

OFFICE
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ECO-JOURNAL



Volume 5, Number 2

March-April, 1995

Cooperation among groups boosted by sharing volunteers Volunteer Effectiveness Program gathers momentum

by Janice Westlund

Volunteer Effectiveness Program Coordinator

Each week brings a steady stream of phone calls and visits to the Eco-Network office of well-meaning people drawn to the idea of seeing our environment valued differently. It's interesting to note that most of these folks have not only never been involved in environmental issues, a full one third of men and 25 % of women have never even volunteered before. Clearly, people in this province, in all walks of life, are beginning to see the forest in what's left of the trees.

Achieving the primary goal of encouraging citizen action through placement of volunteers with our member groups is preceded by many free-ranging conversations. These give vent to varying degrees of fear, anger and grave concern

about the status quo. The handful of topics covered ALWAYS give rise to the singular need for change and the dawning awareness that restorative action will only come from the bottom up.

Many volunteers sample a few groups before joining their work and some even go on to volunteer with more than one, helping to boost cooperation.

As of mid-March, over 60 potential volunteers have contacted the Volunteer Effectiveness Program. They've responded to requests in the Winnipeg Hydro newsletter, our Eco-Information evenings and, frequent listings in

The Voice. A modest billboard campaign will add momentum this spring and summer, as well as raise public awareness of the Manitoba Eco-Network and the idea that environmental activism is valuable work.

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A billboard rotating to various sites in Winnipeg is one of the ways volunteers are being recruited for Manitoba's environmental groups. A spill over benefit is that several volunteers are working for more than one group and thereby boosting cooperation.

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March-April, 1995

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Eco-Journal

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The new, but not necessarily improved Environmental Council

There's a new Manitoba Environmental Council but one of the things that is new according to appointee Peter Miller is that "it's broke. The budget is zero."

In the 1994 provincial budget the old Manitoba Environmental Council was defunded completely. The MEC, (not to be confused with the Manitoba Entertainment Complex, which does not share the same lack of access to funding) is mandated as an advisory body to the Minister of Environment in the Clean Environment Act.

After the MEC was defunded Environment Minister Glen Cummings announced that a new advisory body would be appointed and that the former members would be invited for reappointment. Some, like then Acting Chair Nick Carter said they would not reconsider reappointment because, without the ability to coordinate input from across the province and to do independent research, the MEC couldn't be useful. Others stuck with it.

One other thing that seems new, according to Miller, however, is that the Minister at least seems to be considering the group's advice. Miller, who represents Time to Respect Earth's Eco-Systems (TREE) says that the Minister has met with the MEC at least four times since it was re-constituted in the Fall.

Miller says that the new group is "somewhat pathetic in that it doesn't have any independent support... somewhat ridiculous given the legislative mandate it has" but he also says it's important to take any opportunity to tell government officials about environmental concerns.

"I think whenever a government official is willing to listen we ought to fill their ear and try to get [the environmentalist] perspective across."

So far the MEC has been able to raise concerns ranging from the planned over-cutting of aspen by Louisiana Pacific, to the Akjuit Space Centre with Cummings and for the Environment Department to research.

Miller says the group can take at least partial credit for forcing the government to reassess their inventories for the forest management units allocated to Louisiana Pacific and to hold

Continued on next page

ECO-BRIEFS

The 1994-95 Manitoba Eco-Network Steering Committee

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Brian Pannell

..... Manitoba Environmentalists Inc.

Jason Loughhead/Danishka Esterhazy

..... Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition

Sacha Kopelow

..... U of W Students Acting

for the Environment

public meetings on the question.

Other members of the Manitoba Environmental Council include Christine Common-Singh, Rick Howard, Bill Turnock, Ian Rollo, Al Landsdowne, Dianne Malley, David Punter, Will Grieve, Derek Muir, Jim Ball and Clean Environment Commission Chair Dale Stewart who is an ex-officio member.

Composter maker says "donate the rebate"

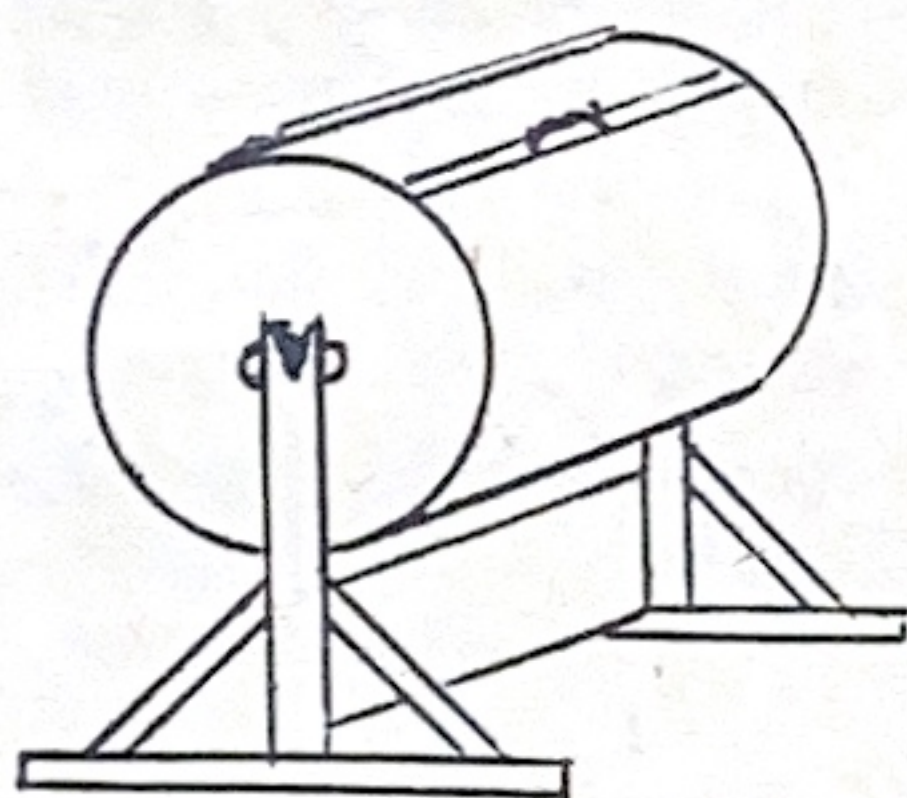
A local hand crafter and activist has a novel idea for composters. The Wood to Wonders rotating composter is made from locally available and recycled materials wherever possible.

Don Plowman who builds the composters has been active for years in the peace movement and more recently in New Directions (a democratic socialist movement to bring the left together). His idea is that purchasers of any type of composter could donate their rebate from the City of Winnipeg to a group like New Directions or any peace or environment group.

Composting occurs more rapidly in a rotating drum because the mixture of air and moisture can be controlled. Roller bearings in the stand make it easy to rotate to mix the material often.

The drum on Wood to Wonders composter is made from galvanized metal with moisture-proof ends, 30 inches in diameter and 36 inches long. Because of its construction the composter is rodent-proof and the area around it is kept clean and tidy. The composter will sell for between \$65 and \$75. This season the City of Winnipeg will offer a rebate of \$25 to the first 800 applicants who have purchased a composter. Plowman says the money is made available to encourage environmental protection, so why not donate it to a non-profit group that is doing the same?

Call 582-4248 for more information about this particular composter. Call Winnipeg Waste Waterworks and Disposal for information about the rebate program.



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Stumpage fees the lowest by far

Citizens who are concerned that their provincial government is selling off our forest resources to multinational corporations should look again. At the prices Manitoba charges for stumpage fees, at least in the Louisiana Pacific case, we're not selling, we're giving it away. According to the Manitoba Future Forest Alliance in its recent Special Update, the company's forest management agreement provides for stumpage fees of \$1.17 per cubic metre of wood. This compares with a new pricing system for similar operations in Ontario which would charge \$6 per cubic metre, and with a recent proposal for another Oriented Strand Board plant in Alberta which will pay \$10 per cubic metre for the first 510,000 metres and then \$6 per metre after that.

The Future Forest Alliance estimates our province is losing \$125.4 million in revenue over the life of the agreement.

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April 6-7: Assiniboine River Management Advisory Board is seeking public input for the development of a sustainable water use strategy. The Board has been appointed to assess the present and future water needs and demands for water from the Assiniboine River and to advise the Minister of Natural Resources on water allocations. To make a presentation or to receive guidelines for participation call the Executive Secretary Dr. I. W. Dickson at 945-7950.

April 9: Wild and Free. You are invited to the **Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization's** Grand Opening of our rehabilitation centre in Glenlea from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Opening Ceremony is at 1 p.m. Wildlife Releases are at 1:15 and 3 p.m. Tour the facility, take part in an education program or enjoy refreshments.

The centre is 14 kilometres south of the perimeter on Highway 75. Turn left on Research Station Road and turn left again (before the Glenlea Station). For further information call Brian Ratcliff at the Centre (883-2122).

April 9 and 17th: Woodlot Association of Manitoba and Manitou Abi Model Forest Field Day including demonstrations of horse logging, portable band saw operation and maple syrup production in Libau from noon until 3 or 4 p.m. The Easter Monday event also has a wildlife theme. Get directions at the Shell Station in Libau. For more info call WAM (453-7102), Manitou Abi Model Forest (367-8895) or John Christie (233-0827).

April 10: Concerned Citizens of Manitoba and Sagkeeng First Nation are hosting a public meeting on nuclear waste at Crossways in Common (Sanctuary) at Broadway and Furby. The guest speaker will be Rufina Laws from the Mescalero Apache Nation, New Mexico on her community's experience with a proposed radioactive waste storage facility.

April 21-23: Secrets of Spirit Sands Mini-Symposium sponsored by the Seton Centre. Visit one of Manitoba's most unusual natural habitats. The symposium consists of a bus tour of the area, guided hikes, entertainment and Environ-Fair, a display area featuring many environmental and conservation groups. Call 834-2261 in Carberry to register.

April 26: Coalition to Save the Elms presents "Tree Pruning: How to prune a tree without mangling it" 7 p.m. at 2799 Roblin Blvd. Do you want to learn how to increase the fruit production on your fruit tree? We'll show you how! Hands-on experience and classroom instruction. Tree For All workshops are free. To register call 832-7188.

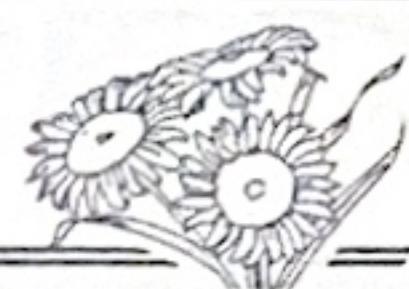
May 9: Manitoba Eco-Network hosts Eco-Information Series Part 4, "Urban Matters" 7 p.m. at the Centennial Library Assembly Room. Panel includes Christine Common-Singh, Agassiz Sierra Club speaking on "The Importance of our Urban Eco-system", Jeffrey Patterson, Institute of Urban Studies speaking on "How to get There from Here: A Discussion of Winnipeg's Transportation Realities" and Helen McCullough, Winnipeg Water Protection Group speaking on "Quality Concerns with Winnipeg's Water Supply." For more information call Jan at the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre (772-7542).

May 27: Manitoba Eco-Network Annual General Meeting (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and Dinner in the Fireside Room at Robert A. Steen Community Centre (Ruby and Palmerston). This will be followed by our annual awards dinner and social evening from (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.). We'll enjoy musical entertainment, good healthy home-cooked food, the comradie of an auction of services and the excitement of awarding recognition to deserving environmentalists and the draw for our raffle prizes. If you have skill, service or talent you would like to donate for auctioning off, please let us know in advance. Examples would be a few hours of housecleaning, yard work, craft creation etc. Calling all talented people to join in the fun of this fund-raising effort which focusses on a valuable community resource.

May 28: Coalition to Save the Elms presents "Tree planting at Omand's Creek (or how to plant trees faster than the beaver can eat them!)" 10 a.m. at Omand's Creek Park. Tree For All workshops are free. To register call 832-7188.

June 23 to 25: 13th Annual International Festival for Peace, International Peace Gardens at the International Peace Garden Lodge. The theme is "Can't we all just get along? Celebrating our differences together." Includes a potluck supper, folk dancing and spontaneous entertainment on Friday evening, workshops on Saturday (Alternatives to Violence Project, Inner Peace, Domestic Violence, Interpretive Dance around topics of racism and conflict resolution). For more information call Marcia Hamm Wiebe in Brandon 728-2504.

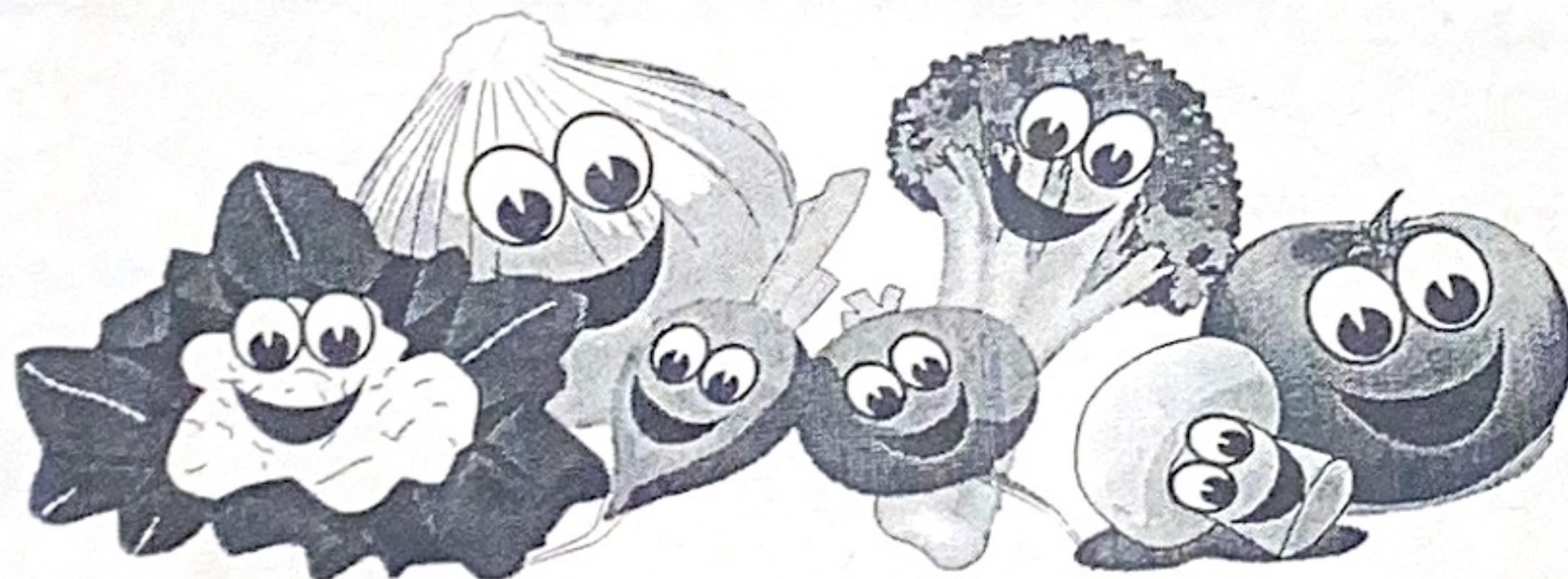
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The Manitoba Eco-Network's 1995 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 27 from 4pm to 6pm in the Fireside Room of the Robert A. Steen Community Centre, 980 Palmerston. The AGM will be primarily a business meeting with the agenda including reports from the Board (Steering Committee), Executive Director and Treasurer, presentation of the audited statements and the 95-96 budget, election of new Steering Committee members and selection of delegates to the Canadian Environmental Network Annual General Assembly.

We'll also feature our traditional "go-round" of brief reports from member groups about the work they are currently involved with. This year we're encouraging the groups to make graphic presentations about their work - in the form of a song, a drawing, or a dramatic piece for example...should be interesting! All members and friends are welcome to attend the AGM.

The meeting will be followed by our Annual Spring Dinner in the large hall at Robert A. Steen. We'll feature the vegetarian home-cooking of a team of culinary volunteers (to keep ticket prices reasonable), local entertainment, the presentation of our Environmental Awards, the draw for our Spring Raffle, and an environmental trivia contest (no prior research necessary). The dinner is an opportunity to come out and socialize with fellow members and friends, and to get to know some of the "movers and shakers" of the environmental community. Tickets are priced at \$10 for adults and \$4 for children (kids under 8 - free). Call the office at 772-7542 for more information and to reserve tickets.

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

A raffle featuring nine exciting prize packages donated by local businesses and member groups is this Spring's major fundraiser for the Eco-Network. Tickets are on sale as of April 1, and we're looking for volunteers willing to sell a book or two. Books consist of 25 tickets: they sell at \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5, and with excellent prizes such as a mountain bike and helmet, a week-long hiking trip on the Mantario trail, and a library of "must read" environmental books, they should be easy to sell. Please contact the office right away if you'd like to assist in this important fundraising effort.. (For a complete list of the prizes, the donors and winners, see the next issue of *Eco-Journal*).

PARKS PROJECT SHELVED

In the last *Eco-Journal*, we reported that Phase 2 of the Parks Research and Mapping Project was about to get underway. We have since learned that the Parks Branch of Manitoba Natural Resources is going to undertake virtually the exact same project. Parks has realized that they need the information for the Public Consultation process on the new Parks Act (tentatively scheduled for this fall).

While it is gratifying that the projects we conceive of are so necessary that the government itself needs to carry them out, we cannot see that a duplication of effort would be of great use.

Therefore the committee overseeing the project has decided to investigate an alternative project which could feed into the Parks Act consultation. Stay tuned for further announcements.

COMING TO A CABLE ACCESS CHANNEL NEAR YOU ...

After almost a year of searching for funding and planning, the Manitoba Eco-Network is finally into production with a mini-series for Videon Cable 11. The opportunity to produce an environment series for the public access channel in Winnipeg has existed for over a year, but the Eco-Network wanted to get some funding to allow more time to be spent on documentary as opposed to talk show programs.

We had a plan for a 13 part series, and still hope to follow through with that plan. For now we have enough funding, courtesy of the Environment Canada Environmental Partners Fund, to produce three shows, as a pilot effort. The series is focussing on eco-system health - that is looking at the impacts of human systems on eco-systems, and alternatives that will lessen or eliminate those impacts.

We hope to cover the spectrum of water, forest, food and agricultural issues in this manner, but for the first three, we'll do one on the Eco-Network and its place in the environment movement, one on action to prevent ozone depletion, and one on alternatives and solutions to our car-based transportation system.

Most of the filming for the first show was done in mid-March, Filming for the other two will hopefully take place in April, while we begin the work of editing and pulling the shows together.

One of the goals of the production is to use the completed shows as educational material for our resource centre and other outreach efforts. We are also promoting the use of the resource centre in the shows, and offering action kits for viewers who want contacts and more information.

Meanwhile we are open to ideas and offers for more funding to research and write the other ten shows.

Eco-Network Newsfile

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Earth Day Fatigue

Groups long for return to the grassroots

by J. H. Olafsson

The first Earth Day was a truly grassroots event. It began when an American senator, Gaylord Nelson, encouraged students to stage environmental awareness projects for their communities. On April 22, 1970 an estimated 20 million people took part in the first Earth Day and a movement was born.

Earth Day has become an annual event in 140 countries. The first Earth Day Manitoba event celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day. Staged at Assiniboia Downs it was a memorable gathering of virtually every local environmental group, entertainers, and some innovative and environmentally-friendly businesses. In spite of the admission fee the event attracted over 10,000 people.

Earth Day Manitoba is preparing to mark the 25th Anniversary with Earth Week events throughout the City of Winnipeg (and in some rural locations) concluding with the now familiar major public event at the Forks.

But this celebration, with the theme "Putting Awareness Into Action," promises to be very different from the one in 1990. While attendance to the free event has risen to an average 30,000 (the largest per capita in Canada) enthusiasm on the part of environmental groups has waned. Many are conspicuous by their absence, and some are expressing their disenchantment with the annual festivities.

Much of the dissatisfaction centres around the event's increasing commercialism. The Recycling Council of Manitoba, absent from the event in 1994, will not be participating again this year, on philosophical grounds. Board president Alexandra Morrison summed up the council's feeling about the event as "more of a commercial circus than an exchange of ideas and information: the original spirit of Earth Day seems to have been stifled by the side show atmosphere."

To Greenpeace Manitoba representative Suzanne McCrea, the commercialism is inherent in the event's reliance on corporate sponsorship.

"We've never participated in the Earth Day Event at the Forks," she said. "It's a corporate sponsored event. Some of the corporate sponsors are obviously not green. It's just another example of Greenwash advertising."

Among groups who will not be participating for other reasons there is also a consensus that Earth Day is not what it should be.

"Earth Day is becoming too commercial," said Helen McCullough of the Winnipeg Water Protection Group. "We're concerned about whether or not the groups participating are environmentally conscious. The problem is once you start inviting in commercial groups, it's difficult to decide where to set the limits."

Sponsorship from businesses is important to the Earth Day budget, which was about \$40,000 last year, and Earth Day organizers recognize its role. According to this year's coordinator Chantal Oster, "Earth Day tries to include a broad base of environmental companies. Non-profit, business and government organizations are included in the trade show. Earth Day is open to everyone. We try not to exclude anyone."

Environmental groups have other objections to the events besides commercialism. The Recycling Council of Manitoba found, ironically, that the event produced, rather than reduced, large amounts of garbage, and that those in attendance were not using the appropriate recycling bins.

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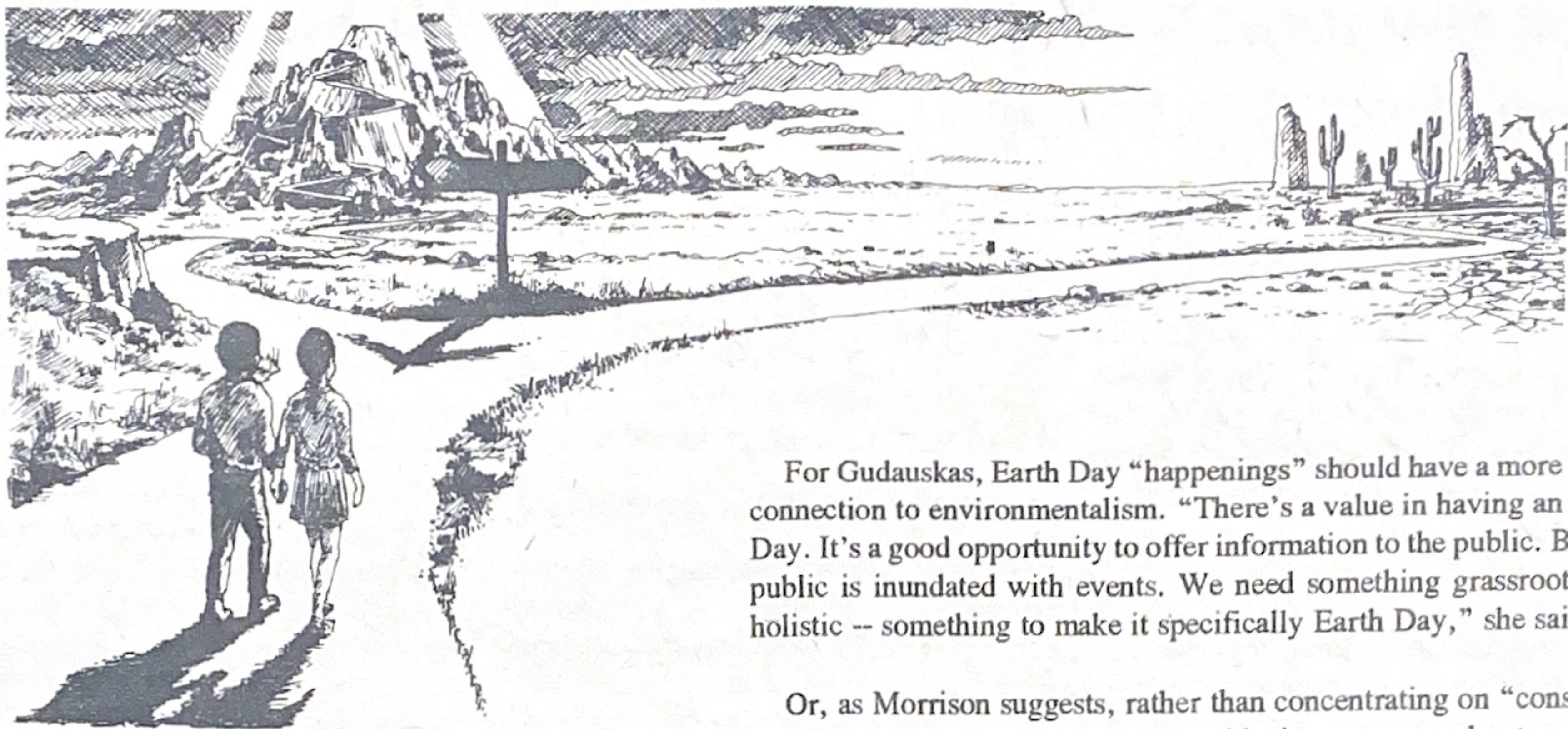
It's a corporate-sponsored event. Some sponsors are obviously not green. It's just another example of Greenwash
..... Suzanne McCrea,
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Alternative Earth Day event should be "Grassroots and holistic"

Continued from previous page

"Lots of garbage is created on Earth Day, more than on any regular business day at the Forks. Recycling awareness is low. There are recycling bins for glass bottles and cans, but they're not being used or they're filled with garbage. People are not being educated through this event," Morrison said.

Some problems with the Earth Day event can be attributed to its planning and organizing. Herta Gudauskas of the Manitoba Naturalists Society commented that Earth Day lacks on-site organizers to provide guidance and assistance to participating groups.

"The event needs more 'officials' to troubleshoot," she said. "It's hard to find someone there who is representing Earth Day."

The lack of consistency in the guidelines for the event has also been a source of frustration. "There are such disparate groupings -- eco-groups and groups that are there to market their products. There's no continuity with the rules and guidelines on things like the goods brought to be sold," Gudauskas said.

There is some discussion in the environmental community about offering an alternative to the Earth Day celebration. However, determining the shape of a re-created Earth Day may prove to be a challenge. Given Earth Day's original concept of encouraging environmental awareness through community projects, the re-shaping of Earth Day could begin with acknowledging community contributions.

For Gudauskas, Earth Day "happenings" should have a more direct connection to environmentalism. "There's a value in having an Earth Day. It's a good opportunity to offer information to the public. But the public is inundated with events. We need something grassroots and holistic -- something to make it specifically Earth Day," she said.

Or, as Morrison suggests, rather than concentrating on "consumer awareness" a re-created Earth Day could raise awareness about consumerism itself and the effect on the environment.

"Maybe an anti-consumer day. Encourage people to go for 24 hours without spending money. Get people to think about consumerism."

J.H. Olafsson is a freelance writer

ECJ



On the Move

Curbside & Corporate Recycling

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Taking a look at the Forest AND the trees: A reply to the Industry's *Closer Look*

Despite its pretensions to, *Closer Look* does not answer the environmental and economic criticisms directed at industrial logging. These include loss of biodiversity; global effects on climate, water, and soil; the displacement of other livelihoods which have been traditional in forests; and the loss of employment through mechanization, among other things. Despite any claims to the contrary industrial forestry is *not* a beacon of good science.

Closer Look, published by the American Forest and Paper Association as a rebuttal to *Clearcut*, (reviewed in *Eco-Journal* in March-April, 1994) takes 10 of more than a hundred photos documenting industrial forest destruction in *Clearcut* and illustrates industry's reply with additional pocket pic-

tures showing details of the sites and arguing the conclusions.

Re-Review

by Hendrik Herfst,
The Defenders of Nopiming

To point out the inconsistencies, the conflicting claims, and the pictures of checkerboard tree plantations in *Closer Look* is to miss the point. It is a very slick and effective public relations success. All it has to do for the cause of business-as-usual forestry is to confuse, or plant doubts in, the minds of the uncommitted middle of our society and politicians.

The original pictures from *Clearcut* reproduced in *Closer Look* are crisper and printed with more green in the AF&PA booklet. The message in the accompanying text is sim-

ers, and promises to energize the environmental battery. Successes are moving our way. In 1992 U.S. Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson ordered that an "ecological approach" be used to manage the nation's national forests, possibly reducing the practice of clearcutting by as much as 70%.

The Menominee First Nation of Wisconsin has successfully pointed the way to the ecological harvesting of trees, providing jobs and income, and keeping the forest too. In 135 years of logging they have harvested 2 billion board feet of lumber. Starting with 1.2 billion standing board feet of lumber, their forest now contains 1.5 billion board feet.

Another example is British Columbia's Merv Wilkinson who has removed a total timber volume equal to his original 1935 standing timber volume, and who still has nearly the same standing timber volume left today, in all age classes including old-growth. The biodiversity under these regimes is being maintained. Compare this with industrial forestry.

All it has to do for the cause of business-as-usual forestry is to confuse, or plant doubts in, the minds of the uncommitted middle

ple, easy to understand, and direct. It gives their point of view a sharp appeal which the commentary in the Sierra Club's book doesn't always achieve.

It is obvious that the one thing that is changing in the forest is the industry having to spend more time defending itself from charges of environmental mismanagement. The fact that *Closer Look* has not refuted the message of *Clearcut* will eventually penetrate the ranks of academics and decision-mak-

The challenge of developing a vibrant economy based on these new products of environmentally sound harvesting is engaging us now. We will meet it with meaningful work, personal initiative, imagination, and grit.

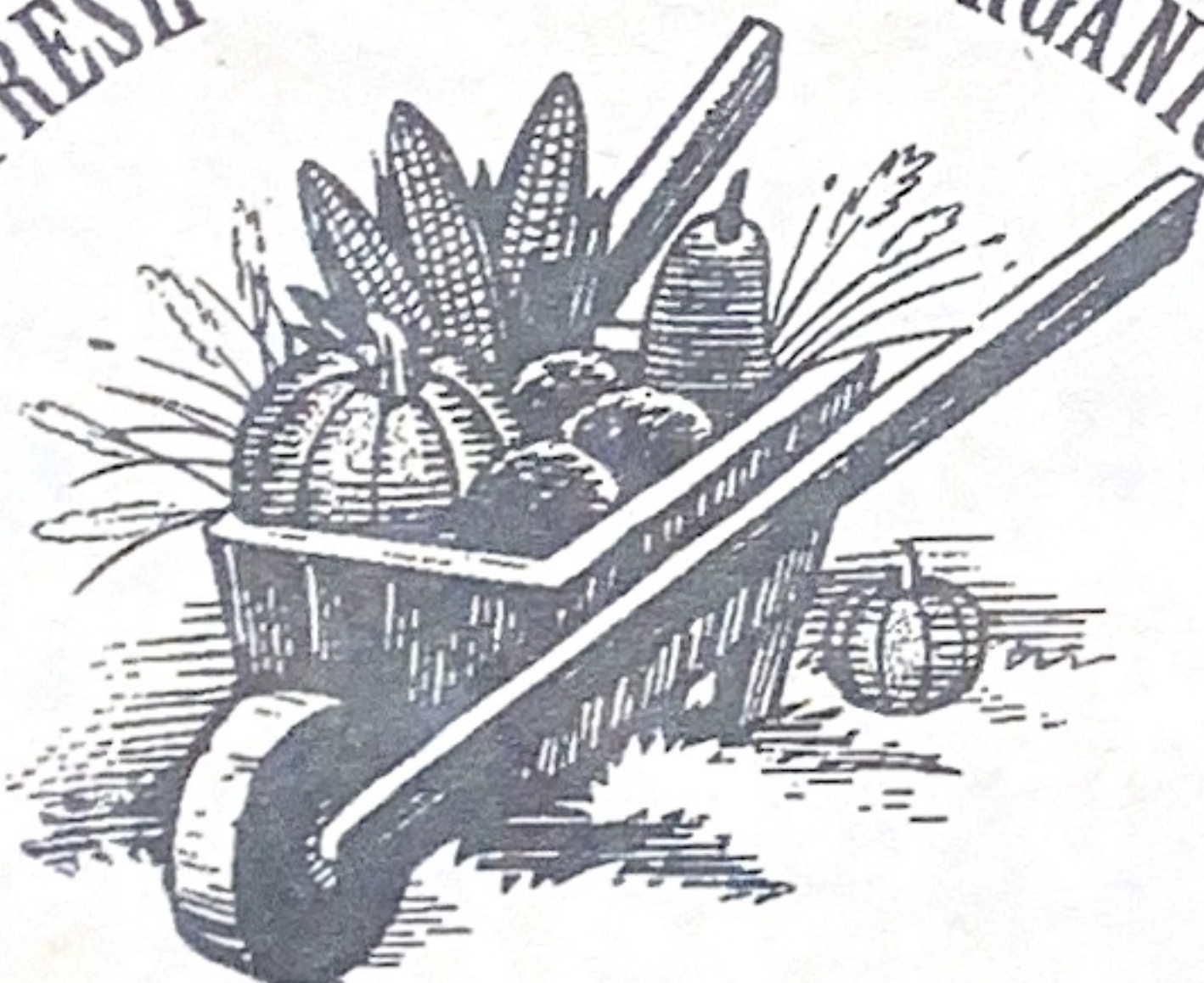
Despite AF&PA's *Closer Look*, books like the Sierra Club's *Clearcut* are doing much to help make our environmental future happen.

Closer Look is available for (U.S.) \$14.95 from AF&PA at 1-800-878-8878. A copy of *Clearcut* is kept in the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre, or you can contact The Defenders of Nopiming (Box 644, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2V5) for assistance in obtaining your own copy. It costs about \$50.00, with special arrangements for non-profits and schools.

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Everyday Exposures:

An index of common chemicals

by J. H. Olafsson

Formaldehyde: the Everywhere Compound

Formaldehyde (CH₂O) is a colourless gaseous chemical with the distinctive odour often associated with dry cleaning. It is commercially produced by oxidating methanol (methyl alcohol). Discovered in 1867 by German chemist Wilhelm von Hofmann, industrial applications of formaldehyde have continued to grow, making it one of the most widely used chemicals. It is frequently used as a disinfectant, and as a preservative for organic matter such as grains and vegetables. But its particular value to the manufacturing industry lies in its ability to link similar and dissimilar molecules together to create other chemicals.

Household sources

Clothing and textiles: Formaldehyde puts the "perma" in perma press and the water resistance in rainproof materials. It is found in Sanforized and perma press cottons as well as drapery and upholstery fabrics, tanned leather, acrylic, rayon, wool, textile dyes, dry cleaners' disinfectant, and latex carpet backing.

Household construction and hardware: Formaldehyde is used to create resins used in linoleum, paint and wood finishes, fibreglass insulation and fabricated woods (particle board, plywood). It is also used in the production of the plastic Bakelite. It can be found in formica, toilet seats, counter and table tops, utensil handles, knobs and buttons, air and furnace filters, and melamine tableware. Urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI), a formaldehyde-based insulation used in the 1970's was banned in 1980.

Personal hygiene products: Formaldehyde is used in the manufacture of some personal care products including diaper liners air fresheners, shampoo, nail polish, detergents, nail hardener, and cosmetics. **Paper products:** Formaldehyde provides the wet strength in some paper products including wax paper, coated papers for labels and cartons, facial tissues and napkins, and filter papers.

Other: Formaldehyde is used in some medicines to modify and reduce the toxicity of viruses, venoms, and irritating pollens. It is used in food preservatives, glues, lubricants, fungicides, water softening chemicals, and tires.

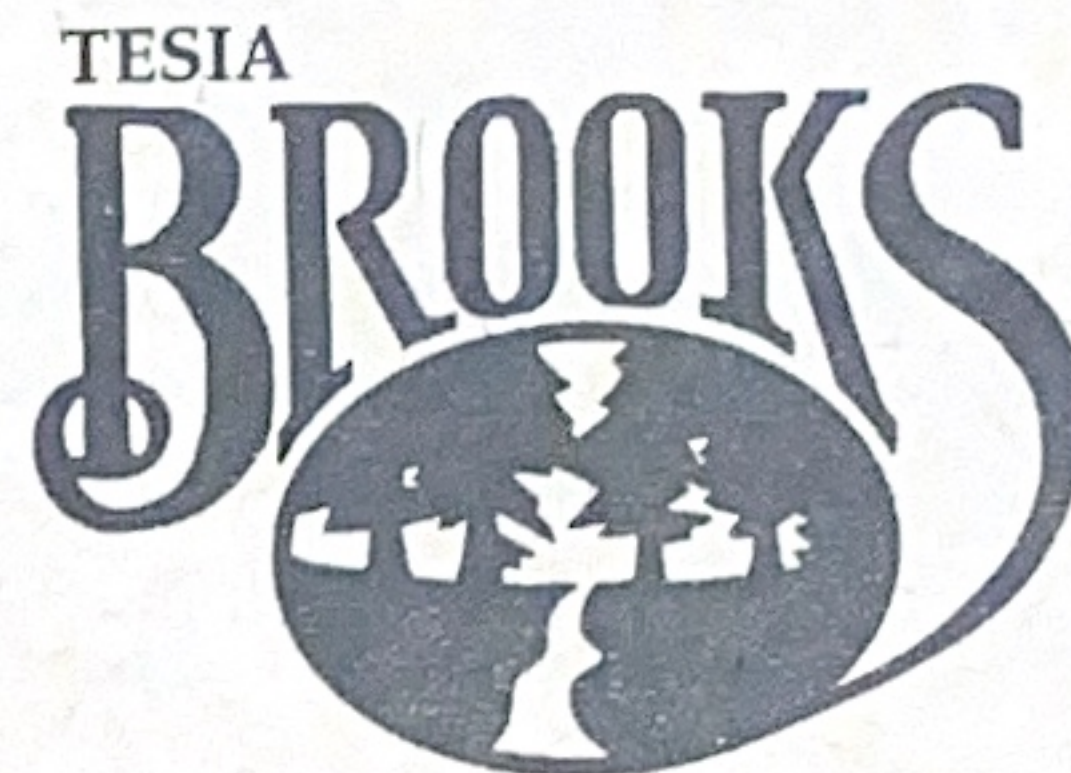
Physiological impact of formaldehyde

Even extremely low levels of formaldehyde in the air can have adverse effects. When the body is exposed to levels of more than 0.1 parts per million (PPM) formaldehyde is an irritant to eyes and breathing passages, and can cause nosebleeds. Headaches, fatigue, memory loss skin irritation and nausea have also been reported. Levels of 5 to 30 ppm can cause airway and pulmonary effects, while levels of 50 to 100 can cause pulmonary oedema, inflammation and pneumonia. Levels of 100 ppm and over can be fatal. In addition, lab tests have linked formaldehyde with cancer.

Reducing exposure to formaldehyde

Select furniture and housewares made of solid wood and metal instead of plastics and lower grade processed woods. When involved in home construction, use solid woods, metals and environmentally friendly paints. Choose clothing made from untreated natural fibres such as organic cotton. Avoid dry cleaning. Avoid food preserved with chemical preservatives. Always ensure sufficient ventilation when exposed to paints, glues and cigarette smoke.

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"Industrial Parks" panned

New parks fail to impress veterans of resource conflicts

You would think the announcement of four new parks in northern Manitoba would cheer conservationists, but that wasn't the case.

While the Minister of Natural Resources was eager to show that our province is surely and steadily moving toward its goal of setting aside 12 per cent of representative areas of our province as ecological reserve, provincial parks advocates were more interested in talking about the government's sorry record on protecting existing parks.

The four new parks -- Caribou River touching the northern boundary with the Northwest Territories, Sand Lakes between Big Sand Lake and Knifehead Lake, Numaykoos just north of the Churchill River on rolling plain known as the Kazan Upland, and Amisk, which is due north of Thompson -- total more than 2.1 million hectares (or 5 million acres).

Manitoba Wilderness Chair, Roger Turenne, says he did congratulate the Minister on establishing the four parks "on the grounds that it was an awful lot of real estate ... including quite a few enduring features."

But Turenne was more than a little perturbed at the government's refusal to designate the parks as Wilderness Parks, the only designation that would actually protect the parks from logging, mining and hydro development and meet the Endangered Spaces criteria.

Given that activists have taken to calling other provincial parks with the same designation as "industrial parks" because of the level of resource extraction that has been permitted, Turenne says no comfort should be taken from an order in council that excludes development. Changing an order in council to permit mining is a simple matter while changing a park designation would require

public hearings under the new Park Act, Turenne said.

Turenne says that if parks in the far north where there are no resource or land use conflicts cannot be designated as wilderness, how will the endangered spaces objectives be met in the other regions?

"It's tantamount to saying there will never be another wilderness park in Manitoba."

Turenne says he remains critical of the provincial government for continuing to make decisions in an arbitrary manner that preempts conservation goals, as with its allocation of a huge Forest Management Licence to Louisiana Pacific without even studying the implications.

That licence area overlapped four natural regions and committed the government to a contract that will effectively prevent the government from withdrawing territory for conservation reasons. The province's withdrawal of the Thompson Nickel Belt area from consideration as a new national park area and the offer of Asessippi Park for a ski hill, show that conservation goals take a back seat to the government's economic development agenda at every turn, Turenne says.

"If anything that's the number one sin. Everything the government will do in the north" has to be seen in the light of the "really egregious assaults" on natural area in the south, he said.

Lines on a map

Turenne's group acts as the liaison for the World Wildlife Fund in Manitoba, which initiated the Endangered Spaces Campaign across Canada. Turenne is the first to admit that Endangered Spaces was too focussed on pushing the provinces to draw lines on the map

when the work should have focussed on identifying all the "enduring features" that are currently protected and still in need of protection.

Even so, from the perspective of the Wilderness Caucus, the government made two serious errors in establishing the four northern parks that have become apparent since the announcement in February.

Firstly the province assured the World Wildlife Fund that it had consulted extensively with the First Nations people in the area, but those consultations proved inadequate for dealing with local concerns, according to newspaper reports and Turenne.

Continued on next page

ANALYSIS

by Toby Maloney

The four new parks: an index

Amisk Provincial Park: 198,000 hectares in the Precambrian Boreal Forest Region
The most southerly of the four new parks includes a significant portion of North Indian Moraine and has one of the heaviest moose densities in the province.
Amisk is the Cree word for beaver

Caribou Provincial Park: 764,000 hectares in the Northern Transition Forest Region
Manitoba's most northerly park includes the Caribou River, the shoreline of the ancient glacial Tyrell Sea and a huge meteor crater lake, called Round Sand Lake

Numaykoos Lake Provincial Park: 360,000 hectares within Precambrian Boreal Forest and Hudson Bay Lowlands regions. Includes the whitewater portion of Little Beaver River and features part of the largest tract of organic terrain (peat) in North America.

Sand Lakes Provincial Park: 826,000 hectares within Northern Transition Forest and Precambrian Boreal Forest regions. Includes Big Sand Lake, part of the South Seal River system, dramatic eskers and a nationally significant Caspian Tern breeding area.

Continued from previous page

The second concern about the new parks is that the boundaries don't seem to be based on ecological considerations. Turenne said that except for Caribou the park boundaries are "straight lines cutting across watersheds" and failing to protect headwaters. It is more probable that the guiding principle was "mining industry tracings," he said.

Turenne would beg to differ with the province's optimistic assessment of its progress toward the Endangered Spaces goals. The media release for the four parks showed Manitoba almost at the half-way point to the completion of its commitment in 2000, but Turenne said a recent analysis shows that the province has now protected a little better than 20 per cent of the natural features in need of protection. He says the Endangered Spaces objective is in representing these features, not just a mathematical exercise of setting aside large areas of land.

Time wise, he says there is no way the province will meet their objectives by the year 2000, but that's no worse than any other province.

And maybe we're all whistling past the graveyard considering that four of the 12 regions -- Souris Till Plain, Tall Grass Prairie, Turtle Mountain and Pembina/Tiger Hills are in regions where more than 80 per cent of the land is held privately. For all but Turtle Mountain it is not considered possible in the provincial action plan, for the regions to be represented "by a single or a few large parcels of land."

It will be a complex and delicate operation to patch together a network of conservation easements on private land, conservation

agreements with municipalities and non-profit groups, and in acquiring sensitive areas for restoration. That kind of negotiating, planning and analysis won't happen quickly, certainly not by the year 2000.



Endangered Spaces' pre-election Report card will require "fancy skating" to retain credibility with activists

If any environment issue is likely to become an election issue it will be the province's Endangered Spaces commitment. Every year World Wildlife Canada releases a report card to rate the federal and provincial governments on their action or lack of action in meeting the Endangered Spaces objectives. The date for the release of the report card, set nationally a long time ago, is April 19, six days before Manitoba's provincial election.

Manitoba has received both good grades and poor grades in the past. Announcing these parks before the work is complete -- eg. consultation with First Nations, the full "Wilderness Park" designation -- is a sign the government is playing either to the report card and the election.

Last year, many local activists were uncomfortable with the relatively high grade of B minus given to Manitoba. It was based

on committing to the northern parks that have now been announced, but ignored the battles over logging in parks in both eastern and western parts of the province.

Now those resource conflicts have intensified, with the gigantic Louisiana Pacific forest management license and with the proposed Asessippi Ski Hill. The WWF, which coordinates the Endangered Spaces Campaign nationally, needs to reward progress where it occurs, especially since other provinces have been lacklustre in their performance. But Wilderness Caucus members in Manitoba know the campaign could lose credibility with local activists.

Turenne says Manitoba's mark is "a closely guarded secret until the 19th" but admits his organization and the WWF are going to have to do "some fancy skating."

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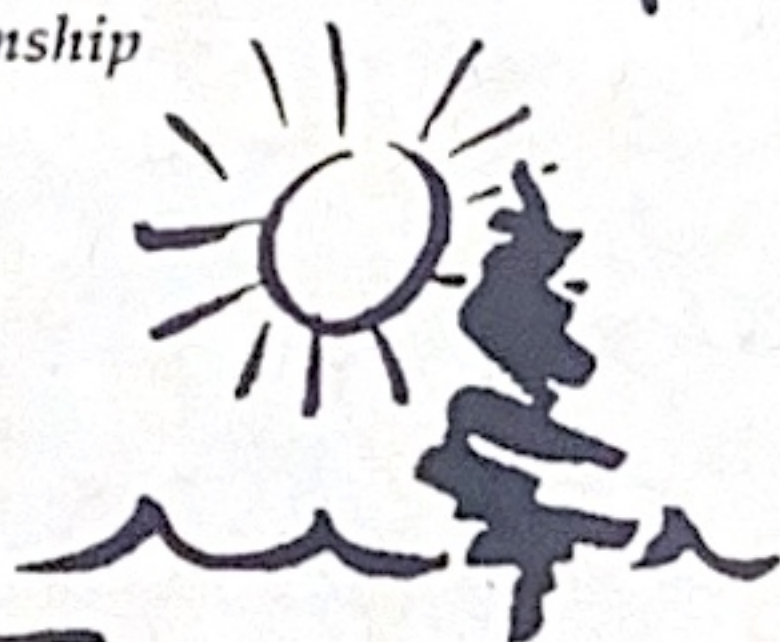
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Election trail goes over and around, but not into, environmental issues

by Toby Maloney

The days when a party's position on environment issues may have made the difference in an election, if there ever was such a day, may be over.

Remember Gary Filmon's canoe? Well the environment is all but missing from the current provincial election. Even though it lurks off stage behind much of the superficial talk about jobs, health care and education, environment is not being addressed directly even in the feel good advertisements where the candidates talk "candidly" about family, children, jobs, our glowing future, health care and of course, how to spend lottery money.

NDP Environment Critic Gord Mackintosh has plenty of ideas about what could or should be environment issues, but admits they won't get the attention they deserve.

He said one deciding factor will be "how attractive the media finds the issue, often (environment issues) don't get picked up." He related numerous instances of statements and environmental concerns he raised in the legislature but weren't reported by the media, but also says that in his north Winnipeg constituency of St. John he's found that environment issues are being overshadowed by other issues.

"It just appears that environment issues generally are competing with some real hot spots, out there -- health care, employment and education. Rarely do I ever hear concerns about the environment."

Environment Minister Glen Cummings says that environment issues are not at the top of the election agenda because they aren't being pushed by the "general public" the way they were several years ago. Cummings says that in canvassing his Ste. Rose riding in the Neepawa area he's being asked about "things like gun control, frankly, (and) jobs, the economy, employment and health," he said.

Cummings disagrees with the suggestion that environment issues are not on the public agenda because his government has been successful in deflecting them.

"We've never attempted to deflect... I'd like to think people are comfortable with what we're doing." He says that means being "proactive on environmental protection" and cites efforts like the Manitoba Product Stewardship Program, ongoing work on underground storage tanks, improving regulations on dangerous goods and handling and working toward a used oil recycling program.

Liberal Environment Critic Norma McCormick (Osborne) didn't return mes-

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Robert A. Steen C.C. 980 Palmerston

AGM 4 to 6 pm

Dinner, Awards & Entertainment 6 -10 pm

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sages left at her office and campaign headquarters.

For his part, Mackintosh says he is trying to raise awareness about environment issues. He takes exception to the inference that voters can't see any significant difference in policy between the three mainline parties on the big issues like Louisiana Pacific.

He says the NDP was the only party calling for a comprehensive rather than piecemeal assessment of Louisiana Pacific, that his party was the only one to raise the issue of the annual allowable cut being exceeded or the issue of the independent loggers being displaced.

Mackintosh says his party is also the only one that unequivocally rejects the Forks as the site for a new Winnipeg arena. His list of "should be" election issues includes the recycling levy and the "forgiveness" shown to beverage companies for failing to meet recycling targets. He's concerned that consumers are paying "2 cents (per container) for recycling services that may not be in place."

Generally Mackintosh says the government's statements on sustainable development "haven't been reflected in its actions" and cites the four new northern parks as an example. He says they have proceeded without the agreement of First Nations and the province is "dragging its heels on the Endangered Spaces Campaign." The NDP fully endorses the goal of representing eco-systems at a minimum of 12 per cent, but says the year 2000 time line "has been prejudiced" by the government's inaction.

Environmental Bill of Rights

Mackintosh says the Environment Act needs a complete re-write, partly to legislate a stronger and more independent assessment body than the Clean Environment Commission.

He also promises an NDP government would act on an Environmental Bill of Rights he introduced as a private member's bill in the Fall session. The bill would enable court action by any individual in the interest of the environment and protect "whistle blowers."

Cummings says the fundamental difference between his party and the others is that while all agree with environmental protection his party believes it can "create economic opportunity ... (and) protect the environment for the future at the same time as you protect the standard of living in this province."

He points to a review done by his department a "customer evaluation if you will," that showed his department was performing well. He doesn't share environmentalists alarm that his department might be focussed on providing good service to a licence applicant like Louisiana Pacific, saying that, like a police department, government also has a responsibility that those who are being regulated understand the rules."

Cummings actually cites bringing clarity to a complex licensing as an accomplishment dur-

ing his tenure as Environment Minister.

Cummings says that a Conservative government would stay the course on environmental protection. He said his party's approach to environmental protection is "not one that at the last minute you make promises to attract attention."

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The often overlooked importance of our urban eco-system

Jeffrey Patterson, Institute of Urban Studies

How to get there from here: A discussion of Winnipeg's transportation realities

Helen McCullough, Winnipeg Water Protection Group

Quality concerns with Winnipeg's water supply

For more information call Jan at the Manitoba Eco-Network
Environmental Resource Centre 772-7542

Dubois stepping down as Eco-Network Chair

After a decade as Chair of the Manitoba Eco-Network, Jack Dubois is stepping down to pursue an interesting career development.

Dubois, who is Curator of Mammals at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, has been seconded for two years to Riding Mountain National Park as Resource Management Specialist.

The park has completed a policy review and decided that its principal role is to protect eco-systems or portions of eco-systems. To do that the park plans to track and monitor eco-system integrity both within the park and the surrounding area. Dubois will work with groups from the surrounding area to develop ways of accomplishing this.

"It's partly biology, and partly working with people," he said.

Dubois has been involved with the Eco-Network and the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) since the days when they were run entirely by volunteers. The provincial network went from a budget of \$2000 and a single file cabinet in the corner of Dubois' office to its current staff, budget and full blown resource centre during the years he was Chair. He also signed the first multi-year agreement between the CEN and the federal Environment Department for \$300,000 per year.

Dubois characterized his involvement and accomplishments as not glamorous, but behind the scenes -- drafting by-laws, ensuring continuity, paying attention to process and budgets and recruiting staff and board members like John Barker and Anne Lindsey who also became the first staff members.

"It's nice to have flashy figureheads that lead the charge, but you need people to do the grunt work too ... that's where my contribution has been," he said.

Dubois stepped down as Chair because he didn't feel he could devote the necessary time to routine administration and meetings while working out of town.

He says he's "still vitally interested in the ongoing existence of the Network and what it does."

Network People

RR College highlights environment issues in public lectures April 11

Orange Lecture Room: 1. "Ozone Protection in Manitoba" with Mark Miller Executive Director Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (7 to 8pm). 2. "Hazardous Materials Management" with John Jonasson, Environmental Management Division of Manitoba. (8 to 9 pm) **White Lecture Room:** 1. "Internet Tour: source base on sustainable development" with Marlene Roy from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (7 to 8:30). 2. Screening of "Ecological Design: Inventing the Future." (8:30 to 10pm)

All sessions free of charge. For more information call 632-2202.



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Speaking out against low level flight training

Jean-Pierre Ashini from the Innu Nation protesting NATO low-level flights in Labrador and northern Quebec will be touring Manitoba in April. The Canadian Government wants to increase the flights over Innu territory from 7000 to 18000 per year causing major disruption for the Innu people, the wildlife and the environment.

The Goose Bay base is the centre for NATO's low level flight training. Italy, Belgium, and France want to join the NATO testing that is already occurring.

A recent federal environment review recommended in favour of the increase in flights even though it admitted it didn't have good information, even after years of study by the Department of Defence, on the impacts of low-level flying on wildlife. The Innu Nation refused to participate in the hearings for several reasons including concerns that the assessment by the Department of Defence was deficient.

There will be a public forum on April 17 at Crossways in Common, 222 Furby, at 7 p.m. On April 18 a press conference and rally will be held at 12 p.m. in front of the Air Force Base on Ness Avenue. Ashini will also speak from 11:30 to 1:30 on April 19 at the University of Manitoba. For information about these events call Priscilla 474-8547. Ashini will also speak on April 20 in Brandon. Contact the Marquis Project 727-5675 for information about that event.

A Call To Defend Nopiming Forest from logging

By David Nickarz, Earth First! Manitoba

The Nopiming Forest bioregion lies on the Western slope of the Canadian Shield and includes the Western Winnipeg River watershed. It stretches from the uplands of Minnesota to the Wannipigow River in the North.

Nopiming is made up of four continental forest types — Boreal, Pine, Deciduous and Aspen Parkland. These ecosystems combine to make unique habitat for some 50 rare plant species, seven of which are rare to all of Canada. Nopiming is also home to endangered species like the Woodland Caribou, Pine Marten, Great Grey Owl and others. All sorts of animal and plant species have their distribution edges in this region. There are even some unique species of fish like the Northern Brook Lamprey that only live in the Whitemouth River system. Nopiming is unique, diverse and is being destroyed by industrial logging.

In May of 1992 the provincial government set in motion a chain of events that made Manitoba the de-forestry capital of Canada. Abitibi-Price's logging licence was up for review and the government appointed Clean Environment Commission recommended that logging be ended in our Provincial Parks—specifically in Nopiming Provincial Park. The Filmon government ignored this recommendation and others that would preserve endangered species and protect the Manigotagan River. The licence did not even force the company to implement the recommendations of the company's own environmental consultants!

The provincial and federal governments have taken no drastic action against the mill for chemical spills and the decades of pollution. The governments don't care about deforestation in Manitoba. When laws are broken nothing is done, or the laws are changed to suit industry. In July of 1993, Bill 41 enshrined logging in our Provincial Parks.

Provincial Parks are now to "provide economic opportunities" like logging, mining, and hydro development. The Filmon government has clearly failed to preserve Manitoba's Wilderness.

Who will protect Wilderness for future generations?

We need vision. We need people to invest more than a little time and money. Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, BC was a place that was fought for with vision, passion and self-sacrifice. The government of B.C. decided to allow logging in most of one of the last remnants of Lowland Temperate Rainforest on Earth. The environmental community fought back.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee built trails into Clayoquot Valley, Friends of Clayoquot Sound set up a Peace Camp and more than 870 people were arrested at blockades throughout the summer of 1993. People from all over BC, Canada and around the world joined to fight for Clayoquot Sound.

An activist once said that the BC environmental movement "goes

for the jugular."

This is how we should fight for our Wilderness here in Manitoba. If you can't convince government and industry to preserve special places in Manitoba then do it yourself. This is what we plan to do for the Nopiming Forest. We couldn't get Abitibi-Price to stop destroying the forest with logging licence 1557. We cannot get the Filmon government to preserve our Provincial Parks. It is time to do it ourselves.

So, what are we going to do about it?

"We must draw a line across the ground of our home and our being, drive a spear into the land and say to the bulldozers, earth movers, government and corporations, 'thus far and no farther.'" (Edward Abbey)

Earth First! Manitoba, participating environmental groups and individuals will be setting up the Nopiming Camp on May 1st, 1995.

We reject the vision handed down to us by the Filmon government and their owner — the forest industry. We will maintain a presence in the Nopiming Provincial Park for one month as a part of a long term campaign.

The objective of the Nopiming Camp is nothing less than the end of all industrial logging from the Nopiming Forest. This will be achieved through education, bearing witness and non-violent direct action.

Starting May 1, 1995 forestry in Manitoba will not be business as usual. Come to the camp and learn about the ravages of industrial forestry first hand. Come and

learn what direct action means!

Rides up to the camp will be available on the weekends. If you have your own transportation, all the better. Phone 452-9053 and leave your name and number. Someone will return your call with instructions on where to get a ride from Winnipeg or directions to the camp. If you would like more information about the Nopiming Camp or how you can help please call 453-9052 or stop by 15-222 Osborne Street South, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3L 1Z3.

Dave Nickarz is an activist with Earth First!

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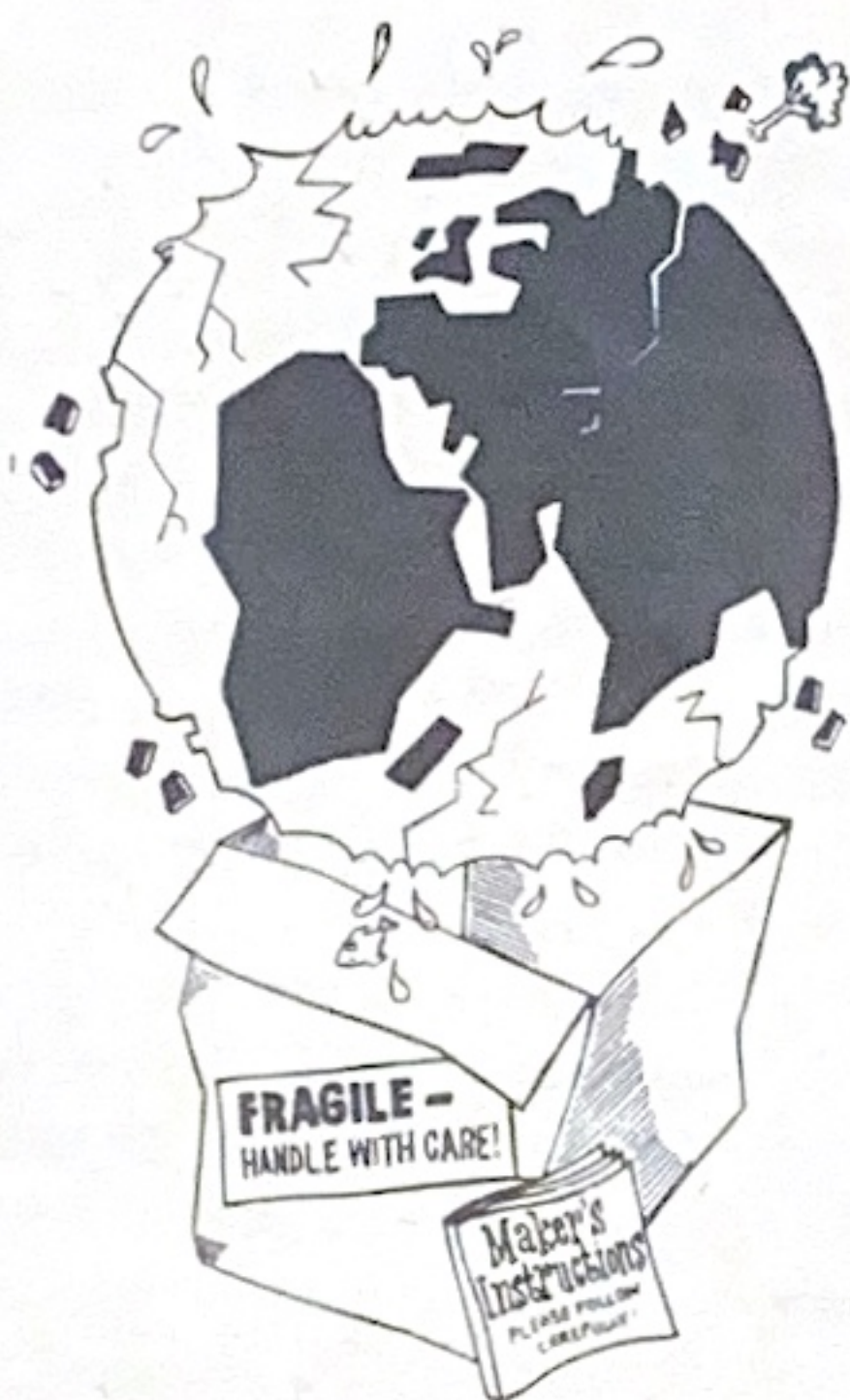
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A supporting membership includes a subscription to **Eco-Journal** as well as notice of events and regular updates on issues and is open to any individual.



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