



NETWORK NEWSLETTER

November 1990

CO-OPERATION or COLLABORATION?
Federal-provincial joint
assessment
by Toby Maloney

Earlier this month Manitobans got a small glimpse of life after Rafferty-Alameda, or at least life after Rafferty Alameda according to provincial environment officials.

In their travels to six communities to test the reaction to combining provincial and federal environment assessment processes, the environment department made no secret of the fact that the move is intended to avoid any Rafferty-Alameda-type uncertainty in two upcoming environment battles -- Phase II Repap and Conawapa.

The consultations looked at a draft regulation that would enable the province to enter an agreement with the federal government to set up the joint process and joint review panels. The one page draft regulation is noteworthy more for what it doesn't say than what it spells out in black and unbleached white.

For their part environmentalists at the Winnipeg consultation said the draft regulation is too permissive and leaves too much up to the discretion of the minister and the two levels of government.

See Assessment p. 6

FALL GENERAL MEETING

The Fall General Meeting of the Eco-Network is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 17th, at First Mennonite Church, 922 Notre Dame Ave. All member groups and interested citizens are invited to attend.

AGENDA

9am-9:45 - Business meeting
9:45-10:00 - Coffee and refreshments
10-11 - Updates from Member groups
11-12:30 - Panel on Wetlands Conservation.

The Panel will feature representatives of Ducks Unlimited, the Naturalists Society, the Wildlife Federation and Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh. They will present a variety of perspectives on the philosophy of wetland conservation, especially in light of the proposed developments at Oak Hammock Marsh. Promises to be an interesting and challenging discussion! Remember to bring your own cup. Also, the Network Bookstore will be on hand with a variety of titles, T-Shirts and posters for purchase.

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RRI FACING FUNDING CRISIS

by Toby Maloney

Now is the time for all good recyclers to come to the aid of their program. That's the word from Resource Recovery Institute Executive Director John Barker after a meeting with provincial government officials left a question mark hanging over the program's future.

Barker says his group was counting on provincial funding to get through the year. When the situation became desperate last month, Barker informed Environment Minister Glen Cummings that RRI's pilot curbside collection program wouldn't make it to December 1 without \$62,500. Cummings' department coughed up \$35,000 and gave a commitment to see RRI through to the end of the year, but Barker is still unsure what that means.

The most pressing need is for the provincial funding, but for the long term the City of Winnipeg that is responsible for minimizing waste. The city currently has no long range plan for integrating recycling with garbage collection even though Barker says \$7 million worth of resources are trashed every year.

Barker is frustrated that his program is expected to be self sufficient when garbage collection costs city taxpayers \$14.5 million.

"It's acceptable to continue to collect waste and it's acceptable to put it in a green garbage bag and use your money to throw it away ... but when you put it in a blue bag and collect it and call it a recycling program it has to

pay for itself," Barker says."

RRI continues its multi-material (blue bag) pickup from the Wolseley and the Wildwood Park area of Fort Garry, but expanding in the current circumstances isn't possible even though RRI gets several hundred calls a week.

"It's really unfair at one level to encourage people to be environmentally friendly and everything and then not provide the options," he says.

Barker hopes supporters of RRI and curbside recycling options will call the Environment Minister, their MLA, their city councillor and the mayor's office to let them know the issue is a priority.

MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK, INC.

Executive

CHAIR.....Jack Dubois
VICE-CHAIR.....Brian Pannell
SECRETARY.....Bill Goddard

Co-ordinator.....Anne Lindsey

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE REP...Brian Pannell

Steering Committee

Jack Dubois	-Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Bill Goddard	-Crossroads Resource Group
Bryan Johnson	-Citizens Against Neurotoxins
Carolyn Kryschuk	-Manitoba Naturalists Society
Kate Maddigan	-Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Harry Mesman	-Manitoba Federation of Labour
Brian Pannell	-Manitoba Environmentalists, Inc.
Rhoda Rempel	-Project Peacemakers

The Eco-Network Resource Centre, bookstore and office are located at Room 202-128 James Ave. (behind the Concert Hall). Phone 956-1468 or 949-9052.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Manitoba Eco-Network.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 17: **MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK:** fall general meeting, 9 am to 1 pm at the First Mennonite Church, 922 Notre Dame Ave. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

PROJECT PEACEMAKERS: Play Festival. Centennial Library 2nd floor; 11 - 3 pm. "Loonisee" will be appearing at 2 pm. Toy & book displays, face painting, parents resource center.

RESOURCE RECOVERY INSTITUTE; Volunteer day at facility at Robinson and Jarvis. Call 586-7945 for more information.

Nov 19: **CITY OF WINNIPEG:** Scoping meetings to define the terms of reference for use of pesticides and herbicides, 7 pm in conference rooms 1, 2 and 3 Administration Bldg. at City Hall. The meeting will be facilitated by an independent facilitator. RSVP to Dorothy Broughton, Committee Clerk, 986-3732, 50 Main St., R3B 1B9.

Nov 20: **HARVEST COLLECTIVE:** New shopping hours; Tuesday to Friday -- 2 to 9 pm; Saturday -- 11 to 6 pm.

Nov 22: **FEARO NUCLEAR WASTE SCOPING SESSIONS:** Delta Hotel, 2 to 5 pm and 7 to 10 pm.

SIERRA CLUB monthly meeting; 7:30 pm at Brandon University, Brodie Bldg., Room 135.

Nov 24: **RECYCLING COUNCIL:** Recycling depot at Unicity Mall and St. Vital Center. Collecting tin cans, all scrap metal, aluminum cans, plastic soft drink bottles, glass liquor bottles, newspapers (no fliers). For information call 942-7781.

SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY; Passive Solar Workshop, 9 am to 4 pm at 650 King Edward Avenue. Topics: new housing and additions design principles, computer simulation, glazing, materials and practical examples. \$25 fee by mail (P.O. Box 1256 R3C 2Y4) or at the door. For info: call Florence Tokar at 257-7397 or 256-3894,

Nov 26: **NATURALIST SOCIETY;** "Fires of Yellowtone" slide presentation at 8 pm at Basic Medical Sciences Bldg, Theater A., Emily and Bannatyne.

Nov 27: **RECYCLING COUNCIL:** monthly meeting presentation -- "Recyclable? What does it mean?" Versatech Industries, 436 William Ave. in the cafeteria, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Bring a mug for coffee.

- Nov 28: YM-YWCA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH: Agnes Mungati, Director of Uganda's YM-YWCA primary health care program will talk at 12 pm at the St. Jmaes YM-YWCA, 150 Ferry Rd. Tickets are \$6.00, lunch included. For info: Mary Stuart at 942-8157.
- Dec 1: RECYCLING COUNCIL: recycling depots see Nov. 24 listing.
- Dec 4: TREE (Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems) monthly meeting: Unitarian Church at Banning and Sargent; 7:30 pm.
- Dec 8: RECYCLING COUNCIL: recycling depots see Nov. 24 listing.
- Dec 11: NATURALIST SOCIETY: members night, short presentations by members. Same place and time as Nov 26 listing.
- Dec 15: RECYCLING COUNCIL: recycling depots see Nov. 24 listing.

LOWER FORT GARRY PARK PLAN
from Environment Canada Parks Service

The Canadian Parks Service is preparing a management plan to protect the resources and improve the services at Lower Fort Garry (LFG) National Historic Site.

This popular fur trading post hosts over 80,000 visitors a year who can have a say in it's future. We want to compile a list of individuals and organizations who would like to be kept in- formed of its progress and sent notices of public meetings.

To have your name added to our mailing list, please write or call:

Environment Canada
Canadian Parks Service
LFG Public Participation
457 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3E8
(204) 983-7513

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Materials and Energy Advantage, a newsletter on technology innovations supporting environmentally-sound industrial practices, is now available. Subscription information and sample copies available at the Network office.

AND AT OUR RESOURCE CENTRE....

We have just received a copy of the Provincial Round Table's Sustainable Development Core Document, come in and have a look at it. We have new subscriptions: Green Teacher, Earth Island Journal and new reports: The workshop reports from the Green Plan Final Session, and Planning for Seven Generations Guideposts for a Sustainable Future by Mike Nickerson (why not compare this with the Round Table document??).

**CEN CAUCUS WINS IMPROVEMENTS
ON PESTICIDES REGISTRATION**
By Bryan Johnson

The proposed revisions to the federal Pest Control Products Act are a significant improvement over the existing legislation. The Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) Pesticides Caucus was instrumental in developing these changes. Three of the key advances are the incorporation of the public as a stakeholder, access to information and improved review mechanisms.

Role of Public

In the existing system, pesticide registration is treated as a confidential business arrangement between a highly sophisticated, technically omniscient, unquestionably ethical registrant and government. The public has traditionally been cast in a role of ignorant, uninterested but nonetheless deluged with the benefits of modern chemical pesticides.

The proposed revisions to the registration system specifically acknowledge the public as an interested, capable and informed stakeholder. Public input is facilitated at every major step in the cycle of a chemical's registration. This starts with a comment period on a chemicals initial registration, to "whistle blowing" provisions for dangerous chemicals, to comment on renewing the registration of 'mature' chemicals.

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**PESTICIDE REVIEW TEAM TAKES
SMALL STEP FORWARD, GIANT STEP
BACKWARD**

by Harry Mesman

Signatories to the "Proposal for a Revised Federal Pest Management Regulatory System", put forth by the Federal Pesticide Registration team tell us it represents a significant improvement. This may be true as a reflection of the complete inadequacy of the present system, but the report falls woefully short of adequate protection for workers and the environment and may actually lead to a worsening of the situation.

The labour representative was the sole member of the review team refusing to endorse the report. He did so because it did not meet labor's basic goals to return to more organic methods of agriculture and to ensure full protection for workers forced to work with pesticides.

We had hoped for a Canadian policy that would:

1. phase out the use of dangerous or harmful pesticides by the year 1998;
2. encourage safer farming and pest management practices through organic farming, alternative agriculture and integrated pest management strategies; and
3. protect workers, their families and the general public through better pesticide use training programs, strong enforcement of legislation and regulations, effective monitoring of

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Assessment
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Manitoba Environment Council Chairperson Wayne Neily said the regulation should specify that, in the amalgamation of the two processes, it is the more stringent or rigorous procedures that will apply. Other environmentalists including TREE member Peter Miller pointed out a long list of protective measures that should be made explicit by the regulation. Among their demands were:

- * Intervenor funding should be guaranteed and the current wording "participant funding" should be changed because it might allow for a proponent to receive funds.

- * The public should have input to developing the terms of reference for individual assessments.

- * The process with the most opportunity for public participation should apply.

- * The initial agreement that is negotiated between the province and the federal government on the joint assessment process should be open to the public and embodied in the regulations so backroom changes aren't made later.

Some environmentalists questioned the propriety of joining the two processes when the provincial process is inadequate and the federal process is itself under revision by the introduction

of federal Bill C-78, the new environmental assessment law.

"Let's not just look at amalgamation, let's look for an improvement. We're adding new law at both levels, let's do it right," Miller urged.

Still others questioned any combination of the two processes. Hugh Arklie, a TREE member, allowed that "frankly, two processes are great, because if one ignores us we can use the other one as another weapon in our arsenal."

Arklie also questioned how serious the governments are about intervenor funding considering vague promises from the province and a tiny federal budget.

"I don't consider \$104,000 per year, per province and territory, intervenor funding," Arklie said.

Mike Anderson representing Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) the organization that represents Manitoba's northern native people, said that for any project, like Repap, which affects aboriginal use of crown lands, native bands should be considered a separate jurisdiction with the right to appoint half of the review panel and negotiate the terms of reference.

Anderson also said that the new process shouldn't be limited to new projects, but should include impact assessment of existing projects like mines or hydro projects that were never assessed before being built.

CEN PESTICIDE CAUCUS

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Canadian pesticide registrations have traditionally been shrouded in a cloak of secrecy. One of the best examples of this is human health and safety data. This data has been treated as confidential business information and therefore secret. Under the proposed system, health and safety data could be easily accessed.

One of the major accomplishments of the CEN pesticides caucus was the creation of the Pest Management Bureau which will focus on developing alternative, non-chemical strategies and publishing them. This will make non-chemical solutions easily available to those that seek them and help reduce the total industrial chemical load that Canadians bear.

Bad Actors

Traditionally reviews of registered chemicals have been a matter restricted to the company and the minister. Now, developments in other jurisdictions can trigger reviews of pest control products within Canada. Every 15 years a pesticide is subject to routine review. In the case of hidden or falsified information the chemical is automatically suspended and reviewed.

Assuming The Minister of Agriculture Don Mazankowski follows the recommendations of his own review team, Canada will have a pesticide registration process that will meet the needs of the 1990's.

LABOUR DISSENTS

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pesticide use and mandatory reporting of all adverse effects of pesticide exposure.

What we got was a report that:

1. will lead to the increased use of pesticides;
2. does not specify either proper training, licensing and reporting policies, or procedures for workers who may be exposed to pesticides;
3. will open the border to pesticides that have not been fully tested in Canada through import policies that harmonize with US pesticide standards;
4. will allow under-tested pesticide use through permits and provisional, critical need and minor use registration;
5. leave the registration process largely in the hands of the Dept. of Agriculture, which can result in policy related conflicts of interest; and
6. does not provide full access to all pertinent data on individual pesticides.

The proposals are weak and incomplete in terms of ensuring proper training and education for workers, ensuring access to information, guaranteeing protection through engineering controls and personal protection, providing the rights to refuse unsafe or unhealthy work and to refuse to pollute as well as the See right to access to quality right to access to quality medical supervision. The only area that provides concrete

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LABOUR DISSENTS
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protection is the section pertaining to the proprietary rights of the manufacturer. How can we possibly be expected to salute a proposal that lucidly defines proprietary rights but is murky when it comes to our concerns?

We were disappointed that the environmental representatives on the review team supported this report. Nevertheless, we are confident that environmentalists will join us to push for comprehensive legislation to fully protect workers and the environment.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE HAS BEEN STRUCK FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEWING:

- CURRENT PEST CONTROL PROGRAMS AND RELATED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN THE AREAS OF MOSQUITO ADULTICIDING, CANCERWORKS, DUTCH ELM DISEASE AND WEED CONTROL;
- EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING PROGRAMS;
- PEST CONTROL PROGRAMS IN THE JURISDICTIONS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA WHICH HAVE SUCCESSFULLY USED BIOLOGICAL AND/OR OTHER METHODS OF INSECT AND WEED CONTROL.

DATE:

7:00 P.M. NOVEMBER 19th & 22nd

LOCATION:

CONFERENCE ROOMS #1, #2 AND #3, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CITY HALL

THE GOAL OF THIS REVIEW IS TO SEEK POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS AND CONSTRUCTIVE INPUT FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ORDER TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED GROUPS WISHING TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP TO DEFINE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS REVIEW SHOULD REGISTER WITH MRS. DOROTHY BROWTON, COMMITTEE CLERK, 510 MAIN STREET, R3B 1B9, (986-3732) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 7th, 1990.

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Detach and mail to:

The Manitoba Eco-Network, P.O. Box 3125, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6

Please sign us up as a member group of the Eco-Network: ☐
Our cheque is enclosed for group membership and subscription: \$20/year
I/We support Network activities and wish to receive the Newsletter

_____ \$10 (Individual Subscription)
_____ \$5 (Limited Income)
_____ \$40 Organizations, agencies, government departments
and corporations that do no otherwise qualify for membership.

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____

I would like to do volunteer work for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

Name or contact person _____

Group _____ Telephone # () _____

Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____

Area(s) of interest _____

*(Membership is open to any non-government, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.)