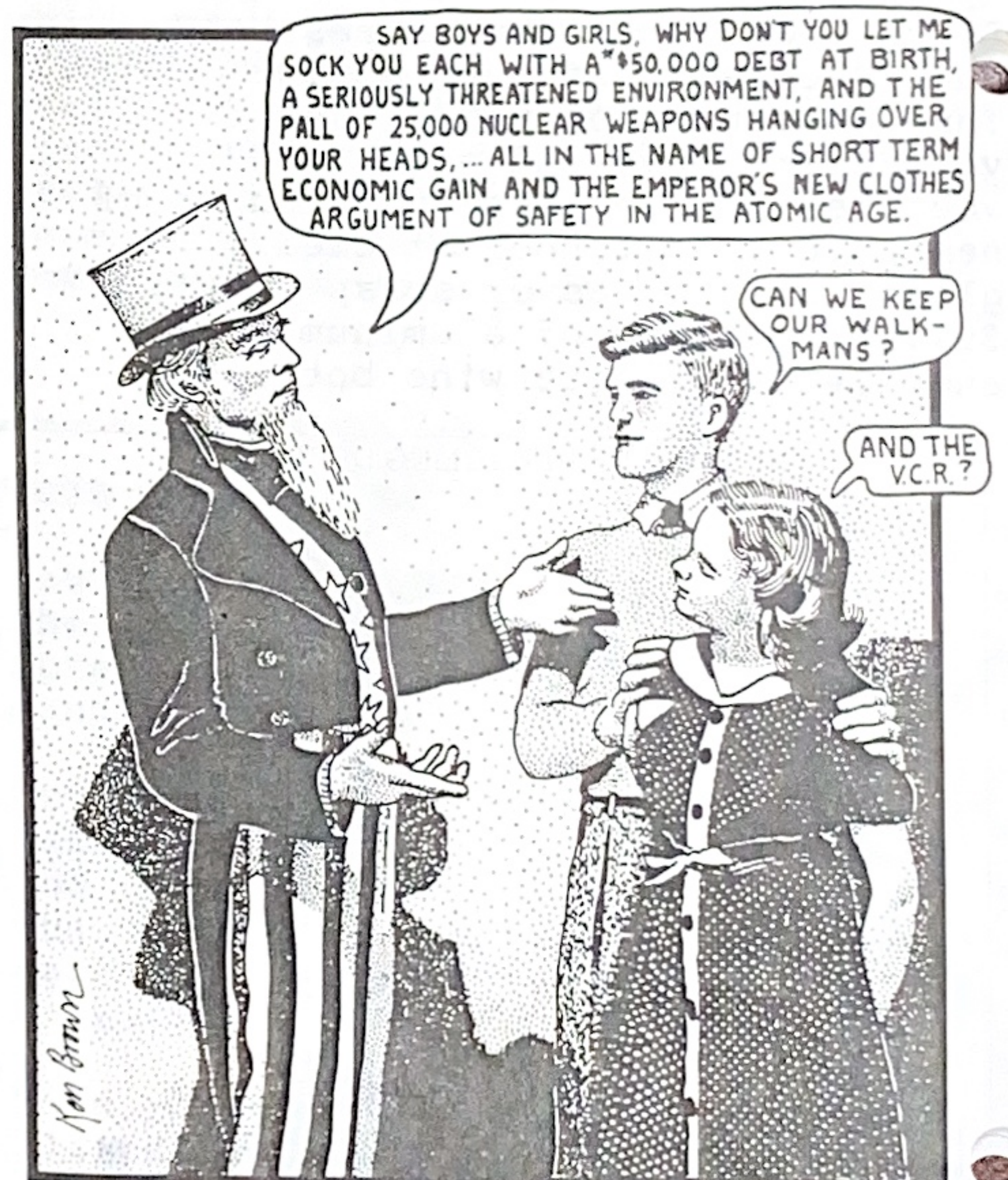
The slogan of the Sierra Club is "to explore, enjoy, and preserve the world's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness." Here I'd like to emphasize the enjoy. Sierra Club outings are a vital

part of our organization. Leaders offer members outdoor experiences in Manitoba, throughout Canada, and all around the world. Locally, our outings program is underway, with our first scheduled event a September canoe trip through the scenic Canadian Shield of Nopiming Provincial Park. Learn more at our General Meetings. These meetings are held quarterly, in a different community each time. Our Fall meeting was held in Portage la Prairie.

by Janet Kennedy

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TELEPHONE: (604) 386-5255

MANITOBA GROUP: BOX 631,
BRANDON, MANITOBA, R7A 5Z7
TELEPHONE: (204) 658-3467



UNCLE SAM TALKS TOUGH WITH TODAY'S TEENS.

THE GROUNDWATER POLLUTION PRIMER - PART FIVE

THE GROUNDWATER POLLUTERS

ROAD SALTS

Salt is one of the most common groundwater contaminants in the Maritimes. Well over 200,000 tonnes of road salt are applied to provincial highways in the Maritimes alone. This represents one quarter of all the road salt applied to provincial highways in Canada.

Salt storage piles are also known to severely pollute nearby wells. As rain and melted snow percolate through provincial and municipal stockpiles, the salt seeps into groundwater.

In Canterbury, New Brunswick, 30 families, one-third of the village - had their wells polluted by salt from a Department of Transport salt depot. Sodium levels in the fire hall well, a kilometre away from the depot, were 60 times higher than Health and Welfare Canada's acceptable level.

ACID RAIN AND TOXIC FALLOUT

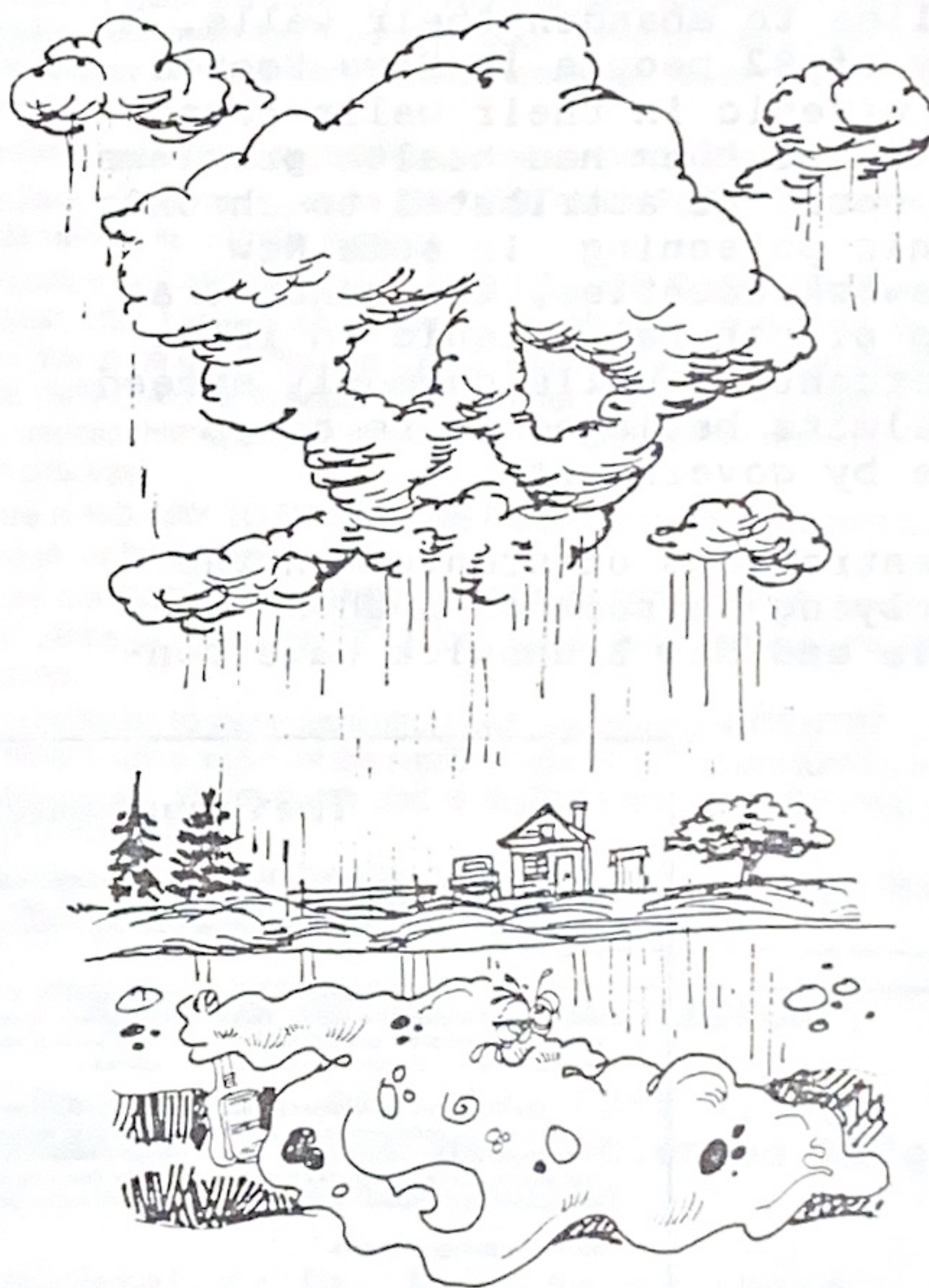
Groundwater is no longer only threatened by direct pollution. The rainwater that seeps into aquifers to recharge them is now tainted. Air pollution contaminates our rainwater with acids and a wide range of chemicals, from PCB's to pesticides.

Once groundwater becomes acidified, it means double trouble for our lakes and rivers. They will be under attack from above and below. This has already happened in some areas of Scandinavia where acidified lakes were rehabilitated with lime, only to be reacidified by acidic groundwater.

As the ground becomes increasingly acidic, nutrients and heavy metals such as aluminum, lead, and cadmium that had been locked up in soil are liberated to pollute the underlying

groundwater, and the lakes and rivers into which it ultimately flows. This is of particular concern where soil has already been heavily loaded with fertilizers or industrial pollutants, or in areas with high levels of naturally occurring metals and nitrates.

Very little is known about the impact of other air pollutants, deposited as toxic fall-out, on groundwater quality.



NATURAL CONTAMINANTS

Traditionally, most groundwater quality concerns have revolved around an over-abundance of

cont. on page 8

cont. from page 7

naturally occurring elements - common constituents in groundwater such as iron, manganese, magnesium, calcium, sodium, potassium, chloride, carbonate, sulphate and bicarbonate.

Excess iron and manganese are the most common natural contaminants in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. These can stain laundry and plumbing fixtures, and can cause an unpleasant taste in drinking water. Iron and manganese often give water a reddish-brown colour.

Arsenic contamination is a major problem in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and has forced numerous families to abandon their wells. A study of 92 people in Nova Scotia with arsenic in their wells found that 27 of them had health problems that could be attributed to chronic arsenic poisoning. In some New Brunswick counties, the concentrations of natural arsenic in 10 to 20 percent of wells commonly exceed the limits believed to be acceptable by government.

Concentrations of uranium in the underlying bedrock of both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have con-

taminated groundwater with radon, a radioactive gas. This enters the groundwater as a result of the radioactive decay of uranium in bedrock. The health hazard (lung cancer) associated with radon-contaminated groundwater does not result from drinking the water but from inhaling the radon that comes off the water when showering and bathing. Radon can also enter the indoor air through the basement from the surrounding ground and underlying groundwater.

Groundwater is typically tested for many natural contaminants when purchasing a home or when concerns over quality arise, so they pose less of a threat than contaminants arising from pollution. One notable exception is radon, which is not routinely monitored in Canada, leaving people unaware of the radon levels in their water supplies.

Sea water can also seep into groundwater, and is a common problem in the coastal areas of Atlantic Canada.

Source: The Groundwater Pollution Primer. Conservation Council.

The Groundwater Pollution Primer

Groundwater is the graveyard for much of our pollution. Industrial chemicals, pesticides, fertilizer residues, household chemicals, petroleum and other contaminants are turning up in well water with increasing regularity.

Over six million Canadians, a million in the Maritimes alone, rely on groundwater for their water supply. Yet the underlying threat to the environment and public health posed by toxic chemicals silently seeping into our groundwater continues unnoticed and unabated.

The Groundwater Pollution Primer is the first popular overview of the groundwater pollution problem in Canada. The product of over two years of research by Conservation Council of New Brunswick, this illustrated booklet examines the issues surrounding the poisoning of our groundwater and proposes concrete solutions to prevent further pollution.

\$5.00 plus postage, 44 pages.

44 pages, 8 1/2 x 7
\$5.00, plus \$1.00 postage
10% discount to members

Please send me:

_____ copy(ies) of *The Groundwater Pollution Primer* at \$5.00/copy

Add \$1.00 for postage and handling per copy

Enclosed is \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to:
Conservation Council
180 St. John Street
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 4A9

The Groundwater Pollution Primer



Conservation Council

FOOD SECURITY AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

Whether one is considering the domestic situation or looking at the issues from a global perspective, the relationship between a healthy ecosystem and the long-term sustainability of the food system is one that cannot be denied. The World Commission on Environment and Development has noted that short-sighted policies are leading to degradation of the agricultural resource base. For example, although the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has played a role in increased agricultural productivity, their overuse has contributed to the pollution of groundwater and threatens the health of humans and other species.

A workshop focusing on Environment and Food Security will be one of several activities at this year's World Food Day Event. Every October 16th, World Food Day is observed by groups around the world as one way of promoting awareness of and informed debate about global and domestic food issues. This year the theme of World Food Day is "Food Security."

This public event, organized by the Manitoba World Food Day Committee, will take place from 1:00 - 4:00pm (with registration and displays beginning at 12:30pm) on Sunday, October 16, 1988 at St. Paul's College on the campus of the University of Manitoba. For more information contact Barb Eros at 786-3440.

OCTOBER 16 OCTOBRE



FACT SHEET ON FOOD IRRADIATION

1. Food Irradiation involves sending food on a conveyor belt into a concrete chamber where it is exposed to radiation. The doses are 1,000,000 to 50,000,000 times that of a chest X-ray.
2. The food does not become radioactive, unless there is equipment or human error, but electrons are knocked out of orbit and massive molecular rearrangement takes place.
3. It is completely UNLIKE MICROWAVE, which does not possess sufficient energy to split apart molecules.
4. Vitamins A, C, E, K, B1, B2, B3, B6, and folic acid are depleted or destroyed. The AMINO ACIDS tryptophan, cysteine, phenylalanine and methionine are broken down. FATS turn rancid. CARBOHYDRATES create very toxic chemicals. NUCLEIC ACIDS and ENZYMES are adversely affected. Damaging FREE RADICALS are formed.
5. New chemicals called UNIQUE RADIOLYTIC PRODUCTS (URPS) are formed in the foods which have never been tested. Most are unknown.
6. AFLATOXIN, a highly carcinogenic substance produced by molds, is produced in greater quantities in irradiated food.
7. BOTULISM is not killed by radiation, but its natural enemies are. Food may be contaminated without any warning smell.
8. STUDIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD have shown adverse effects when animals have been fed irradiated food. Some of these are: tumors, cataracts, kidney damage, chromosome breakage, fewer offspring, and higher mortality.
9. Irradiation can cause mutations of disease-producing organisms.
10. Irradiated food can become RE-CONTAMINATED if not sealed properly, undermining its primary purpose.
11. Irradiation will NOT REDUCE THE USE OF CHEMICALS in food. It is applied after harvest, so all the chemicals used in growing the food will continue to be used. No one knows what will happen when the RESIDUES ARE IRRADIATED. In addition, other chemicals will be added to counteract the undesirable changes in texture, odor and flavor created by the irradiation process.
12. There is NO WAY TO DETERMINE if a food has been irradiated, or at what dosage, or how many times.
13. There are SAFER, CHEAPER, VIABLE ALTERNATIVES for decontamination. Some of these are: CO2, fumigation, heat and cold treatments, and infrared.
14. For irradiation to work, agriculture will become more CENTRALIZED to the detriment, once again, of the small farmer. Regional production will change. Plant species will be hybridized to facilitate radiation tolerance, increasing crop vulnerabilities.
15. Irradiated food will NOT FEED THE STARVING of the world. Hunger is an economic and political issue, not a technological one.

A FORUM on FOOD IRRADIATION

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1988 7:30pm
Theatre A Basic Med. Sciences Bldg.
730 William Avenue

Moderator: Dr. Ruth Berry (Dean of Human Ecology, U of M)
Panelists: Dr. Burchill (Chemistry Dept., U of M); Dr. Diamant (Foods & Nutrition, U of M); Dr. Iverson (Head, Radiation Application Research, Pinawa); Lorna Kopelow (Concerned Citizens of Man.); Sandra Lewis (CBC News Anchor); Anne Wieser (Concerned Citizens of Man.)

Sponsored by:

ALTRUSA CLUB OF WINNIPEG

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- Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900 - 1900 by Alfred W. Crosby. \$14.25
- The Greenpeace Book of Antarctica: A New View of the Seventh Continent by John May. \$29.95
- The Hole in the Sky: Man's Threat to the Ozone Layer by John Gribbin. \$5.50
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- Natural Disasters: Acts of God or Acts of Man? by Anders Wijkman & Lloyd Timberlake. \$12.50
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- Our Common Future: The World Commission on Environment and Development. \$14.95
- The Passive Solar Energy Book: A Complete Guide to Passive Solar Home, Greenhouse and Building Design by Edward Mazria. \$18.95
- Pesticide Alert: A Guide to Pesticides in Fruits and Vegetables by Lawrie Mott and Karen Synder. \$9.95
- Resource Manual for a Living Revolution: A Handbook of Skills & Tools for Social Change Activists by Virginia Coover et al. \$16.95
- Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered by E.F. Schumacher. \$9.95
- Sustainable Development of the Biosphere edited by W.C. Clark and R.E. Munn. \$35.00
- Wollaston: People Resisting Genocide by Miles Goldstick, Forward by Dr. Rosalie Bertell. \$16.95
- World Resources 1987: An Assessment of the Resource Base that Supports the Global Economy by International Institute for Environment and Development, World Resources Institute. \$21.95

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Conservation: A Thoughtful Way of Explaining Conservation to Children by Robert Ingpen and Margaret Dunkle. \$9.95

Numerous other titles are on order. Special orders can also be placed.