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Manitoba RESEAU
ECO-NETWORK ECOLOGIQUE
INC. *du Manitoba inc.*

WINTER SOLSTICE ISSUE

DECEMBER, 1989

FALL GENERAL METING

The Network's Fall General Meeting was held on Sat. Nov. 18th at the University of Winnipeg. Turnout from member groups was disappointingly low, especially considering the very high quality of the addresses by our two guest speakers.

The business portion of the meeting, held first, consisted of an overview of Network activities over the last few months, highlighting the Hazardous Waste forums; an interim financial report (the news on this front has not changed much - the Network is still struggling for funding to meet the ever-increasing demands on our services); and an update on the activities of our member groups.

Brian Pannell, our representative to the National Steering Committee of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) reported on staff changes in the Ottawa office, and on national caucuses on various issues, including pesticide review, energy, acid rain and wilderness, all of which have active participation by Manitobans.

Environmental groups' representation at the "Globe 90" trade fair was discussed. This exposition of Canadian environmental protection industries and initiatives is to be held in Vancouver next March, and will be targeting primarily Pacific-Rim countries. Manitoba is allotted 3 non-governmental delegates as part of a CEN contingent at the fair.
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IN OUR BACKYARD PROJECT WRAPPING UP
by Toby Maloney

So far, the Eco-Network's public participation project on hazardous waste, known as the In Our Backyard forums, is a qualified success with reasonable turnouts in both Brandon, on November 20 and in Winnipeg on November 22.

The two forums took the form of panel discussions with guest speakers, Rick Cooke, Chief Executive Officer of the Manitoba Hazardous Management Corporation and John Jackson, longtime activist on waste issues and co-ordinator of the Ontario Toxic Waste Research Coalition, leading the discussion.

Moderators Terry Shillington, a United Church Minister in Brandon and 24 Hours co-host Sandra Lewis, in Winnipeg, helped ensure strong participation from the audience.

The Brandon forum was closely focussed on the process in Hamiota and Rosburn, two communities under investigation as possible sites for a physical/chemical treatment facility. The Winnipeg forum focussed more on whether the city should be considered for a site since 80 per cent of the province's hazardous wastes are produced here.

John Jackson said that the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Corporation is proceeding with a sensible proposal, called the "incremental approach."
Continued on page 7.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Environment Week 1990 will take place the week of June 3-10. Non-profit groups are invited to submit proposals for funding of activities and projects on the theme of "Our Common Future - It's in Our Hands". More information and project guidelines are available at the Network Office and the deadline for applications is January 19, 1990. Last year, a large portion of the funding available for Manitoba was returned to Ottawa, despite the fact that several good proposals were turned down.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS GLOBAL WARMING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee on Environment is studying ways to reduce Canada's contribution to the global warming problem while maintaining economic development.

The Committee invites organizations or individuals wishing to contribute to this study, to submit a brief in English or French. Submissions should address one or more of the following topics: (1) policies/strategies for reducing Canada's emissions of greenhouse gases, and the implications of such policies; (2) new technologies and processes for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; (3) new patterns of development in energy use, forestry, agriculture, industrial growth, transportation etc. which lessen the problem within the context of sustainable development; and (4) the phenomenon of global warming. Submissions must be received no later than December 22, 1989. The committee may invite some of the submitters to appear at public hearings. Address briefs, correspondence and inquiries to:
The Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment

Room 630, Wellington Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A8
Tel: (613) 996-1559
Fax: (613) 996-1626

Contributors this issue:
Karen Johnson, Bryan Johnson, George Kynman, Anne Lindsey, Toby Maloney, Leigh Patterson, Steve Rauh.

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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.

COORDINATOR.....JOHN BARKER

EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN.....JACK DUBOIS
VICE-CHAIR.....BRIAN PANNELL
SECRETARY-TREASURER.....LETTY LAST

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE.....BRIAN PANNELL

STEERING COMMITTEE

Arnold Baker - Westman Wilderness Club
Jack Dubois - Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Bill Goddard - Crossroads Resource Group
Bryan Johnson - Sustainable Agriculture Movement
Letty Last - Recycling Council of Manitoba
Anne Lindsey - Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Al Maki - Manitoba Naturalists Society
Brian Pannell - Manitoba Environmentalists Inc.
Eldon Schmitz - Sierra Club of Manitoba

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 11 Project Peacemakers sponsors an evening with Karen Ridd, recently returned from El Salvador. Augustine United Church, 7:30pm.

- Dec. 12 Clean Environment Commission Public Hearing on a proposed waste water treatment lagoon in the R.M of Portage la Prairie. 10:30am Westbourne/Longburn Community Hall.

- Dec. 16 Opening of the Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Depot. 745 Logan Ave.

- Dec. 22 Deadline for submissions to House of Commons Environment Committee on Global Warming.

- Dec. 26 Family Fun Day at Fort Whyte Nature Centre. 10-5pm. Skating, snowshoeing etc. and hot chocolate.

- Dec. 28 and Dec. 29 Winter Nature Day Camps, 6-12 yr. olds. \$15 for members, \$17.50 non-members. 9-3pm. call ahead to register: 895-7001.

- Jan. 6 Concerned Citizens of Manitoba monthly meeting. 10am, Eco-Network Office. More info. 452-2352.

- Jan. 8 MB Naturalists Society Indoor Program. "Greenhouse Effect. Myth or Reality" with Dr. Tim Ball. 8:00pm, Basic Medical Sciences Building, Theatre A. More info. 943-9029.

- Jan. 12, 13, 14 Riverborne Annual Winter Carnival. More info. 477-4150 (Christine).

- Jan. 18 U of M. Seminar Series: Research Related to Sustainable Development. "Effects of Climate Change on Prairie Resource Based Industries" with Dr. Louise Arthur. 12-1:30pm. Multipurpose Room 224 University Centre.

- Jan. 22 MB Naturalists Society Indoor Program. "B.I.G - Manitoba's New Plant Group", a presentation by the Botany Interest Group, Basic Medical Sciences Bldg. Theatre A, 8pm.

- Jan 30 Recycling Council of Manitoba. General membership meeting. Versatech Industries, 436 William Ave. 7:30pm. More info. 942-7781.

- Jan. 31 U of W, Seminar on Sustainable Development and Urbanization. "Autonomy, Responsibility, Self-Reliance" with Susan Wismer, 7pm, Room 3C13 University of Winnipeg.

THE GREENING OF CITY COUNCIL by Leigh Patterson

Political interest in environmental issues is becoming increasingly apparent. The fall civic election in Winnipeg saw several candidates listing the environment as part of their platform elected to city council. Some of the successful candidates were endorsed by Winnipeg Into the Nineties (WIN), a civic reform movement with a strong emphasis on environmental and urban planning.

The Manitoba Eco-Network contacted councillors who indicated environmental concerns and asked them to elaborate on their agenda for the environment. The topics discussed ranged from recycling to urban development.

Lillian Thomas (Elmwood), one of the successful WIN candidates, would like the city to adopt a "door to door recycling program." "Done properly, we can reduce waste and retain a profit. There have been enough studies to show it can be done. I found there to be a positive response in my own community. Recycling is good, not only for the environment, but also for employment and profit." she said.

On the issue of mining at Shoal Lake, Thomas thinks a "clean water act should be introduced to protect Winnipeg's drinking water."

Tache councillor Greg Selinger, also endorsed by WIN, wants the recycling project extended throughout the city as part of "regular city business."

"I believe the citizens are way out ahead of the city on the issue," he said.

Selinger's prescription for

urban development includes developing the riverbanks in an "environmentally friendly," perhaps with more downtown greenspace and limiting urban sprawl.

"Why build outside the city limits? This is costly in economic as well as environmental terms in that gas waste and pollution is the result. It makes more sense to build within the limits, rather than use up valuable farmland."

Evelyn Reese (Langevin) echoes Selinger's concerns about sprawl.

"To me, urban sprawl means the city gobbles up adjacent agricultural land. This leaves a lot of undeveloped areas within the city that we're doing nothing with. The areas are collecting garbage - a criminal pollution, and it's far from being aesthetic. Developers tend to develop the land and leave the city to look after the problems. We let core housing deteriorate while developers push to build the city outwards.

Terry Duguid (Miles McDonnell) believes in curbside recycling and thinks "the city should set an example by using recycled paper at the administrative level." Duguid notes that a city compost program is now being studied by the administration because, during the fall, "yard waste can take up 20 to 25 per cent of our landfill sites."

The condition of the Red River is another concern for Duguid. "We require a ten year plan to clean up the river. One way to do this is to separate the city's sewer systems, but help is required from the federal and provincial governments, as this process is expensive."

Pembina-Riverview councillor Roger Young would also like action on the Red River. "To people living

near and along the river, it is a very visible natural resource ... Dealing with sewage effluent - long term and short term - involves monitoring our sewage and making sure it is treated. It also involves stopping the dumping of salt and sand-laden snow in the river. I am totally opposed to this. The city has until 1992 to deal with dumping in the rivers, but we don't have to wait until then to do something. I want to have this practice stopped by next winter."

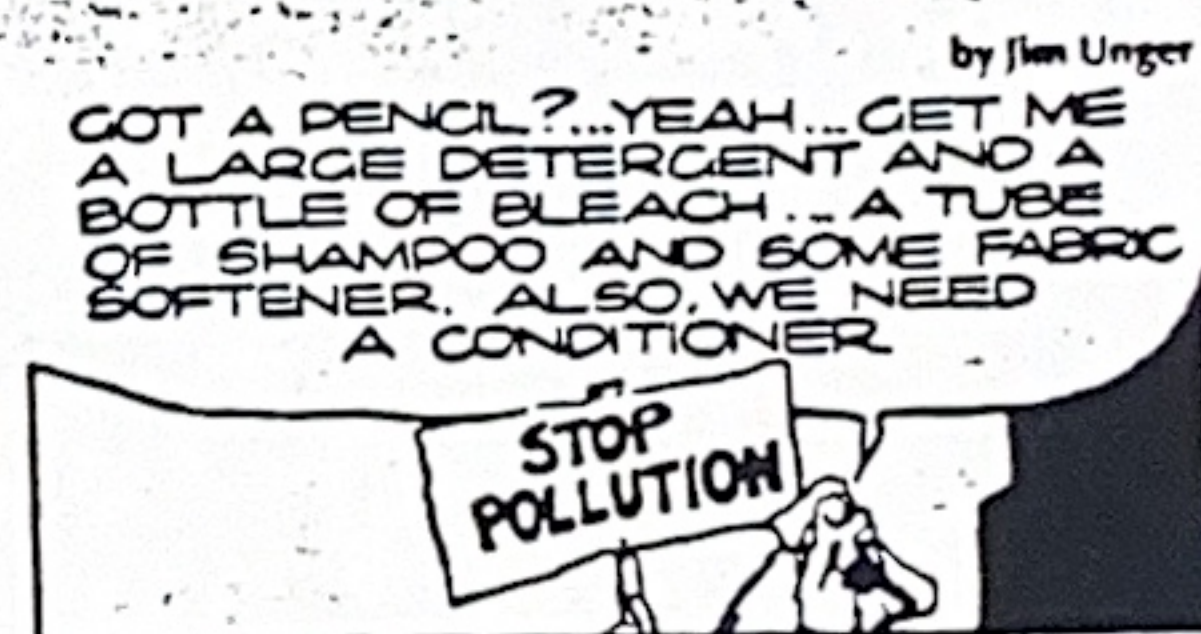
Shirley Timm-Rudolph (Springfield) is hopeful that recycling will spread through the city "especially the inner city." She said that in order to establish the program, there must be "community commitment and involvement to make the cost worthwhile."

"At least 50 per cent of the people must want to participate to justify spending the money. Most citizens know it is in their own best interest and that there are likely to be direct spinoffs as a result of combined efforts."

Donovan Timmers (Westminster) adopts a different approach to environmental issues: "I'm concerned more about process rather than specific issues., although I am concerned about the environment. To me, fundamentally, the concern in environmental issues has been fair democratic process. Municipal government is a fairly reactive system. It is fragmented in that related issues fall under different standing committees.

"My role as councillor is coaching public interest groups through the system. I would tend to facilitate and assist in bringing ideas into the system."

The **Manitoba Eco-Network** made attempts to contact several other councillors who expressed concerns about the environment prior to the election. We'll be watching all 29 council members to see how the city responds to its pressing environmental agenda.



The Bradley Street Prairie

To the average traveler, the corner of Regent Avenue and Bradley Street is a weed filled lot which has been overlooked by the mowers. For those more familiar with the native plants of Manitoba, it is one of the few places where they can see what the Tall Grass Prairie looked like.

Once covering over 1.5 million acres of southern Manitoba, the Tall Grass Prairie has been reduced to a few scattered remnants, the victim of agriculture and urban development. Today, one twentieth of one percent of the original Tall Grass remains.

The Bradley Street Prairie is only one of the scattered remnants of prairie in Manitoba. It is valuable not only for the commercial value of the land itself, but for the native plants which are an essential part of our Manitoba's natural heritage.

The Bradley Street Prairie contains many of the native prairie species which once dominated the landscape where Winnipeg nowstands. Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardi*, the tall grass of the Tall Grass Prairie, reaches shoulder high in late summer. Purple Prairie Clover, *Petalostemon purpureum*, Crowfoot Violets, *Viola pedatifida*, and *Genetiana andrewsii*, the Closed Gentian, add splashes of colour throughout the summer months.

The Bradley Street Prairie belongs to the City of Winnipeg. It is one of many Streets and Transportation department properties held throughout the city for future development.

Of the 20.7 acres of Tall Grass Prairie at the Bradley site, only 9.6 is being considered for preservation. This small portion is being considered for transfer to the Parks and Recreation department for use as a park. While this would be a small, albeit incomplete

victory, it is not yet a certainty for the final decision has not been made.

Preserving the last remnants of our natural heritage is everyone's responsibility. We owe it to future generations to preserve not only the rain forests of Brazil, but the fragile remains of our own devastated habitats.

Concerns and support for the preservation of the Bradley Street Prairie should be directed to those who have the power to preserve this small piece of our natural heritage. Concerned citizens can write to:

Mayor Bill Norrie,
Mayor's Office, City Hall
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

by George R. Kynman
Environmental Journalist
Selkirk, Manitoba



TALL GRASS PRAIRIE FILM RELEASED

The Naturalists Society has released its first film, "Manitoba's Tall Grass Prairie", filmed on location in the Red River Valley. Call the Society at 943-9029 for information.

Instead of planning a massive "perfect" facility and taking years to site and build it like they have in Ontario, he thinks it's a good idea to start small, begin collecting wastes and design a facility to fill the need. The drawback for communities is that they don't have a clear idea of what the facility could eventually entail, he said.



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stay tuned for more hazardous news.

OPEN

or expanded in the future.
The depot will accept any

"Whatever can be recycled, will

1844.





ENVIRONMENT: The conditions under which any person or thing lives or is developed; the sum total of influences which modify and determine the development of life or character.
(The Oxford English Dictionary)

The environment is now a global concern. We can no longer ignore the interconnectedness of all lives and all actions. We invite the entire population to co-create Earth Day.

WHAT CAN I DO ?

- EARTH DAY 1990 invites you to join those in 87 countries who have the foresight and dedication to inspire and organize events in their communities.
- EARTH DAY 1990 involves every level of society: individual, household, community, business, government.
- EARTH DAY 1990 is a participatory tool shaped by individuals and groups who decide to ACT and then DO IT.
- EARTH DAY 1990's real power stems from its collective global demonstration. Unless we begin somewhere, we will never begin at all. An absence of small beginnings will spell the end.

WHAT WILL YOU DO ?

ADOPT AN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP
Help Organize an Earth Day
Poster Contest
GET RECYCLED PAPER INTO YOUR
WORK PLACE
Boycott "junk mail" Production
ADD AN ENVIRONMENTAL POSITION
TO YOUR STAFF
Start a Petition
ORGANIZE A FUND RAISING EARTH
WALK
Organize an Office Teach-In
GIVE \$10.00 TO EARTH DAY

Involve Your Organization in an Earth
Day Eco Fair
TURN RECYCLING INTO BIG BUSINESS
Organize a Green Street Competition
PLANT A TREE
Organize a School Teach-In
SPONSOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION
AND CALL YOUR M.P.
Buy an Earth Day Raffle Ticket
DROP AN ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY
ITEM FROM YOUR LIFE
Wear an Earth Day T-Shirt
SUNRISE CEREMONY OF EARTH AFFIRMATION

Let us assist you in co-ordinating your activities with other events which will take place during Earth Day and the week following.

Let Us All Make A Difference!

CALL OR WRITE:

EARTH DAY 1990 (Manitoba)
(Co-sponsored By M.E.I.)
106 Osborne Street, Second Floor
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3L 1Y5
ATTN: Karen Johnson
(204) -453-3744
(204) 774-3699

LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT
WON'T COST THE EARTH????

Here are a few (not for profit)
suggestions:

The Network Bookstore has a wide
variety of excellent environmental
titles to choose from, also t-
shirts. Support your Network!!

Mennonite Central Committee's
Global Gift Shop at 134 Plaza Drive
has a beautiful selection of
international crafts. Profits go
back to the artisans in their
communities.

Harvest Collective offers gift
certificates for the holidays.
Harvest features a wide range of
organic foods and environment-
friendly household products, while
supporting local producers as much
as possible.

CUSO runs its Unique Boutique at 60
Maryland St. during the month of
December. Mon.to Fri. 9-6, and

Sat.10-4. Crafts, clothing,
jewellery etc. are from Women's
Artisanal Collectives in Chile and
Bolivia.

Peace Works is a new volunteer
group producing wood crafts
including trays, jewel boxes and
cribbage boards from recycled wood.
Profits will go to Peace and
Environment concerns. For more
info. call 582-4248.

Marquis Project in Brandon carries
books, t-shirts, Bridgehead
products and many other items.

This list is intended only as a
start - to get your imagination
going...also consider second-hand
stores, environment-friendly local
businesses, memberships to your
favorite groups, donations to
worthy causes in your friends'
names.....

Above all, consider the need to
promote a true spirit of goodwill,
trust, love and community. They
will go a long way towards
preserving Planet Earth. SEASON'S
GREETINGS!!!!!!

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 fur-
thering of environmen-
tal quality, protect-
ing the environment or
environmental educa-
tion.)

General Meeting Continued

Two were chosen at the General Meeting, leaving one position open for the moment. The Network is also investigating playing a role in the high-profile Manitoba government pavilion at the fair.

Two guest speakers rounded out the program with excellent presentations.

Dr. Drew Bodaly of the Freshwater Institute used slides to illustrate the disastrous impacts which the Churchill River diversion, and dam construction on the Nelson River have had on the North. Flooding has caused widespread habitat destruction, especially at the margins of lakes, and in smaller drainage systems, and massive erosion of shorelines on South Indian Lake. The resulting increase in turbidity of lake water, and decomposing vegetation, has brought about the total degradation of the fishery on the lake. Fish populations have been decimated, and those that do remain have a higher incidence of parasites, mercury contamination rendering them unfit for consumption in some cases, and a generally lowered quality. Degradation of the fishery has removed the principle livelihood of the people of the South Indian Lake area, adding to the tremendous pressures of relocation and physical reconstruction of their communities.

In the discussion that followed, concerns were raised about Manitoba Hydro's future plans, especially with respect to the potential diversion of the Seal and Hayes Rivers, and the current plans for additional construction on the

lower Nelson.

Helen McCullough of the Water Protection Group (WPG) painted an alarming picture of activities, including mining and cottage development, at Shoal Lake, the body of water on the border of Manitoba and Ontario which supplies Winnipeg's drinking water. The Group has discovered that there are no guidelines for drilling operations on the lake, despite the fact that mining and tailings reclamation activities have the potential to release lethal compounds, such as cyanide and arsenic, into the lake water. Indeed, tests have shown that high concentrations of cyanide do indeed occur at the reclamation sites. In addition, the barge and ice-road transportation of hazardous materials on the lake is not regulated. Misleading reports in the mass media have caused many people to underestimate the danger of a major accident which McCullough points out "is just waiting to happen".

The WPG has convinced the Ontario government that environmental assessments for a proposed gold mining development on Stevens Island must include Manitobans, indeed hearings will be held in Manitoba, which is a precedent for the Ontario assessment legislation. Both the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Manitoba will appear as intervenors at the hearings. The WPG is now raising funds to support their own intervention, and has so far received a commitment of \$10,000 from the City.

On a long-term basis, WPG is lobbying for a Safe Drinking Water Act, both provincially and federally - legislation which is long overdue.

Our third planned speaker, the Provincial Minister of Energy and Mines, the Hon. Harold Neufeld, unfortunately cancelled his appearance two days before the meeting.