

Eco-JOURNAL

Manitoba RESEAU
ECO-NETWORK ECOLOGIQUE
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July - August, 1991

Filling a Need instead of a Dump

by Susan Barnett

In a 500 square foot warehouse in North Kildonan, Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity has provided Winnipeggers with an answer to waste reduction with a social conscience.

As its contribution to diverting useful materials from the waste stream, Habitat for Humanity has set up the Habitat Re-Store as a collection depot for surplus, new and used building materials, many of which would have ended up in the landfill site. The materials are collected from the general public, as well as the building materials and construction industries. The Re-Store will also be initiating salvaging projects for materials from buildings that are being demolished.

Most of the materials collected in the Re-Store warehouse are sold to the general public, with an emphasis on providing low-income families with affordable building materials. Other materials collected by the Re-Store will become part of Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity's

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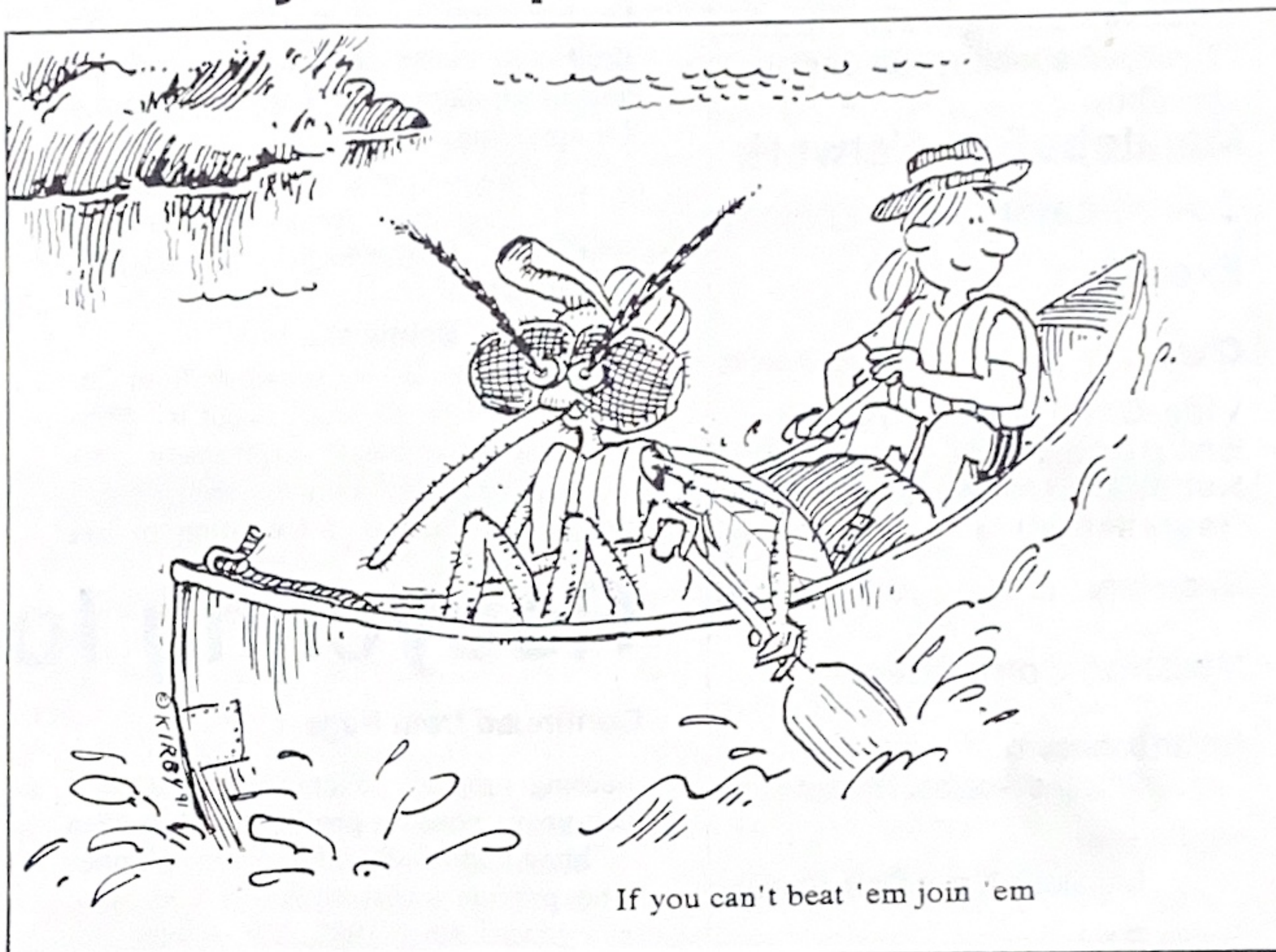
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Six Ways to Spend the Summer



Environmentally Responsible Summer Outings

by Toby Maloney

Unless you're planning to hide inside from the mosquitoes, huddling around the family air conditioner (and contributing to the over-consumption of hydro and the eventual release of CFC's into the atmosphere) you're probably going to be involved in some sort of summer outing.

Some vacations, especially those involving travel over long distances, can be less environmentally responsible than others. Here then is the *Eco-Journal's* not necessarily expert list of low impact summer activities which, by the way,

also tend to be low cost and support non-profit alternatives:

1. Canoeing

The benefits of canoeing as opposed to blasting around in a high powered motor bloat are fairly obvious. Esthetically and environmentally, self-propelled water travel is quieter, simpler, less costly and doesn't leave gas spills and frightened water fowl in its wake.

If you don't have a canoe or aren't confident of your skills or just want com-

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REREAD: A quick flip through other periodicals

Global warming only a symptom

An increase in the average surface temperature on the earth — global warming — may not be evident even over the next twenty years because natural climatic variability may mask the real problem. Changes in atmospheric circulation could cause the warming to be so uneven that no overall trend will be detectable.

The problem, according to an Oxford University scientist Myles Allen writing in the February issue of *Ecoforum* (published by the Environmental Liason Centre International) is that the unevenness itself will cause changes in cloudiness and precipitation that will be disastrous for agriculture.

*Whether the world actually warms up or not we are in for trouble
Ecoforum, February 1991*

Below the line

It seems that old corporate bottom line we always hear so much about is adjustable when it comes to government funding. The Harmony Foundation's summer newsletter *Harmony: Learning to live*

as if *Nature Matters* extols the efforts of the Ottawa branch of the Westin Hotel chain to recycle. The Ottawa Westin, by the way, was the recipient (with Harmony Foundation as environmental consultant) of a federal Environmental Partners grant. The grant allowed the company to reduce waste through recycling and "innovative policies including double-sided photocopying ..." Remember you heard it here second in *Reread*.

*Harmony: Learning to live as if
Nature Matters, Summer 1991*

James Bay journal

The May/June issue of *Earthkeeper* has a good roundup of opinion and argument about the James Bay situation including a feature interview with Mathew Coon Come, Chief of the Grand Council of the Cree and articles by both Elizabeth May (Sierra Club, Cultural Survival Canada) and Marc Chenier for the James Bay coalition.

*Earthkeeper
May/June 1991*

Recycling for Humanity

Continued from Page 1

housing projects. Winnipeg Habitat is a non-profit housing project that has been building homes with low-income families who provide sweat equity to own their new houses since 1987. The Habitat Re-Store, it is hoped, will provide the housing project with a stable revenue base.

Even before the grand opening in June, the public response in terms of both donating and buying materials has been overwhelming, with sales over \$14,000 in the first month. General Manager Rick Penner says that there has been tremendous community support from both companies and individual citizens, and an industry blitz is expected to result in an even greater amount of materials available for sale in the future.

Judging from the first month of operation the Habitat Re-store is filling an obvious need in the area of waste reduction in Winnipeg. Perhaps the most important

aspect of this project, however, is the intertwining of environmental and social justice components, by diverting materials from landfill in order to provide affordable renovations and housing for low-income families.

The Habitat Re-Store, located at 1231 Brunswick Street, is open from 12 to 6 p.m. Wednesday to Friday and from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. For more information call 654-1965.

This issue of the Eco-Journal has been sponsored by the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation.

Deadline for the September - October issue of *Eco-Journal* is September 13. Articles, cartoons and advertising welcome. Suggestions and ideas also welcome. Call 956-1468.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 18: University of Manitoba Recycling and Environment Group is holding a celebration to commemorate the life and integrity of Oak Hammock Marsh. Confirmed activities include an interpretive tour of the marsh and a recap of events surrounding Ducks Unlimited's controversial plans to place its corporate offices in the middle of this important wildlife area. For the conservation-concerned two charter buses will leave the legislature at 1 p.m. and return late in the afternoon. All seats are \$5. Any funds raised will be used to combat the current form of D.U.'s proposal. For more information phone the University of Manitoba Recycling and Environment Group at 474-9118.

September 10: DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS, EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING

COPY FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ISSUE OF ECO-JOURNAL.

October 10: Manitoba Naturalists Society presents *The Sacred Earth Show*, a slide show by Saskatoon nature photographer Courtney Milne at 8 p.m. in the Jubilee Auditorium at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute.

Stunning images of the earth's mystical sites will challenge and inspire all. Courtney Milne will present the show and will have copies of his latest book, *The Sacred Earth* available. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Manitoba Naturalists Society, 308-128 James Avenue. Proceeds will go to support the Naturalists Society. Call 943-9029 for more information.

Letter to editor

Activist Community needs 'Intellectual Renaissance'

In the piece "Designing a culture of activism to achieve peace" (*Eco-Journal*, May-June '91) Toby Maloney argues that we need to develop a culture of activism. Although I have no dispute with the general position, I am rather skeptical of what this might entail.

In another part of his same essay, Toby talks about socials, arts/entertainment vehicles, and coffee houses for social change. This is where I have strong objections. Far too much of what takes place already in Winnipeg are 'arts and crafts' affairs that are basically preliminaries to the Folk Festival (replete with tropical rain forest soda pop and assorted forms of resource depleting junk food). These events rarely provide any new information and are rarely conducive for sound discussion. Rather they only reinforce the stereotype that those who work in the various movements are out-of-touch anachronisms from the '60's.

As for cafe society, we already have too many people hanging out at Basil's, Impressions, or Emma G's producing coffee-propelled late-night exchanges that lead to nothing but sleep deficits and Vitamin B complex deficiencies. All of it seems to be reinforcing alternative forms of conspicuous consumption, not challenging it.

What we need are serious discussion groups that are sober and focussed on the

matter at hand whether it be geo-politics or eco-politics. Whether they meet in a bookstore, a lecture hall or a living room, people should be able to talk about issues undistracted. Such regular meetings could offset the need for theoretical and educational discussions that often take place in and disrupt ordinary organizational meetings. As well, people could hash out the best methods of practical tasks (eg. how to make a news release, how to write a letter to the editor, is television an avenue for communication, how do we reduce consumption etc.).

Winnipeg's activist community desperately needs an intellectual renaissance. Too many people I meet on environmental issues, for example, have a very limited and shallow knowledge base. Given that in the last five years, major transnational corporations have set

up sophisticated phoney environmental groups as well as the councils of apology, it is essential that activists accumulate the required facts as well as the critical faculties with which to use them. Hopefully, with more informed and articulate activists we can actually address other people besides ourselves.

We absolutely need to develop an alternative culture, but we do not need a knee-jerk 'counter culture' that only serves to reinforce the unhealthy and consumptive latent values of our mainstream culture (as with what took place in the 60's with poor lifestyle choices). As Noam Chomsky has put it "... citizens of the democratic societies should undertake a course of intellectual self-defense to protect themselves from manipulation and control ..."

Martin Toews
Winnipeg

* * *
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about what
you read in
Eco-Journal?
Call 956-1468**
* * *



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Environmental Restoration: Rediscovering the *Wild* in our Culture

by Steve Rauh

Throughout the world *people* are engaged in environmental restoration projects. The sea otter has been restored to the coast of British Columbia, woodlot owners in PEI are restoring the island's native forests, native prairie grasses are beginning to replace lawns, a jungle and a member of the petrel family are being restored in the Bahama's, and the list goes on (streams, wetlands, rainforests, redwoods, neighborhoods, farmland and more).

This environmental restoration is a product of people. It has an ethic of its own and it should not be mistaken for mitigation or as a technological fix which serves as an excuse for massive environmental destruction. Rather it is a deeply and sensitively felt human response to that destruction. It is also, I believe, one of the essential and most important environmental activities we can engage in.

Why? First, because the cumulative human-made destruction of the global environment may have advanced to a point where the evolution of large plants and animals can no longer proceed. That means we have to reverse the destruction and allow the presence and integrity of the wild habitat to reassert itself. Restoration projects indicate our ability to make the shift.

But second, and more important I think, is the discovery and the recovery of the knowledge of who we really are. We have an active relationship to nature. Our cultures, both east and west, have established a destructive relationship to nature that has come to predominate human affairs. We will not be able to shift to a positive pattern through the political or cultural patterns that sustain the industrial system because the knowledge of a reciprocal, interactive relationship with

nature does not exist from within that context. (It could be that the very source of violence could be that vacuum of knowledge.) That knowledge does not exist because it is not a conscious, active reality for most of us. So we could say that the current culture minimizes environmental imperatives, treating them as if they were lifestyle tradeoffs or political/economic considerations, not because the culture is *bad*, but *because it lacks the experience* to comprehend and feel the crisis as they really are.

One of the best ways for the environmental community to provide that knowledge is through restoration projects. Environmental restoration provides an opportunity to learn new ways of relating to the earth and to each other. Restoration is an activity that is informing, enlivening, hopeful, sustaining, satisfying, convivial, visible and understandable. It gives shape and meaning to the ideas of quality and fulfillment, community and caring, and living and dying. It *creates* in its participants new values and visions and, as a consequence, revitalizes their personalities.

These are lofty claims, but I think they are lofty because we have become so accustomed to thinking about the deep trouble we are in and have lost touch with our potential. But the very condition of despair, of disengagement from nature, has its own potential. As Freeman House has written, "There is an enormous psychic need on the part of North American to engage their continent once more physically and culturally."

How would such engagement affect our value structure? One possible affect might be a new attitude toward competition.

Berkeley environmental educator and peace theorist Robin Freeman recently

pointed out that our social form of competition has warped our understanding of scarcity.

In the competitive mode — which we cultivate in our homes, schools and workplaces — there are one or two winners and many millions of losers. This model creates a paucity of belonging and inclusion. There are a scarce number of "success" slots. The competitive mode establishes a kind of schizophrenic industrial cosmology in which the promise of technological utopia compensates for the feeling of scarcity — "if we don't have it all now a technological fix is just around the corner that will give it to us." We see this in the once great hope of nuclear power, or more recently in the multi-billion dollar Star Wars projects. This "knowledge" or feeling has been internalized by all of us living in the "modern" world — it is a requirement of getting by.

Because we have learned to value winning and losing we have come to equate scarcity with good and lost touch with the value of abundance. Alice Walker's poem, "We Alone," expresses a more hopeful feeling:

We alone can devalue gold

*by not caring
if it falls or rises
in the marketplace...*

*Feathers, shells
and seashaped stones
are all as rare.*

*This could be our revolution
To love what is plentiful
as much as
what is scarce.*

Through restoration work we can learn more about the balance between the really rare (like clean air) and the really abundant (like beauty). We learn that benefits accrue not from competition but from interdependence. Restoration experience can reorient our attitudes toward nature, reduce our cultural fear of the wild and provide the emotional context for a shift to a mutually enhancing relationship to the earth.



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*I welcome any suggestions,
information, or questions you have on
environmental matters.*

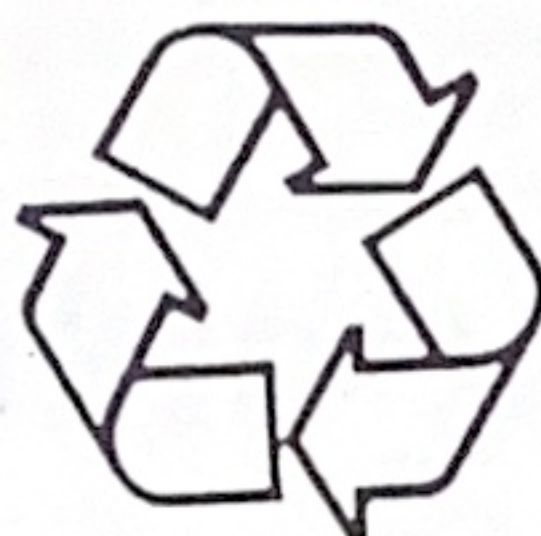
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RECYCLING INDEX

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Citizen Action Recognized

Several groups and individuals were honoured for their outstanding contributions to environmental awareness and protection as the first recipients of the Manitoba Eco-Network's environment awards on June 6.

Sixty people attended the awards ceremony as part of the Eco-Network Open House during Environment Week. Nine awards were presented in five categories of achievement.

Ken Emberly, "senior statesman" of the environmental community received the first of three awards for significant contributions by an individual. Ken was recognized for his outspoken defence of a sustainable society at almost any public gathering on environmental, peace or social justice issues.

Helen McCullough and Claude Huot, president and vice-president of the Winnipeg Water Protection Group received an award in the same category for their energetic success in creating public awareness of the importance of protecting Shoal Lake from mining and other development that damage the source of drinking water for 600,000 Manitobans.

Joe Dolecki, professor of resource economics at Brandon University, received his award in recognition of his key role in court actions and research that forced the federal government to carry out an Environment Assessment of the Rafferty-Alameda dams development.

Four awards for significant contributions by non-governmental groups were awarded to: the Manitoba Naturalists Society, the largest and longest standing environmental group in the province of Manitoba with a record of standing up for the protection of our natural areas including Atikaki Park, the remnants of tall-grass prairie, and Oak Hammock Marsh; Organic Producers Association of Manitoba for its efforts to promote and implement a truly sustainable agriculture, both in Manitoba and across Canada. Rainforest Action Information Network, a relatively new group, primarily of students at the University of Manitoba, doing excellent work to demonstrate the links between tropical deforestation and forest practices here in Canada.

Concerned Citizens of Manitoba, a group active on energy issues with a primary interest in the phase-out of the nuclear industry, the cessation of mega-hydro developments and a move toward truly sustainable energy options.

Bill Goddard, a founder and continuing member of the steering committee of the Manitoba Eco-Network, was presented with the award for "contribution by an individual to the support of an environmental organization."

A special award was given to Winnipeg Folk Festival and West End Cultural Centre founder Mitch Podolak for his "contribution to the cultural and environmental well-being of the greater com-

munity." His work has provided a forum where the arts, especially folk music, can speak to our connections to one another and to the earth.

All of the award recipients received a print of the Manitoba Eco-Network logo designed by local artist Michael Meadows. It depicts the interrelationships of the natural and human environment in Manitoba. The awards are the first of what is planned as an annual event.

Lone Fighters Caravan Carries Story of Struggle

by Anne Lindsey

There were some special visitors to the Folk Festival this year. A group of 30 members of the Lone Fighters, Peigans from Southern Alberta, stopped by the First Peoples' Village for part of the day Saturday. They brought their drums and a story of struggle to retain their dignity and their way of life in the face of great adversity.

The Lone Fighters, including elders and children, are travelling in a caravan across Canada. Their destination is Kanesatake, site of the armed standoff between the army and Mohawk people last summer. They are going there to assist and participate in a time of healing for the Mohawk people, believing that their presence and solidarity will strengthen a healing process that must take place.

But people here should know that the Lone Fighters have their own healing to do, that they are facing a grave injustice, the same kind of assault on their culture as aboriginal people have been experiencing since the time of contact. For years the Peigan, along with environmentalists, have been opposing the construction of the Oldman Dam in southern Alberta. The dam, designed for irrigation in the fairly arid region, has been subject to many questions regarding everything from its safety to its environmental impacts.

For the Peigan, the Oldman River is an integral part of their culture. In an article in the *Calgary Herald*, May 12, Richard Wagamese described the importance of the river to these people: "...this river valley symbolizes everything that has come to epitomize the Peigan people. The Oldman is the source of legend, of teachings, spirituality, phi-

losophy and living culture. Within its winding flow is history and its waters have become, and will remain, the lifeblood of the people who will fight to protect it".

In spite of the fact that an environmental impact assessment of the dam is only now being carried out, construction is nearly complete. The water of the Oldman is backing up behind it, flooding coyote dens, and the habitat of many other creatures. It is drowning the heritage and culture of the Peigan people. They are still fighting to have the project stopped.

You can contribute by sending letters to the Alberta Environment Minister, Ken Kowalski, demanding that a full environmental review be carried out, and that justice be done for the Peigan. The Lonefighters are also in need of funds to support their legal arguments in court.



**578 Broadway
Winnipeg
775-0031**

Six Ways to Spend the Summer

Continued from Page 1

pany, the Mantario Summer Program, operated by the Manitoba Naturalists Society, is a good chance to get started. From the last week of June to the end of August, Mantario offers week long canoe trips (Monday to Friday) through the Whiteshell Provincial Park Wilderness Zone to the group's simple cabin on an island at Mantario Lake. Participants learn the skills required to traverse seven lakes and six portages. The program is based on environmental awareness so participants also learn other skills, depending on the week you go, such as water colours and drawing, astronomy, fishing, photography and kayaking. Call her at 943-9029 for more information.

Other canoe groups exist if you go looking for them. For instance, the Outdoor Women's Network co-ordinates a canoe trip on the August long weekend just for women. The contact number is available from the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women (453-3879).

2. & 3. Cycling and Hiking

Cycling can be more than a way to get to work or spend a Sunday afternoon, especially with so much of the province an easy ride. Environmental consultant Ruth Marr, author of *Manitoba Outdoor Adventure Guide: Cycling* says there are plenty of accessible short cycle tours leaving from Winnipeg. One suggestion for a weekend tour is a trip to Birds Hill Park, Selkirk and Stonewall's Quarry Park. For a day trip go up River Road to Fort Garry National Historic Park.

In western Manitoba, Turtle Mountain Provincial Park "has a tremendous network of trails that could easily fill up a week's vacation." Riding Mountain National Park offers another good chance for combining camping with a series of day cycling tours.

Turtle Mountain offers a treasure

trove of excellent hiking trails as does Riding Mountain. In eastern Manitoba the Whiteshell is the best bet for both short hikes and longer backpacking tours. Self-guided hiking trail pamphlet/maps are available from park offices or at the head of the trails in the Whiteshell or in Marr's other outdoor book, the *Manitoba Walking and Hiking Guide*. Both books are available in Winnipeg bookstores and from the Manitoba Naturalists Society.

4. Hostelling Association stores

The Canadian Hostelling Association boasts a couple of environmentally friendly destinations in Manitoba. South-east of Pine Falls, there is the Maskwa Project, a non-profit retreat formerly known as the Manitoba Centre for Appropriate Technology. Maskwa utilizes a windmill to generate power for lights in the main building, a two storey cedar shingle lodge and solar panels to heat water for showers in a bathhouse. Visitors can stay in the main building or in one of six energy efficient wooden igloos.

Prairie Ponds in La Broquerie south of Steinbach operates as a hostel and a bed and breakfast. Visitors can tour the hosts' trout farm or explore the hiking trails. A converted barn is both the family home and accomodation for a dozen or so visitors. Like Maskwa, families are very welcome at the Prairie Ponds.

For information about booking a stay at either Maskwa or Prairie Ponds call the Hostelling Association (784-1131).

5. Walking tours in the city

What could be more environmentally responsible than walking? How about a walking tour that emphasizes the preservation and restoration of our architectural heritage and natural elements of the city?

Through the Regional Recreation Services branch of the City of Winnipeg, two tours of the exchange district, one west of Main Street and the other to the east, leave daily from the Museum of Man and Nature lobby (11 a.m. for west of Main tour and 1:30 for the East of Main tour). In both cases emphasis is on the history of Winnipeg, with interesting inside stops like Pantages Playhouse and the 1906 James Avenue pumping station.

Tour co-ordinator Shirley Kowalchuk says that the promotion of revitalization in the district helps generate respect for preserving the old instead of tearing it down and building something new. Call 586-2720 for more information.

There's also the Selkirk Avenue Walking Tour organized by the Selkirk Avenue Business Association. It leaves the amphitheatre at Powers and Selkirk at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. The tour includes historic buildings, theatres and blacksmith shops and features the role of the area in the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919.

6. Pick your own fruit and vegetables

For those of us who are far removed from the production of the food we eat, patronizing one of the numerous U-Pick farms in Manitoba might combine getting out with a bit of rewarding work.

If you're interested in fruit and berries you can contact the Prairie Fruit Growers Association (254-2021 in Winnipeg) for locations. For vegetables try Floodway Gardens (669-4592) or Arboreflora-garden Centre (257-0643). Manitoba Agriculture's marketing branch at 916-401 York in Winnipeg (phone 945-4529) has a free booklet called *U-Pick Market Gardens, Roadside Stands and Farmers Markets* for more comprehensive listings around the province. Check for organic farming practises, before you go.

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