



Tourism industry/ ecologists question economics of ski hill project Asessippi park going downhill?

by Toby Maloney

The provincial and federal governments are preparing to finance a ski hill venture that will disrupt important nesting habitat in the Shell River valley and is unlikely to ever produce a return on the investment.

Supporters of proposed ski hill development above the Shell River in Asessippi Park (near Russell and the Saskatchewan border) are calling their development "world class" but an established ski hill operator calls the project a "total fairy tale."

"I don't know where they figure they'll get skiers -- rural Saskatchewan?" says Agassiz Enterprises General Manager Kitty Talbot. She operates a hill with a 510 foot vertical from the escarpment in Riding Mountain Park -- that's about 130 feet higher than the proposed development -- and admits her operation is barely hanging on. A new hill chasing the same market "could put us out of business."

Feasibility studies questioned

In fact feasibility studies filed with environmental assessment documents by Ski Asessippi Ltd. a syndicate of private developers with interests in the Russell area headed by Daymon Guillas, indicate the company expects to get 50 per cent of its ski visits from Saskatchewan. The target area the project proponents hope to draw from includes major centres like Regina, Winnipeg and Minot, even though they are as much as four hours away. This allows the company to project 27,100 ski visits or 270 skiers per day

during a hundred day season, in the first year of operation.

Talbot says that may be possible in the first year as skiers are drawn by the novelty of a new hill but "after that it will be diminishing."

Ski Asessippi Ltd, which is also projecting an operating profit in its second year is planning, however, to have 10 to 13 per cent growth each year until its fifth year and then steady growth at 2 per cent on into the next century. 41,000 skiers will grace their hills in the seventh year of operation, according to the study, compared to Agassiz which is lucky to get 30,000 visits in a peak year.

Like Agassiz the new hill would be dependent on getting significant numbers of skiers to drive as much as four hours to

Asessippi. Talbot says that more and more skiers are travelling to Frost Fire in North Dakota and there are already other river valley ski areas at La Riviere and Swan River as well as numerous smaller hills.

"It's hard enough to get them to drive three hours (to Agassiz)" she says.

See GOVERNMENT GRANTS, page 6



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Earth First announces camp at Nopiming Park

Earth First! Manitoba has announced it will establish a camp at Nopiming Park on May 1, to bring activists to the wilderness that they are trying to save.

Earth First representative Dave Nickarz says the fight for a place such as the Nopiming forest can become more passionate from spending time there.

"Bringing activists and news media to the Nopiming Forest will foster an understanding of what exactly is on the line: life itself. People at the camp will be taken to see the Nopiming Forest first hand, and all that it has to offer. From the many clear-cuts we will see that there is a lot to lose," he said in a release.

Other activities of the camp will include non-violent direct action training, teaching proper camping techniques that respect the land, monitoring of logging operations, media events, and research of the local flora and fauna.

The camp will be located near an active

ECO-BRIEFS

logging area, but for now, will be kept secret to avoid action by the government or logging companies.

Earth First is asking for activists to join the camp, but is also asking for donations of camping equipment, transportation, cooking utensils, dried food and cash. Volunteers to teach skills in non-violent direct action, plant identification, low-impact camping techniques, fasting, aboriginal culture, and applied deep ecology are also being sought.

Earth First has set ground rules for the camp including non-violence "in word or deed" a ban on non-prescription drugs and on weapons. "We have come here to defend Nopiming Forest and our actions will reflect this."

For more information on how to support the campaign or to make a donation please call 453-9052.

MCC leads

by Jan Westlund

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has been named one of the best charitable

organizations in a recent survey of the heads of large U.S. based charities.

The survey, conducted by the U.S. based

Continued on next page

The 1994-95 Manitoba Eco-Network Steering Committee

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Continued from previous page

Money Magazine and the U.S. watchdog group National Charities Information Bureau, asked the heads of 111 charities to anonymously rate their peers. A third of the executives filled out the survey; according to *Money*, they "gave consistently high marks to two lesser-known relief and development charities we thought you should hear more about: MCC and Habitat for Humanity International."

As well, MCC was ranked the second most efficient relief and development agency by the magazine in its annual ranking of charitable groups. Last year MCC was ranked fifth.

The annual ranking was created to help readers 'decide best how to spend their charity dollars.' The ranking, which is based on data provided by the NonProfit Times, shows which charities have spent the highest percentage of income on programs over the last three years.

In the relief and development category, MCC, which has its Canadian office in Winnipeg, is listed as spending 88.2% of its income on programs over the last three years. The top-ranked group, International Rescue Committee, spent 92.3 percent on programs.

The reason MCC is able to keep its overhead and fundraising costs low is because "of the many volunteers who contribute time and because of the generous support of so many Mennonite and Brethren In Christ church members and others," says MCC Canada Executive Director John Dyck.

Dyck adds that while the efficiency rating is noteworthy, "it is especially gratifying to be rated so highly by our peers who direct charities."

MCC is the relief, development and service arm of the North American Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches. Its interna-

tional programs are administered financially from its office in Akron, Pa. The organization has over 900 workers serving in 54 countries, including Canada.

The first-rate performance by the MCC internationally comes as no surprise in Winnipeg. The local organization is well-respected here for its enterprising and well-run programs. Acting as a catalyst for community-based development, MCC has supported programs as diverse as Community Shared Agriculture, Neechi Foods and the Logan Recycling Committee. MCC has maintained a membership in the Manitoba Eco-Net-work for several years.

It's understood by many including Anne Lindsey, Executive Director of the Eco-Network, that, "... if you're looking at an inventive, responsive community development program in Winnipeg, chances are the MCC is standing somewhere behind it."

At a recent hearing on Winnipeg's participation in the proposed Manitoba Product Stewardship Program, MCC floated the concept of participating in a recycling collection program with city workers which would see 50% of the contract profits funnelled into inner city job-creation and development.

While the likelihood of that concept becoming a reality will not be known for some time, clearly what we do know is that MCC stands heads above hundreds of other American and international charitable groups in its commitment to excellence in delivering relief and development programs.

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Financial Meltdown

The Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout is keeping the pressure on as Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd goes into hearings on its plan for deep underground disposal of high level radioactive waste.

New fact sheets -- **Financial Meltdown: Government Subsidies for the Nuclear Industry and CANDU 3: Another Export Scheme** -- make a concise case for disposing of more than just the waste. Financial Meltdown details government subsidies at every level of the industry from uranium mining and refining to Heavy Water production and decommissioning of reactors.

These total a conservative estimate of over \$12 billion to the nuclear industry in the five decades it has operated in this country.

The frightening economics of the industry show that government support is actually increasing while social programs are being cut, and that more subsidies for CANDU exports to China and perhaps Chile are on the horizon.

A longer paper of the same name is available for \$5 from Nuclear Awareness Project (which wrote and researched the fact sheet) at Box 2331, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7V4 Tel/Fax (905) 725-1565.

CANDU 3 sounds the alarm over a plan by AECL to market a smaller, less expensive reactor to developing countries. The fact sheet outlines a series of design concerns and predicts cost overruns, environmental difficulties, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

CANDU reactors produce about twice the plutonium as comparable light water reactors. As well the CANDU design permits the loading of new fuel bundles while the reactor is running. This makes secret removal of used fuel for plutonium extraction more convenient.

Both Saskatchewan and New Brunswick have been wooed by AECL to host the first CANDU 3 site, but no firm agreements are in place.

Both fact sheets are available in the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre, 867 Westminster Ave.

Reread

compiled by Toby Maloney

Towards a Green Economy

Two more facts sheets **Towards a Lean, Green Canadian Economy** and **A Climate Change Action Primer** both by the Canadian Climate Action Network will round out your easy reading on energy policy. Lean, Green Economy is a relatively comprehensive (for a booklet -- it comes with footnotes and outlines clear alternatives, not just criticism) argument that subsidies (sound familiar) to fossil fuel projects is crippling our economy. The primer adds the details about the poisoning of the atmosphere that results. A few of the conclusions include:

- Over 80% of the energy budget of Natural Resources Canada will go to fossil fuel projects
- In 1990 tax reductions of \$6 billion were granted at a loss in tax revenue of more than \$2 billion
- Studies of spending on major energy supply projects versus energy efficiency, manufacturing, service industries or construction show investment in fossil fuel and nuclear comes last in jobs per dollar created.

This leads to the obvious which is to convert spending to energy efficiency and conservation measures on a national basis, public transit, and emissions control.

2,4 - Danger

The evidence against the herbicide 2-4 D is mounting. An article from *Between the Issues* 2,4 - Danger: Erring on the Side of Disbelief by Gwenda Wells outlines the problems with the popular weed killer including dioxin and furan contaminants that are carcinogenic, and links between pure 2,4-D and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Perhaps more disconcerting is the chemical's ubiquity -- as one of the top five herbicides, millions of kilograms per year are released into the environment.

Much of this is for home use to kill dandelions. Studies of surface water after storms in Guelph found guidelines for the protection of aquatic life were exceeded in 10 per cent of samples collected. The samples were from urban *not* agricultural run-off.

Check the Fall edition of *Between the Issues* or get a copy of *How to Get Your Lawn and Garden off Drugs* also in the Environmental Resource Centre.



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Network news file

ANNUAL APPEAL SUCCESSFUL!

The Network's Second Annual Fund Appeal was a great success. Thanks are due to all our loyal supporters who dug deep and contributed a total amount just shy of \$4,000! This is a significant increase over last year, when the total raised was \$1,635. We also met our goals of increasing the number of gifts: from 89 in 1993 to 113 in 1994, and the average donation: from \$18.37 to \$35.

The increase is particularly important in a year when the Network is anticipating an operating deficit, and the strong likelihood of a cutback in next year's core funding from Environment Canada. It demonstrates to us that there is support for our work and that we continue to meet a need in the community.

A very special thank you is owed to the volunteers who contributed their time to the telethon. Asking for money on the phone is not the most coveted of jobs, yet it was done cheerfully and enthusiastically by many:

Jack Dubois, Kim Monson, Sacha Kopelow, Dan Hood, Hendrik Herfst, Anita Shirriff, Sandy Hurwitz, Michael Belmas, Nick Carter, Harry Mesman, Helen McCullough, Jennifer Polle, Jan Westlund and Anne Lindsey.

The volunteers especially appreciated those people who took the time to comment on aspects of the Eco-Network that they found helpful. Jane Carruthers, Raymond Bartlett and Margaret Scott volunteered to send out charitable receipts. Rick Freeman worked beyond the call of duty to ensure that the mailing was sent out on schedule. Once again, a big thank you to you all!

Phase II of Parks Project goes ahead

The Network has secured the necessary funding to proceed with the second phase of our Parks Research and Mapping Project. This project is designed to gather information about resource extraction and other uses of our provincial parks, and to map this information to give a spatial overview of land use in the parks.

Phase One, which culminated in a series of maps and a report entitled *Re-evaluating Park Policy in Manitoba: Resource extraction, commercial use and heritage values in four provincial parks*. A summation of the report, with the maps, was presented at the Natural Lands and Special Places hearings. It was funded by a research grant from the Senate of Canada, and covered four of our so-called "natural area" parks: Nopiming, Grass River, Hecla and Duck Mountain. The report was authored by Bill Krawchuk, with mapping by Mike Condra.

Phase Two is being funded by grants from the Thomas Sill Foundation and the Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation, and will cover the remaining five natural area parks. We are currently seeking a researcher/writer and a cartographer to undertake the project (see job description page 6). The project is timely in light of Manitoba's new Parks Act, for which implementing regulations have yet to be produced. This Act will have important impacts on issues such as logging and mining in our parks.

Manitoba Eco-Network's Eco-Information Series presents:

Food Matters: Examining the relationship of our diet to the environment -- health issues, resource use, community development and co-operative marketing perspectives.

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• **Dennis Bayomi, Winnipeg Vegetarian Association:**
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Admission is \$1 or by donation. For more information: Jan Westlund or Anne Lindsey at 772-7542



"Private" ski hill development funded almost entirely with government grants

Continued from Page 1

Environmentalists preparing for last month's Clean Environment Commission hearings were incensed about yet another development in a provincial park, particularly in threatened riparian habitat where neo-tropical birds like the Yellow-Throated Vireo come to nest.

According to Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS) member Ian Greaves, who spearheaded that groups intervention in the Clean Environment Commission hearings, says it does not appear that the area in question has ever been developed.

He says noted birder and MNS past president George Holland did a survey of the area and called it "very rare and unique." Holland reported that the Asessippi site, 48 acres close to the junction of Highway 83 and Old 83, is the most northerly fringe known for the Yellow-Throated Vireo. Greaves points out that despite having wings birds cannot just pack up and move to another site.

Continental decline in neo-tropical bird populations

"People assume birds can go 50 miles over and nest in Riding Mountain National Park ... (but) you have to assume there's Yellow Throated Vireo already there. Greaves notes that current statistics show neo-tropical bird populations, birds that nest in the north and winter in the tropics, are declining 2 per cent per year across the continent, as a result of deforestation in both north and south.

HELP WANTED

The Manitoba Eco-Network

is seeking a **Researcher/Writer** with a knowledge of environmental issues, especially relating to Parks, to carry out Phase 2 of our Provincial Parks Research and Mapping Project. Applicants should have skill in oral communications and report writing. This contract position will be of approximately 3 to 4 months duration, and will involve both document research and extensive interviews.

Please send resume, including work history, to:

P.O.Box 26007,
116 Sherbrook St.
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K9.

If habitat can't be protected inside a park, where can it be protected? Ian Greaves

Aside from the immediate threat to the bird habitat and the forested area, admittedly small, Greaves is disturbed at the principle behind government approval of the project.

"If habitat can't be protected inside a park, where can it be protected? Crown lands are all slated for development."

Greaves thinks the whole question should have been nipped in the bud when a project was being proposed for a park. He thinks developers should have been told, sorry not in a provincial park.

And both environmentalists and ski operators are wondering why two levels of government are so quick to pour large amounts of funding into an industry that is, if anything over built and with a market that is contracting as cross country skiing surpasses downhill in popularity.

\$3.5 million in government grants

Depending on what you categorize as government the project input from the province and the federal government totals more than \$3.5 million. So far, that includes \$1.65 million from the federal community futures fund, \$500,000 from the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement, \$800,000 from the Rural

Economic Development Initiatives (REDI) and a Grow Bonds investment issue of \$500,000. The provincially-funded Manitoba Sports Federation is also contributing \$250,000.

The project will require a short road into a lodge that is planned for 17,000 square feet on the main floor. Additional outbuildings including a 400 square foot maintenance building will also be constructed. A parking lot of 18,000 square metres will also be cleared. The hill construction is predicted to require the clearing of about 40 acres of forest. The hill itself, which leads down into a river valley, will be extended by building a mound at the top.

Politics blamed for shaky decision

Both Talbot and Greaves say the project support is politically-motivated. Greaves says the main political supporter of the project is the Roblin-Russell MLA Len Derkach, who as Minister Responsible for Rural Development also controls the REDI fund

Greaves notes that Derkach announced his support of the project "four days before the federal election (October '94)" and is now planning "to shove this thing through to get re-elected" in the upcoming provincial election.

Talbot says the project will be another Hecla Island, in which a privately owned facility will require ongoing infusions of cash to keep it above water. She says the private investors are "politically-connected" and are "going to make their futures off of it." She knows her opposition to the project sounds like "sour grapes" because it is a potential competitor.

A lodge operator who produces feasibility studies for tourism project as a consultant also scoffed at government or any investment in the project.

"They (Asessippi Ski) have got the government and the media hoodwinked about this. They're putting \$5 million into a bunny hill!"

Supporters of the ski hill keep returning to historic provincial commitments to support tourism in the area after the flooding of the Assiniboine Valley by the Shellmouth Dam. They say the area is being repaid for their contribution to relieve flooding in other parts of the province.

Bill C-62: Who's minding the store?

Private industry gets to negotiate self-regulation

The Canadian Labour Congress is asking just who is the client of government, anyway? Recent developments, including the Harmonization Initiative discussed in the previous issue of *Eco-Journal*, seem to bolster their contention that the present government's view is that its client is not the public, but private industry.

The most recent piece of evidence is in the form of the Regulatory Efficiency Act, Bill C-62, introduced in Parliament on December 6. The Act would allow for any individual, with the agreement of two Cabinet Ministers, one of which is the President of the Treasury Board, to fashion a "compliance plan" as an alternative to any federal regulation!

In the words of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, this Act, if passed, has the potential to fundamentally undermine the principles of parliamentary democracy upon which the government of Canada is predicated.

Bill C-62 sets the stage for an unenforceable patchwork of "compliance plans" across the country, potentially a different law for anyone with the resources to negotiate their own compliance plans. In addition, under this Act, one appears to have the option of pleading ignorance if found to be in contravention of a compliance plan.

The goal of the Act is purportedly to reduce regulatory costs and to improve efficiency (the Canadian Manufacturers Association, the legislation's chief cheerleader, claims savings of \$3 billion could be had, providing the extra flexibility is used fully and the other levels of government pursue similar initiatives).

However, according to the CLC, in 1990, Canada's Auditor General reported that "over half Canada's mines were not in compliance with the Fisheries Regulations and half again of these were pushing out more than twice the allowable amount of toxic effluent." We can be sure that compliance plans will do nothing to improve this situation, if anything they will weaken regulations even further. What we need, clearly, is enforcement of the regulations that we currently have.

And it's hard to see how money could be saved as enforcers of Canada's laws will now have potentially thousands of different versions of regulations to keep abreast of. (That is, assuming that enforcement still happens - the harmonization initiative seems to imply that we may be seeing progressively less enforcement, at least on the environmental side).

In addition, if a compliance plan should be suspended for any reason, the government (read taxpayer) will be required to pay compensation to the company or individual involved. And there's more: this Act gives any two Cabinet ministers the power to enter

into agreements with any other government or individual respecting the administration of any federal Act or regulation. It's not exactly comforting to know that Washington, or the CEO of Exxon Corporation, for example, will now be administering the laws of this land.

OPINION

by Anne Lindsey

What does all this mean to Canadians? After all, we are talking about any and all federal regulations: airline safety, food and therapeutic products, biotechnology, forest products, fisheries, and many more areas will be affected. The

complex process of setting specific standards by which regulations are implemented will be undermined, meaning that we may lose the right to know what is in the food we eat, for example. Public interest groups, including environmentalists, with essential knowledge and background on many issues, may lose the ability to participate in regulation setting.

The federal government policy document **Building a More Innovative Economy** provides the key to this frenetic dismantling of regulation. It says "Increasing global trade and advances in technology are changing the world economy. Countries that ignore what is happening and take a "business-as-usual" attitude will fall behind....countries that take bold actions by adapting to new technologies and the realities of today's economy will meet the challenges of tomorrow head on, seize new opportunities, and build a better country". One of these "bold actions" is regulatory reform. Why? Because "markets are demanding that government reduce the burden of regulation".

Who are the nebulous "markets" which are referred to here? They are clearly the captains of (big) private industry, the same players who are busy negotiating NAFTA, GATT and the World Trade Agreement and who are looking for unfettered (read unregulated) access to natural resources and eager consumers.

In its rush to become a player on the world stage, our government seems prepared to sacrifice the health, safety and environment of its own citizens, and the processes which we have in place for their protection. Regulatory reform may be necessary, but wholesale deregulation is uncalled for and potentially dangerous. Government needs a serious reminder about who elected them, and that their client is indeed, the public.

Environmental groups across the country, including many member groups of the Manitoba Eco-Network, are sounding the alarm about Bill C-62, calling for it to be withdrawn. Rumour has it that many Liberal backbenchers share our concerns, but they need to hear from their constituents. John Harvard, MP for St. James is Chairing the Standing Committee to which this Bill has been referred for study. Give him a call. For more information about Bill C-62, contact the Eco-Network office.



Have you been paying close attention? Well try the Eco-Journal Eco-Quiz

Questions are taken from the pages of **Eco-Journal** in 1994. Find out how well you score. Send your completed quiz -- right wrong and humorous answers are all eligible -- by April 15 (to Eco-Journal Draw, Box 26007-116 Sherbrook, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K9) and we'll enter you in a draw. Win one of five gift subscriptions to send to your choice of friend, foe or library branch.

1. The City of Winnipeg isn't too pleased with Browning Ferris Industries' latest proposal. Why is the city unhappy with BFI?

Eco-Briefs, ECJ Sept-Oct and story July-August

2. Pat Mooney went to play COPS and Robbers in the Bahamas in December. What was he referring to? (For a three pointer)

Future of farming hinges on Biodiversity and community, ECJ Nov.-Dec.

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3. The Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee held a wiener roast with a difference in July. What was different and why were they doing it? (one point each)

Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee helps sponsor project, ECJ July-August

4. While Winnipeg has a mix and match of private, non-profit and public recycling services, one southwestern Manitoba town has had free curbside pickup since July of 1990. Name the town.

A tale of three towns: How rural communities are responding to recycling, ECJ Nov.-Dec.

Continued on next page
(DON'T WORRY IT GETS EASIER)

5. A lot of injured wildlife ends up in Glenlea, Manitoba. Why?

Member Group Profile, ECJ Sept-Oct.

6. Nuclear power generation does not provide a solution to the Greenhouse effect. For two points, briefly explain Why?

Setting the record straight on nukes and greenhouse gases, ECJ Nov.-Dec.

7. What was the major difference in the environmental decision-making process for the Main-Norwood and Charleswood bridges?

City Side, ECJ Sept.-Oct.

8. Classic organizing and broad coalition building chalked up two victories for Manitoba's environment in January. What was won? (One point each).

Citizen Action Wins, and Coalition still mobilized on related issues, ECJ Jan-Feb.

9. The Manitoba Eco-Network hired Jan Westlund as a project worker in August to help do what?

Reseeding the Grassroots: Eco-Network program helps to extend a hand, ECJ Sept-Oct.

10. A famous Manitoban spent his early years plotting prairie river diversions. Name the person.

The Great Prairie Water Sale: Coming Soon to a lake or river near you, ECJ July-August

11. A new organic food co-op opened in June. What is the name of the store?

Organic movement expanding with second cooperative opening in Winnipeg, ECJ May-June

12. Environmentalists were not impressed to learn that Louisiana Pacific planned to construct an Oriented Strand Board plant in Minitonas (near Swan River) Manitoba. L.P. chalked up Clean Air Act fines in the U.S. of (circle one) A. \$5.2 million B. \$7.5 million C. \$11.1 million.

Who's buying up the forest now? One of America's least wanted comes to Manitoba, ECJ March-April

13. The time estimated to exhaust the world's petroleum resources if the whole world ate like the United States according to scientist David Pimenthal would be (circle one) A. 130 years B. 13 years C. 28 years.

The Environmental Significance of a Vegetarian Diet, ECJ May-June

14. A report by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund graded Canadian cities on their treatment of sewage. Winnipeg, which dumps the equivalent of 60 spills of the magnitude of the Exxon Valdez disaster, got a letter grade of ____.

Sewage City: The Grade We Made, ECJ July-August

15. What Winnipeg defence company appointed an employee to be responsible for its conversion strategy?

Conversion or diversion: Local perspectives on the future of defence industries, ECJ March-April

FOR ANSWERS
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PAGE 14.

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Province signs sweetheart forest management deal with Louisiana Pacific

Editor's note: For years we've been told that we must balance ecological destruction in the forest with the economic benefits it brings. I.e. Jobs vs. the environment. But a closer look at the supposed benefits reveals they are concentrated in very few hands and that we are either giving away the trees or paying the companies to take them away. In the following analysis Time to Respect Earth's Eco-Systems (TREE) president Harvey Williams challenges the government's will to implement its own policies of "sustainable development" and shows how our government has sold the farm to an American Multinational.

The Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy, chaired by Premier Gary Filmon and dominated by government ministers, advocates a policy of Sustainable Development. The first principle of Sustainable Development listed in the core document of the Round Table's policy states:

Help Wanted



Next time you travel, make sure your souvenir purchases aren't made from endangered or protected species of wildlife. When in doubt, don't buy it!

 Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Canada

ANALYSIS

By Harvey Williams

"We must ensure economic decisions adequately reflect environmental impacts including human health."

That is directly contradicted by the manner in which the province has issued a Forest Management License (FML) for a land mass of nearly 6000 square kilometres to Louisiana Pacific. The following provisions of the FML are of serious concern:

Deal signed before EIA

The agreement was signed and became effective on September 21, 1994. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be completed until Spring. The agreement commits the province to allowing L.P. to harvest at a rate sufficient to provide the Oriented Strand Board (OSB) plant in Minitonas with a continuous wood supply when operating at full capacity. Full capacity is 900,000 cubic metres per year, or as visualized in a Canadian Press story, enough wood to cover both lanes of the TransCanada Highway from Winnipeg to High Prairie, Alberta.

Province pays for any decrease

The FML makes no provision for the cost of mitigating any environmental impacts identified in the EIS. Accordingly, the province could be forced to compensate L.P. in the following cases:

1) If First Nations communities were granted a land claim settlement in the FML and either refused to sell Aspen to L.P. or charged more than the 55 cents per cubic metre specified in the FML, the province would have to compensate L.P. for the additional costs.

or

2) If the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) was reduced by a recommendation of the Clean Environment Commission the province would be required to compensate L.P. for any additional costs. The AAC in the agreement is predicated on a 50 year harvest rotation, but research has revealed that 13 species of wildlife, including both mammals and neo-tropical songbirds require 80 year old Aspen stands. If the CEC recommends an 80 year harvest rotation, it will be at the province's expense.

Continued on next page

In order to terminate the agreement the Province must purchase the company at the market value as a "going concern" plus the value of any future expansion ...

Continued from previous page

No expiration date

In effect the FML has no expiration date. So long as L.P. meets certain conditions, the FML is renewable indefinitely.

Forest management privatized

Not only has the management of the forest resources been delegated to L.P. anyone applying for a new timber harvest quota must apply to L.P. The company will be the direct supervisor of their operations. Because of staff reductions at the Department of Natural Resources, provincial oversight of the operations is likely to be minimal.

New Parks Act preempted

The FML preempts the New Parks Act provision for public consultation in the establishment of regulations and a system plan for provincial parks. The FML specifically authorizes aspen harvest in provincial parks including Duck Mountain Provincial Park without public consultation. If a ban on logging in Duck Mountain increased L.P.'s costs, again the province would have to compensate. Similarly if areas in the FML were set aside to meet the provincial commitment to the Endangered Spaces goals, the Province would be required to pay.

Province liable for future opportunity

If there has been any agreement on expansion, and we don't know at this point whether there have been such agreements, a

future government that disallowed expansion would again be forced to compensate, this time for the company's lost opportunity.

Buyout clause upon termination

In order to terminate the agreement the Province must purchase the company at the market value as a "going concern" plus the value of any future expansion as agreed upon (implies that future expansion plans must be compensated for). If Manitoba enacts any changes in laws or regulations that make continued operation of the Oriented Strand Board plant impractical, Manitoba must also buy-out the plant as a going concern.

Charges and dues

Per cubic metre hardwood	Per cubic metre softwood
55¢ Stumpage	Stumpage to be charge according to policy (Repap is currently paying 65¢ per cubic metre)
17¢ fire protection	
45¢ forest renewal trust fund	\$4.63 for forest renewal
\$1 for a Geographic Information System (GIS) of the Mountain Forest Section up to a total of \$5 million	



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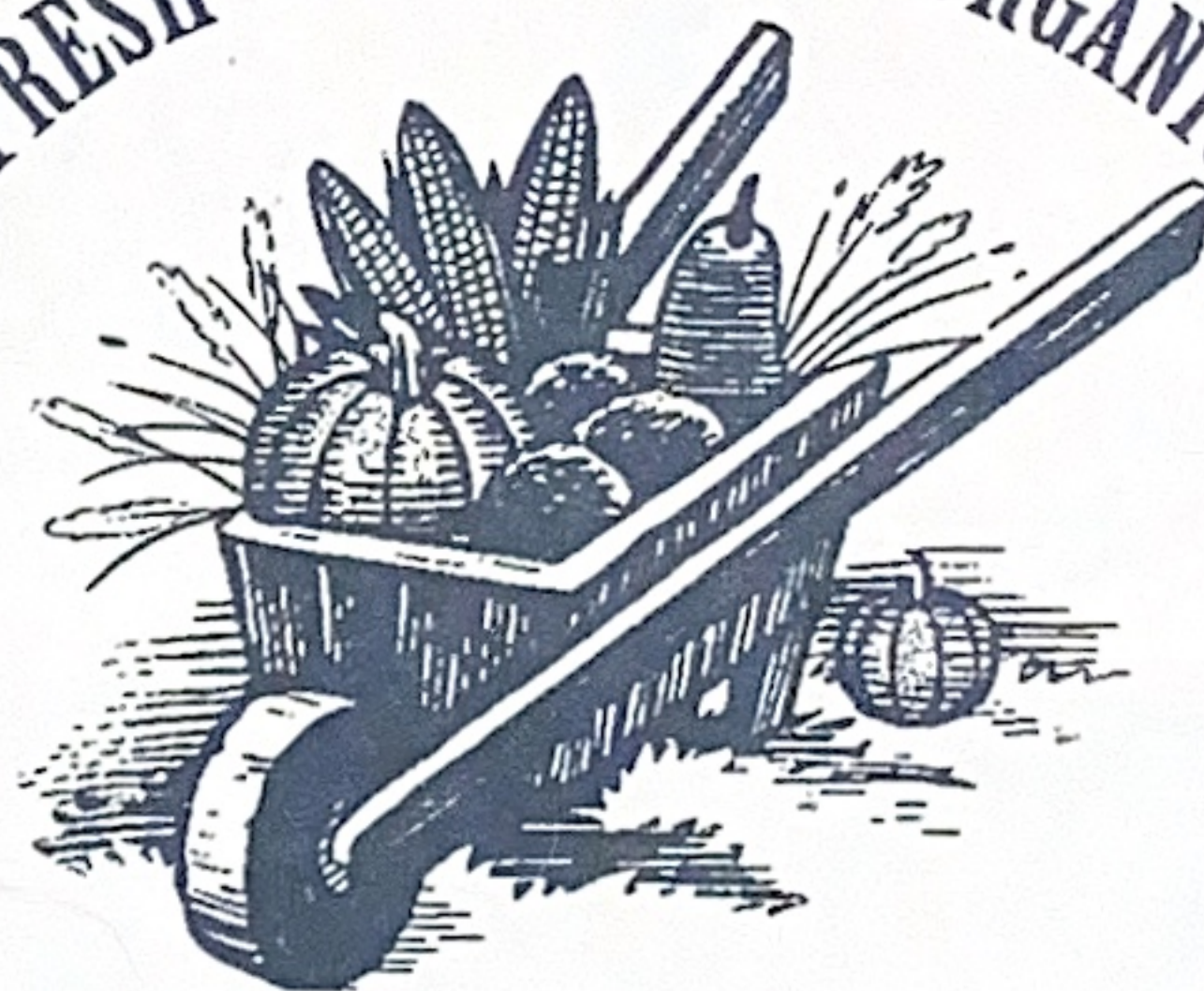
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Organic Producers and Marquis Project team up to help with reconstruction of El Salvadoran community

There probably haven't been many Canadians who have even heard of El Porvenir, El Salvador, but two Manitoba groups are hoping to spend the next three years working with the peasant village.

Six representatives of the Marquis Project in Brandon and the Organic Producers Association of Manitoba (OPAM) visited El Porvenir last summer to explore striking a partnership with CRIPDES, a Spanish acronym that translates as Christian Committee for the Displaced People). A rural development worker from El Salvador and a peasant farmer had already spent two weeks in rural Manitoba touring Manitoba farms and speaking to local school and community audiences.

The groups hope that Marquis and OPAM can offer advice and channel some Canadian funding into a project to rebuild their community around ecological sustainability. They are just waiting to hear about the status of their application for three years of funding to the Environment and Development Support Program (EDSP). The EDSP, which is administered for Canadian International Development Agency by the Canadian Environmental Network, funded the initial partnership talks and study.

The citizens of El Porvenir, a community of 150 families, are planning to rebuild their community around ecologically responsi-

ble agriculture and that's where the two Manitoba groups fit in.

Marquis Project staff members Zack Gross and Celia Sarbit report that El Porvenir, in the departamento, or province, of San Vicente, is an area of El Salvador that for much of the last decade was in the control of FMLN rebels. The area was heavily bombed during the active war and many people are suffering psychological damage as a result. Establishing a community with safe places for women and children to congregate and and working collectively to create a local economy are both part of their plan.

A nervous peace has been established after a truce in 1992. El Salvador is just emerging from 15 years of civil war that claimed 75,000 lives.

During that time the land has been devastated by the effects of war, neglect and deforestation. The Peace Accords signed between the FMLN opposition forces and the ruling ARENA party have not yet yielded results for ordinary people.

Land reform has not adequately taken place and violence continues at a low level, with "death squads" still eliminating popular leaders. While the Marquis/OPAM group was visiting a man involved in the land transfer process was gunned down outside a San Salvador restaurant. As well, Opposition leader Villalobos is in jail for slandering an ARENA official, accusing him, not without justification, of being a leader of the death squads.

While FMLN is facing the difficulties of converting their movement from a military to a political force, the ARENA Party has managed recently to seize another, not exactly free and fair, election win.

In El Porvenir, the peasants, some of them demobilized FMLN soldiers and their families, others civilians who endured the saturation bombing or fled to cities, have settled in an area where their people once worked on corporate cotton plantations.

They hope to centre their village around a 15 or 20 acre ecological preserve where they plan to establish both native species of trees and fruit orchards.

OPAM representative Celia Guildford says that her group can

Continued on following page

Member Groups in Action



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Tall Grass Bakery

Continued from previous page

help with advice about soil testing, varieties and pest management techniques for the fruit trees, which would be the cash crop of the community. Many OPAM members are also members of the Woodlot Owners Association of Manitoba and can provide expertise with El Porvenir's other agro-forestry efforts to produce fuel wood.

Common problems

Guildford says she was struck by the similarity in problems faced by growers in El Salvador and Manitoba -- low prices, difficulties marketing produce, and displacement of family operations by corporate farms -- but also by the greater magnitude of the problems there.

"We think we're struggling ... (but) what we can learn is how they persist and how they continue to try and make things work on a small scale," Guildford said.

he also came home with a new appreciation for our climate. Our cold winters take care of pest populations but farmers in El Salvador don't have a dormant season to look forward to. As well, in El Salvador farmers "weed all year round -- we get a break in winter," Guildford said.

Celia Sarbit, one of the development educators at Marquis says she was impressed by the community's commitment to making a country that will respond to their needs, even if the prevailing political winds are blowing in another direction. She said they are determined to create institutions that are "non-hierarchical, community-based and organic."

Zack Gross says that getting help from Canadian funding sources is critical because one of the ironies of the Peace Accords is that interest from the north, and development funding has been reduced

drastically just when it is needed to help with reconstruction. Canadian aid, and a lot of other country's aid programs, have traditionally been more geared to disaster relief, and long term development gets overlooked in the equation.

Marquis and OPAM have applied for \$160,000 from the EDSP and have committed to raise another \$12,400.

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ETC. ETC.



Answers to the Eco-Quiz on page 8-9



1. For planning to build a new super dump in Rosser 2. The Conference Of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity 3. a) Solar powered wiener roast b) to raise money for Cuba to build solar ovens 4. Souris 5. Home of the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization hospital 6. Because enormous amounts of fossil fuel are used to mine, refine and transport uranium and to construct reactor facilities (According to Dr. Helen Caldicott it takes 18 years of operation for a typical reactor to generate one net calorie of energy) 7. Public hearings were waived for the Main-Norwood bridge. 8. Forest at St. Norbert saved from a golf course and the Assiniboine River saved from a destructive river diversion 9. Volunteer Effectiveness Program Coordinator 10. Gary Filmon wrote his thesis on diverting water from the Lake Manitoba/Lake Winnipeg basin for sale to the United States. 11. Sunflower Community Market Co-op on Corydon. 12. C. Louisiana Pacific agreed with the EPA to pay \$11.1 million in fines for OSB plants in the U.S. L.P. was also forced to agree to \$150 million in pollution prevention technology for the plants. 13. B. 13 years. Bon appetit! 14. Winnipeg got a C minus. 15. Bristol Aerospace appointed a conversion coordinator. The position was funded by the Department of Defence.

TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE = 20. If you scored ...

19-20 = You read Eco-Journal backwards and saw the answers on page 14 before you did the quiz. **14 to 18** = We could use another good volunteer in the resource centre. **9 to 13** = It's nice to know you care. **5 to 8** = You are the Environment Minister (Your staff did the quiz for you). **1 to 4** = You argued with the questions. Are you sure you're not the editor trying to win a prize? **0** = See you at the mall.

Send your answers - right, wrong or humorous - to Box 26007-116 Sherbrook St. Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K9 before March 15.

Calendar of events--get involved in your community

Sunflower Sessions

Explore a wealth of health and diet-related information during February at Sunflower Community Market Co-op. Product demonstrations, vegetarian cooking evenings and presentations are open to anyone eager to learn. Space is limited though, so please call 475-1459 in advance to let us know you're interested.

February 4: (1pm to 4pm), Flora Distributors will be on hand with displays and samples. Please stop by.

February 8: A series of four cooking evenings with instruction by Julian Tokariwski starts. **Runs Wednesdays from 7pm to 9pm.** The fee is \$40 per person (\$35 for Sunflower members).

February 18: (2pm) Manitoba Herbalist, Sharon Stebeleski, presents on "What's Bugging You: Connections between Candida, Parasites and other illnesses.

Other events

January 31: The Sustainable Development Coalition holds its second panel session on Sustainable Development and Forests at International Institute for Sustainable Development (161 Portage Avenue East - 7th Floor) from 4:30 to 7:30. A light supper will be served (silver collection). Panel includes Harvey Williams, Don Sullivan, Christine Singh, and Ed Lyons.

February 11: Marquis Project's 15th Anniversary Dinner featuring former Globe and Mail Africa Correspondent and author Oakland Ross. The dinner is being held at Sokol Hall, 33-11th St. Brandon.

Advance tickets only. Cost is \$18 each or \$32 per couple (half price under 12, free under 5). Tickets at Candlewood Books, Poor Michael's Bookshop or by calling Marquis Project at 727-5675.

Manitoba Provincial Election Preview Urban Sprawl in the Winnipeg Region Who Plays? Who Pays?

A public forum to investigate the economic and environmental impact of land development in Winnipeg's commuting belt.

February 21 7:30 pm
University of Winnipeg 3C00
Guest Panel

Gary Filmon, Premier
Gary Doer, Leader, New Democratic Party
Avis Gray, Deputy Leader, Liberal Party
Moderator

Joan Butcher, Past President,
Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba

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Pesticide registration an issue AGAIN

Labour/environmentalists fighting for health and safety gains

The performers on stage have changed but the song remains the same.

In 1989 environmentalists, organic growers, labour, farm groups, and the chemical industry were drawn together for consultations in the Mulroney government's review of pesticides registration. For years environmentalists had called for certain pesticides to be withdrawn from use, and for chemical companies to divulge the ingredients, both active and so-called "inert" ingredients that are toxic, in the pesticides they sell. Frequently toxicity tests provided to support registrations were called into question later. The system for approving which pesticides are permitted was developed in 1969.

Those "stakeholders" as the government refers to citizen groups and industry, managed to reach some agreement on some improvements. The Ecological Pest Management Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network decided it would sign on to the agreement it reached with the government and industry. Labour representatives, led by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), decided the gains were not enough to warrant their approval and declined to sign.

Then the real meetings started -- behind closed doors. Chemical companies lobbied the government and the government responded by cherry picking through the agreement, selectively implementing recommendations that found favour with industry while ignoring the gains in health provisions made by environmentalists and labour.

New government, same approach

Now the new Liberal government has dusted off the agreement or at least portions of it and indicated an interest in consulting with the parties once more.

In the mean time more evidence has been surfacing about harmful effects of pesticides on health and the environment.

Cheryl Reimer, a Morden farmer who represented the Organic Producers of Manitoba at the last meeting in Ottawa, says the new document released by the federal government "is a watered down version" of the agreement that was made in '89.

Reimer feels that without some outcry from the public there is a real threat that the government could implement the old recommendations that favour the chemical industry without addressing the serious health, safety and environmental issues being raised by the Ecological Pest Management Caucus.

In particular environmentalists object to any use of the Green Plan money for subsidizing chemical companies to register. The original intent of the money was to research and develop alternatives not to subsidize some of the largest corporations in the world.

Reimer says organic farmers may not have to deal with the chemicals directly, but they live in areas where they are surrounded by others who do. As well, many have come from farms where chemical use was prevalent, and have begun to farm organically as a result of an ethical rather than a business decision.

"We were on a farm that used chemicals. You see the abuses and

you see the effects. There is that interest (by organic growers) and you can't just sit back and ignore it."

CLC Secretary-Treasurer Dick Martin has notified the government that labour expects improvements in regulations on labelling and handling and that a policy of risk reduction has no effect unless it means reducing the chemicals that are registered for use.

"(T)he criteria should be spelled out in such a way that they enable the policy to be realized, e.g. by removing the most dangerous pesticides from the market (and) by registering only pesticides which are ... manifestly less detrimental than those already registered," Martin wrote in a letter to the Health Minister.

The Ecological Pest Management Caucus is calling for regulations that protect health and the environment first and foremost and not a balance of risks and benefits which allows harmful products to stay on the market. The caucus is hoping to mobilize the public to write letters to Minister of Agriculture Ralph Goodale, the Minister of Health Diane Marleau, Natural Resources Minister Anne McClellan and Environment Minister Sheila Copps. Write to House Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0H3 for all four. No postage is required. A list of key points in an Action Alert can be obtained from the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre.

Reimer also suggests that Manitobans can join OPAM as a way of supporting their education and assistance to farmers who are making the transition to organic.

ECJ

HELP WANTED

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If you have these qualifications please call Anne at the Manitoba Eco-Network (772-7542) for details on how to apply. Position closes February 10.



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☐ \$30 Group membership
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[Charitable tax receipts available for amounts over the cost of membership]

Total Amount enclosed _____

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 Group (if applicable) _____ Telephone # () _____
 Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____
 Area(s) of interest _____ Volunteer skills _____

A supporting membership includes a subscription to **Eco-Journal** as well as notice of events and regular updates on issues and is open to any individual.



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.