



FIRST NATIONS AND TEMBEC

Controversy Brewing on Lake Winnipeg's East Side

article by Vernon Altman

The Spring Equinox is upon us again. It is a time of rebirth and renewal. Soon fresh spirits will sprout from the land and Mother Earth will joyously accept the cleansing rains from above. Showers will wash away poisons in preparation of the births, and the sun will give warmth to the gifts.

In the near future, this will not be the case for forests along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. With the recent purchase of Pine Falls Paper Company by Tembec, a Canadian Forest Products Company, who's long term goal is to eventually turn the forest into boards and paper, the future looks bleak for First Nations people who inhabit the area.

Although they are First Nations, they are always the last to be consulted, if not insulted. Tembec's strategy was to pursue their business operations first with or without First Nations' input. Then they told the First Nations to come up with a plan. "If we don't do something, they are going to do it anyway. I don't know how they want things to work. But they are offering to share their business plan" says Gary Raven, Economic Development and Human Resource Development Worker at Hollow Water First Nation. "They are pushing us to be part of it."

Raven recently organized a committee of three representatives from three First Nations in the area, including Hollow Water, to develop a Land Use Study (LUS). It is meant to be completed by the beginning of April, 1998. However, Raven notes that the LUS will be an ongoing process and will be handed on to future generations.

In the meantime, representatives from Tembec will soon be in the Hollow Water community to present their plans and goals, which will be their first meeting, of any type, with First Nations

along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. "We have to put something together for the next two years to get things moving. That's what I was told anyway," says Raven of the consultation process of Tembec.

Continuing with plans initiated by the Pine Falls Paper Company, one of the first moves of Tembec will be to extend a road north across the Bloodvein River and into the Bloodvein First Na-

tion community. Of course, this is like holding a worm in front of a hungry baby bird. A road would mean easy access in and out of the community, which in turn would lower shipping and supply costs for residents. The point is, Bloodvein could benefit from a road, but Tembec needs it more to access a wood supply, and is willing to build it. On whose terms will this road be built? What will be the consequences of the associated forest-cutting activities planned by Tembec on the local communities? Will Tembec wait for the communities to finish their Land Use Studies? Do the communities have sufficient time to do the studies? I think not.

The residents are losing their traplines, hunting-grounds and fishing areas due to the encroachment of tourism operations and clearcutting. Raven notes that the tri-community committee will have just one month to finish their LUS after Tembec finally presents their plan to the community on March 25th, 1998.

Raven, who celebrates the Spring and Fall seasons with a four day sacred gathering at his home each year, has this to say on the matter of scientific knowledge being used for assessments, "We consider ourselves professionals, because we've been here forever". At the sacred gathering, people share knowledge of traditional usages of herbs, plants and trees - medicines. The spiritual gathering allows people to participate in sweatlodge ceremonies, sharing circles, feasts and teachings. "We are being consulted by other First Nation Governments in the area to see the impacts of logging," adds Raven.

The consultations from other First Nation communities in the area will only allow them to brace themselves for the direct social, economic and environmental impacts that will follow the road. There

See Studies Must, page 10 ➤



photo by Marek Zaleski

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WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS ...

Many thanks to the multi-talented vol-
unteers who have come to the aid of Eco-
Network's part-time staff this winter:

Tricia Olson has been a big help doing
office work on an almost-weekly basis. Marc
Wieser and Emma Turner both spent a day
in the office helping where they were needed
most. Leah deForest contributed greatly to
our Annual Appeal mailing and joined with
Jen Peters and Jana Samolesky to bring or-
der and continuity as recorders for our Sus-
tainable Communities Conference in No-
vember. Jen Peters also helped staff our ta-
ble at the Bill Rees/Mark Roseland event.
Lynn Switzer donated her formidable organi-
zational talents towards that Sustainable
Communities Conference while Anke Kirsch
stepped forward to help promote our "Ex-
posure: Environmental Links to Breast Can-
cer" launch. Several volunteers from Breast
Cancer Action Manitoba generously do-
nated time to make that event a success.

The whole evening was made possible by
Alice Chambers who purchased a copy of
the video and donated it to the Eco-Net-
work for our work.

The list of people supporting us with
their time and knowledge is lengthy! Dan
Hood kindly provides technical support to
us on an on-going basis and Darrell Keating
from RCM offers his computer advice in
emergencies. As usual, many dedicated
environmentalists have written articles for
the Eco-Journal to share the information
they've so painstakingly collected.

The Eco-Network Bingo crew banded
together to enrich our coffers by \$3000 on
March 12. We were grateful for the good
humour and generosity of: Layton Brown,
Albert Calman, Eun-Joo Jung, Scott Kidd,
Randall McQuaker, Rick Penner, Jen Peters,
and Dave Turner.

Thanks as well go to our Steering Com-
mittee for their time and effort. **Eco**

OUR WISH LIST

Well...not really, but the Eco-Network
office has need of several items, and any
donations would be greatly appreciated.
Please call us if you have an extra of any of
the following which you'd like to find a new
home for:

- shelving - anyone who has visited the
Resource Centre lately knows that we are

at overflow capacity;

- a VCR - one which was kindly donated
several years ago is broken and would re-
quire a costly repair;

- a TV (in good repair, obviously) with a
screen larger than 15 inches (we might con-
sider a trade for the small (12") TV which
we currently own). **Eco**

1997-1998 Eco-Network Steering Committee

Lyle Barkman - Organic Producers Association of Manitoba
Dennis Bayomi - Winnipeg Vegetarian Association
Ray Burns - Manitoba Naturalists Society
Lindy Clubb - Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Val Klassen - Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Harry Mesman - Manitoba Federation of Labour
Alexandra Morrison, Resource Conservation Manitoba
Steve Rauh - Harvest Collective
Karen Turner - Sierra Club, Agassiz Group

PANEL RECOMMENDS SHELVING NUCLEAR DUMP PLANS

by Anne Lindsey

CBC News reported this week that a train shipment of nuclear waste had crossed Germany to a disposal site in the north of the country. The report went on to say that protesters had delayed the shipment for 4 days, and that finally thousands of police were called out to ensure the passage of the train. A European phenomenon? Perhaps not ...

On March 13, the Canadian Federal Government released the long-awaited report of the environmental assessment panel study-

ing the disposal of nuclear waste in this country. The panel's main conclusion: "The AECL concept in its current form for deep geologic disposal does not have broad public support, and does not have the required level of acceptability to be adopted as Canada's approach for managing nuclear fuel wastes". (emphasis added).

AECL's and Ontario Hydro's proposal was to transport nuclear fuel wastes from generating stations mostly in southern Ontario, to a site in the Canadian Shield where it would be buried deep in the granite rock, sealed and eventually abandoned. The bulk of the research into this concept has been carried out since 1979 in an Underground Research Lab. at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

The panel recommended that a search for a specific site not proceed at the present time. This was good news to the many citizens and environmental groups across the country who participated in the panel review questioning the sense of burying long-lived and deadly radioactive waste in the Canadian Shield rock.

Clearly, the Panel heeded the views expressed by this majority of participants. However, the other conclusion reached by the Panel was that the safety of the AECL concept has been adequately demonstrated from a technical perspective, a view that will clearly remain contentious.

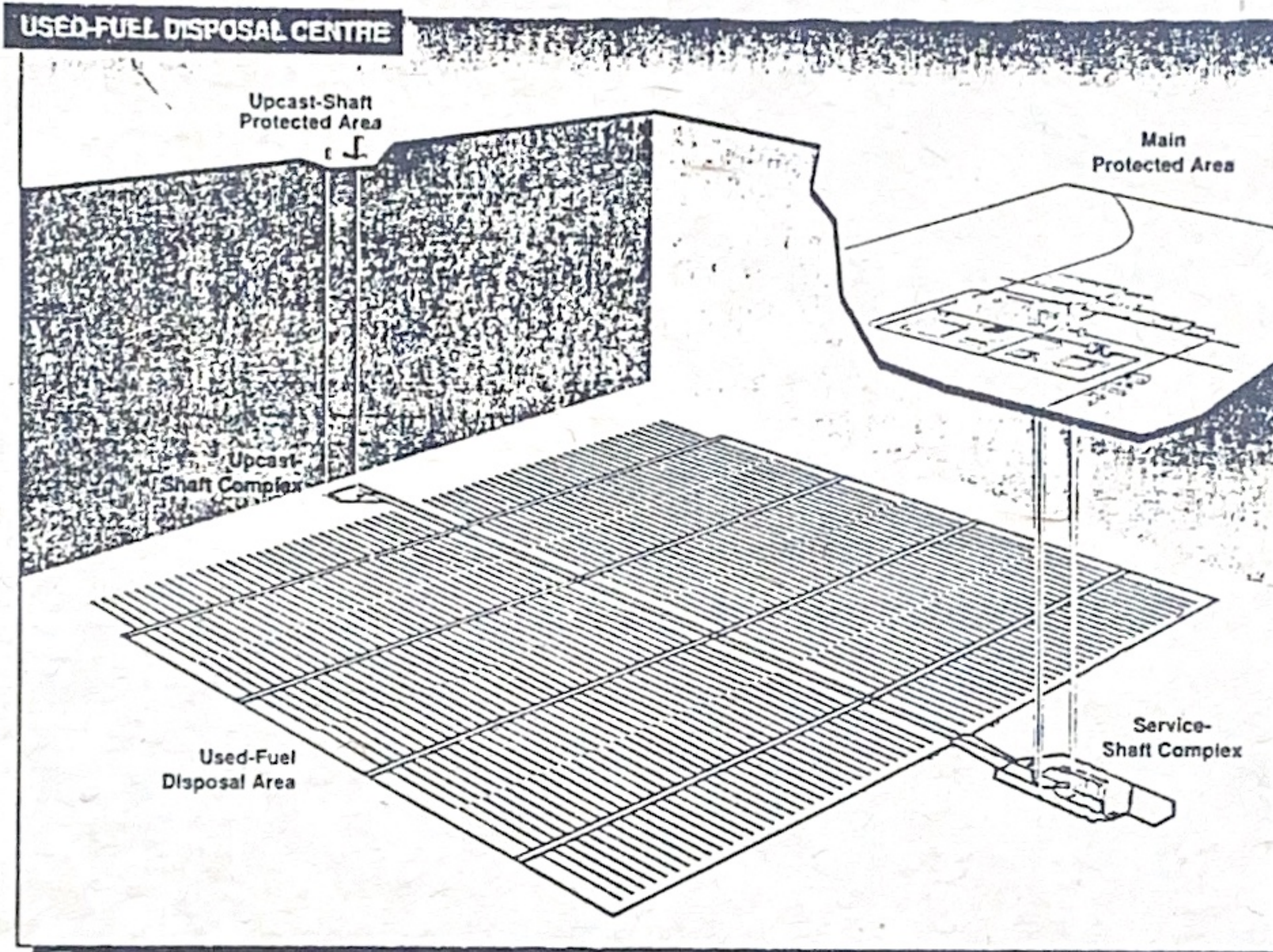
Criteria developed

The Panel, which included former Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson, developed a set of criteria

for the safety and acceptability of a concept for managing nuclear fuel wastes. To be considered acceptable, a concept for managing wastes must, in the Panel's view, have broad public support; be safe from both a technical and a social perspective; have been developed within a sound ethical and social framework; have the support of Aboriginal people; be selected after comparison with the risks, costs and benefits of other options; and be advanced by a stable and trustworthy proponent and overseen by a trustworthy regulator. To be considered safe, a concept

must be judged to demonstrate robustness in meeting appropriate regulatory requirements; be based on thorough and participatory scenario analyses; use realistic data, modelling and natural analogues; incorporate sound science and good practices; demonstrate flexibility; demonstrate that implementation is feasible; and integrate peer review and international expertise.

See *No Nuclear*, page 10 ►



Graphic representation of an underground repository from AECL/Ontario Hydro EIS

ECO-NETWORK TRAINING WORKSHOP

Following on our successful screening of *Exposure: Environmental Links to Breast Cancer*, and a one day informational workshop with the film, we are pleased to announce a training workshop on **Saturday, April 18** for people wishing to use the film with groups in their communities and workplaces.

The workshop will involve practice in popular education techniques geared to stimulate discussion and action around the environmental and health themes presented in the film. Associate producer and principal researcher of *Exposure*, Dorothy Goldin-Rosenberg, will be in



Winnipeg to lead the workshop.

The day's events will take place at our office at 2-70 Albert Street in Winnipeg, from 9:30am to approximately 4pm. Lunch will be served. Pre-registration is necessary. Please call Anne or Jan at 947-6511 to register over the phone. There is a \$10 registration fee, but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. We are grateful to **Health Canada** for financial support for this project, and to the **Women's Health Clinic** and **Hope Breast Cancer Information and Resource Centre**, our project co-sponsors.

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

APRIL 18 - EXPOSURE: ENVIRONMENTAL LINKS TO BREAST CANCER VIDEO & TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP - Watch the video which makes clear links between the environment and breast cancer, join in discussion and learn how to educate others using the film. If you'd like to take this vital information out to other groups, call MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK at 947-6511 and plan to attend this important workshop from 9:30 - 4 at #2 - 70 Albert Street.

APRIL 19 - FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS EVENTS AT FORT WHYTE CENTRE - NOON TO 4 - MANITOBA CANARY & FINCH CLUB: See and hear some of the southern cousins of Manitoba's native finches. Club members will be happy to answer your questions about these colourful, tropical birds.

1 PM - GUIDED BIRDING HIKE: Follow our experienced interpreters as they point out some of our avian residents and teach you the basics of bird identification. Each participant will receive a free FWC Bird Checklist.

2 PM - BUILD YOUR OWN BIRD HOUSE: Give the birds a place to call home. All materials and help supplied to build a nest box. Bring your own hammer. Ages 7 to adult. Pre-registration required. Members \$5/non-members \$7.

APRIL 28 - BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY - Prof. Ted McLachlan, landscape architect, head of 'Winnipeg Wild', will beguile you with tips to turn your backyard into a natural wonderland. Call COALITION TO SAVE THE ELMS at 832-7188 to register for this free workshop, happening at 7 pm, 2799 Roblin Blvd.

MAY 1 - GREEN KIDS AND WINNIPEG EVERGREEN ARE LAUNCHING A NEW PROJECT TOGETHER CALLED PLANT YOUR FEET ON GREENER GROUNDS. The purpose of this project is to naturalize and beautify school yards. Teachers can order a free kit by calling GREEN KIDS at 958-4745.

MAY 3 - GOOD TO THE LAST DROP! WATER CONSERVATION EVENTS AT FORT WHYTE CENTRE - Participate in the start of National Drinking Water Week and raise a glass of our most precious resource! Learn about easy water conservation techniques to help you *Slow the Flow*. Enter to win a Rain Barrel and 1 of 5 home water conservation kits.

10 TO 5 - GET YOUR FEET WET: INTERACTIVE WATER DISPLAYS AND RAIN WATER DEMONSTRATION. Water display courtesy of the City of Winnipeg. Rain Barrel donated by FWNC.

1 TO 3 - KIDS' CORNER: Wally Watersave will have games, crafts and prizes for kids of all ages.

2 PM - WETLAND WALK AND DIPNET: Learn about FWC's water cycle and the critters that call it home.

MAY 5 - BACKYARD PRUNING - Discover how to prune your trees like the pros, 7 pm at 2799 Roblin Blvd. This course entails hands-on participation, so please dress accordingly. Call COALITION TO SAVE THE ELMS at 832-7188 to register for this free workshop.

MAY 24 - GARDENER'S DELIGHT AT FORT WHYTE CENTRE - 10 TO 5 - GARDENING SALE TODAY ONLY! Save on selected gardening merchandise - tools, seeds, books, etc. Prairie Originals' native plants will be for sale in assorted four inch pots. Purchase culinary and medicinal herbs from The Sage Garden.

1 PM - HERITAGE GARDENING SERIES: HISTORY OF CORN AND OTHER HERITAGE PLANTS. Professor Tom Shay will put a little of Manitoba's history back into your garden.

2 PM - HERITAGE GARDENING SERIES: METIS HORTICULTURAL & HERITAGE SOCIETY: This local group will provide information on the conservation of heirloom vegetables and organic gardening practices.

2:30 PM - HERITAGE GARDENING SERIES: GARDENING QUESTION AND ANSWER: Challenge the experts with problems that may be causing grief for your garden.

JUNE 2 - TREE IDENTIFICATION TOUR - Dazzle your friends and family with your new-found knowledge about trees and shrubs. This free workshop starts at 7 pm sharp at Robert A. Steen Community Centre, 780 Palmerston (at Ruby). Call COALITION TO SAVE THE ELMS at 832-7188 to register.

JUNE 2 & 3 - BREAKING THE BARRIERS: WASTE REDUCTION INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM - Resource Conservation Manitoba's third biennial waste reduction conference at the International Inn. Call Glen Koroluk, Conference Coordinator at 925-3777.

JUNE 23 - BACKYARD ELM SURVIVAL - Take a walk with us through the neighbourhood. Learn how to spot the signs of Dutch Elm disease and how to protect our favourite tree. Call COALITION TO SAVE THE ELMS at 832-7188 to register for this free workshop, 7 pm sharp at Robert A. Steen Community Centre.

JULY 1 - 9 - YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM CAMP - Organized by MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK YOUTH CAUCUS (MENYC). Youth from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are encouraged to apply. Call MENYC at 992-2845 for more information.

ADVANCE NOTICE NEEDED - PLAN NOW:

SEPTEMBER 9 START - INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY (36 HOUR, FULL CREDIT COURSE) - at the University of Winnipeg. Tuition approximately \$625. Contact Patti Clark, U of W Faculty of Theology at 204-786-9857 for details.

SEPTEMBER 9 START - INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY (24 HOUR, GENERAL INTEREST COURSE) - 7-10 pm for 8 weeks in Portage la Prairie under the auspices of the University of Winnipeg. Tuition, \$150. Contact Patti Clark, U of W Faculty of Theology at 204-786-9857 for details on location. **Eco**



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FROM WINNIPEG TO CHILE: ENVIRONMENTALISM AT OTHER END OF WORLD

Youth Sustainable Development Internship in Chile
by Sacha Kopelow

I am convinced that the realizations one can have when immersed in the life of another continent, another country, another culture, are some of the most profound and life-changing possible. Having just returned from a six-month adventure of work and travel in South America, I am filled with a new appreciation of the importance of the work of NGO's around the world. I have also come to understand on a very personal basis that, as the causes for environmental destruction and social disempowerment are ever more global, those of us of privilege must take every opportunity to rethink our lifestyles and make a determined effort to play a positive role in global change.

This project began as the Canadian Environmental Network's Youth Sustainability Project, funded by Human Resources Development Canada, CIDA, and private donors. After co-ordinating youth-oriented environmental projects across Canada (in Manitoba, this was Ecotopia, held last June), approximately nine young Canadians recently spent three months in different South American locations working with various environmental/social organizations. I found my way to Valdivia, Chile, working with El Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Flora y Fauna de Chile (CODEFF), in environment and sustainable development initiatives.

The future of native Chilean forests is severely threatened by logging, "reforestation" trends using exotic species, and unsustainable agricultural practises.

Recent, and rapid, economic growth in Chile has created a large consumer culture with seemingly limitless material expectations. International interests in Chile have often centered upon quick extraction of the high-quality forests that cover vast tracts in the central and lower areas of this long coastal country. Lack of environmental education and lack of resources, especially in rural areas, means that much of the populace is virtually unprepared to preserve the now numerous unique areas and animal and plant species endangered or on the edge of extinction. CODEFF, founded in 1968 and now with nine offices throughout Chile, has been an active voice for nature and an agent of education, environmental research and sustainable rural development.

Characteristic of the incredible warmth and generosity I found in Chile, the CODEFF office of Valdivia was a friendly, fun place to be. My co-workers embraced me with good will, very amused curiosity, and an incredible tolerance for my dismally inadequate Spanish. I delved into work.

I was to travel twice a week to rural schools and spend the day providing each all-ages one-room class with an environmental education unit. The rest of the week I would work on a two-part scheme to protect precious native forest. I would use my internet skills and my forest contacts from previous work to begin an intensive international fundraising drive with the aim of raising enough money to purchase a particular forest parcel. I would also help begin a diagnostic of local rural communities to determine their strengths, weaknesses and priorities for changing non-sustainable land-use practices and raising standard of living.

The reality of rural life in Chile was stunning. My students, all of them affectionate and eager (and much more respectful than any class I'd had in Canada), were thrilled by my foreign-ness - my blond hair, my tales of snow and airplanes. They were also thrilled to be provided with their very own library cards and access to the 20-book library that CODEFF lent the school. Together we dug dirt, poured water, took imaginary walks through deserts, and pretended to be forests.

The going was slow: reading levels were low, and on the frequent rainy days brought by El Niño the roads were too bad to reach the school. However, the never-ending supply of engaging Earth-oriented activities introduced to me by dynamic CODEFF Education Program director Catina Diaz eventually accumulated in a greater environmental understanding and respect among every child, and a heightened curiosity about the world around them. They also went home to share what they learned each day with their parents. Unfortunately, this worthwhile project's grant has not been renewed and Ms. Diaz is working in a sandwich stand for tourists while she and CODEFF search for financial support for the program.

After working for three months with CODEFF I travelled through Chile, Argentina, Peru and Bolivia. My experiences in South America have strongly reinforced my belief that each of us must use our lives to promote change in the world. Buy Nothing Day everyday, stop the MAI, support your local unions, etc. Global inequity makes the world lose out on the incredible assets of so many people's full participation.

THANKS goes out to the United Nations Association of Manitoba, CUSO, IISD, the University of Winnipeg Students Association and especially the Manitoba Eco-Network for contributing in various important ways to my experience.

Eco

ECOTOPIA 2!! SUMMER 1998

The Manitoba Eco-Network Youth Caucus (MENYC) is organizing yet another "Youth Environmental Activism Camp" - Ecotopia '98! We are currently looking for enthusiastic participants between the ages of 14 and 24 to join us in a fun, active and inspiring experience which promises to get a lot of stuff (environmental amelioration) done! What'll we be doing? Well, to name a few items...constructing a major straw-bale vegetable cooler, trail building and tree-planting on the

Seine River, manually adjusting "riffles" in Sturgeon Creek...in addition to informative, hands-on workshops on everything from ecosystems to pesticides. The workshop/camp extravaganza runs from July 1 to 9, in and around Winnipeg, with funding provided by Action 21, Environment Canada's Community Funding Program. Youth from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are encouraged to apply. Please phone MENYC at (204)992-2845 for more information.



illustration from Earthkeeper Magazine

TRANSPLAN TAKEN FOR JOYRIDE

(Part I of a two-part series) by Jeff Lowe

Recently I returned to Winnipeg from a three-week holiday on the outside. Upon my return, however, I was distressed to discover that - whereas there was evidence to be had that much of the rest of the world was moving forward, transportation-wise, Winnipeg had ground to a halt.

On closer inspection, make that: gone backwards!

I refer to the official release on January 27th of TransPlan 2010.

In 1993, the Provincial government directed the City of Winnipeg to produce this glossy volume by the end of 1994. It was finally presented slightly in excess of three years past the date on which it was originally due. Conceived as a companion piece to the City's master land-use guidebook - Plan Winnipeg: Toward 2010 - its main purpose is to set priorities as to what types of transport facilities should be built during the first decade of the coming millenium, as well as decreeing where they should be situated.

From the outset, the structure of the entity that was established to deliver TransPlan caused many in the community to doubt the validity or usefulness of the entire exercise:

- the steering committee was handpicked by the Mayor's office and the Minister of Urban Affairs;
- membership on the advisory committee was by invitation only and read like a Who's Who of representatives of all of the transport carriers, regulatory agencies, vehicle dealerships, construc-

tion contractors, engineering consultant firms, and land developers (described as "stakeholders") that collectively may be held responsible for inflicting the transportation system on Winnipeggers that we all have come to know so well (and, have suffered for so long);

- the technical support team consisted exclusively of traffic engineers from Winnipeg's notoriously troglodytic Streets & Transportation Department (abetted by

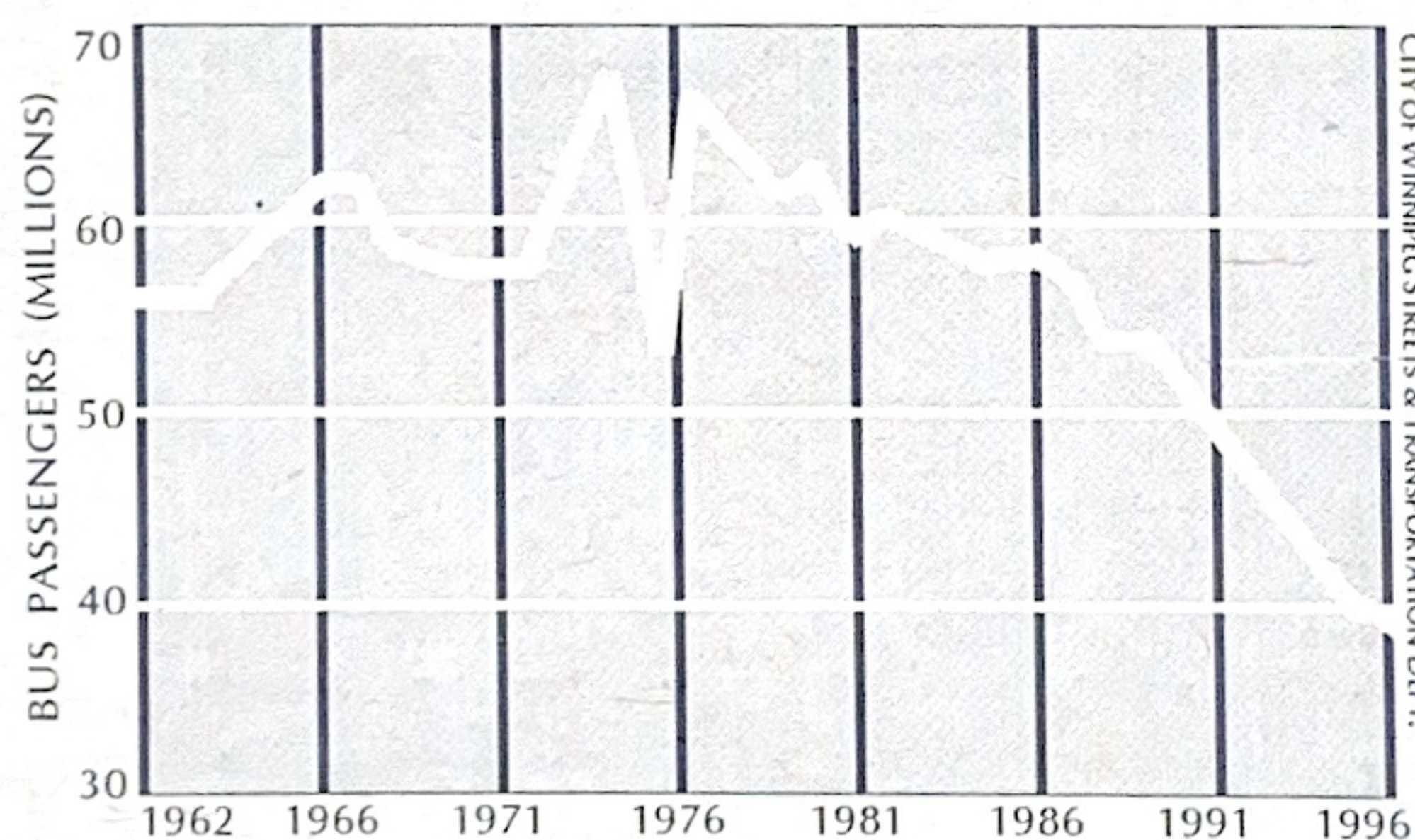
a number of private consultants who are regularly commissioned to perform work on behalf of the latter Department): no officials who are involved with transit, cycling, or pedestrian interests were summoned to serve.

Sensing that the "fix" might be in, few of the token (and hugely outnumbered) sampling of invitees from environmental and community groups agreed to participate.

Even given all that, nothing within the experience of the most

case-hardened of us would have conditioned us to expect a report and set of recommendations as abysmal as those handed down several weeks ago. The cause of balanced, environmentally-responsive and sustainable transportation in Winnipeg can be said to have been set back 50 years; indeed, the report should be more accurately titled, TransPlan-1955!

Regarding its actual contents: there isn't sufficient space in a year's worth of newsletters to adequately begin to respond to them (point by mind-numbing point). However, quoting a few rep-



representative passages that leap from the page to assault the sensibilities of any readers with the slightest shred of environmental awareness or intellectual fair-mindedness should suffice to provoke anxiety and outrage:

"Traffic flow and operating constraints on major streets and highways (e.g., restrictive speed limits, on-street parking and loading, turning restrictions)... would be subject to changes in the adjacent development, particularly to opportunities to limit or reduce the conflict through redesign or relocation of the affected land use." (page 85)

"Projected rates of growth and development are such that the great majority of home/work travel will continue to involve existing low-density residential neighbourhoods and relatively dispersed employment areas - a land-use pattern that - short of a significant increase in transit fares or subsidies and a reduction in the convenience enjoyed by automobile users, cannot be served effectively by public transit." (p. 88)

"[T]here should be a balance between funding of transit-oriented and automobile-oriented infrastructure improvements. The funding balance should consider the preference for automobiles implicit in the present split between bus ridership and automobile use." (p. 88)

"The cost of development of the Southwest Transit Corridor is estimated to be \$80 million. The benefits to southwest Winnipeg would include a reduction in on-the-bus travel time and a modest

improvement in traffic capacity on Pembina Highway. These benefits translate into faster service for transit riders and the offer of a more competitive transit alternative for automobile users... However, the potential for a significant reduction in automobile dependence for any trip is uncertain. Automobile use would continue to offer greater flexibility..." (p. 90)

"Given the substantial cost and uncertain benefit of the transit corridor program, and that forecast traffic levels can be adequately managed through strategic investment in the major road and highway system..., investments in transit infrastructure during the timeframe of TransPlan 2010 should be confined... to improvement of existing bus-transit service... This service would rely principally on buses utilizing the existing major radial street system that serves downtown Winnipeg." (pages 90, 91)

"With its steady decline over the past 15 or 20 years, Portage Avenue has moved from its earlier status as a 'grand boulevard' to that of a thoroughfare. For many, instead of a destination, it is an area that must be crossed as quickly as possible on the way to another location. The concrete barriers at Portage and Main ensure that traffic is not impeded by pedestrians... The prohibition of parking on Portage Ave. from Memorial Blvd. to Main St. has certainly improved manoeuvrability for buses but has further reduced the 'people presence'." (p. 115)

"The flood of 1997 and the resultant need to close the Provencher Bridge for repairs illustrated the importance of this crossing for

centre-ville businesses, particularly those situated on or near Boulevard Provencher. It also further reinforced the decision by Winnipeg City Council to commence the initial steps of replacing the present bridge... with a new structure and recommended connection to downtown via York/St. Mary that is more compatible with the revitalization of Centre-ville de Saint Boniface." (pp. 119, 120)

In the next issue of Eco-Journal, I'll probe the psyche of the perpetrators of these would-be human and environmental affronts - in an attempt to illuminate why they would feel confident and justified in so brazenly disregarding the views of Winnipeggers (even as those are portrayed in the text of TransPlan itself)... Stay tuned!

Editor's note: a copy of the Transplan 2010 document is available in our Resource Centre. Also, a new group has formed in Winnipeg to respond to Transplan, contact Jeff Lowe, via the Eco-Network office 947-6511 for more information.

Eco

Think about where you bank.

As a natural foods co-operative, Harvest Collective has its roots in a food buying club started in a community club basement nearly two decades ago. Today, Harvest provides consumers with high-quality organic foods in a community atmosphere out of two different neighbourhood stores.

At Assiniboine, we invest in home-grown ideas like Harvest to help our community prosper and grow.

What does your bank do with its profits?

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**Banking the way
it should be.**

*"Assiniboine was very helpful when
it came time for us to expand.
We couldn't have done it without them."*

(UN)COMMON CENTS\$

by Vichel Kapur, West Broadway Alliance

The sky may not be falling, but our economic roof seems to have sprung a few leaks. While buckets of IMF bailouts may keep us dry for now, it may be time to consider reshingling our collective monetary affairs.

Community Economic Development (CED) is gaining prominence as an alternative approach to conventional economics - an economics which appears incapable of addressing crises of high unemployment, ecological degradation and community breakdown. Instead of a top-down approach to managing our resources (human and ecological, as well as financial), CED emphasizes increased democratic community control over broader social and economic processes. Rather than seeing economics as an end in itself, CED seeks to reshape the local economy so that it becomes a tool for wider community development.

One particular CED strategy gaining increasing attention is the establishment of local, community-controlled currency systems. Such systems encourage economic exchanges among the residents and businesses of a given community as a healthier alternative to the siphoning, destructive effects of corporate proliferation and centralized decision-making.

Community Currencies

Historical examples of local currencies abound, largely initiated by communities attempting to combat severe unemployment and a critical deficiency in the local money supply. However, it has only been in the last twenty-odd years that communities have taken to local currencies not only to alleviate economic problems, but to address social and ecological concerns as well.

Community currencies exhibit a number of advantages, including increased self-reliance. Circulating local currency (i.e., locally produced goods and services) provides a boost to local business through improved multiplier effects and reduced outflows of wealth to distant headquarters. Local money is also more readily available than conventional currency, and can help overcome the artificially created deficiencies in money supply. Community currencies can also strengthen community bonds by helping bring people together and focusing community development efforts. Finally, local currencies are inherently more ecologically sound than conventional money. Not only do they serve to decrease pollution by bolstering local trade and reducing the need for imports from distant centres, but they also eschew interest and so can encourage investments which yield returns in the long-term, rather than in the immediate future.

Interest in community currencies has become so widespread that the number of systems operating worldwide is now approaching one thousand. Indeed, in some areas (e.g., New Zealand) they have garnered enough legitimacy that social security agencies refer recipients to them as a means of increasing individual's incomes, as well as easing the pressure on the social safety net.

The Wolseley/West Broadway Community Labour Unit (CLU)

Interest in community currencies has also spread to Winnipeg, where a number of residents from the Wolseley and West Broadway neighbourhoods have taken up the cause. The CLU is a local money system based on the highly successful Ithaca, New York model. In Ithaca, participants are issued a given amount of the

local currency - called HOURS - at periodic potlucks in return for listing their skills or services in the local newsletter. This newsletter then circulates as a sort of 'alternative yellow pages', listing all those individuals and businesses in the region willing to accept HOURS for at least partial payment for the goods or services they offer. The potlucks themselves serve as democratic forums where discussion and decisions (e.g. donations of HOURS to community organizations) about the local currency take place.

Since its inception in 1992, the equivalent of over US\$60,000 has been placed into circulation in Ithaca and an estimated \$2 million in exchanges undertaken, much of which otherwise would not have transpired. The diversity of businesses which have become involved range from the local credit union to local restaurants to the local grocery store.

The Wolseley/West Broadway CLU is just getting underway! With financial support from the Assiniboine Credit Union, final designs have been sent to the printers and CLUs will soon be busy circulating about. Listings are being published in the neighbourhood newsletter, The Gabber. In addition to the diverse range of services being offered, local businesses such as Harvest Collective and Tall Grass bakery have demonstrated an interest in being involved. And while Wolseley/West Broadway indicates where the CLU is most strongly supported, as well as defining where the decision-making takes place, all are welcome to participate! For more information on becoming involved or participating in the CLU advisory board, please call Paul Chorney at 784-4054. **Eco**

Help Protect Bird Habitat - Choose Organic Foods



The application of herbicides and insecticides to farm land is a cause of death for many prairie birds and mammals.

You can help protect wildlife and habitat in Manitoba by supporting local organic farms. What kind of world do you want? We invite you to help create an environment where pesticides are not used. We hope to see you soon.

- Organic Farms are Safe Habitats
- More Nutrients in Organic Foods
- Try Fresh Organic Fruits & Veggies
- Organic means Superior Flavour

We keep our prices low so that you can afford our organic food.

Natural & Organic Grocery Stores:

HARVEST ON CORYDON, "SUNFLOWER" SIGN

664 Corydon, near Hugo - Tel. 475-1459

HARVEST ON WESTMINSTER, since 1978

877 Westminister, at Evanson - Tel. 772-4359



**KEEP PESTICIDES OFF YOUR PLATE. SHOP ORGANIC...
FOR YOUR HEALTH, FOR THE PLANET.**

ORGANIC FOODS THREATENED BY TRADE DEALS

by Anne Lindsey

Winnipeggers are fortunate to have a good local source of organic foods in Harvest Collective, and an excellent variety of Manitoba-produced organics, but we definitely cannot afford to take them for granted.

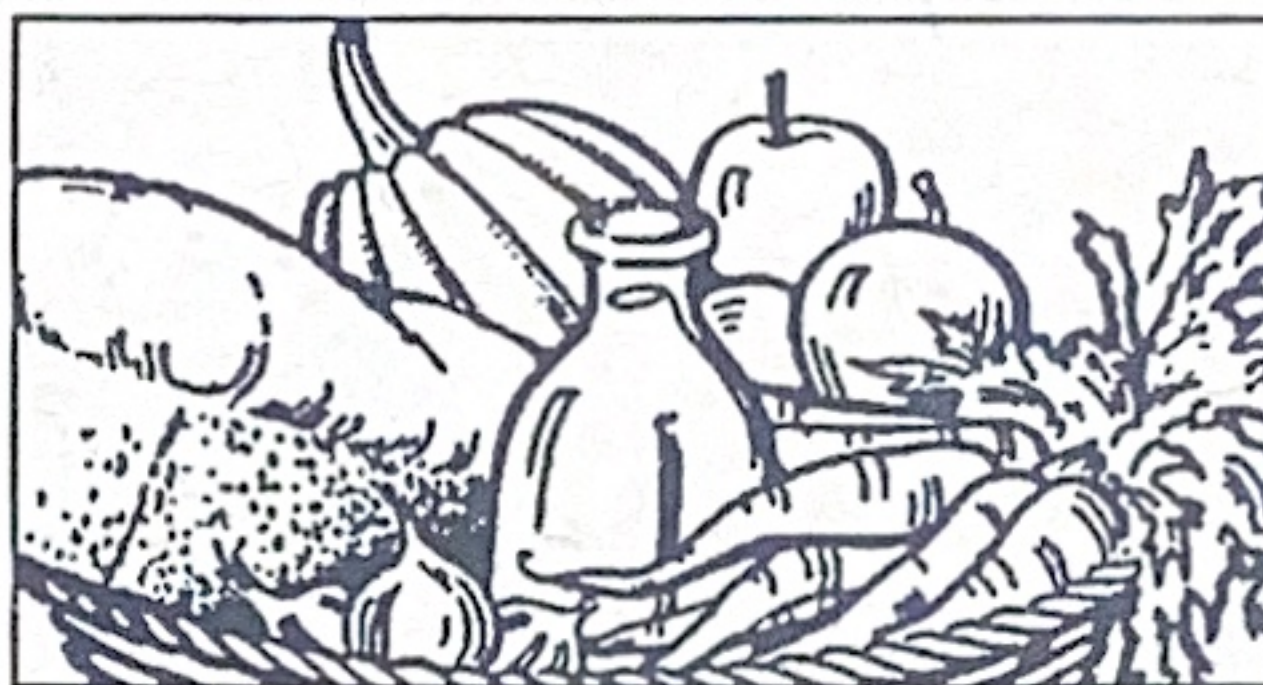
The Organic Producers Association of Manitoba continually works to develop better local standards, but a new development in the US could undermine not only Manitoba and Canadian standards, but also the quality of much of the organic food we now consume. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed new regulations on national organic food standards in that country. Published in the Federal Register on December 15, they are designed to "replace existing rules and labelling practices on organic foods currently upheld by 40 independent and state-sanctioned organic certification boards" according to the Tucson (Arizona) Food Conspiracy Co-op Newsletter (January, 1988).

The new rules allow the use of food irradiation, genetic engineering, toxic sludge, intensive animal confinement or animal cannibalism in certified organic foods. They will also make it illegal for organic producers and retailers to promote and uphold stricter organic standards than those proposed by the USDA.

Why is this important for Winnipeggers? One look at the shelves in Harvest Collective, Winnipeg's main organic foods grocery store, particularly in the winter months, provides a fast answer. Much of the stock originates, and is certified in, the US. From winter basics like kale, oranges and broccoli, to year-round purchases like rice, we import many important foods from our neighbours to the south.

Trustworthy certification essential

We depend on clear, unequivocal rules for certification, because we cannot personally get to know the hundreds of organic farmers who supply these products. Our ability to trust in excellent certification becomes essential over long distances. And people who shop organic do so precisely because we wish to avoid processes like food irradiation and the use of sewage sludge and genetic engineering. Even those who don't currently shop organic should be alarmed by this development, since high organic standards arguably bring the overall food supply standard up. (Rest assured that all of these processes are not only already being used in agricultural production, but are clearly on track to becoming more prevalent).



Threat exacerbated by trade agreements

Seeking out and supporting more local organic production would seem to be the immediate solution, and is what we should be doing anyway, even without these proposed threats. After all, we compromise sustainability with every long-distance truckload of food we bring in.

But in the long term, these new regulations, if passed, may pose an even more insidious threat. Because we are linked to the US through the North American Free Trade Agreement, higher organic standards in Canada could potentially be challenged as a non-tariff barrier to trade. And if the new Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) currently being negotiated by the OECD countries, including Canada, is concluded, our right to set our own

standards could be even further eroded. Under the MAI, as it presently exists in draft format, corporations can sue national governments for compensation if their ability to earn a profit is compromised.

Monsanto, a powerful transnational on the genetic engineering scene, would likely move quickly to ensure that Canadian organic standards do not exceed the minimum requirements in the US.

What Can We Do?

1. Write a letter. Under US law, there is a comment period for new regulations. This concludes on April 30, 1998, and Canadians must be heard by the USDA on this extremely important issue. Your letter can be simple and to the point. Say that you are a consumer of US organic food, and that you say NO to the proposed regulations.

Send your letter to:

**USDA National Organic Standards
(Docket #TMD-94-00-2)**

USDA, AMS, Rm.4007-S

AgStop 0275, PO Box 96456

Washington, DC 20090-6456, USA

Or fax: 202-690-4632 (include the Docket number given above)

Word from the States is that groups down there are mobilizing like crazy to get this stopped.

2. Write another letter, to Canada's International Trade Minister, Sergio Marchi (House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0H3, postage free). Tell him you don't want your food supply and your health compromised by the MAI. He'll send you back a note telling you why the government supports the MAI, but you can be sure that companies like Monsanto are behind this support. Our government needs to hear from you.

(More information on MAI available from CHOICES, 944-9408).

3. Increase your support for Manitoba Organic Producers - eat locally more often. Information from OPAM, 204 748-1315.

4. More info. on the USDA draft standards may be found at the home page of the Pure Food Campaign: www.geocities.com/athens/1527

Your choice to eat organic foods is, from the perspective of health, the environment and social justice, one of the most important, and political, decisions a person can make, but we can't rest on our laurels. Protecting the food supply and the environment that sustains it requires us to be vigilant and activist. **Eco**

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**

STUDIES MUST BE DONE

continued from page 1 ...

are four sectors of studies that "must be done right away", explains Raven. "To protect what we want, there must be archeological digs; an environmental audit; a Land Use Study; and an Environmental Impact Assessment before any further proceedings," notes Raven.

Coinciding with the development of Tembec's plans was a joint announcement from Manitoba Minister of Natural Resources Glen Cummings, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak on March 5, 1998 regarding the future of protected areas in this province. The announcement notes that "Matters that are important to Manitoban First Nations Peoples should be considered when identifying designated protected areas, including cultural, spiritual, and ecological values." Cummings goes on to assure Manitoba First Nations that, "Over the next three years, a working group consisting of First Nations people and Natural Resources officials will co-ordinate the process to identify and establish new areas to be protected." Meanwhile, Tembec proceeds.

Another important issue for Tembec is that in order to cross the Bloodvein River they must now wait for an environmental review under the Manitoba Environment Act. The Manitoba government,

under some pressure from the public and federal reviewing agencies, has stated that any further extensions of the East Side road must await a review of Tembec's planned cutting in this area. In addition, crossing the river makes the road a federal matter for Tembec under the Navigable Waters Protection Act. However, now the road is completed as far as the Bloodvein River, it will undoubtedly cross the river - to the benefit of Bloodvein First Nation residents.

Could this whole scenario be a disguise? Assuming that Tembec is providing the communities with a big favour, not to mention service? They will provide employment opportunities, easier access, and lower cost of living expenses. On the other hand, the devastation that will follow is not being addressed at the community level by Tembec. Raven asserts that individual assessments from the First Nation communities must be done before any further development occurs. On the contrary, Tembec will not wait.

As I surveyed the landscape from 10,500 feet above, the small lakes that dot the area took on shapes of animals. One in particular, expressed the shape of a beaver with a small island representing its eye. Turbulence brought me back to reality and I couldn't help but imagine that someday the lush forests below will become a desert of stumps and rotting trees.

Vernon Altman writes for Weetamah, Manitoba's Aboriginal Newspaper.

Eco

NO NUCLEAR PHASE-OUT

continued from page 3 ...

Arms-length agency recommended

The Panel recommended a number of steps to develop an approach for managing nuclear waste in a way that could achieve broad public support. Unfortunately, from the perspective of anti-nuclear groups at least, these did not include a phase-out of nuclear power so as to limit the amount of nuclear waste that needs to be ultimately managed. They did include, however, the formation of a Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Agency, at arms length from the nuclear utilities and AECL, and which is funded entirely by producers and owners of nuclear fuel wastes.

This recommendation would seem to be at odds with a Federal Cabinet policy issued in July 1996 which essentially instructed the owners of the waste (Ontario Hydro being by far the largest of these) to become the "implementing agency" - essentially the funder, organizer, manager and operator of a nuclear waste disposal facility. When challenged that this policy had the effect of pre-empting the environmental assessment process, then-Minister of Natural Resources Canada, Anne McLellan, said that no decisions would be made regarding the next steps for long-term management of nuclear fuel waste until the Panel review was completed. An additional factor that has come into play since that time is the revelation last summer of Ontario Hydro's major organizational and safety problems. Will this federal government policy be reversed?

Consider options, Panel says

Another key step recommended by the Panel was "developing and comparing options for managing nuclear fuel wastes". This point is of particular interest to groups such as Concerned Citizens of Manitoba which has argued for the 20 years of its existence that

nuclear waste should not be transported from its site of generation, but instead securely guarded in-situ, in perpetuity, in such a way that leaks can be immediately detected and repaired. The Federal Minister of Natural Resources Canada, Ralph Goodale, has been quoted as saying that looking at other options is important to his department also.

However, it might be unwise to bet on any significant changes to AECL's deep rock concept. In fact, lest one is tempted to celebrate too much the Panel's common sense findings about social acceptability, a missive issued by the Atomic Energy Control Board on March 9 (four days before the Panel report) should be required reading.

Comments invited

Titled "Discussion Paper: Guidelines for the Characterization, Performance Assessment and Quality Assurance Plans for the Siting of Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities", the AECB paper clearly assumes that the concept for deep burial of nuclear fuel waste as presented by AECL and Ontario Hydro is what will eventually be developed.

This is a draft document, and comments are invited from the public. One of more obvious comments to be made relates to "exclusion criteria" for potential sites. The discussion paper suggests that "communities that do not wish to support the siting of a repository within their jurisdictional boundaries should be excluded from further consideration". This makes sense but misses the point made by many people at the public hearings: the siting of a nuclear waste dump is clearly a regional issue, not limited to small jurisdictional boundaries of municipalities for example. In addition, the concept implies transportation of nuclear waste over large distances, through many jurisdictions. This is another key area of great concern, and one which the Panel recognized when it concluded that this concept for nuclear fuel waste management does not have broad public acceptability in Canada.

Eco

MANIGOTAGAN RIVER ILLEGAL BRIDGE: COAST GUARD AND MB ENVIRONMENT DO NOTHING

by Dave Nickarz, Earth First!

Editors note: Dave first wrote about this issue in the September/October 1997 of Eco-Journal. An alert Journal reader brought the article to the attention of CBC Radio's morning show host Maureen Pendergast, who then featured the issue in a series of three in-depth interviews with Dave, with a Coast Guard representative, and with Bob Sopuck of the Pine Falls Paper Company. Remember, you read it here first!

In the September/October 1997 issue of the Eco-Journal, the article *Logging Bridge a Danger to Canoeists* warned you of this dangerous bridge, and encouraged you to write to the Coast guard.

The bridge will remain as is -- along with the danger. According to a Navigable Waters Protection Officer in Kenora, the Coast Guard will grant late authorization for the bridge. The only condition is that Pine Falls Paper Company maintain the portage trail.

When I contacted Manitoba Environment (the provincial licensing authority for logging in Manitoba), they said they would not be charging the company under the Environment Act. Forest Management License 01 states that any bridge built over the Manigotagan River must not be a hazard to canoeists. Manitoba

Environment agrees with the Coast Guard's assertions that the portage predates the bridge and that the rapids are of 'medium difficulty'. The Coast Guard also cited canoeing magazines that showed this part of the river is not heavily used, even though the maps department consider this section heavily used. He also said that when they visited the site the water level was very low.

The Coast Guard and Manitoba Environment have taken the easy way out. The bottom line is that the economic convenience of the Pine Falls Paper company appears to be more important than the safety of canoeists.

I don't think we can expect much more from our governments. The recent Harmonization agreement takes environmental regulation powers away from a relatively impartial Federal government and gives it to the Provinces. The Manitoba government has severely cut its own budgets in the area of environmental enforcement. Government employees are fired when they speak out, as we have seen with Dan Soprovich and Louisiana-Pacific's Forest Management License.

Environmentalists and a West Coast Fisherman's Union are taking the Federal Fisheries Minister to court to force him to publish the names of corporations who have been convicted of polluting fish habitat. Federal Fisheries regulations are considered the most important tools for protecting Canada's environment. Now individual citizens have to sue the minister just to publish the names of polluters.

For the last year, Earth First! has been investigating logging and road building operations in Nopiming Park as part of our 'Citizens' Watch Campaign'. Increasingly, it has taken concerned citizens to point out violations of Forestry and Fisheries regulations. Even after months of investigating they do nothing to enforce their own regulations. Is it now our responsibility as concerned citizens to enforce these laws ourselves?

This battle is not over. the Head Office of the Coast Guard in Sarnia, Ontario has not officially authorized the bridge and has not responded to our letters. According to CEAA (Canadian Environmental Assessment Act) the project must undergo an environmental assessment before being authorized, and this bridge may also be in violation of Federal Fisheries regulations. There may be as many as 17 other Pine Falls Paper Company logging bridges that require Coast Guard authorization.

How long should I pursue these departments before it becomes a waste of my time? This is not a rhetorical question. Please contact me at 992-2319 (messages and fax) or e-mail me at abs044@freenet.mb.ca. The more we get bogged down in bureaucracy, the more wilderness is destroyed. I intend to keep writing for the Eco-Journal to keep everyone updated. In the meantime can anyone lend us a crane large enough to remove a 40 foot logging bridge?

Search the Green Lane for Environmental Information!

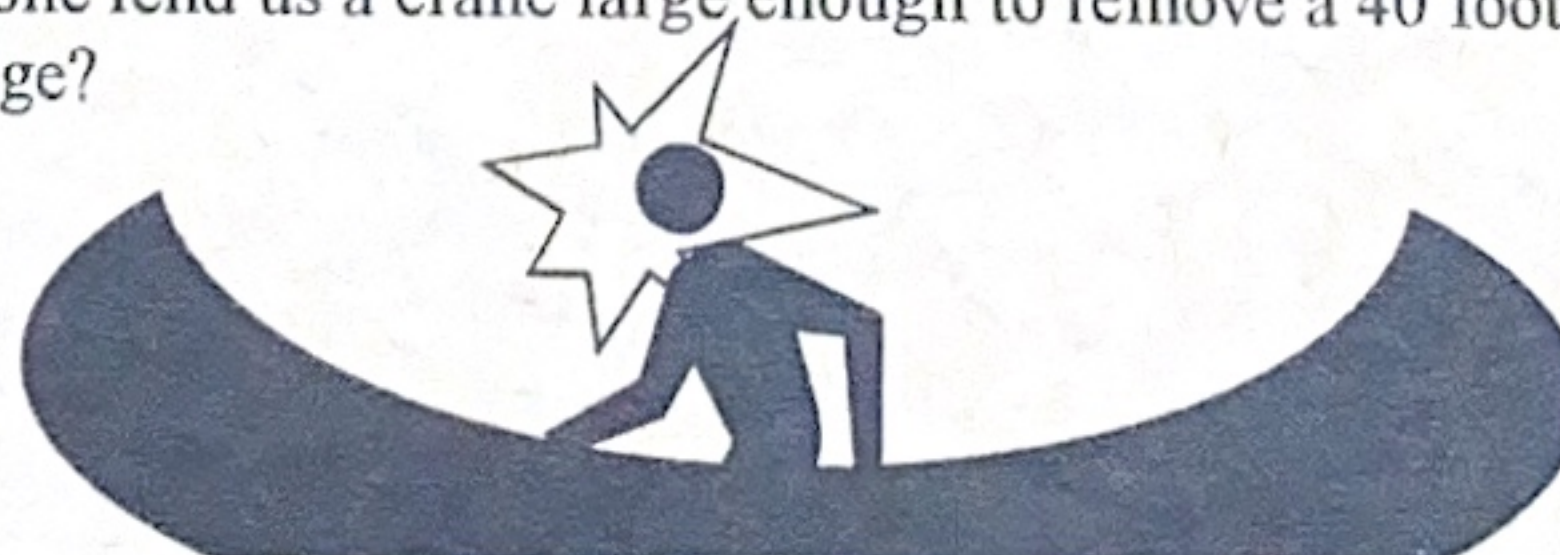


<http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca>

- Weather
- Climate
- Ozone Depletion
- Wildlife
- Air Quality
- Flood Damage
- Habitat Protection
- Legislation/Policies
- Science & Research
- Water Legislation
- Water Monitoring
- Action 21
- Pollution Prevention
- Publications/Brochures
- Environmental Protection
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Canada



Eco

WHERE'S THE BEEF...NOT!

by Anne Lindsey

A recent dispute at the World Trade Organization has been over the use of growth-promoting sex hormones in feedlot cattle prior to slaughter. The European Community (EC) has sought to ban imports of hormone-containing US and Canadian beef. Canada and the US both challenged the EC ban and the ban was overturned by the WTO because it was said to contradict the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. When the EC appealed this decision, some minor legal issues were reversed but the basic decision was not changed. Michelle Swenarchuk of the Canadian Environmental Law Association says that the EC is now supposed to revoke the ban but may in fact not do so, which will present an interesting test case of WTO rulings.

According to the US Cancer Prevention Coalition, there are several issues of concern here.

*Following legal implantation in the ear of steers of Synovex-S, a combination of estradiol and progesterone, estradiol levels in meat products ranged up to 20-fold in excess of the normal. Based on conservative estimates, the amount of estradiol in two hamburgers eaten by an 8-year old boy could increase his hormone levels by 10%.

Much higher hormone residues are found in meat products following illegal implantation in cattle muscle which apparently is commonplace in US feedlots.

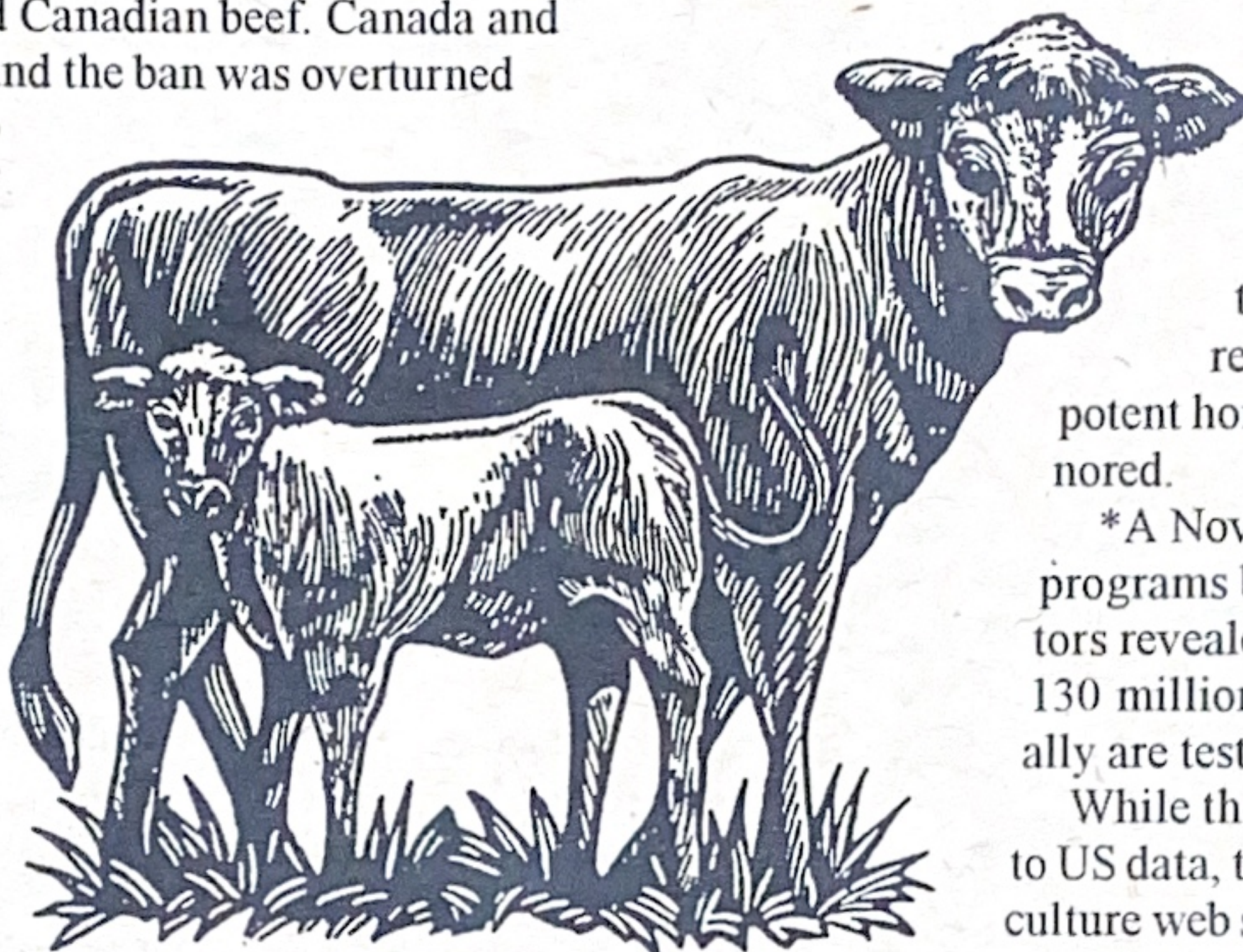
*Lifelong exposure to high residues of natural and synthetic sex hormones poses serious risk of breast, prostate and testicular cancer, all of which have increased sharply in incidence over the past several decades.

*The endocrine-disruptive effects of estrogenic chemicals in the environment (eg. in some pesticides) are beginning to be intensively studied by US health and regulatory agencies, but the more-potent hormone residues in meat remain ignored.

*A November 1997 survey of US control programs by European Commission inspectors revealed that none of the approximately 130 million US livestock slaughtered annually are tested for residues of sex hormones.

While the information given above relates to US data, the Manitoba Department of Agriculture web site confirms the promotion of the use of growth hormones in conventionally-raised Manitoba beef. Consumers of beef may wish to lobby for labelling of hormone-treated beef products. Note that growth hormones are not used with organically-raised beef which can be purchased at Harvest Collective, or direct from Manitoba organic producers. Call the Eco-Network (947-6511) or OPAM at (204)748-1315 for a list of producers.

For more information on the trade rulings contact the Canadian Environmental Law Association at (416) 960-2284, or e-mail at cela@web.net.



The Manitoba Eco-Network, 2-70 Albert Street Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E7

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

Enclosed is a cheque for:

- ☐ \$25 Supporting member (individuals)
- ☐ \$40 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.

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.