

Eco-JOURNAL

Manitoba
ECO-NETWORK
INC.



RESEAU
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du Manitoba inc.

Volume 2, Number 4

July-August, 1992

CEC: Five years to study sewage problem

The Clean Environment Commission has recommended delaying any decision for five years on the thorniest issue it faced in attempting to set water quality objectives for the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) has recommended that "site specific studies be undertaken" over a five year period "to determine water quality impacts of the combined sewer system on the rivers." During rainy periods, the combination of run-off and sewage overloads the capacity of Winnipeg's sewage treatment facilities capacity and untreated sewage is released into the Red River. This is responsible for fecal coliform levels that can cause gastroenteritis for someone who is in contact with the water. [See *Water Quality Objectives Murky, Eco-Journal*, Nov.-Dec., 1991].

On the one hand the CEC has recommended that the Red River should be classified for primary recreation which includes swimming and on the other hand recommends that cautionary health notices should be posted during wet periods when there is a high fecal coliform count because of sewer overflows. As well the CEC has recommended the Environment Minister should develop a public warning system.

The recommendation to study the problem would delay any solution to the problem for close to a decade. It means that proposals for an improved system should be produced by

See Recommendations page 15



Manitoba forest proposal top-rated

The Manitoba submission for the federal Model Forests program has been rated highly and approved for funding by the federal Minister of Forests. The Model Forest program's stated objectives are to allow broad-based attempts at joint study and management of forested areas.

The Manitou Abi Model Forest, over a million square hectares on the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg, encompasses the current Abitibi-Price cutting area, four Indian Reserves and traditional sustenance trapping, hunting and fishing areas, Atikaki and Nopiming Parks, and other cottage and recreational areas. It also includes a threatened herd of woodland caribou, essential wildlife habitat and species, and important aquatic eco-systems.

The proposal was selected out of 50 submissions as one of five that were considered by the advisory committee as "clearly

superior to all others submitted."

A network of ten proposals were accepted in eight provinces, representing Canada's principal forest regions. Some forest activists in other regions have criticized the model forest program as being consultant rather than community-based, but others welcome it as a sign that forest values other than timber extraction will finally be addressed.

Negotiations are now under way with each of the applicants to define the scope of their projects, the funding and a contract which could be signed by late September or early October. The emphasis for the proposals was on partnerships between forest users and interested groups.

One proposal in B.C. was recommended,

See Partnership, page 11

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Reread: A quick flip through other periodicals

News on safe food

The first issue, or rather a photocopied copy of the first issue, of Safe Food News, published by Food and Water Inc. in the United States found its way to the Eco-Network resource centre last month. Food and Water tracks and defends against food irradiation. The first issue of the newsletter has articles on the activities at the Vindicator food irradiation plant, the first commercial facility in the U.S. and an interesting tidbit on Nordion Inc. of Canada. Nordion is the spin off company of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. which designs and supplies food irradiation facilities. It seems that Nordion has stepped in to be the go-between to market Cesium-137 the U.S. Department of Energy has in its nuclear waste pools for irradiation facilities. Nordion assumes any product liability when it takes the Cesium, which it intends to sell for hospital sterilization facilities, despite pending lawsuits against the U.S. Department of Energy as a result of a Cesium leak in 1988.

The news on the News

An overview of coverage on environment issues in the U.S. media formed the basis of the Earth Day issue of Extra, published by the non-profit Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (available at Co-op Book Store). The study by FAIR found that a large number of the stories were Earth Day puff pieces in the two weeks before Earth Day, that very little serious analysis takes place and when it does it has a decided pro-development slant, that coverage is getting less and that frequently reporting focuses on the economic consequences, positive or negative, of any decision to protect the environment. The study also found that frequently the Environmental Protection Agency would be the "environmentalists" point of view in a story when the agency itself would be under fire on the same of similar issues by environmental groups. The study analyzed coverage of the Clean Air Act debate which saw business groups and editorialists decry-

ing it as economic self-destruction before its passage by Congress and then holding it up as an example of American free enterprise action after its passage.

More news on the News

Eco-Network member group CHO!CES: A coalition for Social Justice held a protest recently about the new direction taken by the Winnipeg Free Press, Canada's second largest circulation daily. The group distributed a mock Free Press front page and editorial page in front of the newspaper's new offices to protest the dismissal of ombudsman Barry Mullin, and publisher Maurice Switzer's influence in turning the paper to so-called "good news" stories. CHO!CES reprinted the mock pages in its newsletter JUST CHO!CES where the group called for the reinstatement of the ombudsman position and the creation of a new nine member editorial board to oversee the ombudsman and the letters to the editor page. The board would include three representatives of Thomson Newspapers which owns the Free Press, three by the Canadian Association of Journalists and three to be elected at an open meeting by subscribers.

Local ozone connection

Greenpeace's contribution to action on ozone depletion has included research on company connections. Dupont Canada, which is Canada's largest producer of ozone depleting CFC's is intertwined with Bronfman controlled Seagram. Several Seagram board members sit on Dupont's Board and vice versa. Seagram's Manitoba activities consist of a distillery/malting plant in Gimli. Greenpeace has also distributed cards in Braille directed at Seagram to emphasize blindness from cataracts that Greenpeace says will be caused by increased Ultraviolet Ray exposure.

Articles cited in Reread are available for perusal in the Eco-Network resource centre.

Letter to the editor

Media blockade on reality

Environmentalists in Manitoba have come to grips with the fact that the media is filtering or suppressing important stories relating to ecological issues. Some stories are suppressed such as the space shuttle's impact on the ozone layer or the deaths of humans who have consumed genetically-engineered food products. Other news items such as the federal government giving money to coal users to help disinformation campaigns related to acid rain are treated as amusing anecdotes for the back page.

Sometimes only the smaller media outlets will cover a story but a large organization will ignore it as was the case recently when CBC's 24 Hours did not cover a local news conference about the release of radioactive oil into the Winnipeg River by the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment.

Serious environmental organizations must find a way to get their messages and information out beyond what is essentially a media blockade on reality. Perhaps particular groups should get together to share a phone machine information line. Groups could prepare taped messages much like a radio report only this report would be reached by phone. This line could be given a catchy

IMPACT VISUALS



name such as the "eco-line" or the "eco-info line" or some other variation and promoted in various publications, posters, classified ads in newspapers, banners etc. The message could change every week or there could be a number of different messages accessible with a touch tone.

This is only one idea and it may not necessarily be the right one, but environmentalists have to find some means to get information out through the stone wall of the

mainstream media. We cannot let elitist groups set our agenda.

Remember, getting coverage does not necessarily mean getting the message out.

Martin Toews
Editor SMACK newsletter

Local campaign furthers GE boycott

The Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament has joined an international boycott of General Electric products designed to lead the company out of the nuclear weapons business.

The WCCD is co-ordinating a local campaign to support the GE boycott started by INFAC in Boston, Massachusetts, which has successfully brought about changes in the marketing of baby formula in developing countries by targetting the Swiss company Nestle.

INFAC and the GE boycott were the subject of the Academy Award winning documentary "Deadly Deception" which is available for sale on video from the WCCD. Videon (VPW-11) public access television has already agreed aired the video here.

The WCCD and other peace groups in Canada have been trying to convince the CBC to air the half hour documentary so Canadians will realize the impact GE has on U.S. defence spending and policy, worker injuries, and environmental destruction, as well as continued production of weapons that threaten the whole world. At press time organizers were awaiting an answer.

A list of products and appliances produced by GE and its subsidiaries is available from the WCCD as well as a fact sheet outlining the company's role as the largest nuclear weapons producer in the world and the video. Call Len at 786-8938 for more information.

HELP WANTED

Do you know someone who is looking for part-time employment or a summer job?

The Manitoba Eco-Network is seeking motivated individuals for its outreach program/canvass. Paid positions for three or more evenings per week.

Make a difference on local issues while you earn money. Training and outreach materials provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL RICK 775-1236

Calendar of events

August 2: Watch **The Thinning Ozone** on VPW Channel 11 at 6:30 p.m. broadcast of the **Manitoba Eco-Network** forum held in Winnipeg in June. Experts from government, industry and non-profit environment groups take a holistic look at ozone depletion, its consequences and what we can do about it.

August 6: Winnipeg Coordinating Committee for Disarmament sponsors **Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A Japanese Lantern Ceremony**. Lantern-making workshop starts at 8:30 p.m. Promenade Tache (near St. Boniface Cathedral). Lanterns will be lit and launched on the river at sundown. Call 786-8938 for more information.

August 9 to 14: Federal/Provincial Parks Council annual conference **Parks and Natural Areas: Securing Parks and Special Places.**, Delta Inn plus field trips to Spruce Woods and Riding Mountain. Phone 945-4413 for registration information.

September 17 to 19: **Tenth National Recreational Fisheries Conference**, Waterloo, Ontario. Sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Call (613) 721-2286 for more information.

September 18-20: **Manitoba Eco-Network** sponsors **One Earth 1992**, the annual meeting and conference of the Canadian Environment Network at Gull Harbour Resort and Conference Centre (Hecla Island). The conference is for delegates selected from all regions of Canada, but portions of the conference, particularly issue workshops are open to the public. A registration package is now available. For more information call the Eco-Network at 956-1468.

September 24: **Accounting for the Environment: The Disappear-**

ing Resource, Concordia University, Montreal. The first Canadian conference for accountants, lawyers, finance professionals and environmentalists on how attempts to measure the costs of restoring natural areas and disclosure of accounting information and the practice of sustainable development are linked. Call (514) 848-2855 for agenda/more information.

October 21 and 22: formal presentations to the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy in Winnipeg on "**Natural Lands and Special Places Strategy**" 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Winnipeg Convention Centre (375 York Avenue). Workshops on the subject are being held in various places around the province in September and October. Copies of the workbook and more information are available from the Sustainable Development Co-ordination Unit (945-1124).

Ongoing notices

Environmentally Speaking airs on VPW Channel 11 every second Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. on both sides of the Red River and the following Saturday on the west side of the river only. Environmentally Speaking is a program about environment issues of concern to Manitobans sponsored by the Manitoba Environmental Council. Call 945-7031 for more information.

Green Works for Small Businesses

The Recycling Council of Manitoba is looking for small businesses that have reduced the amount of waste they produce. RCM may want to profile your business as an example to others. Call 942-7781 or 942-4207 to let the group know about your efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Recycling Info-line

Are you confused by the inconsistencies of the Winnipeg recycling scene? Is it getting harder to find a depot in your neighbourhood or one that accepts the more obscure items found in our waste stream? The Recycling Council of Manitoba's Info-line (942-7781) is here to answer your questions and to share in your ideas.

Upcoming

The Annual Walk for Peace organized by the Winnipeg Coordinating Committee for Disarmament is being held in September this year under the theme youth speak out for peace. For more information call the WCCD at 786-8938.

PEACE • ENVIRONMENT • SOCIAL JUSTICE LINKS MAGAZINE

A Co-operative Magazine from Manitoba since 1988

Winnipeg Mayor on mosquito fogging:

"We accept that it doesn't work but [it makes] some of our voters feel we're doing something. One could call it spraying for 'psychological reasons'."

— Bill Norrie, 1975

Subscriptions: \$8 735 Wolseley Avenue, Winnipeg, R3G 1C4
Write for a free sample copy.

Second Annual environmental awards

Five groups and individuals have been recognized for their contribution to environmental protection in the Second Annual Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Awards. The winners were recognized in a brief ceremony during the Spring dinner and dance in May.

This year's award winners are:

Walter Danyluk for his significant efforts as a government employee to establish Manitoba's provincial park system in the 1950's and 60's;

Sacha Kopelow for her work in motivating and involving youth in environmental issues, both as a individual and through her work with Youth Planet;

Nick Carter for his tireless efforts in working full time on any and all Manitoba environment issues;

CBC-TV producer **Noah Erenberg** for his ongoing work to provide solid reporting on environment issues and in particular for the Price of Power last winter and;

Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh for the group's dogged persistence in forcing the development at Oak Hammock onto the national and international stage.

The award winners receive a print of a beautiful graphic design suggesting the interconnection of all life drawn by artist Michael Meadows for the Eco-Network. Award winners were nominated by Eco-Network member groups and the public.

Outreach program hitting its stride

The Eco-Network door-to-door outreach program is well under way after recruiting several students to canvass various parts of the city. The objectives for the program are to broaden the funding base for the Network by attracting more supporting members, and to raise the profile of the Network along with the local and Manitoba environmental issues.

With the growth in interest in environmental issues and the still-increasing depth of interest, citizens are struggling to find an-

swers and sometimes questions, but don't know where to turn. We hope the outreach program will make more people aware of our resource centre, the role we play in communicating local ideas, and the work of our member groups.

The canvassers have been very successful in recruiting many to our new supporting member category. A supporting member receives a subscription to *Eco-Journal* along with updates on issues and events.

Welcome to our new members and subscribers. The door to the Manitoba Eco-Network resource centre is open, we're pleased to handle telephone inquiries and *Eco-Journal* is open to your letters of comment, criticism or compliments.

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE BREAD Co. and Deli Inc.

A neighborhood bakery specializing in breads, cinnamon buns, muffins, cakes, tortes, and pies.

All made with organically grown Prairie grains ground right at the bakery.

**859 Westminister Ave. Winnipeg
783-5097**

1992-93 Eco-Network Steering Committee

(expanded to 15 members at May 28
annual meeting)

Rob Altemyer,
University of Manitoba Recycling and Environmental Group
Nick Carter,
Manitoba Naturalists Society
Jack Dubois,
Wildlife Society, Manitoba
Bill Goddard,
Crossroads Resource Group
Ian Greaves,
Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh
Bryan Johnson,
Citizens Against Neurotoxins
Lorna Kopelow,
Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Glen Koroluk,
Recycling Council of Manitoba
Helen McCullough,
Winnipeg Water Protection Group
Harry Mesman,
Manitoba Federation of Labour
Brian Pannell,
Manitoba Environmentalists Inc.
Steve Rauh,
Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment
Rhoda Rempel,
Project Peacemakers
Celia Sarbit/Debbie Jennings,
Marquis Project
Don Sullivan,
CHO!CES Coalition for Social Justice

Delegates to Canadian Environment Network Convention

Kim Monson, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Celia Guilford, Organic Producers Association of Manitoba
Helen McCullough, Winnipeg Water Protection Group
Bill Goddard, Crossroads Resource Group

Philippine people's movements reclaiming dignity by resisting environmental destruction

By Anne Lindsey

Eco-Network Executive Director Anne Lindsey spent some time in the Philippines earlier this year as the guest of the Philippine Development Assistance Program, a partnership of Canadian and Philippine Non-Government Organizations. Anne acted as a resource person on environment during a tour of various community development projects in both urban and rural areas. This is her report from the island of Mindanao.

Flying from Manila to Northern Mindanao, one looks down on a myriad of islands, ringed by coral reefs, set like jewels into a sparkling turquoise sea. "Paradise" is the thought that comes to my mind -- it's every northerner's tropical dream -- coconut palms, sandy beaches, bougainvillea-covered houses.

But as the plane circles the mountaintops in preparation for landing at tiny Cagayan de Oro airport, the grim reality which is the Philippines today comes sharply back into focus.

Only an hour earlier, we left the choking brown smog of teeming Manila -- a city that the United Nations Environment program refers to as "an ecological dead zone," and we are about to be introduced to the near environmental disaster that is rural Philippines.

The hillsides around Cagayan de Oro are brown and dry -- there are coconut palms to

be sure, but not much of any other tree species in an area which was once lush tropical forest. We pass low over a river that is strangely red. Later that day, we learn that the red colour is the result of siltation from the erosion on the mountainsides -- erosion that occurred as a result of logging. Without the trees there's not much to hold the soil in place once the rains do come.

But rains are in short supply this year according to Paul Paraguya. He is the Executive Officer of the Ka-anib Foundation, a local non-government organization (NGO) facilitating community development work in the area surrounding Cagayan de Oro. Ka-anib, and another NGO -- the Centre for Alternative Rural Technology (or CART) are to be our hosts over the next few days as we visit what seems like dozens of villages (known as barangays) struggling against incredible odds to put the notion of "sustainable development" into practice.

United against logging

Paul's assertion that low rainfall and ground water levels in the area are attributable to the wholesale destruction of Northern Mindanao's forests by logging is an oft-repeated refrain in the local villages. School children, coastal fisherfolk, and peasant farmers are united in their conviction that the logging has to stop and that serious efforts must be made to reforest the area in order

that moisture levels return to normal.

This point is driven home on an unscheduled trip on a logging truck into the very last patch of virgin forest in the Agusan River watershed. Just yards into the forest, the increase in humidity is immediately apparent and the vegetation becomes lush. Here grow the stately mahogany trees and other tropical hardwoods so prized for their beauty and durability. It's the kind of forest that once graced 75 per cent of this 6,000 island archipelago in the South China Sea.

But if logging continues at current rates, there will be no forest left in the Philippines by the turn of the century. It is a situation of crisis proportions. In fact, the day before we left Manila, the government voted on a tough bill to ban all commercial logging immediately. The bill was introduced as a result of effective lobbying led by the Philippines largest environmental organization -- the Haribon Foundation. The momentum in favour of the bill among ordinary Filipinos was quite astonishing -- the slogan "Total Log Ban" was in evidence everywhere. But the bill fizzled in the Senate, and to be sure, the involvement of several prominent Senators in the biggest timber concessions in the country did nothing to help the situation.

Even had the bill passed, there is a great deal of cynicism regarding its enforceability given the corruption which exists in the logging industry in the Philippines. "Such a law would represent only incremental gains" says Hector Solimon, Haribon's resident lawyer, "but it would at least give communities a legal tool with which to fight the logging." And legal tools are gaining importance as communities organize and become more sophisticated. So much so, that Orlando Ravanera, CART's Executive Director, has been attending law school by night in order to provide environmental law resources in Cagayan de Oro. Orlando says that there are two crises in Northern Mindanao -- politics, and survival.

And up at the top of the Agusan Valley, Narciso, a tall man of the Higa-anon tribal group with a ready smile and an engaging personality, is in agreement.

Narciso and his wife have 10 children, yet

Registration packages
are now available for the

1992 One Earth Conference

Hecla Island September 18 to 20

(One Earth is the annual conference for delegates of the Canadian Environment Network, hosted this year by the Manitoba Eco-Network.)
Issue workshops and presentations on Saturday are open to registration from the public.

Call 956-1468 for more information.



he quit his job as logger because he became (as he puts it) "an environmentalist". He and his fellow villagers know the necessity of tree planting but their dilemma is they get no remuneration for reforestation work. Narciso points out that he has to feed his children.

Today, he is involved in a fledgling project to provide an alternative livelihood -- duck raising. It's a project partly funded by Canadian Lutheran World Relief and it shows promise of becoming sustainable over the long term.

NGO's help organize alternatives

Many of the NGO-supported projects in the Philippines, are trying to establish alternative sources of livelihood for people whose traditional economic activities can no longer provide adequate sustenance. On the coast of Macajalar Bay we met a women's co-op engaged in a swine-raising and butchering operation. These women (their name translates in English to "The Diligent Mothers of Bong-Bong") are providing an important supplement to the highly degraded traditional livelihood of the village -- fishing.

Fishing has declined for a number of reasons: the siltation of the rivers "clogs" the coral reefs; foreign fleets take more than their share of fish offshore; corals are poisoned and dynamited in the pursuit of exotic tropical fish for export (many come to Canada); local industry dumps pollution into the Bay; and vast quantities of agricultural chemicals run off from coffee and pineapple plantations up-valley. All of these factors have led to

a situation in which elders of the villages are telling their kids to get an education and move away. They don't see fishing as a part of their future - a community tragedy in a place where fishing has provided a sustainable livelihood for probably thousands of years.

Swine-raising is an alternative, and education and political action are becoming imperatives. NGO-assisted campaigns are beginning to attract high-level attention to the burgeoning problems on the coast.

Overlooking the bay, the fertile hills of Bukidnon province are the stage for a massive community restoration and preservation effort, largely supported by NGO's like



Ka-anib. The volcanic soils and temperate climate of the area are ideal for pineapple cultivation and as such, have long been the target of a government-sanctioned and ever-expanding land grab by the huge transnational, Del Monte, as lands become available through land reform programs.

But this same land could also support whole villages of peasant families growing

their own crops on small plots. The key to their securing of land is provided by the NGO's who pro-

vide guidance and interpretation throughout the complicated land reform application process.

Other NGO's are then providing access to low-interest loans for seed and equipment, and in some cases, training in organic and soil-enhancing farming techniques. Many of the farmers are now using indigenous rice varieties, and pre-Green Revolution strains of corn - both require only a minimum of fertilization (chicken dung being the fertilizer of choice for corn), and have natural pest resistance, thus eliminating the need for costly and soil-depleting chemical inputs.

Co-op programs are providing access to vital working animals and families like that of Imelda and Teophisto Megrino are able to live vastly improved, though still simple, lives.

The independence that is being gained through these changes has provided impetus for serious resistance to Del Monte's expansion bids in some parts of Bukidnon, and a hopeful model for community organizing and restoration which could be used almost anywhere.

The paradise which was once the Philippines may rapidly be disappearing, but as I stood in the tranquil backyard of the Megrino's house, listening to the early morning sounds of a village rising to go about its day's work, I felt privileged. Privileged to be so close to a situation in which people are reclaiming their dignity at the same time as making a living and protecting the environment. A valuable lesson in sustainability for a world which needs it badly.

For more information about the Philippines Development Assistance Program or its member agencies, please contact Anne at the Eco-Network office (956-1468).

Land reform, alternative economic development key to survival for communities.

Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout

Campagne contre l'expansion du nucléaire

c.p. 236 Station Snowdon Montréal QC H3X 3T4

(514) 987-8023 fax: (514) 489 5118

The Next Phase of the Campaign

Nuclear Phaseout — Past and Present

The Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout is dedicated to the phaseout of nuclear power in Canada and an end to the export of nuclear reactors and uranium to other countries. We seek federal legislation to this end and support other measures, federal and provincial, consistent with the phaseout goal. We do not oppose nuclear medicine or nuclear research other than that for power reactors and military uses.

We support measures for energy efficiency, conservation and the use of safe renewable sources as alternatives to nuclear power. With other environmentalists we seek to replace fossil fuel use with environmentally safer sources and we oppose further mega-hydro projects. The nuclear phaseout we propose would be gradual, by attrition, permitting the development of sustainable alternatives.

A private member's bill to phase out nuclear power by means of a 50 year moratorium was debated in the House of Commons in 1991 but defeated at second reading. Bill C-204, sponsored by Bill Blaikie, MP, was supported by 65 MPs but the government, contrary to its com-

mitment to allow free votes on private member's bills, organized to defeat the bill.

We now propose a new bill to eliminate:

- 1) federal subsidies to the nuclear industry (through Parliamentary appropriation) for the development of power-generating reactors;
- 2) government grants or loans to subsidize exports of nuclear reactors or equipment to other countries; and
- 3) the application of the Nuclear Liability Act to any new reactor.

We believe the adoption of these three measures would, in effect, result in a nuclear phaseout. The nuclear industry requires public subsidies; it never has and cannot now pay its own way. If it is not subsidized it will die of its own accord.

The ban on grants for nuclear research and development

The annual Parliamentary appropriation, never paid back, is one main source of subsidy from our tax dollars. More than \$12 billion had been paid by 1987 (in 1981 dollars) to subsidize the development of new nuclear power reactors. These subsidies continue — \$176 million in 1991-92 to AECL, compared to \$36.8 million for efficiency and alternatives.

(continued)

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT for the next phase of the Campaign:

"We support the proposals of the **Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout** for federal legislation to end federal tax subsidies for research and development of new nuclear power reactors, to prohibit future grants or loans to subsidize exports of nuclear power technology and to prevent the application of the Nuclear Liability Act to any new power reactors in Canada." Date: _____

Name of group: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Code: _____

Telephones: _____ Fax: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Code: _____

Telephones: _____ Fax: _____

Please detach and return to CNP

Phasing out the nuclear subsidy would free up money for research into energy efficiency and conservation, renewables and other social priorities. The legislation, of course, cannot specify alternative uses for the money.

The ban on subsidies for exports

The Export Development Corporation has been the mechanism by which the federal government subsidizes exports of nuclear technology. This includes the latest loan to Romania with its history of human rights abuses (notably the use of conscript labour) and defective building materials. In no case of export has Canada required any provision for the disposal of the resulting radioactive waste. The proposed legislation would not eliminate export sales altogether but, by ending subsidies, make such exports unlikely.

The ban on the Nuclear Liability Act

The Nuclear Liability Act safeguards the nuclear industry from lawsuits in case of a nuclear accident. It gives complete immunity to nuclear equipment manufacturers and limits liability to \$75 million in the case of nuclear power stations, a very small fraction of the damage likely should a serious accident occur. The nuclear industry is thus required to buy very little insurance, because Canadian taxpayers indirectly subsidize the industry.

The Nuclear Liability Act is being challenged in the courts and could be ruled to be contrary

to the Constitution. Preferably such an act would be removed from the books but what we propose is more modest. Legislation would simply prohibit the act being applied to any new reactor. Hence any utility or manufacturer wanting to construct a new reactor would have to insure it at its own expense. Again, the rationale is that if nuclear is forced to pay its own way, it will be seen to be too costly and other options will be chosen instead.

What you and your organization can do

We ask organizations to endorse the new proposals of the Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout. Sign and return the support form. More than 200 organizations endorsed our original campaign and we hope that all will continue their support now. Individuals are invited to join the network of support and will be kept informed of developments.

What the Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout will do

The Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout will continue to seek endorsements of its proposal from groups concerned with the environment, aboriginal peoples, unions, women's groups, faith groups, health and other public interest groups. We will organize the drafting of a new private member's bill and will seek support for it from all members of Parliament. We will prepare and circulate a new set of fact sheets on nuclear issues.

With your help we will then launch our new campaign to phase out nuclear power!

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT for the next phase of the Campaign:

"We support the efforts of the **Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout** to bring about an orderly end to the nuclear industry in Canada. We wish to join the Campaign network and receive the CNP literature."

Name: _____	Address: _____	Name: _____	Address: _____
City: _____	Province: _____ Code: _____	City: _____	Province: _____ Code: _____
Telephone: _____	I enclose a donation of: \$ _____	Telephone: _____	I enclose a donation of: \$ _____
Name: _____	Address: _____	Name: _____	Address: _____
City: _____	Province: _____ Code: _____	City: _____	Province: _____ Code: _____
Telephone: _____	I enclose a donation of: \$ _____	Telephone: _____	I enclose a donation of: \$ _____

Suggested Donation — \$20 or more

Member group profile:

National Energy Conservation Association

Efficiency the answer

by Patti Fanslau

Looking to build a new home, do your part to protect the ozone layer, or find employment in the renovation industry? Then NECA just may be your answer.

NECA is the National Energy Conservation Association. Incorporated in 1983 the association represents contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, utilities and any other groups interested in learning, working together and promoting energy conservation.

"That," says, Trevor Anderson, NECA's Office Manager, is the bottom line, "encouraging good energy conservation."

Back in the '70's a group of renovation contractors got together to promote the industry and champion energy conservation. As a result NECA was born.

Since then, NECA has expanded to continue meeting its goals and objectives. Part of that expansion includes four programs geared to a variety of people from the home owner to the researcher. The common thread is the positive effect each program can have on the environment, both directly and indirectly.

1) The Contractors Warranty Corporation offers home owner's protection and in turn promotes consumer confidence in the renovation industry.

2) The Conservation Capital Corporation handles renovation financing.

3) The Conservation Technology Group is made up of technologists from across Canada working in research and development.

3) The Conservation Training Institute offers training programs for current contractors, estimators, salespeople, installers and inspectors, or for anyone interested in pursuing a career in this field. The eleven courses

vary from Building as a Science to Siding and Cladding, and Combustion Venting.

While the programs cater to a variety of needs, each one serves to help the environment by teaching, researching or practising energy conservation.

But what is energy conservation? The term has been bounced around a lot in the last two decades. Ask ten different people what energy conservation means to them and you'll likely get ten different answers.

At NECA, energy conservation means increasing the efficiency of energy use -- as opposed to curtailment or sacrifice. It does not mean shivering in a cold, dark room!

According to a NECA report submitted to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Energy, Mines and Resources, "current energy services can be delivered without loss of amenity, at 30-90% less energy consumption compared with practises in 1986."

And it's not that difficult to do. Whether it's a house, school or industrial complex, simple things like controlling air leakage; using insulation materials and techniques

Energy conservation means increasing efficiency ... It does not mean shivering in a cold dark room.

properly or; repairing or replacing old windows and doors with more efficient ones, can make a difference.

Next to the burning of fossil fuels, heat loss from buildings, residential, institutional and commercial, are the largest contributors to global warming. By implementing energy conservation practises in the home or at the office, not only do we directly reduce emissions and land degradation, but we also reduce the production of fuels and/or electricity required for space heating.

And if that isn't enough, the benefits of energy conservation extend beyond the environment.

Energy conservation practises also provide an opportunity for Canada to become more competitive in the global market and for individual industries to increase profits. Industries practising energy conservation will bring down the end cost of products not

only because less energy is used during production, but also because operating costs of the building itself will decrease.

Furthermore, with energy costs down, consumers can re-direct their extra disposable income elsewhere further stimulating the economy.

More jobs from energy conservation

In addition to this is the issue of job creation. NECA estimates that job creation in energy conservation is twice as much as new construction and four times as much for new power plant construction based on the project value. Why? Because conservation programs tend to be more labour-intensive than construction programs and less dependent on inputs from other regions than power plant construction.

Overall, energy conservation provides benefits to the environment, energy supply, employment, housing, health and provides export potential. Properly applied it provides long-lasting benefits equal to the life span of new power

generating facilities.

Gradually people are beginning to recognize what NECA has been saying all along. Energy conservation is indeed a viable alternative to meet the growing demand for energy.

When compared to the costly exploration for traditional energy sources, the massive long term capital commitments, and the potential hazards of new technology -- well, what exactly is the comparison?

If you're in the process of renovating, interested in finding out more about energy conservation in the renovation industry or learning more about the services available from NECA, give them a call at 783-1273. Information in this article was taken from Energy Conservation - Facing the Environmental Challenge, a report published by NECA, November, 1991.

TREE mandate spelled out

At its meeting on May 5, 1992, TREE amended its By-laws to make it more responsible to its affiliated organizations. The by-law amendments restructured TREE's board of directors so that it is

now comprised of representatives of the affiliated organizations, and created an associate member category for individuals. Associate members of TREE will be entitled to one representative on the board of directors.

The amended by-law formalizes TREE's mandate by now specifying the object of TREE as the promotion of research and education with respect to forest eco-systems and with respect to human methods aimed at the 1) creation of sustainable forest policies that are ecologically sound and sensitive to the full range of forest values that fully involve the public in their formation, and are subject to continued reassessment in the light of growing experience, knowledge and wisdom; 2) preservation of wilderness areas of sufficient variety, scope, and size to protect the full range of Manitoba's eco-systems and natural features by excluding them from all extractive or consumptive uses; 3) provision for thorough environmental assessments of proposed developments that have the potential to affect forest eco-systems including examination of alternatives; assessment and mitigation of long-range, cumulative, and remote impacts; significant, informed public participation; and the provision of intervenor funding; 3) research on forest eco-systems, both in their natural states and as subject to human impacts and modifications, including the exploration of the many non-consumptive and consumptive values that forests support; 4) comprehensive forest databases and inventories of flora, fauna, eco-system types, physical features, and potential resources as well as of past, current and planned human utilization of the forests; 5) public education regarding the nature of forest eco-systems, the variety of values associated with forests, and human utilization of and impacts on forests.

The inclusion of detailed objects in its by-law gives TREE a clear focus and defines the range of issues and activities in which TREE

TREELINE

by Harvey Williams, TREE president

will become involved. Present and potential member organizations should find this reassuring.

The next step in the restructuring of TREE is to reaffirm the membership of presently affiliated organizations and to seek new member organizations.

The response to calls for TREE members to subscribe to Eco-Journal as a way of staying in touch with TREE was not encouraging. A separate mailing to the original TREE list will be made in the Fall.

Repap builds roads into pristine wilderness without EIA

Repap has requested permission to construct an additional 12 kilometres of all-weather road near where P.T.H. #6 crosses the Halfway River in the vicinity of Sasgiu Rapids.

Ultimately, a bridge over the river, an all-weather road of 80 kilometres, and a network of logging roads are planned and will be accompanied by extensive logging operations in what is now pristine wilderness.

In contrast to Abitibi-Price, Repap's operations which include logging in, not just one park, but in three, have never undergone an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Workbook released

The Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy has released its Workbook on Natural Lands and Special Places and will be holding public meetings around the province in the Fall.

The format of the workbook and the questionnaire that will be used in conjunction with it are similar to those used previously. While the subject matter of the workbook is of vital significance and the public participation laudable, the value framework for the

exercise is fatally flawed.

The ultimate good, as represented by the value framework of the document, is the drive for development. Development should be sustainable, but development should be. Nothing should be left alone that can be developed in a sustainable fashion.

In addition, either through ignorance or by intent, the design of the questionnaire is such that government can interpret the responses freely in any way that it wishes.

For example, one is given the choices of 1) strongly agree 2) agree 3) neutral 4) disagree 5) strongly disagree for recommended provisions in a new Park Lands Act which lists implementation of sustainable development as the first mandate of the Parks Branch.

In view of the inadequacies of the questionnaire, it is advised that respondents reply only on the comments line of each item.

Partnerships key to proposals

(continued from page 1)

only if it broadened its application to represent more groups, presumably because it didn't appear to include representatives of aboriginal communities.

The Manitou Abi (meaning Seat of God in Ojibway) model forest proposal was a joint application of Abitibi-Price Pine Falls, the provincial Department of Natural Resources, Manitou Abi First Nations, TREE (Time to Respect Earth's Eco-Systems), Forestry Canada, the provincial Sustainable Development Unit, private landowners associations, Manitoba universities, and Synthen Resources (an environmental consultant).

The Model Forest proposed sites, the report of the advisory committee and Forestry Canada's "The State of Canada's Forests 1991" are all available in the Network Resource Centre.

Public struggling to understand ozone depletion

An environment week project to provide information and resources on ozone depletion has helped pose as well as answer questions.

In June, with assistance and input from government, the refrigeration industry, and input from other non-profit organizations, the Manitoba Eco-Network sponsored a public forum on the "The Thinning Ozone" as the initial stage in helping understand the problem and some of the solutions here in Manitoba.

Moderated by Eco-Network Executive Director Anne Lindsey, the forum took a broad look at ozone depletion, its impacts on environmental, and both physical and mental health, as well as regulatory and industry responses. The facts about ozone, as they are currently understood are frightening:

- dermatologists are predicting thousands of additional cases of skin cancer in the 21st century as a result of the current levels of ultraviolet ray exposure;
- eye damage, including increased incidence of cataracts is expected
- the human immune system will be affected, triggering an increase in infectious disease rates, particularly immune-deficiency diseases like AIDS;
- UV rays will have negative impacts on crop yields, particularly staple grains, and destroy as yet undetermined amounts of phytoplankton in the oceans
- ground level air quality will deteriorate more rapidly because the UV rays enhance chemical reactivity.

Canadian Dermatology Association representative Earl Minuk predicted a 13 per cent increase or 48,000 additional cases of skin cancer through the next decade. "A severe or blistering sunburn as an infant or child can double your chances of contracting skin cancer," he said.

Because it is relatively easy to detect skin cancer is a very treatable form of cancer, Minuk said. But it is also preventable: "Sunscreen use regularly in the first two decades of life will decrease chances of skin cancer by a whopping 78 per cent."

The prevention has to come from a shift in societal attitudes towards "tanning" --

"the brown colour is your skin's cry for help, for protection from the sun," he said.

Canadian Cancer Society representative Tracey Kelly talked about her chapter's sun awareness program for schools "Living with Sunshine." She stressed a common sense approach of using sunscreen, wearing hats and loose-fitting, but thick-weave clothing for children, although she cautioned that we have to be realistic and not buy hundred dollar sunglasses for our kids that are going to get lost. Of course, kids should play outside, but with appropriate clothing and with respect for the time of day (UV Rays are most intense between 11 and 3 p.m. in summer and 10 to 2 p.m. in winter).

Moving an industry

Warren Heeley, from the Canadian Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute outlined some of the responses of the industry to ozone depletion and the use of CFC's and other ozone depleting substances. He said that turning the industry around will be an enormous task because for decades refrigeration companies thought they had a safe and practical wonder chemical -- ChloroFluorocarbons (CFC's). He asked for the public to understand that the industry needs HydroChloroFluorocarbons (HCFC's) as an interim measure even though the chemical will still deplete ozone in the atmosphere.

Heeley said that along with developing safe alternatives to CFC's the priority has to be on properly disposing of the CFC's that are in use now. 10 million commercial refrigeration and air conditioning units are in use in Canada along with another 8 million appliances. He lauded a Manitoba pilot program, outlined earlier in the meeting by Environment Department representative Jerry Spiegel, for focusing on training and certifying technicians to deal with the leaks and proper maintenance that are already out there.

After July 1, all refrigeration and air conditioning work will have to be done by certified technicians in Manitoba who must account for the CFC's they have used. The message for the public is 'ask questions, expect to pay a little more in the short term

and don't use unscrupulous service technicians who are willing to "just" top up the freon in the air conditioner.

International precedent

Friends of the Earth Ozone Campaigner Robin Round from Ottawa gave an overview of the international situation. She said that environmentalists can be encouraged by the Montreal Protocol and recent attempts at agreements to phase out CFC's even earlier than the original protocol. She called the agreements precedent-setting for two reasons:

Governments have recognized the need to act on global agreements before the final scientific word that there is indeed a giant problem.

The second precedent is the \$285 million fund that developed nations have created for developing countries to draw on. China has signed the updated agreement phasing out CFC's by 1995 largely as a result of the fund which could finance alternatives as China industrializes, Round said.

Five actions for individuals

Round stressed that although global agreements are important individuals need to act as well. She listed five actions for individuals which include:

1. Learning to live with our climate. The average car air conditioner contains 5 lbs of CFC's. If you are buying a car now that "free air" could be the company dumping it's CFC problem on you.
2. Take responsibility for your CFC's in your refrigerator or current air conditioner, by having them repaired responsibly or disposed of properly so CFC's are recovered. One molecule of CFC has the ability to destroy 100,000 molecules of ozone, Round warned.
3. Look for alternatives. If you are buying a new refrigerator HCFC fridges are available. They are better although not perfect. Foam packaging often contains HCFC's - Avoid these because they will cause ozone depletion as well as create a

(continued from previous page)

waste management problem.

4. Halons (bromine) in fire extinguishers should be removed and recovered properly. alternatives such as water, and dry chemical are widely available.
5. Political action is important. Write to Environment Minister Jean Charest to ask for a faster phase out, to ask him to renew his commitment to the international ozone fund and to congratulate him on Canada's initiatives to draft world legislation on recycling and recovery of CFC's.

One of the more innovative elements of the Eco-Network's ozone program was a presentation by two local members of a new group, the Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment. Steve Rauh outlined some of the mental health implications by comparing ozone depletion to the Love Canal fiasco.

When you can't see it, can't predict the results which are, in any case, delayed over a period of years, and you can't tell how severe the problem will be, a great deal of anxiety and stress are created, Rauh said.

People who attended the forum "have moved beyond denial to find more information," said Steve Moskovitch. Many others will, unfortunately, be immobilized by their fears and their lack of resources, he said.

More questions still

While the forum was Winnipeg's broadest look at ozone depletion to date, even the experts on its panel are unable, at this time, to answer many questions about the impact of increased amounts of UV Rays reaching the earth.

Assiniboine College Sustainable Development Coordinator Mark Burch who attended the forum, said farmers are coming to him with questions about what to plant, what impact will UV Rays have on pollinating insects such as bees? How will pests and crops be impacted?

Burch also wondered if the atmospheric scientists have determined how much of the CFC's that have already been released have made it through the troposphere to the upper atmosphere. The implication of his question is that, if half of the CFC's are still in the troposphere and haven't yet begun to deplete ozone, we could be in for a much worse situation than has been predicted so far.

Scientists are only beginning to look at the impacts on things like crops and life forms, as well as human health. The United Nations Environment Programme 1991 Update noted that less than one per cent of the research on ozone depletion that has been conducted deals with terrestrial impacts rather than atmospheric changes.

The Eco-Network is planning to follow up the forum in several ways, including preparing a report and making a video of the

forum available (It airs on VPW (public access) Channel 11 on August 2 at 8:30 p.m.) to groups and schools.

The Eco-Network has also amassed a large amount of resource materials on ozone and prepared a fact sheet on the subject.

Call the Network office (956-1468) for more information on protecting against UV Rays, environmental impacts of ozone depletion or to get active on the issue.

Signs of slow change witnessed in Rio

Disappointment over the level of discourse or the work accomplished by world leaders in Rio in June should not displace the positive gains that have been made by the non-government organizations (NGO's) according to one Winnipeg delegate.

Former NDP cabinet Minister Muriel Smith was a delegate of the United Nations Association attending the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and spoke about her experience at the YM-YWCA monthly luncheon among other venues shortly after her return.

Even though the NGO's met 40 kilometres away from the official conference and had little opportunity to influence the proceedings, Smith regards it as an evolutionary, if not revolutionary step that they were there at all. The Stockholm conference that led to the concept of periodic summit meetings by world leaders was the first step, when NGO representatives paid their own way and "started this extra loop." Gradually with each UN conference NGO representation is moving closer to being an official part of the proceedings.

"This was the first time, at least in Canada, that NGO's were part of the planning process," she said. As well Environment Minister Jean Charest met twice a day with a caucus of Canadian NGO representatives to brief them and hear their perspectives on the proceedings.

"He moved a little and was frank with us. There were signs he responded to the concerns raised [at the briefings]," she said.

The unanimity among the NGO delegates in signing alternative treaties was a notable positive outcome of the conference, according to Smith. Not only did they reach agreement in areas where their leaders were at sea, but they also worked out what the relation-

ship between NGO's and indigenous peoples, and between developed nations and developing nations should be for the future.

Signatories to the alternative treaties on bio-technology, energy, consumption and lifestyle, sustainable societies, fisheries and yes, even population, among others, have pledged to work towards implementation in their home countries and together. While the chances may be remote at early success, Smith feels that the process "has energized tremendously" the people who are working for change in their respective areas.

Electronic and personal networks are bringing together activists around the world like never before and "something got let loose" in Rio.

That said, Smith does realize that, "it's a dream to have the people impacting" on a world government that is effective and that it's still going to take a "sea change in attitude" before governments actually live up to the high sounding principles they are currently espousing on the question of environment and development.



Developing a framework for sustainable

economics

by William
Goddard

To me this is a very valuable contribution to the literature on economics and sustainability. The four parts are: Analysis, Objectives, Programme, and Measurement. Jacob's goal is to inform the general reader, as well as satisfying the needs of many professionals.

For the latter, there are extensive references/notes. The Analysis part is succinct. A new view of the economy based on physics rather than monetary flows is presented and this model has significance to policy concepts in the part on Objectives.

I found the working model or definition of "sustainable development" to be carefully worked out with considerations given to conventional economic models and mechanisms.

His thesis is that there are three core elements to the definition: 1) entrenchment of environmental considerations in policy-making; 2) incorporation of an inescapable commitment to equity, and; 3) the concept of development implies a notion of economic welfare which acknowledges non-financial components.

He builds his thesis for a concept of "sustainability" and how this can be "operationalized." The Programme part builds a practical foundation for the political implication: sustainability requires planning.

The need to set aside conventional models is a major challenge taken on by Jacobs. The importance of separating "market forces" and "markets" is brought out to show how we can have a "planning system" that will use the most appropriate mechanisms.

We need planning at various scales to suit the goals, and implementation on other scales. For example, global warming requires planning at the international scale, but the implementation may be done with mechanisms at national or local scales.

The choice of instruments for achieving sustainability (voluntary, regulatory, government expenditure, financial incentives)

are evaluated with respect to ideology, effectiveness, efficiency and political acceptability.

The section on Measurement shows that the formation of policies and planning clearly needs new measures of progress.

Keynes' concept of GNP, has become widely used as a measure of economic activity, and by implication the social welfare, but Greens have argued for adjustment of this measure to reflect environmental costs, etc. Jacobs

BOOK REVIEW -- The Green Economy: Environment, Sustainable Development, and the Politics of the Future
by Michael Jacobs, Pluto Press, 1991

Protectors of Mother Earth blockade logging road

by Fiona Muldrew

Editor's note: 30 aboriginal traditionalists woke up in the Meadow Lake jail on Canada Day. For six weeks, the residents of Canoe Lake, Saskatchewan had been conducting a blockade of a logging road to prevent clear-cutting and destructive logging practises. On June 30 an RCMP tactical squad moved in and arrested the 30 people. After sleeping six to a cell on cement benches, the protesters returned to their blockade. The arrests were protested in Winnipeg at the Canada Day "celebrations" at the Forks by 40 to 50 supporters. Activist Fiona Muldrew visited the blockade earlier in June.

I never seriously considered joining a blockade until I took the Peace Brigades International (PBI) "sweetened condensed" training in Non-Violence and Third Party Observation. A week later I found myself at a blockade in Northern Saskatchewan. It was set up to protest clear-cutting, and subsequent loss of wildlife in traditional Cree lands. In between sessions of the Peace Brigades Training we heard about the blockade, and several participants discussed the likelihood of blockades going up in Manitoba to demonstrate community versus corporate struggles on issues such as hydro development.

Thinking about the possibility of blockades in our province, and considering the struggles against unjust power systems that we all face, the role-plays during the training became relevant and purposeful. Participants from the Bear Clan Patrol (an alternative Aboriginal street patrol) brought home the importance of local people taking re-

thoroughly considers the proposed adjustments, and the concept of a unified measure, as proposed elsewhere (for example see Daly and Cobb's "For the Common Good," 1989).

A working definition of "standard of living" that includes the exclusively collective aspects that determine "quality of life" is used to show that a unified measure is not useful.

As Jacobs states in the Introduction, a completely new framework for economics may need to be developed, but his work cannot claim to be it. However, he has made the need to develop such a framework abundantly clear.

sponsibility for their community. In their case this means ensuring safety and mediating conflict on streets in the North End. The training not only increased my awareness of local and global conflict, it demonstrated how effective an independent observer can be. An observer has a difficult, dangerous, yet, important role in a conflict situation.

A few days after the training finished I travelled with four people from Winnipeg and Milton Born-With-A-Tooth, to the blockade. On May 14, the blockade was set up on a logging road 65 kilometres north of Meadow Lake (about a four hour drive northwest of Saskatoon). Milton told of his struggle with the Oldman River Dam project in southern Alberta where a federal assessment panel recommended that the dam shouldn't be allowed to operate, but the Alberta government is proceeding anyway.

In Meadow Lake, Cree and Metis people from more than five communities formed a group called Protectors of Mother Earth (POME). POME has set up the blockade to demonstrate the concerns of local residents over the cutting which supplies Scott Paper in the United States with pulp for toilet paper. The Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Millar-Western (an Alberta company) and the Saskatchewan government are the major shareholders in Norsask and Mistik, the main logging corporations in the area. This has pitted community elders and traditionalists against their own leadership as well as the companies, the provincial government which ceded the cutting rights and, since Canada Day, the RCMP.

The elders supporting the blockade have called for:

(continued from previous page)

1. Cessation of clear-cutting and removal of all mechanical tree harvesters from the northwest of Saskatchewan.
2. Local control and decision-making on resource use.
3. Financial assistance for local people to start selective logging operations.
4. Compensation for local people adversely affected by logging and loss of wildlife.

Restoring the Land: setting the evolutionary clock ticking again

So maybe we can't turn back the clock or calendar and find a time when a sea of tall grasses swept west from the Forks of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

But we can restore some diversity and some balance to the land and soil if we learn to work with nature rather than over or against it. That was the message from the Eco-Network's program of speakers at its Annual General Meeting in May. Doug Collicut, a partner in Prairie Habitats Nursery and Celia Guilford, president of the Organic Producers Association of Manitoba made presentations on their activities and perspectives on environmental restoration.

Collicut gave an overview of trends in restoration in North America. Some of the controversies in restoration circles include the mania for sometimes "wanton tree planting" even in prairie states such as North Dakota and the ethics of "No Net Loss" development of wetlands.

Restoration is not about turning back the clock or recreating the past to be preserved as a static thing doesn't change, Collicut said. Instead we must "nurture (the land's) capacity for change, not to turn back the evolutionary clock but to set it ticking again."

"When people say, 'How can you recreate a 10,000 year old prairie?' I have an answer for them now. I tell them 'I can't but in 10 years I can have a 10 year old prairie.'"

Restoring the soil

In organic agriculture the challenge is how to get back to working with rather than over or against the soil. After farming organically in the Crystal City/Pilot Mound area since 1987, Celia Guilford is just brimming with the pleasure that farming now gives her and her husband.

They've doubled the number of crops they produce since "going organic," they've set up an intricate rotational plan, experimented

In setting up the blockade POME trapped logging equipment, including several mechanical harvesters owned by Mistik, behind their barrier. This was useful in giving them a bargaining chip for the negotiating process which was proceeding more or less towards an agreement. The government and companies had indicated they would be interested in signing an agreement to allow more local control over logging practises,

heavily with intercropping and begun to care for the soil, not just the crops.

"There are millions of little critters that actually live in a handful of soil," Guilford marvels. Organic farming is a relief economically, too, Guilford says. It avoids the high input cost for pesticides, fuel and synthetic chemicals as well as the borrowing charges that have been driving families out of farming. So why don't more farmers farm organically?

"They've been brainwashed so long. They're thinking about crops. They don't think about soil."

Recommendations avoid action on Red River for at least five years

(continued from page one)

July, 1997 and that public hearings held during the six months following the release of the proposals would "determine the implementation schedule."

In other words, planning, design, contracting and any construction would easily take us into the next century before the problem is solved.

"The Commission feels there is insufficient site-specific information on the composition and impact of [Combined Sewer Outflows] to advocate a blanket requirement for all CSO's to be regulated and treated or to separate sewers. It is known from Winnipeg's estimates and from experience elsewhere that the costs are high. It may be that, even with complete regulation and treatment of CSO's, fecal coliform objectives could not be met at all times," is the rationale given for the recommendation for further study.

This fits exactly with the City of Winni-

peg's position on the disinfection issue which was that it would be unnecessarily expensive. The one odd departure from the City position on disinfection seems to be that the CEC would go ahead and designate the Red River for primary use, for swimming, even before a solution is found. The city position has been that the rivers are dangerous for swimming in any case.

Logging companies and government officials have no problems with the devastation of clear cutting even though no environmental impact assessment has ever been completed. Their co-management proposal has no teeth to allow the community to make decisions for sustainable forestry.

As an observer I felt that our role at the blockade was very important. We helped to play a part in countering both the lack of information and the misinformation which the rest of Canada gets via the media. We were also a visible sign to the corporate types, with our cameras and tape recorders, that the outside world was watching. This gave the blockaders hope that the outside world cared and would act on potential and present injustices.

Solidarity from across Canada is an important morale-booster for the blockaders. Faxes and letters of support were a deciding factor in keeping the blockade going. They are also in desperate need of donations for food and other supplies. To make a contribution or find out more about the situation contact Fiona at 488-3495.

peg's position on the disinfection issue which was that it would be unnecessarily expensive. The one odd departure from the City position on disinfection seems to be that the CEC would go ahead and designate the Red River for primary use, for swimming, even before a solution is found. The city position has been that the rivers are dangerous for swimming in any case.

The CEC panel made 14 recommendations in all, mostly dealing with the various water uses (ie. irrigation, industrial, domestic consumption). It didn't recommend a higher degree of protection for vulnerable areas suggested by the Manitoba Environmental Council, nor did the CEC make any recommendation on sediment quality, which the Environmental Council had submitted, ultimately affects surface water quality.

The report of the CEC and the background documents are available in the public registry file at the Eco-Network resource centre and other public registry locations.

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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.