

ECO-JOURNAL



Volume 4, Number 1

January -February, 1994

Cityside

Citizen action wins new riverside park

A coalition of 12 environmental and cultural groups has prevailed at City Hall which has now agreed to set aside, in its natural state, a property formerly slated for golf course development.

The land surrounding the St. Norbert Arts and Cultural Centre, the former Trappist monastery, was owned by Genstar Development Corporation which intended to remove 40 per cent of the forest hugging the La Salle River and alter the drainage to build fairways for a golf course.

It took determined effort by many activists attending several meetings of City Council, first to convince the city to purchase the property from Genstar, and then more work to convince the city to amend its purchase offer and enabling bylaw to ensure the area would be protected in its natural state. At one point a news conference of coalition groups including the St. Norbert Arts and Cultural Centre, Coalition to Save the Elms, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Heritage Winnipeg, TREE, Friends of the La Salle, CHOICES, the Defenders of Nopiming, Greenpeace and the Sierra Club of Winnipeg was staged outside an *in camera* meeting of Finance Committee with Genstar officials. The Ragamaroons, a local worldbeat/roots music group supplied the musical statement wearing large deer masks fashioned at the St. Norbert Centre.

See STRENUOUS, page 12

Diversion plans cancelled Coalition still mobilized on related issues

by Toby Maloney

The driving force behind successful opposition to the Assiniboine River Diversion isn't taking long to celebrate its victory.

Gerry McKinney, president of Manitobans Against the Assiniboine Diversion says the Pembina Valley Water co-operative's announcement in January that it has dropped its proposal to draw water from the Assiniboine River for commercial and residential use in the Pembina Triangle of Southern Manitoba, "would indicate they have thrown in the towel" and that "the grassroots have cause to be pleased."

Instead of savouring the victory his group will come to the aid of constituent members with more local concerns and concentrate efforts on upstream hazards to the Assiniboine. MAAD was formed by farmers, native bands, environment groups, municipalities and labour organizations in western and southern Manitoba in response to the project and common water supply concerns within the Assiniboine watershed. McKinney credits old fashioned organizing as the key to stopping the project — "this is the way to proceed in the future ... we cannot rely on the politicians. They follow the grassroots."

The Pembina Valley Co-operative cited delays and expense, partly as a result of requests for additional hydrological information about its project from the Clean Environment Commission, as its reason for pursuing a smaller, more short term supply project utilizing water from the Red River, instead of the Assiniboine Diversion.

McKinney said, that if he was a permanent resident of the Red River Valley, he would keep his eye on the alternative project. "(This) should be of concern to Winnipeg environment groups ... I would be insisting on a full public review in any case. I think that's a good precautionary step to take," McKinney says.

MAAD will, however, move on to looking at a water treatment plant proposed for the Stephenfield reservoir, at the request of local groups. McKinney said the reservoir was proposed as a supply for agricultural use, but a treatment plant indicates the water may now be earmarked for commercial and residential use in the town of Carman. The problem with that is "Carman has done nothing, as far as I know to repair their own water network within their town." McKinney says as much as 40 per cent of Carman's treated water is being lost to leaks underground and that problem should be fixed before any increase in water supply. McKinney hopes Carman's infrastructure is prominent in the Manitoba part of the federal infrastructure grants announced by the Liberals.

MAAD is also already working with Concerned Ratepayers of Churchbridge in the rural municipality of Churchbridge, Saskatchewan just over the border from Russell.

A "massive" wetlands drainage scheme (36 sections in nine rural municipalities) ostensibly to prevent periodic flooding and put more land into agricultural production will damage flows to the Assiniboine as well as disrupt drainage and water supply for smaller farmers in the area according to McKinney.

Volume 4, Number 1
January-February, 1994
(date of issue: February, 1994)

Eco-Journal

is published six times per year by the Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau Ecologique du Manitoba Inc. at 867 Westminster (204)772-7542 or fax (204) 772-7563.

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Subscriptions to **Eco-Journal** are available at a cost of \$15 or as part of a supporting membership to the Manitoba Eco-Network at a cost of \$25. Group membership dues are \$30. Advertising rates are available upon request.

The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not represent the views of the Manitoba Eco-Network or its member groups.

Publications Mail Registration Number 10086.
Postage paid at the Winnipeg Main Post Office.

Produced with desktop publishing equipment supplied by Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Reread: short clips, snips and quotes from all over

Water we going to do about conservation?

"Demand-side management" or conservation as a way of relieving the burden of producing new supply has become the stock in trade of many energy utilities, but the issue of water conservation has been largely neglected in the country with the world's largest supply of fresh water. Unfortunately Canada is also one of the world's most wasteful when it comes to water. Don Sullivan, a CHOICES activist writing in the Fall/Winter issue of **City Magazine** argues that Winnipeg will continue to waste large amounts of water (and spend heavily on new water supply infrastructure) because the city's rate schedule encourages overuse, because assumptions about growth become self-fulfilling prophecies and because nothing serious is being done to control demand as a solution to supply. Sullivan says the city's water conservation initiative is a step in the right direction, but is "being implemented only as a short-term solution until capital can be raised to build the infrastructure necessary to increase water supplies to the city." The city's declining block formula for water rates essentially means "the more you use, the less you pay." Big ticket capital projects such as a water treatment plant at Shoal Lake or the expansion of the Deacon Reservoir are the result of this sort of policy. Alternative practices and policies are pointed to in the article.

*Valuing Water As if Conservation Really Mattered:
A Demand-Side Solution To A Supply-Side Problem by Don Sullivan
City Magazine, Fall/Winter, 1993*

Enough to make everyone Happy

A story in February's **Harrowsmith** on the building materials salvage business featured both Happy Harry's and Habitat Restore from Winnipeg. Both operations salvage and sell used building materials, a business that is spreading across Canada and growing in

Continued on following page

1992-93 Eco-Network Steering Committee

Marnie Preston,
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Nick Carter,
Manitoba Naturalists Society
Jack Dubois,
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Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment
Rhoda Rempel,
Project Peacemakers
Celia Sarbit/Debbie Jennings
Marquis Project
Lori Palano,
U of W SAFE

Continued from previous page

the local markets. Happy Harry has a store in Calgary and told Harrowsmith he is opening one in Toronto as well. Another for profit operation in Edmonton has no problem selling the produce of its "creative demolition" often right off the salvage site. Habitat Restore provides funding to Habitat for Humanity housing projects.

*Waste not Want Not by Tony Leighton
Harrowsmith, February 1994*

Backlash forming

A serious backlash against environmentalism is gathering steam as the need to prevent a serious challenge to corporate hegemony in the forests increases. According to a story by Kim Goldberg in *ThisMagazine* the *Vancouver Sun* which ignored the story of the first civil disobedience efforts in August 1992 and finally ran short wire stories about their convictions later that year. The reason: the paper had reassigned their forestry reporter for trying to expose the past misdeeds of B.C. Forest Alliance consultants Burson Marsteller, had cut David Suzuki's column, had extinguished its fisheries, native affairs, energy and mines beats and had instructed its environment reporter to concentrate on stories in Greater Vancouver and the Lower Mainland (conspicuously free of old growth forest). The changes at British Columbia's leading news outlet came about with the hiring of an international public relations firm ostensibly to advise the Sun on how to boost circulation.

The firm? You guessed it. Burson Marsteller, known for its involvement with the Wise Use "movement" in the U.S. the Share groups in B.C. and a long sordid history of fronting for the generals in Argentina during the dirty war, Union Carbide after the disaster at Bho Pal and the Nigerian government during the starvation of Biafra. More reading on B.M. in Joyce Nelson's book "Sultans of Sleaze."

*AXED: How the Vancouver Sun became a black hole for
Environmental Reporting, ThisMagazine, August 1993*

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Calendar of events

FEBRUARY 5 TO 13: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK EVENTS.

February 5: IDEA Centre 20th Anniversary multi-media benefit. An evening of music, song, dance, poetry and readings addressing racism's impact on international/local development. Performances by Eritrean Cultural Group, Red Roots Community Theatre, Nellie McClung Theatre, India School of Dance, Licanantay, Dreamsharers, Magdarrat Philippines Folk Arts Inc. 8 p.m. Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre 340 Provencher. Tickets \$15 (\$7 or pay what you can low income) and more information are available by calling Lorelei at the IDEA Centre 786-2030.

February 5: Marquis Project hosts a luncheon with development workers and politicians in southwestern Manitoba, 200-107 7th St. in Brandon. Also official naming ceremony for the Laura Delamateur Resource Centre. Call Linda 727-5675 for more information.

February 7 to 11: Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and the Winnipeg Centennial Public Library presents a series of lunchtime speakers followed by entertainment at the SkyWalk auditorium from 11:45 to 1 p.m. Call 786-2106 for more information.

Monday -- Mary Ann Morris (Project Accompaniment and the Guatemalan Action Network) speak about her experiences travelling with Guatemalan refugees who returned to their country from Mexico to reclaim their communities last year. Entertainment by clown troupe Loonisee.

Tuesday -- Menno Klassen (Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee) speaks about his experience with the July 1993 Friendship Caravan to Cuba and the continuing U.S. embargo. Entertainment by singer/songwriter Hugo Torres.

Wednesday -- Ifigenia Martinez Hernandez (Institute of Studies of the Democratic Revolution, Mexico) speaks on the impact of trade on development. Flamenco guitar performance to follow.

Thursday -- Susan Deane (Manitoba League of the Physically handicapped) and Yutta Fricke (Disabled Peoples' International) speak on population and development issues and Canada's responsibility to a comprehensive, public review of its' foreign policy. Entertainment by Singer/songwriter Alvin Kaskie.

Friday -- John Cadigal (Canada World Youth) shares slides and stories about his experiences in Thailand. Entertainment by Caribbean Connection.

February 7 to 11: The University of Manitoba Development Education Project hosts workshops and panel discussions Monday to Wednesday in the International Centre for Students Lounge (Room 541 University Centre), cultural performances at noon hour, craft sales and displays by NGO's at the Main Floor of the University Centre and movies on development issues throughout the week at the Grad Students Office (2nd floor Univ. Ctr.) Keynote speaker is Dr.

Lahteef, Minister of Education for the Maldives. Call Rob at 474-6625 for more information.

February 8: Brown Bag Lunch on gender and development issues with Barbara McDonald from CIDA at Marquis Project, Brandon. 727-5675 for more information.

February 9: Public lecture "Regional Wars in the Context of Development" with David Jackman, Project Ploughshares, at 7:30 p.m. sponsored by Marquis (727-5675 for location of meeting in Brandon).

February 9: World University Service of Canada at the U of M host a panel discussion on refugee issues with speakers from the UN High Commission for Refugees in Malawi, the WUSC Refugee program in Kenya and immigrant students in Manitoba. Contact Jessica at 284-7577 for more information.

February 10: Red River Community College panel discussion "Can Canada Still Afford International Aid?" together with displays, films and entertainment. Call Joyce at 632-2171.

February 11 and 12: Continuing the Peacemaking Journey: New Approaches to Just Living. Project Peacemakers celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a Peace Festival starting 7:30 Friday night at First Mennonite Church, 922 Notre Dame. Karen Ridd gives the dinner address and then participates in workshops on Saturday. David Jackman, Project Ploughshares opens Saturday event with an address on "Canadian Foreign Policy Review." For tickets/registration call Ian at 775-8178 or visit the Project Peacemakers office at 745 Westminster (top floor).

February 11-13: African Students Association hosts "Africa into the 21st Century" at the University of Manitoba. Conference topics include: Economics, Politics, Gender and Development, Environment, Education and Development, Cultural Independence, Africans in Diaspora, and Health and Development. Call Blessing at 474-6528 to register etc.

February 19: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open house at the new Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre. All members, supporters and friends of the Eco-Network are invited to visit our new office and Resource Centre at 867 Westminster Ave. Refreshments. Call 772-7542.

March 4-5: Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women sponsors "GAD: Questioning the Answers, A conference on gender and development" at McMaster Hall Complex, Brandon University. Registration and more information available from MACSW at 725-2955 (in Brandon).

March 26: International NATO out of Nitassinan Day of Action. Various events and action across Canada and Europe. More information available from International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth (ICIE) 736 Bathurst Street, Toronto M5S 2R4. (416) 531-5850.

International Development Week

Global Issues featured across the province

Trade, peace, refugees, population and development issues will be the subject of lectures, workshops conferences, musical and theatrical performances across the province for International Development Week. "Week" is a bit of a misnomer because development week events start as soon as February 5 with a luncheon meeting of development workers and politicians from southwestern Manitoba at Marquis Project in Brandon and a 20th Anniversary multi-media benefit for the IDEA Centre that evening in Winnipeg (see Calendar) and carries right through the following weekend to February 13.

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and the Winnipeg Public Library are running lunch-time presentations in the SkyWalk auditorium Monday to Friday looking at various aspects of and issues concerning development. The presentations starting at 11:45 and going until 1 p.m. combine knowledgeable speakers with entertainment as diverse as the Loonisee Clown Troupe, Hugo Torres, and Caribbean Connection. (see calendar for details).

There is a strong peace component in this year's observation of International Development Week. David Jackman of Project Ploughshares discusses "Regional Wars in the Context of Development" at a meeting organized by Marquis Project in Brandon and foreign policy issues and economic conversion at a conference organized by Project Peacemakers in Winnipeg on the 11 and 12. Project Peacemakers is marking its 10th anniversary on Friday night with a dinner and a homecoming of sorts for Karen Ridd who is the keynote speaker. (See calendar for registration details).

The University of Manitoba Development Education Project and others at the University of Manitoba are hosting workshops on various topics all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 7 to 9. Red River College, the International Students Association (Brandon) the World University Service of Canada and the African Students Association(U of M) are all school-based groups sponsoring meetings, lectures and symposia. For more information call MCIC at 786-2106.



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To register, or for more information, please contact:
Nancy Ito, Administrative Officer,
The Institute of Urban Studies,
The University of Winnipeg,
515 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA, R3B 2E9
Phone: (204) 786-9409, FAX: (204) 786-1824



Scoping the Liberal Plan: Is there a tinge of green in the Red Book?

by Toby Maloney

Given the Liberals insistence they are sticking to what is usually called (always in upper case bold) "The Plan" we should be taking a second look at the contents of "Creating Opportunity: The Liberal Plan for Canada."

You might expect an environmentalist to head straight for the sustainable development section, but enamoured of that tired oxymoron I headed instead for the *An Innovative Economy* section. First stop, *Natural Resources* where the problem seems to be that:

"the inconsistent application of environmental assessments has become an obstacle to competitiveness. It can take two years to acquire a mining permit, and restrictions on land use are growing, because of Aboriginal land claims

OPINION

and the need for environmental preservation. A Liberal government will work with the provinces and territories to provide Canada's natural resource industries with greater certainty by coordinating a specific system of land access, settling Aboriginal land claims, and resolving the delays and uncertainties in current regulatory processes."

To me that sounds like the Liberals are intending to remove obstacles to resource developments. A cynic of the environmental persuasion might agree that assessment processes are inconsistent - sometimes they are inadequate and sometimes they are completely inadequate.

Deconstructing Infrastructure

The much vaunted \$6 billion infrastructure program is fast becoming all things to all people. In the policy book, sewage and water treatment plants are the examples listed, but the criteria seems to be broadening enough to even allow the consideration of hockey arenas. The problem with the Liberals approach to this program and the problem of infrastructure renewal is that they are proceeding without any analysis of why municipalities aren't

able to pay for their sidewalk repairs and sewer rehabilitation. Even cursory examination would show that even through the recessions of 1981 and 1990 to 1992 most Canadian cities and towns were expanding their infrastructure willy nilly and show no intention of stopping. The City of Winnipeg is still planning to build the Charleswood Bridge, for instance. Each new project cripples our ability to finance the maintenance of what we have now. Constant urban expansion

at the expense of maintenance is the root cause of Canada's decaying infrastructure. The infrastructure funding program should require municipalities and provinces to prepare a sustainability plan to ensure it doesn't just free up more public money for urban sprawl.

Youth Corps could have restoration focus

Another big dollars promise is the one to establish a Canadian Youth Service Corps to undertake social and environmental projects. The red book promises to engage 10,000 people per year at its peak for a total federal contribution of \$100 million in the third year. This could be a good thing if the criteria are seriously developed with the participation of appropriate social planning and environmental groups. For one thing there would need to be adequate administrative and operating funding for the groups to create and oversee projects. I would hope to see a strong emphasis on restoration rather than cleanup projects which usually polish image and not much else.

The other hoped for expenditure is the reinstatement of RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program) loans for homeowners and landlords in older neighbourhoods. The Liberals promised \$50 million per year. The plan should have a substantive focus on energy conservation and

retrofitting, which would also provide a greater social benefit to the homeowners

Constant urban expansion at the expense of maintenance is the root cause of Canada's decaying infrastructure.

who would then face lower energy costs.

I'll leave the trade issues to others except to say that the NAFTA policy was the first promise out the window. Liberal approval of NAFTA was supposed to be contingent on provisions to give Canada the same energy protection as Mexico, and agreement on a subsidies code and anti-dumping regu-



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lations. But then how seriously could you take these professed concerns when the policy book breathlessly predicts that as a result of a favourable Liberal-induced climate for small and medium businesses "the multinationals of tomorrow are the small and medium-sized businesses of today." Fostering the growth of huge unaccountable bureaucracies that shop around for the least expensive regulatory regime is not my idea of economic policy.

Economy still supersedes environment

The deficit reduction section of course, says nothing about the soil deficit or the forest deficit, despite their sustainable development philosophy which would put ecological concerns on a par with economic considerations. That didn't occur in this policy book and there is no reason to believe it will occur in this government which, by the way, has treated environment as a secondary portfolio to the other duties of the deputy prime minister. How many environmentalists have been invited to the budget consultations Paul Martin has been conducting?

Creating an independent CRTC-type body for environmental assessment could be one way of removing the ministerial discretion

to ignore review processes that has been the norm in Canada. Appropriate levels of intervenor funding would need to be taken seriously to accomplish, as industry is fond of advocating, a level playing field. The trigger for determining when a project should be reviewed will still be at issue given the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act the new minister Sheila Copps is poised to proclaim.

Phasing out persistent pollutants in a review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act sounds nice, but what will be the process and will we have the political will to say no to the chemical industry?

A promise to allocate 25 per cent of new government funding for research and development to technologies that reduce impact on or enhance environmental protection and to provide other incentives for environmental industries also sounds nice, but it contradicts a promise in another section to cut grants to business. This would have to have strict controls on it, or it will just end up a scam like the Scientific Research Tax Credit program that papered the company with fake research projects.

Bottom line? Let's hope that this policy book is a minimum of what we can expect from the new government. Anything less will be seriously deficient.

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Saturday February 19

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CPAWS: Niche player manages to win a few

After only three years on the scene the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society or CPAWS as it is universally known has recorded some impressive success stories. Halting "runaway development" in Atikaki Wilderness Park, at least pending a policy review by the department of Natural Resources, and preventing the transfer of Hecla Island to national park status in place of creating a new and less degraded national park in the Manitoba Lowlands region, top the list of CPAWS wins according to president Roger Turenne. Along the way, public awareness has increased regarding both the extent of the threat to wilderness and the value of preservation.

Of course, both victories are incomplete — the province could decide it will issue development permits for Atikaki once more and the likely site for a Manitoba Lowlands park is meeting with stiff resistance from the

Member Group Profile

province and mining interests (see sidebar below).

Working with existing groups

And Turenne doesn't take all the credit for CPAWS: Much of the work the group does is with the wilderness caucus which includes a number of environment and conservation groups such as the Manitoba Naturalists Society and the provincial manifestation of the national Endangered Spaces program. This is the way CPAWS prefers to operate, says Turenne although the need for a CPAWS chapter working in the niche of parks and wilderness specifically was obvious.

Manitoba is the only province which permits logging, mining and other development

in parks, even natural area parks as a rule rather than the exception. Partly for this reason, CPAWS has tried to form a network of volunteers who make it their business to

follow activities related to parks, both provincial and national, in Manitoba.

Of course, CPAWS has more of a history in Manitoba than the past three years. At one time there was an active CPAWS chapter (in the late 60's and early 70's — Jennifer Shay was a founding member who is still active in Manitoba) that merged with the Manitoba Naturalists Society. CPAWS gradually became subsumed into the Naturalists.

Mainstream roots / activist orientation

The national organization itself started in 1963 partly as a creation of Parks Canada

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Unilateral decision threatens bat caves

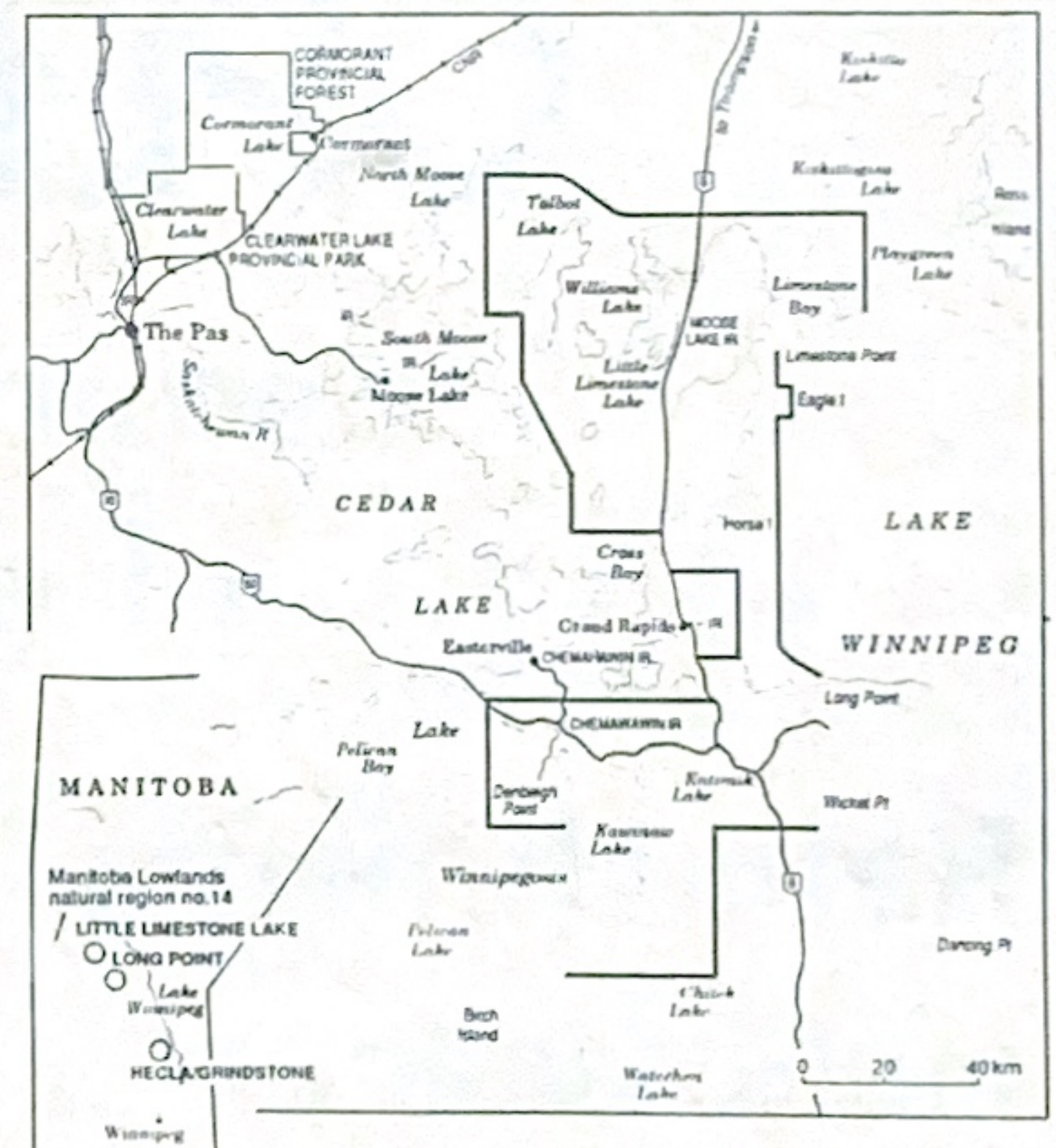
Relations between parks and wilderness advocates and the new Minister of Natural Resources Albert Driedger are off to a poor start. Parks advocates including the Wilderness caucus and constituent members CPAWS and the Manitoba Naturalists Society have been lobbying hard to establish a federal wilderness park in the Manitoba Lowlands region between Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg. The preferred option for environmentalists is an area outlined as Little Limestone Lake/Long Point while the province has tried to unload the inferior Hecla-Grindstone Park to the federal government.

In November the new Minister responded to pressure from Falconbridge Mining which announced it had found significant mineral deposits to exploit in the northern portion of Little Limestone/Long Point.

Without consulting conservation groups the Minister announced that an area, environmentalists say as much as 60 per cent of the northern portion of Little Limestone Lake/Long Point was being withdrawn from consideration as a new national park as a mining reserve. (While mining and logging are permitted in Manitoba Parks national parks do not allow this kind of development).

Unfortunately the unilateral decision threatens the limestone and dolomite caves that are unique in the region. The caves are also the habitat for the brown bat which can survive winter hibernation only because the temperature deep in the

humid caves stays above zero through the winter. Efforts to study the caves and the bats have been conducted mostly by volunteers to this point. That mining exploration could proceed without disturbing the critical caves and bats or not is dubious if only because so little is known about the bat's requirements and the number of caves has yet to be determined.



Proposed Little Limestone Lake/Long Point national park

For more information about Little Limestone Lake/Long Point call CPAWS Manitoba 237-5947.

Continued from previous page

which needed a strong constituency to promote and preserve the values of wilderness preservation. Nowadays CPAWS often finds itself on the other side of the table from Parks Canada but still tries to maintain a cooperative relationship.

Nine CPAWS chapters broadly adhere to the principles of the national organization but have the au-

tonomy to work on local and provincial issues. The organization published *Borealis* a high production magazine which the chapters can use to supplement their own membership

drives and newsletters. As well the magazine and the national organization can provide a boost for lobbying provincial issues on the national scene.

For instance the scheme to transfer Hecla-Grindstone to national park status (favoured by the province as a way of relieving its costs and a longstanding conflict with former landowners on the island) was short circuited with the help of pressure on the federal government by the CPAWS national lobby.

The work of the upcoming year will be to press for the Endangered Spaces agenda through the Wilderness Caucus, in which Turenne says CPAWS and the Naturalists are the prime movers. The modus operandi is to cooperate with government where possible, even to the point of taking criticism from others. When Endangered Spaces gave Manitoba a B Grade this year notwithstanding continuing policies of logging and development in parks and a new Parks Act that legitimizes this, some environmentalists were

disgusted. But Turenne defended this in a recent editorial in the CPAWS chapter newsletter saying the province deserved an improved mark for delivering on meaningful protection for the Hudson Bay lowlands.

Turenne explains that CPAWS is deliberately mainstream where protection for wilderness is done wherever possible through cooperative measures and not "confrontational" advocacy.

Deliberately mainstream:

When Endangered Spaces gave Manitoba a B Grade some environmentalists were disgusted but Turenne defended the grade saying the province delivered on meaningful protection for the Hudson Bay lowlands.

Park is one example of that harder edge. The establishment of the Limestone Lake/Long Point may require the same.

A couple of dozen of the chapter's 250 members are active, many as part of coalitions such as TREE (Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems) and the Wilderness caucus. There's plenty of room for more involvement — for instance Turenne says the group would like to have committees actively monitoring policy and activities for each wilderness area and park in Manitoba. For instance it has been difficult for the group to effectively monitor the establishment of the Churchill

National Park. There are aspects of the plan that aren't to the group's liking but there just hasn't been enough volunteer hours to challenge the plan or tackle it as an issue. Bear baiting and perimeter development around riding Mountain National Park is another area in which the group would like to exercise a more proactive response.

Drawing in active members

CPAWS has refocussed the parks and wilderness preservation efforts of some activists, but it has also drawn more people into the realm of activism — CPAWS members who were receiving *Borealis* four years ago are helping to put together a local newsletter now. Mobilizing the membership is a key goal of the chapter.

In the coming year CPAWS also intends to be actively involved in opposing the ski hill development proposed for Asessippi Park, and in the eventual consultations for park designation under the new Parks Act. And of course, the group intends to continue to respond to crises, like Asessippi as they arise.

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Balancing responsibility with consumption

What does it mean to be an Earthwise Consumer? Our product choices can help save the environment and protect our health in the bargain, says consumer activist Debra Lynn Dadd, author of *Nontoxic, Natural, & Earthwise* as well as the books *Nontoxic and Natural* and *the Nontoxic Home*. Dadd's books deal with *How to Protect Yourself and Your Family from Harmful Products* and *Live in Harmony with the Earth*.

Dadd knows from first hand experience how our product choices affect our environment. "Ten years ago Debra Lynn Dadd went through a spring cleaning more thorough than most of us have even imagined. She began by throwing out every chemical in her home, from household cleansers to aerosol sprays. She tore up her carpet and took down everything from her walls. She shut off all her gas appliances, put a water filter on her shower, and got rid of her perfumed soaps, shampoos, and any foods that contained additives. The measures Dadd

took to purge her environment of everything artificial or chemical may seem extreme to us.

way we feel about the world. She looks at five key issues - Product ingredients, Packaging,

Energy Use, Compassion to Animals, and Social Responsibility. Dadd developed a standard of

The family ecology page

But for her it was a first step towards saving her life." For years Dadd suffered from headaches, sore throat, fatigue, insomnia and depression. When her symptoms became severe, she went to see a clinical ecologist. She discovered that her illness was caused by an extreme sensitivity to common chemicals most of us breathe, eat, touch, or are exposed to on an everyday basis. The names associated with her sickness are environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivities, and total allergy syndrome. For Dadd, the diagnosis of environmental illness was the first step toward regaining her health.

Through her own research and self-education Dadd started a career as an environmental

activist and became an expert on non-toxic consumer products. She learned that although she was sensitive to toxins, many of the chemicals to which she was reacting can also have damaging effects to people with stronger immune systems. Dadd was concerned about what it means to be living in a world that was capable of making her so sick in the first place. She came to believe that it is not enough to simply protect ourselves from a world that is becoming increasingly poisonous, but that we must begin to heal the Earth itself if we want to be truly well.

Dadd stresses that we need to make the connection between decisions we make as consumers and the

evaluating ones purchases designed to help us live in harmony with our planet. The following are criteria that we can apply to our own purchases and encourage manufacturers to work toward:

Product Ingredients - the environmental impact of obtaining raw materials, manufacturing and distribution process, toxic exposures while we use it, and disposal.

Earthwise are made from recycled materials or renewable natural resources produced by sustainable methods. Growing or manufacturing does not produce pollution and they are biodegradable or recyclable. Examples are organically grown food, recycled products and wood products obtained through sustainable forestry practices.

Natural products are made from natural and renewable products, but are not produced in a sustainable, non-polluting way that maintains the fertility and productivity of the local ecosystem.

Nontoxic products may have ingredients made from artificial compounds derived from nonrenewable petrochemicals and their manufacture and disposal may produce toxic waste.

Compassion to animals - cruelty-free products that are not animal tested or contain animal ingredients.

Social Responsibility - the company that manufactures the products should show respect for the environment in their choice of products, be committed to a sustainable economy, disclose information on ingredients and manufacturing practices, offer equal employment opportunities, and should not manufacture weapons or use nuclear compounds, and should not exploit unduly the labour or resources of Third World countries.

Is it enough to just choose appropriate products? To be truly earthwise means to live simply. The resources of the Earth can support us if we each take what we need to maintain a simple standard of living and do our part to give back to the ongoing continuum of life on Earth.

(Adapted from *Nontoxic, Natural and Earthwise* by Debra Lynn Dadd, and *The Yoga Journal* Sept, 1990).



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Update from the International Affairs Caucus

by Bill Goddard, Crossroads Resource Group

At its latest get together the International Affairs Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network followed up on some ongoing activities including Agenda 21 (from the Rio summit in 1992), the Trade Working Group, and a code of Environmental Ethics and Conduct. The Environmental Development and Support Program (EDSP) of the Canadian International Development Agency was also a major topic since a permanent program has been established since the last public consultation meeting with CIDA a year ago.

The code of ethics project was endorsed and funded by CIDA as an outcome the previous consultation. A twelve page paper by Kenneth Towle, "A Brief Introduction to Environmental Ethics" is available. If you or your organization would like to have a say contact the committee through the Eco-Network office of the CEN office in Ottawa.

The discouraging news from the caucus is that it appears the Trade Working Group has failed to get results at all levels. Contact Laurie Gourlay in Ottawa for more information.

In addition to the IAC meeting we had the first EDSP Constituents Meeting from November 27 to 28. The goal of the first day was to focus on "what needs to be changed in the world, visions to be realized, and achieving these visions." The second day worked on North-South working relationships, appropriate models of collaboration and skills development workshops. If you have ideas on how to improve the "match-making" between North and south organizations, please contact the caucus in Ottawa.

We also had the Second Annual CIDA Consultation with environmental non-government organizations from November 29 to 30. The main message

from the consultation was that the EDSP has connected partners in north and south, but the quality of the projects, as determined from on-site studies, was not satisfactory in most cases. Peter Padbury of CIDA said that at the current rate we wouldn't have the desired results in a hundred years. Our workshops focussed on the concept of coherent programs rather than separate projects, as the solution to this problem. A report on the workshops will be published by CIDA. Meanwhile, if you are planning a project,

ensure that it has significant leverage and fits into CIDA's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (see 1992-1993 Progress Report, October 1993, CIDA).

For more information on EDSP, the meetings and access to information please contact Bill Goddard, Crossroads Resource Group (947-9160 or 774-6482) The IAC caucus coordinator at the CEN in Ottawa is Stefan Ochman (613-563-2078).



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Strenuous lobbying wins at City Hall

New park protected from development in perpetuity

[continued from page 1]

Christine Singh, of Coalition to Save the Elms led the groups to oppose a clause in the original offer to purchase that stipulated a provincial environment licence for a golf course development be attached to the deed.

This would have forced Genstar to proceed with its environment licence application (and attendant costs). Singh and others asked 'If the city's intent is to establish a park why would it want the golf licence?'

The groups insisted that the city remove the licence clause and instead include a clause in the enabling by-law that the lands would be "held in perpetuity in their natural state."

Singh says the City Finance Committee's argued that it was bargaining hard to get the best value for its ratepayers but that didn't wash with her group since Genstar was also offering an adjacent parcel of land worth half of the purchase price on its own.

In Singh's opinion Genstar has done the right thing by agreeing to negotiate the sale at a price comparable with adjacent land deals it has made. The city has now followed through with what many activists contend was its duty under Plan Winnipeg by agreeing to establish the property as a park in its natural state in perpetuity. The result is important because of the specific ecology of

the forest in question, and the area's role as a wildlife corridor along with the existing parks at La Barrier and the St. Norbert Heritage Park. Esthetically it enhances the heritage value of the St. Norbert Arts and Cultural Centre which will remain as a centre piece for the park. The decision of city council also serves as a precedent of sort for the sustainability principles in Plan Winnipeg and future development proposals that impact on urban forest and cultural values.

More Food for Thought

Harvest Natural Foods Collective takes another look at food in its second Food for Thought Series. The issues are discussed in a workshop circle at Robert A. Steen Community Centre (Ruby and Palmerston) from 7 to 9 p.m. Some of the issues are a deeper look at issues raised in the Fall series, including **Womens' Role in Food Production** with the

Marny Fyfe, World Food Day Association of Canada on Tuesday February 15.

On Tuesday, February 22 University of Winnipeg Biologist Eva Pip looks at **Water Quality and Health**.

On March 1, herbalist Michelle Forrest leads a discussion of various herbs and the uses, as well as age old remedies and the

present political climate regarding herbs.

More Food Politics, a popular issue from the last round of workshops starts with the situation regarding irradiated food and its imminent appearance on Canadian grocery shelves. Lorna Kopelow of Concerned Citizens of Manitoba leads that discussion on March 15. Concerns about water diversions and the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mary Hewitt-Smith, Council of Canadians and the Effects of Hydro-Damming on the fishing and hunting in Northern Manitoba communities, with independent consultant Lorna McKerness rounds out a busy evening.

The series ends March 22, appropriately, with **Preserving Our Food Sources** led by Pat Mooney, an author and researcher in biodiversity issues.

Admission is \$5 (or \$2 if low income). A children's program may be available for pre-registration at least a week prior to the event.

For more information call 783-8094 or 786-1499.

Help Wanted

To celebrate **Heritage Day, Feb. 21st** at the restored Walker Theatre! Come enjoy a tour, the Heritage Winnipeg Preservation Awards and the Theatre's designation ceremony as a National Historic Site. For details, call 983-4718.

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A quick but thorough dunking in eco-aspirations today

Wisdom in the Open Air

by Peter Reed and David Rothenberg

University of Minnesota Press, 1993

Reviewed by Hendrik Herfst

Wisdom in the Open Air (a take off on the Norwegian "friluftslif") is more than the Norwegian Roots of Deep Ecology of the subtitle. If you want a quick but thorough dunking in what eco-aspirations today are all about, you'll want to read this book.

Deep ecology is not limited to the most "radical" visions of the relationship between humans and nature. It is a common belief that today's environmental problems are symptomatic of deeper structural problems in our society and require systemic overhauls, not just retrofitting. Deep ecology offers up the possibility that the world might be appreciated apart from what we can humanly enjoy of it.

Unfortunately the authors' own idea, that deep ecology rises from the mountain fjords of Norway because of the landscape, is not that well constructed in the book. Their hypothesis is presented more as a Socratic polemic than a substantiated dissertation. Chapter 1 (the "Introduction"), reads like a groping Master's thesis and, unless you are an activist (in which case you might benefit from some of the experiences in the historical anecdotes), you can safely skip to Chapter 2. The basic geographic concept of the book is probably best understood by those with a penchant for topophilia. If you have read Aritha van Herk's geogra-fiction *Places Far From Ellesmere*, you will probably be able to fill in the blank spaces left by the authors.

The graphic design of the book leaves much to be desired. The cover is stark and unsympathetic to the concepts of "complexity, diversity, and vagueness" discussed within. The delightful drawings of Sigmund Kvaloy included in the book should have inspired its cover and design. A change of typeface would have helped immensely in separating the authors' comments from the source materials. "Ecosophy T" is parachuted in on page 99 and if it is ever explained, I missed it.

Presenting the full spectrum of activist options

The book's redeeming virtue, and its merit, lies in its anthology of Norwegian writers who illustrate the spectrum of environmental ideas. From the great pessimist and proto-deep ecologist Wesel Zappfe whose 1940's "biosophy" spoke of the great existential tragedies discovered by humankind in our own biological predicament (our brain is too large), through the Father of Deep Ecology Arne Naess, through Sigmund Kvaloy, Nils Faarland, Finn Alnaes, and Johan Galtung, to the constructive positivism of advertising

executive Erik Damman, (founder of The Future in Our Hands), who stalks the halls of political temples, it's hard to imagine a popular book which could be tidier in presenting the full spectrum of activist options.

The essays construct the argument that we are in the grips of development Neanderthals. Environmentalists, bringing bad news, can expect to be suspected of community treason and can hope for little more than to be, like Socrates, "a pest, but at least a respected pest." On the other hand, if we renounce all save ourselves, then any practical possibility of change becomes reduced to romantic introversion. We have an obligation to implement change.

According to Kvaloy these changes must be based on the courage to stake one's life on one's aesthetic sense whose flowing you do not control. This is a model of organic existence which calls on us to permit an inner democratic revolution in order to further the democratization of our environment. The edict that we should start by changing ourselves is not compatible with this model since to do so means separating soul from body. The change the writers speak of is more profound and is hammered out on a colder anvil. Nils Faarland adds the view that knowing the sense of a place and experiencing it are essential to the desire to protect it:

The Way is the Goal.

Encountering free nature is an experience of joy.

There is no force stronger than joy.

Joy is the way Home.

The strength in what may seem like an esoteric plan is this: If your environmental goal is only a material one and you come very close to winning it and then lose it, your co-activists are likely to be shocked into inactivity because "everything is lost." But if you follow the Way, then you can continue always.

Kvaloy recounts the development of an activist movement in Norway which, he feels, was too naive 15 years ago when it tried to implement environmental change by harmonious persuasion. He has come to the view that no change is possible without conflict. Growing numbers of Norwegian ecopolitical activists have ceased trying to find the harmonious kind of transition where Industrial Growth leadership is gently steered into the sort of economy that supports life and creativity.

The Achilles heel of the industrial complex is that it is run by specialists who are ill-equipped to deal with the multi-faceted aspects of the real world. Therefore we should become super-amateurs who combine extensive generalized knowledge with the main theme that interests people: the future of their communities. How one works is not as important as that one works. The complexity of the problem requires a diversity of approaches. This extends to the point that deep ecology must also reach those who hold different views about the direction our society is taking, making sure they can be accommodated in workable solutions instead of protracted conflict.

Wisdom in the Open Air is an important anthology and should be on every environmentalist's reading list.

Parks process will circumvent real consultation

by Harvey Williams

Regulations will soon be adopted that will implement Manitoba's new Parks Act, a slightly amended version of the infamous Bill 41 that identified economic opportunity as a purpose of parks. But Bill 41 was not all bad, it contained other provisions that were improvements over the existing Parks Act among which was a requirement for public consultation in adopting regulations for the new Parks Act.

Manitoba's parks have been identified as the least protected in Canada. Logging and mining are presently allowed in all of our natural parks including Grass River, Duck Mountain, Nopiming, and Whiteshell. Atikaki, our only designated wilderness park allows mining but excludes logging. The planned public consultation will be a peek-a-boo process designed to protect the status quo and head off public debate over the continuing devastation of our provincial parks.

Instead of consultation in public forums with media coverage and public debate, consultation is to be in the form of "drop-in" open houses. Those who drop-in will be greeted by a window dressing of charts and displays carefully crafted to create an illusion of protected parks and wilderness areas managed under a policy of sustainable development.

Additional public input is to be through a divide-and-conquer process of "stakeholder" meetings in which parks officials will meet separately with representatives of various organizations and special interest groups; as if all Manitobans are not stakeholders in provincial parks. The stakeholder meetings will provide an opportunity for special interests to present their cases out of the limelight of media coverage and public scrutiny.

The regulations that implement the new parks act will determine the future of Manitoba's provincial parks for generations. A public dialogue on provincial parks is long overdue, and should be the subject of broadly based public discussion and debate. This can occur only in the context of a public forum where the citizens can exchange ideas and discuss park issues accompanied by media coverage.

CLOSET CONSULTATION

All Manitobans are stakeholders in our provincial park and forest lands and as such are entitled to a voice in planning their future. But government prefers consultation with focus groups and small groups of "stakeholders" to consultation in public forums; like smoke and mirrors, such meetings create illusion without substance. Focus and stakeholder groups are like cells of an underground organization in which members of one cell don't know who are the members of other cells. Since they are closed to the press, government is free to take advice from its favourite special interest group.

Public consultation should be in public forums that attract media coverage, generate public interest and create the public controversy that governments fear. Only this way, can government respond to an informed citizenry.

Avoiding citizen participation

Forest planning left to "focus groups"

by Harvey Williams

A contract for the development of a long-term Integrated Forest Management Plan for Manitoba has been let to Peat Marwick Stevenson & Kellogg with Donna Larsen in charge. According to the *Blurb*, Forestry Canada's newsletter in Manitoba, the plan is to become "a tool for decision-making on the use or non-use of land and resources in the context of sustainable development."

While detailed information about the planning process has not yet been released, the information contained in the *Blurb*, is not encouraging. A follow-up call to Peat Marwick was equally discouraging. Ac-

cording to Ms. Larsen, the public consultation is to be in the form of "Focus Groups" consisting of seven to nine members representing a cross-section of "stakeholders in the integrated forest management plan." Each 2-hour session will begin with introductions followed by a "warm-up," "in-depth investigation," and summarization of findings. A cynic might wonder how "in-depth" a 2-hour investigation might be, and a person with a New Year's eve mind-set might be titillated at the prospect of "warming up" by passing oranges clamped under chins from person to person.

Based on the questionable assumption

that broad public input has already been obtained through the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy's (MRTEE) forestry workshops and workbook, no open public meetings are planned. The policy statements contained in the original and revised workbooks resulting from this process are generally regarded as a collection of conflicting platitudes subject to a variety of interpretations. And there is not any indication of public discussion of the Forestry Branch's policy of allowing "other resource opportunities within designated forestry lands, so long as such opportunities comple

Continued on following page

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ment and do not conflict with, existing or future forest harvesting operations." The effect of this policy which according to Director of Forestry Dave Rannard reflects the present Forestry Act is to give the highest priority to commercial forest harvest.

Specific issues that must be addressed in a 20-year forest management plan for the province include:

1. Planning must precede commitment. A 20-year integrated forest management plan should be in place before any additional commitments of forest lands are made. Accordingly, development of the two proposed forest products plants, one on the east side of the province and the other on the west side should not proceed until a 20-year integrated forest management plan is in place. Repap's ten-year, now eight-year forest management plan should not be finalized until completion of the 20-year plan.

2. Federal-Provincial agreements including: *A Wildlife Policy for Canada* - Which calls for wildlife corridors between protected areas,

signed in September 1990;

Sustainable Development: A Special Role for National, Provincial and Territorial Parks, signed in September 1990 in which Federal-Provincial/Territorial Parks Ministers agreed to take action to ensure that park lands have an essential role to play in establishing a comprehensive network of protected areas, will be managed to maintain and restore essential ecological processes and to maintain biological diversity, and that wildlife (in parklands) is not affected by roads and other development, and that all park uses are sustainable; and the 1992 Memorandum of Understanding to conduct a feasibility study of sites in the Manitoba Lowlands for a new national park.

3. The plan should take into account the vision and principles for protected areas set forth in the report of the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council, *A Protected Areas Vision for Canada* published in 1991;

4. The plan should include a strategy for preserving biodiversity based on sound biological principles such as: protecting areas large enough to prevent the loss of species as

has been shown to occur when isolated ecosystems are too small; representing each of Manitoba's natural regions with areas of sufficient size to maintain biological integrity; taking into account the distinctive biogeographical characteristics of Manitoba's boreal forests, their wetlands and the possible effects of fire and/or climate change that may occur in the future, requiring the protection of substantially larger areas with special north-south configuration; and the need to connect protected areas by wildlife migration corridors to prevent reproductive isolation of life forms and to protect gene pools;

5. The preservation of biodiversity must take precedence over all other forest management goals;

6. Provision for ecosystem restoration where natural forest ecosystems have been destroyed by human activity; and

7. Monitoring of human impact on biodiversity and research aimed at increasing our understanding of biological processes in the boreal forest regeneration.

New Resources at the Manitoba Eco-Network

[867 Westminster Avenue open Monday to Thursday 9:30 to 4:15 and Saturday from 10 to 4. Call 772-7542]

Discover the World is a compendium of ideas and models for teaching children to solve problems peacefully, creating a climate of learning about the world's peoples and supporting the "uniqueness" of each child. Articles by more than 30 teachers, parents, artists, storytellers and performers look at "Awareness of Others" "Conflict Management" "Global Awareness," "Appreciation of the Environment," "Current Events," and "Concerns of Peace." Most of the articles deal with examples of activists and events organized by or for children in schools and other settings and could be adapted for use elsewhere. This is a treasure trove for teachers or homeschoolers interested in creating a new ethic of respect.

Discover the World: Empowering Children to Value Themselves, Others and the Earth (edited by Susan Hopkins and Jeffery Winters, concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment, New Society Publishers, 1990).

Women and the Environment, a collection of essays published by Canadian Woman Studies is an interesting mix of writing by academics, eco-feminist philosophers, poets and activists. The role of women in front line resistance such as Low-Level Flight Testing

and Nitassinan (by Act for Disarmament editor Maggie Helwig) and Clayoquot Sound by Valerie Langer (Friends of Clayoquot Sound) define the schism between patriarchal official systems that benefit men at the expense of both women and the environment. Essays by Vandana Shiva and others place the struggle to democratize development aid in context. Eco-feminists are in the forefront again, partly because benefits have been distributed so unevenly, in insisting on bottom up/inside out development rather than externally imposed "solutions." One essay rather eerily sets out the framework of eco-feminism by quoting now-deceased German Greens leader Petra Kelly, "While men's revolutions have often been about dying for a cause, feminist conceived transformation is about daring to live for a cause."

Women and the Environment, Canadian Women's Studies, Spring 1993, York University/Inanna Publications and Education Inc.

AVAILABLE BY MAIL ORDER: The Manitoba chapter of the Wildlife Society has available for purchase "Proceedings of the Third Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Workshop (February 1992). Contents include over 90 papers (384 pages) on agriculture and wildlife interactions, the Prairie Conservation Action Plan and preserving biodiversity on the prairies. Send \$15 to Dan Chranowski, Department of Natural Resources - Western Region, 1129 Queens Avenue, Brandon R7A 1L9 or call 726-6450. The Wildlife Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.

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Group members are entitled to nominate representatives for a position on the Eco-Network Steering Committee. Group membership is open to any non-governmental, non-profit group which has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.