



Scientists speak out against shuffle

Freshwater cuts result from bureaucratic indifference

by Toby Maloney

While Brian Tobin focuses on high seas turbot wars, decimated cod stocks and the case of the disappearing salmon, freshwater research and fisheries management are being shuffled out the back door.

According to eminent scientists, an elite research team involved with the Experimental Lakes Area, the scientific equivalent of an Olympic squad, is no better than a ping pong ball in negotiations to transfer the freshwater science sections of Fisheries and Oceans, to the federal Department of the Environment.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Brian Tobin has signed a letter of intent with Environment Minister Sheila Copps to transfer the responsibility for freshwater research to her department and indicated an intention to devolve responsibility for freshwater fish management and assessment activities to the provinces, leaving his department as an oceans department. Fifty-four scientific researchers and 20 fisheries management personnel at the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg and another 36 researchers at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington would be affected by the transfers. The researchers at Freshwater Institute include those connected with the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA), a project where a series of small lakes, just east of the Manitoba-Ontario border, are manipulated and tested to study the impacts of toxins and other human-made affects on whole lakes.

In many ways the move is desirable. It would reunite freshwater science units that were artificially separated when the Department of Fisheries and Environment was split into the current Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Department of Environment (DOE)

in 1979. It would also end the pretence that the research is all fisheries based — many of the most important discoveries and policy contributions in both Burlington and at the ELA have had implications for human and planetary health not just fish.

Some say that 1979 split was in response to the large commercial fishing interests on the coasts, which have driven the department's priorities ever since. Even before these cuts, freshwater spending has been a relatively meagre \$12 million for all of Canada out of a total DFO budget approaching \$500 million.

Now negotiations to transfer the research responsibility have stalled out amid announcements of federal civil service cuts, which have hit the freshwater units with first year personnel cuts of 20 per cent, toward a three-year goal of 70 per cent. Meanwhile most other departments, including the marine and coastal programs of DFO, are facing only 20 to 30 per cent in total.

In other words, it appears that Tobin and his department are attempting to transfer the program without a budget. His interest and the department's interest seem to lie in jealously guarding as much of their budget as possible, but the Department of the Environment has taken some serious cuts of its own and won't want to absorb new programs

with no money.

In June several researchers at the Freshwater Institute, the Inland Waters office in Burlington, Ontario and at the lamprey eel program in Sault Ste. Marie (which together make up the Central and Arctic Region of Inland Waters) started receiving notification that their jobs were targeted for elimination and that they could apply for early retirement.

Scientists associated with the ELA say the cuts will decimate the programs, and aren't willing to sit quietly by while the award-



Who will save the ELA?

See SCIENTIST RESIGNS, page 4
COMPLIMENTARY
Please consider subscribing

Volume 5, Number 4
July-August, 1995
(date of issue: August, 1995)
Eco-Journal

is published six times per year by the Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau Ecologique du Manitoba Inc. at 867 Westminster, R3G 1B3 (204)772-7542 or fax (204) 772-7563. E mail men @ web.apc.org. Editorial inquiries can be made direct to (204) 534-2317 in Boissevain or by electronic mail.

Editor

Toby Maloney

Contributors this issue

Alice Chambers, Kathy Hellner, Anne Lindsey, Jeff Lowe, Toby Maloney, J.H. Olafsson, Jennifer Peters, Jan Westlund

Proofreading by Robin Faye

Advertising representative

Rick Freeman

Executive Director

Anne Lindsey

Manitoba Eco-Network Executive

Chair

Nick Carter, Manitoba Naturalists Society

Vice-Chair

Christine Common-Singh, Agassiz Sierra Club

Secretary

Glen Koroluk, Recycling Council of Manitoba

Treasurer

Steve Rauh, Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment

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

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

Canada Publication Mail Sales Agreement
0530212. Postage paid at Winnipeg, MB

Produced with desktop publishing equipment supplied by Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation and Investors Group

Veteran activist, champion of free-flowing rivers dies

Environmental activist Gerry McKinney died of liver cancer late last month. McKinney worked for decades to prevent destruction to Manitoba's river systems by dams and diversions, including the Garrison Project and the Rafferty-Alameda Dam.

McKinney also organized a network of farmers, municipalities, First Nations and environmentalists across southern Manitoba to prevent a large diversion of water from the Assiniboine River. The organization he developed, Manitobans Against the Assiniboine Diversion, became a support organization for local groups fighting diversions, drainage and irrigation projects in Roseisle, Oak Lake and even across the Saskatchewan border. His specialty was knitting together common interests across diverse groups -- classic coalition building.

A decorated veteran of the Korean War (he worked on medical evacuation on the front lines) McKinney also received high honours for his environmental work, rare in Manitoba. He was entered as a member of the Order of the Buffalo Hunt for his work to stop the Garrison Diversion and he was made an Honourary Doctor of Laws by Brandon University.

Don Sullivan worked with McKinney on MAAD, but knew him earlier from the anti-apartheid movement. He said that McKinney "spent most of his time fighting for the environment and never getting paid."

Sullivan said that people around McKinney didn't know about his cancer. "He never really talked about himself much ... (but) he must have had some idea how his health was. Right up to the end he was fighting Langenburg."

The planned Langenburg East drainage project in eastern Saskatchewan, just across the border from Russell, Manitoba, was typical of his far reaching organizing abilities. Large farm operations there have been draining land illegally, causing flooding for their neighbours to the east. The local Conservation and Development district there is planning to drain an even larger area, but McKinney understood, even before this year's spring flooding, what the impact would be on his beloved Assiniboine River. McKinney had been raising the issue with governments from Regina to Ottawa demanding the serious impacts on the Assiniboine be considered.

In the spring he teamed up with the National Farmers Union to call for an inquiry into both the drainage projects upstream from the Assiniboine and what he saw as mismanagement of the Shellmouth reservoir and other problems with flood forecasting by the provincial department of Natural Resources. (See *Flooding blamed on poor management, destructive drainage projects: National Farmers Union Calls for Inquiry*, **Eco-Journal May-June 1995**).

In 1992 he worked with MAAD to produce a video "If You Change This River," an eloquent statement not just in opposition to the Assiniboine Diversion, but for the restoration of its ecological and cultural significance to southern Manitoba.

He was 63 when he died. He will be remembered as an environmentalist who won some big issues through persistent and dedicated organizing.

1995 Eco-Network Steering Committee

Dennis Bayomi, Winnipeg Vegetarian Association
Christine Common-Singh, Sierra Club Agassiz Group
Laverne Dalglish, National Energy Conservation Association
Steve Rauh, Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment
Harry Mesman, Manitoba Federation of Labour
Nick Carter, Manitoba Naturalists Society
Dave Taylor, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Glen Koroluk, Recycling Council of Manitoba
Chickadee, Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Compost education program launched

By Kathy Hellner and Jennifer Peters
Recycling Council of Manitoba

With a little creativity and commitment we could all be backyard and apartment composting!

Did you know that an astounding 30-38% of all waste that goes to landfill sites in North America is organic waste which is compostable? Composting is the natural decomposition or breakdown of organic material (such as kitchen and yard wastes) into a dark, soil-like substance called humus.

In order to achieve a 50% reduction in the amount of waste going to landfills by the year 2000 a radical increase in backyard and apartment composting must take place. A growing number of people collect their organic waste and keep it in creative free-form compost heaps or in composters, because they recognize the importance and the benefits of backyard composting.

This summer three students are working for the Recycling Council of Manitoba (RCM) on a Compost Education Project to encourage backyard composting as a sensible, efficient, and safe waste minimization strategy. Workshops about backyard composting are held regularly at an educational and functional Compost Demonstration Site which we have created.

The Site is located in the City of Winnipeg on the corner of Westminster Avenue and Maryland Street. To further provide

information to the public, we transport our worm box (vermicomposting), info display, and slide show to organizations, schools, malls, and libraries throughout Winnipeg. We've been pleased by the positive response and feedback that we've received; the enthusiasm with which people embrace composting (and all the associated microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi) is inspiring!

We've heard composting stories galore. Did you hear the story about the compost pile that took eight years to decompose? Well, we did and we were able to offer some suggestions. We've discovered that people are pleased to receive technical information about how to care for their backyard compost pile (or for their worms if they choose to use a vermicomposter).

We've also compiled a brochure specifically for people who want to learn how to compost, and what it's all about. It explains how to begin a heap in your own backyard, the types of waste that can and cannot go in a pile, the benefits and uses of composting, and answers to frequently asked questions about composting.

You can pick a brochure up at our garden site, or call us at 925-3R's (3777) and we'll mail one out to you.

In addition, we've got a well-stocked resource library at our office at 501-428 Portage Ave. Feel free to drop in during 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) and borrow some books, journals, or videos. We welcome your visit, and we'd be happy to provide you with as much information as you need to do your part in getting our planet back on track!

Nopiming Camp winds up, activities continue

Earth First is continuing activities in the Nopiming forest over the summer months after wrapping up a camp in the park for over a month in early summer.

The group says it brought people to the forest and "educated campers and cottagers about the ravages of industrial logging."

On the May long weekend Earth First members, including a visitor from New York, canoed to current logging areas and photographed a clearcut area and road building activities.

The camp also had a visit from Daniel Vairo, a Sea Shepherd Conservation Society crew member from Los Angeles, California

who participated in a fast and talked to loggers.

The group says that in order "to bring the issue of logging in parks back to the people responsible" it delivered stumps taken from a clearcut in Nopiming to the Minister of Natural Resources Albert Dreidger. Another was delivered to the Winnipeg Free Press because Earth First says the newspaper uses one seventh of the production at the Pine Falls Paper Company's output.

The group is planning return visits to the park throughout the summer. For more information call the Earth First Prime Line at 992-2319.

UPDATE

Election Debate transcripts

During the provincial election campaign the Manitoba Eco-Network and other groups sponsored a debate between the leaders of the Conservative, New Democratic and Liberal parties.

For those who want to compare the promise with the performance there is a loose transcript of the debate available. It can be viewed or photocopied in the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre at 867 Westminister Avenue in Winnipeg. Phone ahead to check the hours during the summer months.

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**

Lead scientist resigns from management in protest

Continued from Page 1
winning program they built is orphaned in a bureaucratic tiff.

Scientist Emeritus Dr. Jack Vallentyne says that Tobin is "ready, willing and able to sacrifice freshwater" and accuses the department of putting "itself ahead of the country (and saying) 'to hell with freshwater.'"

Vallentyne retired from Fisheries and Oceans three years ago after a distinguished career of translating basic science, much of it conducted with the help of the ELA just east of the Manitoba-Ontario border, into public policy. He was the second winner of the Rachel Carson medal from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

He says that the ELA which he helped found almost 30 years ago, has produced basic science recognized internationally, including work that led to the removal of phosphates from detergents because of eutrophication in lakes, particularly Lake Erie, and the evidence that corroborated Canada's negotiating position toward the Acid Rain Treaty with the United States.

Vallentyne says the researchers still at DFO are wondering what they've been doing for 20 years and are losing the capability to do the work that has won them acclaim.

"It's a desperate situation ... (it's) berserk, foolish, weird, strange ... that

such an important program can be so disregarded as to lose half of its funding in the last ten years."

And it's not just a question of how deep the cuts go, it's how they are applied. One scientist still employed with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

resigned his management function as the Section Manager for Experimental Eco-Systems -- head scientist for the ELA -- in protest over the way cuts are being handled. Dr. Bob Hecky had just landed a \$1.9 million contract to train freshwater scientists from Malawi when he heard the news of the cuts in June.

"I've stepped aside because I felt they were making decisions without consulting me."

He said no one from upper management talked to him about what cuts should be

made or how they should be made. There are both voluntary and involuntary aspects to the cuts and he can't even tell which personnel will be cut.

Hecky said he is negotiating to transfer over to the University of Manitoba where he plans to try and "open a third front on this issue." He and Vallentyne both say that a university or consortium of universities could administer the program with more sensitivity and that the

federal government only pays half the bills anyway. Hecky says that \$2 million of the ELA's \$4 million in operating expenses

come from universities and researchers who have private contracts, even though the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has been setting the research agenda.

He is at a loss to understand why freshwater is such a low priority within the department

and government as whole.

"It's where people live, it's what people drink!"

Hecky's analysis is that DFO has already made commitments with the money that would be saved from the 70 per cent cuts. That means DFO can't be flexible in the negotiations with DOE without having to backtrack on those commitments. He's pessimistic anything good will come of the negotiations.

In sports terms it would be as if Canada had decided that it could no longer afford to send 70 per cent of a hockey team to the Winter Olympics; just a goalie and two forwards ... Senator Mira Spivak

"Anything can happen, but it's already been eight months and if there's movement it's retrograde ... it's incredible how unfriendly this negotiation has been."

Freshwater science and the ELA in particular have one good friend in Ottawa. Senator Mira Spivak sees the work on toxics, acidification and more recently tracking the impacts of increased UV rays and global climate change on freshwater lakes as urgent issues.

In her response to Bill C-76, the budget implementation bill enabling the civil service cuts in various departments in the Senate, she compared the ELA to cultural and sports organizations:

"The evaporation of federal support for freshwater science is tantamount to closing 70 per cent of the National Gallery of Canada, not just losing Harbourfront. In sports terms it would be as if Canada had decided that it could no longer afford to send 70 per cent of a hockey team to the Winter Olympics; just a goalie and two forwards."

Spivak says the only way to save the program now is to press

the politicians. She suggested that pressure be applied to Manitoba's senior cabinet minister Lloyd Axworthy and as well to Jon Gerrard who has responsibilities for science and technology.

Arms Length

Dr. David Schindler is a former ELA manager, who won international recognition as the first winner of the Stockholm Water Prize for his research at the experimental lakes. Now a

professor at the University of Alberta, Schindler stills maintains research pro-

grams and sends graduate students to train at the ELA.

He would like to see the ELA with an arms length relationship from government akin to a crown corporation because of the lack of understanding it has been able to generate from the bureaucracy. He cited one instance in which researchers were prevented from presenting the results of their studies on the greenhouse gases emitted from reservoirs at hearings on the James Bay project because of the controversy the studies would have generated. He also noted that he had received written reprimands in his files for "speaking out about the erosion of funding" that was occurring back then.

He lays the problem at the feet of senior bureaucracy. He says the government should get rid of the managers who administered the cuts of the Mulroney era by "clean(ing) house from the deputy minister down to the laboratory manager level."

His current work is to correlate climate data and increased UV Rays data with chemical and physical changes in the lakes over the two decades information was collected. Schindler says

Due to the impasse -- this stupid attempt to transfer without funding or manpower -- the project is falling between the cracks.

... Dr. David Schindler

this work is on the priority list for the Department of Environment and the planet, but not for DFO. He would welcome the transfer if the programs were protected, but is sceptical whether it will ever happen.

"Due to the impasse - this stupid attempt to transfer without funding or manpower the project is falling between the cracks."

Dr. John Cooley, acting Regional Director of Science for the Arctic and Central Region confirmed the cuts and the transfer discussions, but can't discuss details of the negotiations.

He says that the two departments had hoped the negotiations "would have been resolved before now," but he's hoping a joint workshop scheduled for August 24 and 25 will "move the proposal further."

(Attempts to contact Treasury Board officials and officials from Brian Tobin's office were unsuccessful.)

Lurking under the surface of the move are the constitutional issues involved with devolving freshwater fish management to the provinces. The provinces already licence and regulate sports fisheries, but only by agreement with the federal Minister of Fisheries.

Spivak is also contemptuous of the plan to devolve fisheries management to the provinces. She says it's foolish to leave fish that migrate across provincial and international boundaries as provincial responsibilities.

But foolish or not, the country with the world's largest supply of fresh water doesn't seem to care.

ECJ

TO HAVE YOUR SAY call the Constituency offices for Lloyd Axworthy (983-3292) and Jon Gerard (1-800-463-2772). Write Brian Tobin, Minister Fisheries and Oceans and Sheila Copps, Minister of Environment at the House of Commons, 111 Wellington St. Ottawa, K1A 0A6.

Clean Environment Commission

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE CAPITAL REGION

Date: August 14, 15, and (if necessary) 16, 17, 1995

Place: Winnipeg Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Time: 1:00 - 5:00 & 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

French Language Service: August 14 and 15, 1995

The Manitoba Clean Environment Commission will convene a public hearing to receive representations respecting *Solid Waste Management in the Capital Region* (see map below). These hearings will explore current issues surrounding solid waste management, and explore options for achieving an effective and sustainable solid waste management strategy for this region. The Commission has been asked by the Minister of Environment to examine and provide advice on a variety of issues surrounding solid waste management in the Capital Region. The Commission is requesting your assistance, and invites you to consider the following questions:

- 1 What concerns do you have respecting the management of solid waste in the Capital Region?
- 2 Who should own and control solid waste in the Capital Region?
- 3 What activities should take place at waste management sites in the Capital Region? Disposal? Recycling? Composting? Salvage? Transfer? Other?
- 4 What might be the impacts on solid waste management of having competitive sites for managing waste in the Capital Region? Efficiency? Waste minimalization? Risks to the environment? Fiscal implications for government? Other?
- 5 What are the advantages/disadvantages of having regional (multi-municipality) waste management sites?
- 6 What do you see as future solid waste management issues for the Capital Region?
- 7 What would be the elements of a successful (environmental and economically sustainable) solid waste management strategy for the Capital Region?

* "solid waste" excludes hazardous wastes, liquid wastes, or bulky metallic wastes.

THE CAPITAL REGION

Information concerning this hearing, including an introductory brochure to the issues under review, can be obtained by contacting the Commission at 204-326-2395 (collect) or through the Public Registries listed below.

Centennial Public Library • 251 Donald Street, Winnipeg
Resource Centre • Bldg. 2, 139 Tuxedo Avenue, Winnipeg
Manitoba Eco-Network - 867 Westminister Avenue, Winnipeg
Legislative Library • 200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg
Selkirk Community Library • 303 Main Street, Selkirk
Steinbach Public Library • 304-2nd Street, Steinbach

Anyone wishing to make a representation at this hearing should contact the Commission office in writing, or by telephone call, prior to the commencement of the hearing.

The Commission needs your input... please participate!

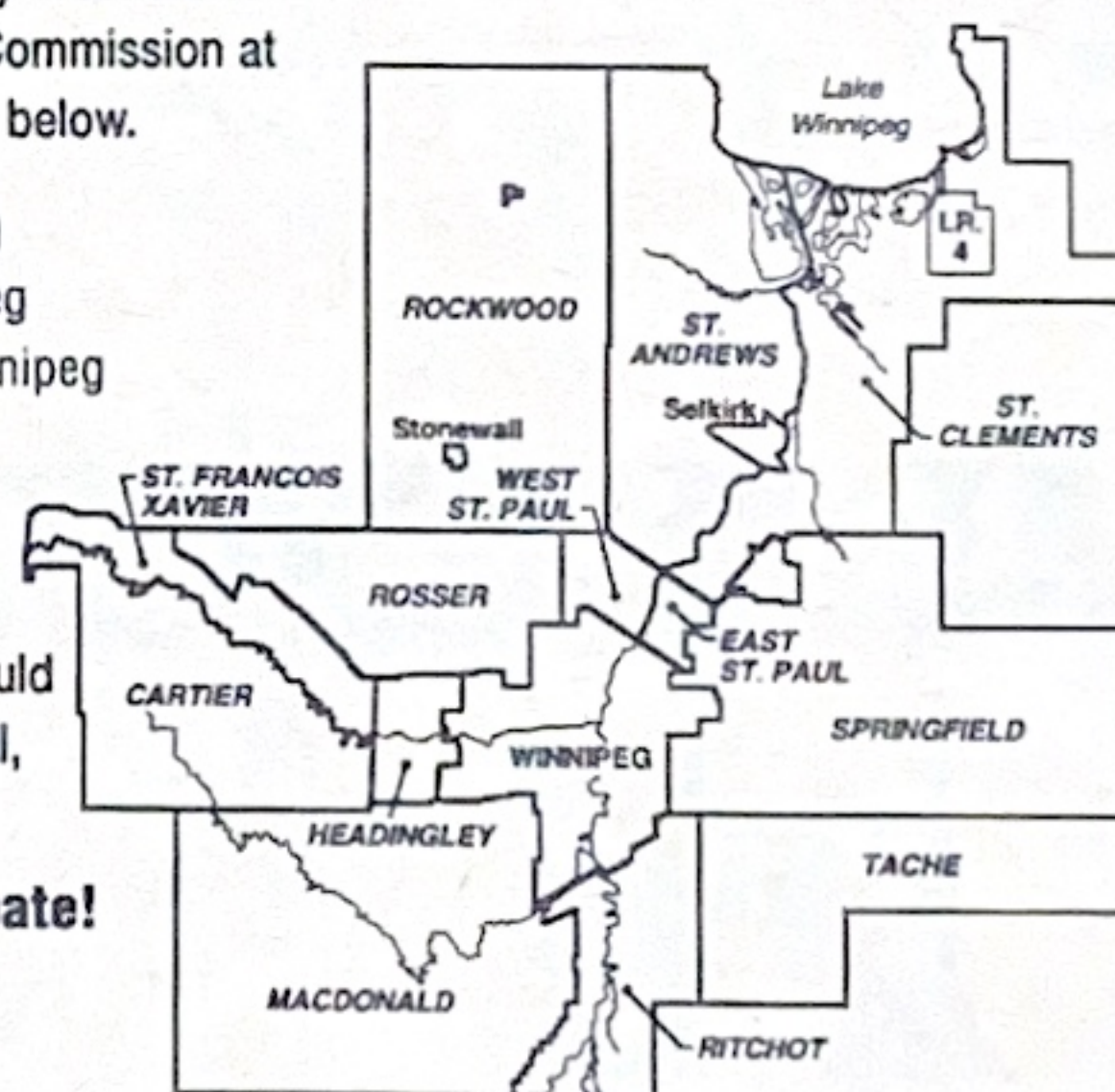
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

Box 21420, 284 Reimer Avenue

Steinbach, Manitoba R0A 2T3

Telephone: 204-326-2395, Fax: 204-326-2472

Information Line: 1-800-597-3556



Manitoba
Environment



(5 days notice)

Good news for cyclists overlooked

by Jeff Lowe

Over the course of the last several weeks, Winnipeg's two major dailies have published a spate of feature-length exposés and opinion-pieces that tackle discourteous and unsafe practices said to have become rampant among local cyclists. More impressionable readers will have, as a result, drawn the conclusion that the presence of bicycles on our roads and sidewalks is the foremost traffic menace of our time.

What had ostensibly prompted this coverage was the announcement by the Winnipeg Police Service of a crackdown on cyclists failing to dismount when making use of the sidewalks of the Osborne Bridge.

Depending on a constable's judgment as to the severity of infraction committed, either a warning or a citation has since been issued to those apprehended in the commission of an offense.

Being a major link across the Assiniboine River between Winnipeg's central business district and the popular "Osborne Village" shopping and high-rise-residential area (and neighbourhoods further southward) the bridge sustains a continually heavy flow of motor-vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

Owing to the deeply-ingrained unwillingness of motorists to yield an appreciable berth to the countless cyclists to whom Osborne Bridge is an indispensable route, many cyclists are driven to seek refuge on its sidewalks. This, in turn, often leads to incidents with pedestrians also in the act of

negotiating the crossing.

In response to the ongoing conflict, organizations representing cyclists have for years beseeched the City's Streets & Transportation bureaucracy to set aside a strip of roadside on Osborne Bridge (as well as other traffic "choke-points" - such as rail-line underpasses) for the secure passage of bicycle-riders. The argument always came back, that, as such space is at a premium, there was literally not an inch to be relinquished for the purpose.

One wonders why, rather than handing out tickets, police weren't instructed to alert errant cyclists that they would soon enjoy a "safe harbour" that they could call their own

It should come as no surprise, therefore, that when cycling interests recently landed a major concession in the aforementioned "turf war," it went completely unreported in the mainstream media. Bicycle lanes were quietly created alongside the outer curbs of both north- and southbound traffic ways of Osborne Bridge. This was accomplished through the simple, non-controversial, inexpensive expedient of shaving a few feet off of the sides of the extra-wide centre-mall.

Neither cycling organizations nor politicians who had displayed an interest in the subject were apprised that the work was being performed. Passers-by were thus led to assume that (as per the norm) only automotive considerations were involved.

One wonders why - rather than handing out tickets - police weren't instructed to alert errant cyclists that they would soon enjoy a "safe harbour" that they could call their own

(and, be expected to use it).

Asked about the absence of fanfare, an official with the City's Streets & Transportation Department tartly responded: "We don't issue announcements about the initiation or completion of routine work." Whether or not the Sun and Free Press (preoccupied with waging an anti-cycling "disinformation campaign") would, in any case, have taken notice is a matter of conjecture.

While many are owed credit, the Subcommittee on Cycling (of Winnipeg City Council's Standing Committee on Works & Operations) was particularly instrumental in prodding administrators into finally moving ahead with the project (which was first requested in the spring of 1994).

The Cycling Committee is co-chaired by (Works & Operations Chair) Councillor Terry Duguid and Howard Skrypnik (of the Winnipeg Cycle Touring Club). Its membership is composed in equal parts of civic politicians, administrators, and representatives of the cycling community. Councillors Glen Murray, John Prystanski, and Al Golden serve on the committee.

While a far cry from utopia, the broader significance of this development ought not to be understated. The Winnipeg Bicycle Facilities Study (done in 1993 by cycle tour guide and consultant Ruth Marr - with assistance from city planning graduate Andrew Smith) envisioned the eventual creation of commuter-cycling lanes on major arteries citywide.

An initial step in that direction has now been firmly planted. Although minor in physical scope, it represents a compelling tactical and (in Anne Lindsey's words) "cycle-logical" advance: for the first time, a specific location on the street has been dedicated for cycling purposes. Thus, the acceptance of bicycle traffic as a legitimate presence on Winnipeg highways has made further inroads.

Let's hope that cycling organizations now will come forward to lay claim to both the praise - and, the terrain.

A Green Tip from Environment Canada



A solar calculator, refillable pen or pencil all last longer. Buying re-usable school supplies means less waste.

Canadian Environmental Network tends to business

● Harmonization a troubling issue for many

by Anne Lindsey

This year, the CEN held its Annual General Assembly in Fort Qu'Appelle, near Regina. The meeting stretched over a total of five days and encompassed National Steering Committee and Staff meetings, caucus meetings, workshops and of course the business meeting. (Not forgetting some fine entertainment).

Despite major budget cuts to all aspects of the organization (including the Regional Networks), the business meeting ran smoothly, with a high degree of co-operation among the different "sectors," of the CEN, all of whom could legitimately be requesting an increase in funds. A highlight of the Business Meeting was the unanimous decision to include the First Nations Environmental Network as an "affiliate Network", much like the Regional Networks. Many First Nations people from across the country attended the Assembly and participated actively in caucuses on a wide variety of topics.

One area which came in for discussion at a number of venues was the Harmonization initiative. A recent development is Federal Environment Minister Sheila Copps' refusal to sign the Environmental Management Framework -- the document which would

effectively put harmonization in full gear. The reason given for her stand was her reluctance to tamper with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, but word has it that her real concern is with the prospect of devolution of federal powers to the provinces, a concern shared by many environmentalists.

It is unclear just what will happen to harmonization at this point. Copps' stand is laudable, but according to a recent Globe and Mail article, she is quite isolated in Cabinet on this and on other issues about which she has spoken out recently.

A related issue much discussed at the Assembly was the recent release of "Its About Our Health" the Report by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. The committee, chaired by Liberal MP Charles Caccia, was charged with reviewing the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), Canada's first and foremost environmental protection legislation.

The recommendations of the Report are sweeping and take an ecosystem approach to public health and environmental integrity. This committee came out very definitely in favour of a strong federal role in environmental protection. A copy of the report is available in the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre at 867 Westminster.

Endangered species coalition lobbying hard for bill

● The Canadian Endangered Species Coalition campaign says it is planning "to put the heat on" the federal government during August.

The Minister of Environment has said she will release a plain language version of her proposed endangered species bill at the end

of July with the draft legislation available in August. The long promised legislation has been delayed for some time.

Once the draft is available the coalition is asking individuals and groups to phone and write letters to political representatives and media outlets to "speak up for strong, effec-

tive federal endangered species legislation."

At last count, over 80 national and regional groups had expressed their support. This diverse collection of organizations includes the National Farmers Union, the ACTRA Performers' Guild, the United Church of Canada and the Canadian Bar Association. The coalition has several resource materials on the subject including:

Coalition Pamphlet
Constitutional opinion
Draft economic analysis & summary
Draft legislative recommendations
Fact sheets on:

Private lands
Economic benefits
Why Legislation?

List of supporters of En. Sp. Legislation
List of Endangered, Threatened and Vulnerable Species in Canada

For more information contact Francesca Binda, Campaign Director, Canadian Endangered Species Coalition. [1-800 267-4088, (ph) 613562-3371 (fax) 75667.3720 @compuserve.com (email)].

Haz Waste Corp still looking for a private sector partner

The president and CEO of Manitoba Hazardous Waste Corporation says that by the end of this year there will be a private sector partner for a project to desing and build a treatment facility in Montcalm.

Ian Wright disagrees that the project to build a physical chemical facility is stalled and says that negotiations are under way to replace a deal that fell through last Fall. At that time a company from Ontario failed to post a performance bond to demonstrate it had proper financing and the deal fell through.

Wright says that in hindsight, it is just as well that deal didn't make it because the hazardous waste market has been changing dramatically due to improved technology for both producers and handlers of hazardous waste.

"I think in the final analysis if that deal had gone forward, in retrospect it probably wouldn't have been the best way to go ... that's not to say to drag your feet forever (but) be a little prudent, maintain a certain flexibility."

● Wright says that he is satisfied that in the absence of his facility, which has been in the planning stages since siting criteria were developed in 1986, hazardous waste is still being handled properly in the province. Currently producers trade and recycle waste and ship to facilities elsewhere in Canada and the U.S. through the corporation and private waste companies.

ECJ

Raffle winners declared

The draw for the Eco-Network's Spring Raffle has taken place, and the winners have claimed their prizes. Many lessons were learned in this, our first try at a major raffle. In general, it was quite successful, earning some much-needed revenue for the Network, and for some of our member groups.

Thanks are due to all the members who worked so hard to sell tickets, and to the member groups who rallied around the cause. A special mention is deserved by volunteers Sandra Chikowski, who co-ordinated the raffle for the Eco-Network, and Pam Faircloth, who did some of the initial groundwork. And of course, thanks are owed to the businesses and groups who so generously donated the prizes. Without them, the raffle could not have happened.

A full list of winners and donors follows:

- Adult Mountain Bike and Helmet, donated by Woodcock Cycle Works, Inc. won by Cathy Curtis.
- Mantario Hiking and Canoeing Trip, donated by Manitoba Naturalists Society, won by Geoff Snider.
- Mini-Library of Environmental Books, donated by U of M



Kemlin Nembhard (l) holds some of the books she won as part of the Mini-Library of environmental books donated by several independent book stores and the Manitoba Eco-Network, and Geoff Snider (r) holds the paperwork to his Mantario hiking and canoeing trip donated by the Manitoba Naturalists Society.



Cathy Curtis tries out her new Mountain Bike and helmet, the grand prize in the Manitoba Eco-Network environmental raffle. The prize was donated by Woodcock Cycle Works, Inc. of Winnipeg.

Bookstore, Mary Scorer Books, Prairie Sky Books and the Manitoba Eco-Network, won by long-time Network volunteer, Kemlin Nembhard.

- Vegetarian Cookbooks valued at \$100, donated by Winnipeg Vegetarian Association, and a \$25 gift certificate from Sunflower Co-op, won by Maxine Pietz.
- Manitoba Naturalists Society Family Membership, a Coleman Lantern from Coleman Outing Products Services, and a T-Shirt from Alan's Cyclecraft, won by Ian Ward.
- Fort Whyte Centre Family Membership, a Birdhouse from Green Earth, and a T-Shirt from Alan's Cyclecraft, won by A. Sokulski.
- Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature Family Membership, a Rainstick from Sandy Hook Nature Company, and a Nepali Bag from Ama Dablam, won by E. Husby.
- Six months Curbside Recycling Service from Red Box, and a \$20 Gift Certificate from Tess Body Care, won by Lori McKinnon.
- \$50 Gift Certificate from Harvest Collective, plus Hemp Gifts from Las Manos, won by Beverley Cann.

Network seeks funding extension for popular project

Volunteer program ends successful year

By Jan Westlund

In a gentle voice, the woman across from me describes an idyllic childhood spent exploring the natural world and her belief that she must make that experience available

to children today. Clear-eyed and determined, a man bikes down to the Resource Centre in 35 degree weather to pursue his desire to analyze the Environmental Impact Statement for Louisiana Pacific's 10 year plan for forest management. A leading Winnipeg activist refers his daughter to the Eco-Network to fulfil her desire to 'do something worthwhile' with her months off this summer. A young woman rollerblades by to tell me she works evenings at a 'mindless' job but knows there's something she could do to 'make a difference' with her days.

The stories are varied but the need to contribute, the environmental concerns, the willingness to work are consistent as the Manitoba Eco-Network's Volunteer Effectiveness Program draws to a close. The project was initially planned as a one year program with funding from the Winnipeg Foundation, but the response from both volunteers and member groups has shown that a continued proactive program for recruiting environmental volunteers would be valuable. An application to extend the program funding is pending.

Over the year a hundred new volunteers have found their way to the program through means as varied as television listings, billboards, posters, displays, newspaper classifieds, brochures, handouts, and referrals. Of those making initial contact, more than 60 have been interviewed and placed with member groups seeking their assistance. What happens after that is a delicate combination of timing, diligence,

NETWORK NEWS

and luck. Some Network member groups are more able than others to successfully incorporate new volunteers and some would-be volunteers are more

driven than others to contribute, but success stories abound.

It's difficult to develop a profile of these eco-volunteers.

Two thirds are women, about 40% are students and, surprisingly enough, about 65% of all volunteers don't have children (which has been a motivating factor for many others who espouse concerns for the future). About 20% are unemployed and seeking to turn spare time into experience which may lead to meaningful, rather than mundane, work. Approximately 25% of all volunteers in the VEP have never volunteered for any other organization before.

The one characteristic all volunteers share is a growing awareness that ecological concerns may soon override all others.

ECJ

Gannett Foundation/ Mediacom providing support

The Eco-Network is pleased to announce that the Gannett Foundation/Mediacom has joined our program for corporate sponsorship of the Environmental Resource Centre, with a grant of \$1,000.

The funding goes towards operating expenses for our Environmental Resource Centre at 867 Westminster Ave. The Gannett Communities Fund works to help organizations improve education, health and advancement of people in communities where Mediacom conducts its business.

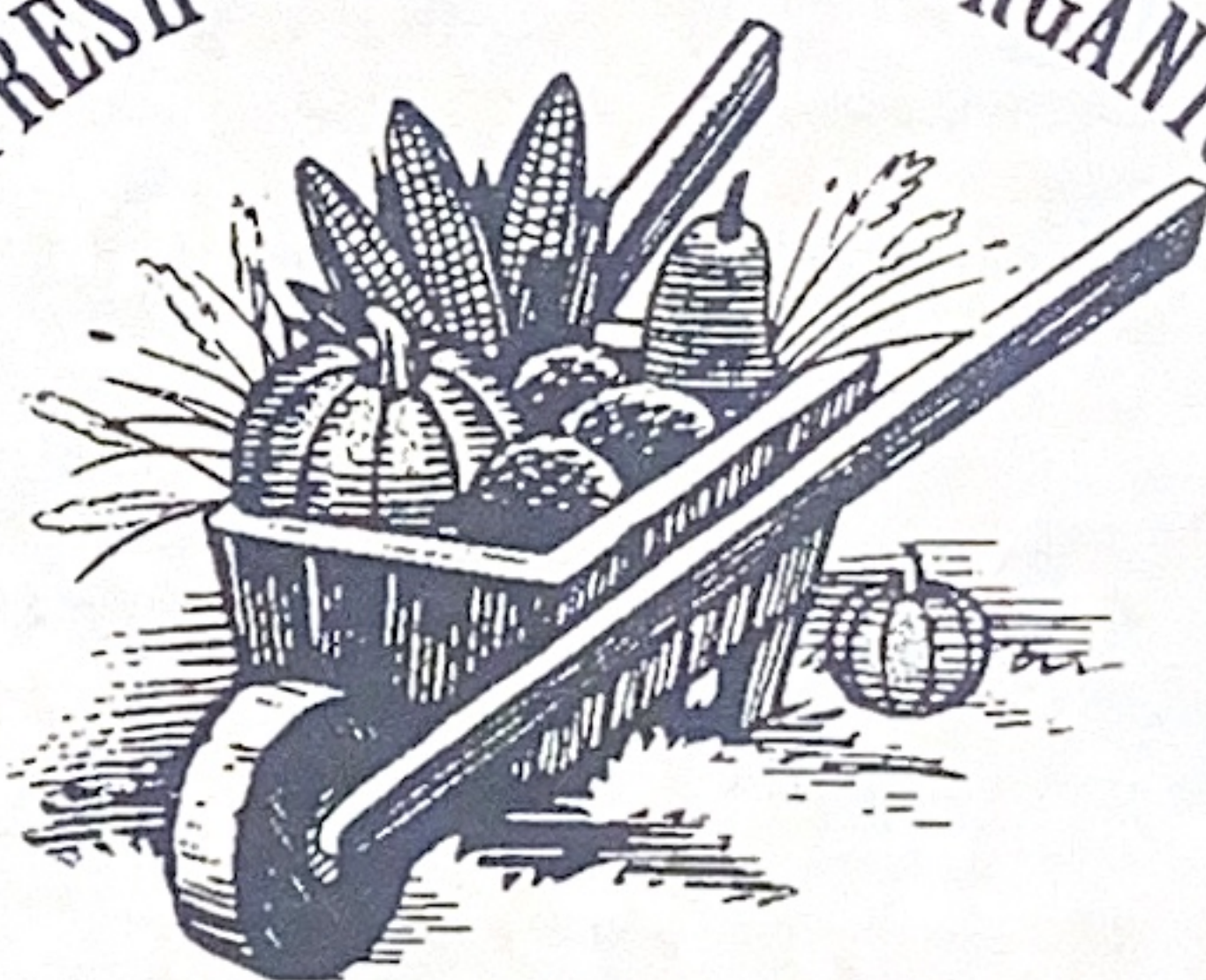
Earlier this year, the Network also took advantage of donated space at Mediacom Billboard locations to publicize our Volunteer Effectiveness Program.

With this donation Gannett Foundation/Mediacom has joined Investors Group and Great West Life which have also provided corporate support to the Resource Centre in recent years.

**harvest
COLLECTIVE**

Consumer Owned Natural Foods Grocery Store

FRESH • SUSTAINABLE • ORGANIC



For Your Health, For Our Planet,
and For Our Community

Open to all: Monday to Saturday 10 - 8
877 Westminister Ave., Ph. 772-4359

Many deficiencies in Pine Falls EIA

by Alice Chambers

Environmentalists should cut their summer vacations short in order to respond to the Pine Falls Paper Company's renovation and expansion plans.

Three years after announcing its proposals the company has issued an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that includes its new de-inking, woodroom and effluent plants. Because the May, 1992 proposal announcement elicited only one letter of concern from the public (mine), Stage 1 Licenses were issued for the deinking plant and the new woodroom in June, 1992.

The Stage 1 Licence for the Effluent Treatment Plant was issued on July 26, 1994 using the 1992 lack of public input as the excuse for not advertising the proposal! Both the effluent treatment plant and the de-inking plant (both of which are already under construction), as well as all of the processes associated with the mill are under review for the overall mill licence.

The EIA and the process have a number of shortcomings that should be addressed by the participation of environmentalists.

These include some notable absences.

For instance, because sludge will be generated by both of the new plants, a new landfill site is required for their disposal.

At the moment, the environmental licence for the landfill is being processed quietly through the Steinbach office of the Department of Environment. There is no excuse for excluding this from the overall assessment and I hope that public responses will include the demand that the landfill site be part of the overall EIA process.

Federal government involvement in this EIA review is critical because of the Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations and the requirement for Environmental Effects Monitoring.

Is it appropriate that a provincial government which has not monitored the emissions licence or diligently pursued a compliance schedule for this mill and has a loan agreement with the mill is the only government body assessing the EIA?

The involvement of Capital Canada in the mill buy-out (from Abitibi-Price by a management group) whose CEO, Robert Foster, happens to Chair the PC Canada Fund, could also be seen as a bias in favour of the

The EIA contains no reference to the BUSAN 52 or other spills which occurred recently or to the fact that even with increased allowable Total Suspended Solids and Biological Oxygen Demand limits from the federal government, they still exceed these limits.

The use of 120,000 litres of lubricating oil per year may have some correlation with reports from Sagkeeng First Nations about oil on nets, on boats, and on people's rubber boots.

There is no decommissioning plan despite the fact that no one has shown that this mill is economically viable without further government support. The mill's own handouts state that "To provide waste paper to mills in this area at competitive prices would require taxpayer subsidy direct to the user on an ongoing basis." Why would we want to do this? According to Kevin Allan, Director of Environmental Affairs, obtaining the old newspapers and magazines required to feed the deinking plant is "the \$64,000 question." A deinking plant will reduce the demands on our forests for only a short time - mill expansion is planned. Originally it was stated that a 20% reduction on raw fibre demands would result from the introduction of an average

Vigilance by activists required

More than 3 years after the original announcement of the Notice of Environment Act Proposal for an Environment Act Licence for the existing mill site, proposed de-inking plant and new woodroom, the announcement of the filing of the EIA for "the continuing operation and upgrading" of the Pine Falls Paper Company (formerly Abitibi-Price Inc.) appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on June 10, 1995. The EIA can be viewed at MB Environment on Tuxedo Avenue, the Manibao Eco-Network Resource Centre, Selkirk Library and the St. Georges Community Centre.

Insufficient copies were submitted to place a copy in the Centennial Library but I have been assured that a copy will be placed there. If the "new" company (same management) was sensitive to their downstream neighbours at Fort Alexander, one would assume that several copies would have been sent there for comment but such was not the case.

Comments on the EIA (including requests for public hearings on this data-deficient EIA) should be submitted to MB Environment by August 11, 1995. Questions or requests for further information should be addressed to Clem Moche at 945-7013.

... Alice Chambers

mill. For public confidence in the environmental assessment process, federal involvement must occur.

The provincial and federal governments have allowed this mill to continue its polluting practices far too long - plans for compliance/licensing/monitoring have been appealed consistently by the mill owners. The guidelines for this EIA went through a painful series of appeals from the mill, with the final guidelines sent to Environment Minister Mr. Cummings for even further watering down.

The emissions licence for the mill has not been monitored for over ten years and yet the EIA says they are in compliance!

20% recycled content.

Since legislation in the US has moved compulsory recycled content to at least 40% in some areas, one paper line will use a 40% recycled content, the other zero.

Who will purchase the zero recycled content newsprint? There are many issues surrounding the environmental, social and economic effects of this ancient mill.

Hopefully, there will be enough public demonstration of concern about the operation of the mill processes so that, unlike the 1992 and 1994 situations, the issues can be fully aired and carefully reviewed in 1995.

ECJ

Everyday Exposures:

An index of common chemicals

by J. H. Olafsson

Treated lumber products in question

Treated wood products have been subjected to a chemical treatment to improve weather resistance and protect against attacks by wood-destroying fungi. It isn't water, so much as the presence of fungi in the presence of water that causes rot. Most wood preservatives are essentially fungicides or pesticides.

The treatments can take a number of different forms. For example, some fruit and vegetable harvest baskets and wooden storage bins are dipped and brushed (sometimes using pressure processes) with copper-8-quinilinate, a yellowish-green preservative which has a low toxicity for mammals.

For yard and garden treated wood, mixtures using combinations of copper salts, zinc, chromium, and/or arsenic are widely used. Ingredients in these formulations may include ammonia, ammonium carbonate, arsenic acid, arsenic trioxide, arsenic pentoxide, basic copper carbonate, chromic acid, copper hydroxide, copper oxide, copper sulphate, sodium arsenate, and sodium dichromate.

Formulations in which copper, or copper and zinc, are used with arsenic, are particularly popular. Treatments like chromated copper arsenate (CCA) with the characteristic pale green colour, are able to penetrate difficult to treat wood species (eg. spruce) and effectively preserve the wood against the common fungi that create rot.

These pressure treatments are said to be stable, but several scientific studies of CCA have shown, in spite of claims to the contrary, that exposure to rain and snow will cause the chromium, copper, and arsenic in the wood to leach into the surrounding environment. The transfer of these toxins to a yard or garden poses a danger to soil microbes, earthworms, plants and humans alike. Arsenic alone is a well-known poison which has been linked with several kinds of cancer. The American Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of lowering the allowable levels in drinking water from the current 50 parts per billion.

Carpenters have reported bothersome infections from the splinters received while working with treated wood.

Household sources:

Treated wood is popular for yard and garden use. It is used in the construction of decks, and is frequently used in landscaping for edging beds or reinforcing a raised area. Treated wood is also used for wooden playground equipment. This poses a special risk for children because very young children may "taste" the wood, place their hands in the mouths after touching the wood or ingest the soil or sand under the play equipment, and ingest a harmful dose of arsenic.

Reducing exposure to chromated copper arsenate

Do not use treated woods in the construction of compost bins or as an edging material for a garden. Consider other alternatives such as untreated lumber, rock, or cement. Both red and white cedar release a natural toxin against rot, and can be used in the place of treated lumber for many uses. Cedars also inhibit composting, however, and are not the best for compost bins.

Scraps of treated wood should not be burned in campfires, woodstoves or fireplaces because the toxins in the wood can be released into the air.

If you already have wood in your yard, you may want to remove

it or seal it with paint and a waterproofing treatment.

If you have treated wood playground equipment, seal it with paint and a wood waterproofing treatment. If you have very young children who may ingest soil at the base of the equipment it would be best to remove the soil.

For further reading:

1. "Treated Wood: Yes, It's Still Toxic!" Cheryl Long and Mike McGrath, *Organic Gardening Magazine*, January 1994, pp 71-74. (Includes a bibliography and offers to send a list of citations from scientific journals).

2. Mullins, E. J. & T.S. McKnight, *Canadian Woods: Their Properties And Uses*, 3rd edition, University of Toronto Press, 1981.

3. "Residues of Arsenic, Chromium, and Copper on & Near Outdoor Structures Built of Wood Treated with CCA type preservatives," D. Galarneau, et al, *Health and Welfare Canada*, August 1990.

Editor's Note: Everyday Exposures deals with personal exposure to common chemicals, but the industrial and overall impacts of wood preservatives shouldn't be overlooked. In the 1970's concerns began to be raised about the then popular Pentachlorophenol (an organochloride – see Everyday Exposures, May-June, 1995) in which isomers of toxic dioxin and furan were commonly found as impurities. The tendency to apply treatments of PCP on the same sites as creosote (commonly used in rail road ties) has left toxic blobs in places like Thunder Bay Harbour just offshore from the Northern Wood Preservers site and at the former Domtar site in Transcona.

NEW

The Canadian
Environmental
Education
Catalogue
2ND EDITION

FAST ACCESS to complete
information about environmental education resources!!!

Your job of searching for environmental resources just
got easier, call us TOLL-FREE for more information...

1-800-884-3515

SPECIAL LOW PRICE \$55

The Pembina Institute, P.O. Box 7558 Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1S7

Criminal corporation has keys to the forest

An Oriented Strand Board project at Minitonas on its own, would raise concerns about the type of development in our province. The forestry issues and the toxics issues alone should have been enough to cause contemplation of a different direction for development.

But when you add in the record, and I do mean criminal record, of Louisiana Pacific, the company involved, you have to wonder if there is any oversight of industry in this province at all. When Louisiana Pacific was first invited to the Swan River Valley, our leaders ought to have known this was no run of the mill corporation. The company had already been convicted of numerous infractions including Clean Air Act charges at several factories of the exact type that was being proposed for our province, as well as other health and safety violations.

That this didn't raise any concern from a government that was at the same time announcing boot camps for young offenders is on its own revealing. But now we have a new, or perhaps continuing situation. Earlier this year Louisiana Pacific Corporation was fined \$3.1 million for a criminal conviction at its Ketchikan, Alaska pulp mill (the company also paid \$3.1 million in a related civil suit).

And, according to an Environmental Protection Agency media release of June 16, a grand jury has indicted the company and two of its employees in Montrose, Colorado for conspiracy to violate the U.S. Clean Air Act by tampering with monitoring devices at the factory. The company was also indicted for fraud charges for

"engaging in a scheme to defraud the company's customers from 1989-1994, by falsely representing the products from the same factory."

Now this might be all water under a far away bridge except for one important detail. The monitoring of emissions from the new plant in Manitoba will not be conducted by hard nosed investigators, but by the company itself which will report its findings to the province. Forestry in Manitoba is conducted in much the same way, with that area of the province already virtually privatized (independent loggers have had to apply to Repap for cutting permits on Crown Land for several years now).

Given this obvious and wilful neglect, one environmentalist sent the EPA press release and a related Wall Street Journal article about fraud investigations and civil actions in several states to our premier. This is the premier who according to rhetoric is getting tough on crime.

His response? He referred the matter to his environment minister, as if a file that made its way through three departments (Industry Trade and Tourism, Natural Resources and Environment) at a record pace, largely due to the interest shown by Mr. Filmon's office, is now suddenly out of his hands.

Young Offenders take note: petty property crime gets you incarceration in a boot camp. Crimes that endanger the health of the environment and its inhabitants get you the key to the forest.

LAST WORD

Opinion by Toby Maloney

ECJ

**The Manitoba Eco-Network, P.O. Box 26007
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K9**

Sign me up as a member of the Manitoba Eco-Network

Enclosed is a cheque for:

- ☐ \$25 Supporting member (individuals)
☐ \$30 Group membership
☐ \$50 Other organizations (businesses, government departments and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for group membership)

I'm also enclosing a donation of _____ to help with your public education activities.

[Charitable tax receipts available for amounts over the cost of membership]

Total Amount enclosed _____

I'm interested in volunteering for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

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

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.