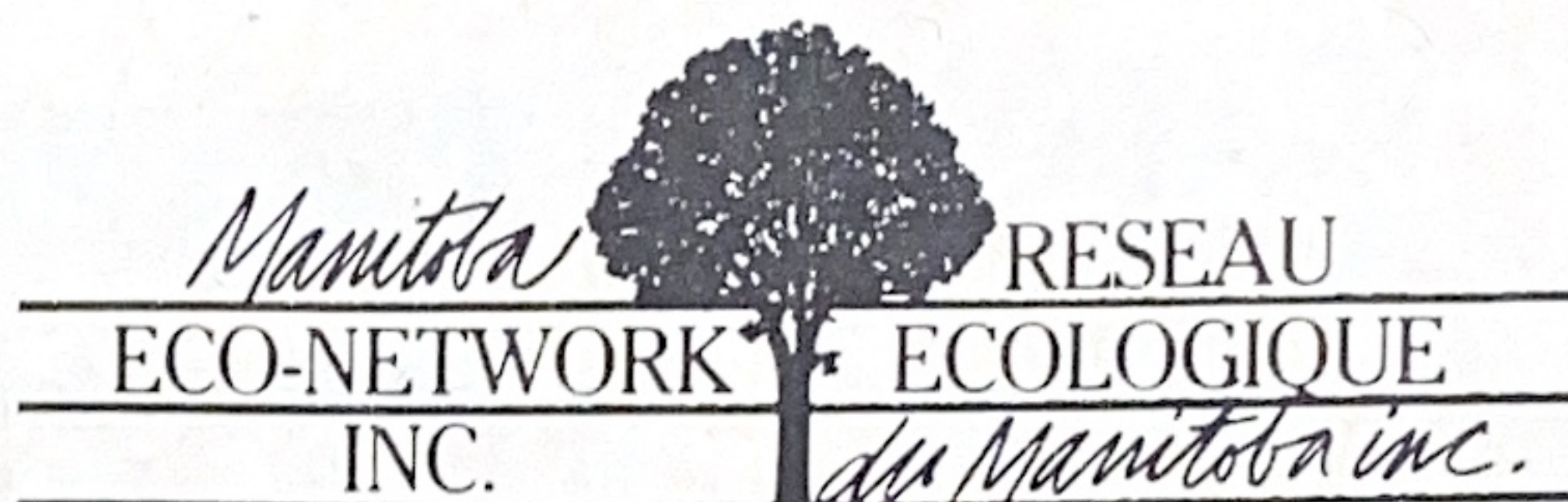


Eco-JOURNAL



Volume 2, Number 6

November-December, 1992

Manitoba Eco-Network publishes first book

"It's a typical morning at the Manitoba Eco-Network office in downtown Winnipeg. The phone rings. It's someone doing a basement clean-up and he wants to know what he should do with some old paint thinner that he's found. We advise him to take it down to the Hazardous Waste Depot on Logan the next Saturday, for safe handling and disposal.

The next caller is interested in bicycle paths - are there maps available? We tell her about the Manitoba Cycling Association and their bicycle route map of Winnipeg.

A man comes into the office looking for information on composting - we hand him a file and he sits down to read.

The topics vary - but ever since the late 80's when the environment became a major concern for all Canadians, the questions have been pouring in to organizations like ours. And at the Manitoba Eco-Network, they show no sign of slowing down."

*From the Foreword
by Anne Lindsey*

The Manitoba Eco-Network is proud to announce the publication of our first book -- **The Green Guide to Winnipeg.**

We wrote this book to provide a tool to those Manitobans who live, or shop, in the Winnipeg area. It's a tool in their bid to "green" their homes, their communities, and themselves.

The book has a history that's worth telling. It started in a 1990 conversation with Ann Coxworth of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. The SES had just put out their handbook "Environmentally Friendly Living in Saskatoon" - a kind of Green Consumer Guide for the Saskatoon area. Ann said: Why don't you try it in Winnipeg?

We thought it was a great idea, and began to look for funds - and people - to work on the project. The Labatt People in Action Program liked it - they provided funds for a researcher for the summer of 91. Kemlin Nembhard began the project, but we soon realized that without the funding to carry the book through, one summer student could not possibly complete the project.

THE GREEN GUIDE TO WINNIPEG



BY LINDOR REYNOLDS
THE MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

We saved the research and went back to the drawing board. The more people we talked to about it, the more enthusiastic we became - and so did lots of other folks. People like Manny Martins-Karmen, a graphic designer who said she'd volunteer for the layout and design work; and like member groups of the Network who said they'd be pleased to share their experiences and knowledge with us.

See **HELPFUL** page 3

Eco-Journal

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Environmentalists defend model forest

In the last issue of **Eco-Journal**, Hendrik Herfst fired a volley of shots at the Manitou Abi Model forest and at the environmental groups which support it. They have, he suggests, been co-opted (possibly for reasons of personal gain on the part of their representatives) into providing a "green shield" for a government-Abitibi alliance that puts commercial development for the forests ahead of every other interest and value. But, then, in conclusion he urges that the issues are too important for environmentalists to remain uninvolved. We must "find a way for the larger environmental community to be included in the Manitou-Abi strategy."

While rejecting some of his other claims, we agree wholeheartedly with Hendrik's latter point, which is why Time to Respect Earth's Eco-Systems (TREE) and the Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS) have been parties to the proposal from its inception. This is not just Abitibi-Price's project (although they have provided solid, though not uncontroversial support); it is ours too (as well as belonging to the area First Nations and Metis, the Universities, the Provincial and Federal Governments and others). There are reasons of principle, quite apart from self-interest, for environ-

LETTERS continued
on page 15

..... Corrections

In the article "Back in School: Teachers taking initiative ..." in our last issue (September-October, 1992) a group of students known as the Green Team were identified as being from Argyle School. The students are actually from Dufferin School. **Eco-Journal** apologizes to the students for the mistake and congratulates them on their endeavours to learn about heritage trees and other environmental concerns.

In the last issue of **Eco-Journal** (September-October, 1992) a figure of \$32 per share was quoted in the article "Manitou Abi mediocre model for forests" as the dividend paid by Abitibi Price in 1991. The correct amount should have been 50 cents or 12.5 cents per quarter.

1992-93 Eco-Network Steering Committee

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Nick Carter,
Manitoba Naturalists Society
Jack Dubois,
Wildlife Society, Manitoba
Bill Goddard,
Crossroads Resource Group
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Marquis Project
Don Sullivan,
CHO!CES Coalition for Social Justice

NETWORK NEWS

3D get together: Dinner, Dancin', and Dessert!

Remember that great evening of pot-luck dinner and ballroom dancing, back last November? And remember that yummy dessert auction? We're planning another such event - and we'd love for you to come.

Mark January 30 (Saturday) at 7:00pm on your calendars. Bring your pot-luck contribution to St. Paul's Anglican Church, 830 North Drive, bring your dancing shoes and your sweet tooth. Tickets are \$5 (available in advance or at the door) - kids get in free, and there'll be door prizes!

People wishing to volunteer, either in the dessert-making department, or otherwise, please call Sandy at the Network office (956-1468). See you there!

Green Guide helpful to both novice and activist

continued from page 1

We soon had enough "donations" to approach the Environmental Partners Fund with a proposal. They embraced the idea, and work began again. This time we hired Lindor Reynolds, a Winnipeg author and columnist, to do writing and research over a 5 month period (and we're all in agreement that she did a fine job!).

We lucked into artist Eric Crone who graciously created a cover for the book, and with Pierre Lavoie, another artist, who pulled out all the stops to draw the text illustrations. And we prevailed on lots of good folks for ideas, suggestions and proofreading. Patti Fanslau and Sharon Segal deserve special mentions in this category.

Manny pulled the project together with long hours at the computer, creating a design that's attractive and easy to read, then stick-handled us through the "output" and printing phases.

And there we have it - a made in Winnipeg handbook on how to live in this city in a more environmentally-friendly manner. At a price of \$10, the Green Guide is available at book stores around town, and at the Eco-Network office. (Purchases directly from us will provide a greater financial benefit to the Network.) The book is useful to activists, but accessible to the novice environmentalist.

It's a perfect gift for the environmentally-minded on your holiday list!

TRIBUTE CARDS - A new Network service

The Manitoba Eco-Network is able to provide a new service for our supporters. Instead of sending a gift or flowers for that special occasion (such as birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas greetings, etc.) you can make a donation in the name of the individual you wish to acknowledge and we will send out a TRIBUTE CARD.

In the case of bereavement you can make a donation in memory of the deceased and we will send out a bereavement card, on your behalf, to the family.

For a donation of \$5 or more we will send out a Tribute Card. A charitable tax receipt will be sent to the donor(sender). The contribution will help to keep the resource centre operating.

To arrange to have a tribute card sent, phone our office at 956-1468 or mail us a cheque and request. We will mail the cards out the day we receive the request.

The card has a beautiful graphic on the front and a short note about the Network on the back. Sample wording on the inside:

The Manitoba Eco-Network
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Calendar of events

December 5: Semi-Annual Meeting of the **Manitoba Environmental Council** 9 a.m. Room 254 Legislative Building. Starts with a forum on Improving Manitoba's Environmental Impact Assessment process with a distinguished panel including Clean Environment Commission Chair Dale Stewart, CEN Environmental Assessment Caucus co-chair Brian Pannell, and provincial Director of Approvals Larry Strachan. The meeting is also the 25th anniversary of the Environmental Council. Call Wayne 945-7031 for more information.

December 5: NAFTA conference animated by **CHO!CES: A coalition for social justice** in room 70, 2nd Floor of the Manitoba Hall. The conference has the objective of forming a broadly-based community coalition for fair trade. For more information call Cathy Doyle (488-3495) or Linda Williams (586-2092).

December 10: Co-operation in Conservation, sponsored by the **Manitoba Conservation Districts Association**, is a combined meeting of the Conservation Districts in Manitoba and others at the Brandon Agricultural Centre. Call Thor Thorleifson or Derrick Turner at the MCDA 1-747-2530 for more information.

December 11 to 17: Winnipeg Premiere of the National Film Board film **Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the media** at Cinematheque (100 Arthur Street) 7:30 nightly. Sponsored by NFB, the Winnipeg Film group and Necessary Allusions. The opening night includes a reception hosted by the IDEA Centre and Co-op Books.

January 6-7: Water in Agriculture, an International Symposium featuring researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; sponsored by the **Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University**, Manitoba Soil Science Society and Manitoba AGRIFORUM, at the International Inn. For further information contact Manitoba

AGRIFORUM at 942-3085.

January 22 - 24: **Winnipeg Labour Council** sponsors a conference to inform labour about NAFTA concerns from other sectors (ie. environmental, social and women's issues). Phone Heather Grant or Don Sullivan 942-0522.

February 1 - 7: International Development Week. Various activities co-ordinated by the **Manitoba Council for International Co-operation**. For more information or to organize your own activity call 786-2106.

February 4 - 6: **Every Drop Counts. Canada's First National Conference and Trade Show on Water Conservation**, Winnipeg. Sponsored by Environment Canada. Keynote speakers are Sandra Postel, Worldwatch Institute; Shaul Arlosoroff, The World Bank; and Angus Reid, Angus Reid Group. Call 949-1653 or 1-800-668-6767 for more information.

May 1: **Manitoba Environmental Council Annual Meeting**. Call Wayne (945-7031) for more information

May 31 to June 2: First Canadian Urban Forests Conference organized by the Canadian Forestry Association and the National Community Tree foundation in partnership with **Manitoba Forestry Association and the City of Winnipeg**. For registration information call Dianne Beaven, Manitoba Forestry Association 453-3183.

Ongoing

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

New Resources at the Manitoba Eco-Network

(201-128 James Avenue, 9:30 to 4:30 weekdays)

The Green Guide to Winnipeg written by Lindor Reynolds for the Manitoba Eco-Network gives advice for practical action in the home and for purchasing practises. Picks up where the Green Consumer Guide left off and lists specific sources for alternative products and services. Available from the Manitoba Eco-Network for \$10. Phone 956-1468 or drop by the resource centre.

Global Perspectives is a new resource produced by the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation. It describes books, videos and other materials that illustrate sustainable development from an international point of view. Each of the items

listed is available at the MCIC resource centre (60 Maryland) or at one of its 36 member agencies. For more information contact the MCIC office 786-2106. The book is free if picked up at the MCIC office or \$5 for postage if mailed out.

Re-evaluating Park Policy in Manitoba: Resource extraction, commercial use and heritage values in four provincial parks by Bill Krawchuk for the Manitoba Eco-Network with maps by Mike Condra is now available.

The resource documents activity in Duck Mountain, Hecla/Grindstone, Nopiming and Grass River Provincial Parks as a base for decision-making about the future of Manitoba parks. The document, presented to the Natural Lands and Special Places hearings before the Round Table will be useful for debates and decisions about commercial resource activity in Manitoba parks.

Pinawa imports Arkansas nuclear waste for reprocessing experiments

by Dave Taylor

In an unprecedented move, Pinawa has begun to import spent nuclear fuel from the United States. Although the initial shipments have been small in comparison to the waste brought in from Ontario reactors, it marks the beginning of a commercial enterprise which could result in larger shipments from countries around the world.

U.S. spent nuclear fuel is of particular interest to Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL), as they are presently researching the possibility of converting it to a usable form for CANDU reactors, particularly the CANDU reactors earmarked for sale to South Korea. In a New York Times article (9/19/92), Denny Shiflett, vice-president of AECL Technologies, said, "the potential for re-using the (American) spent fuel was of major interest to the Koreans." In order to extract the necessary ingredients from the U.S. fuel, however, the Koreans would have to build a reprocessing plant.

Reprocessing is an extremely dangerous and highly contentious issue. Not only would reusable nuclear elements be extracted in this process, but so would Plutonium, the key ingredient for nuclear bombs. Reprocessing increases the volume of high-level radioactive wastes 10-16 fold and turns them into liquids which are impossible to contain for long periods of time. AECL's complicity in these sordid affairs is becoming painfully obvious.

South Korea has a horrendous record of human rights violations and continues to engage in direct military conflict with North Korea which has been reported to be working on its own nuclear bomb.

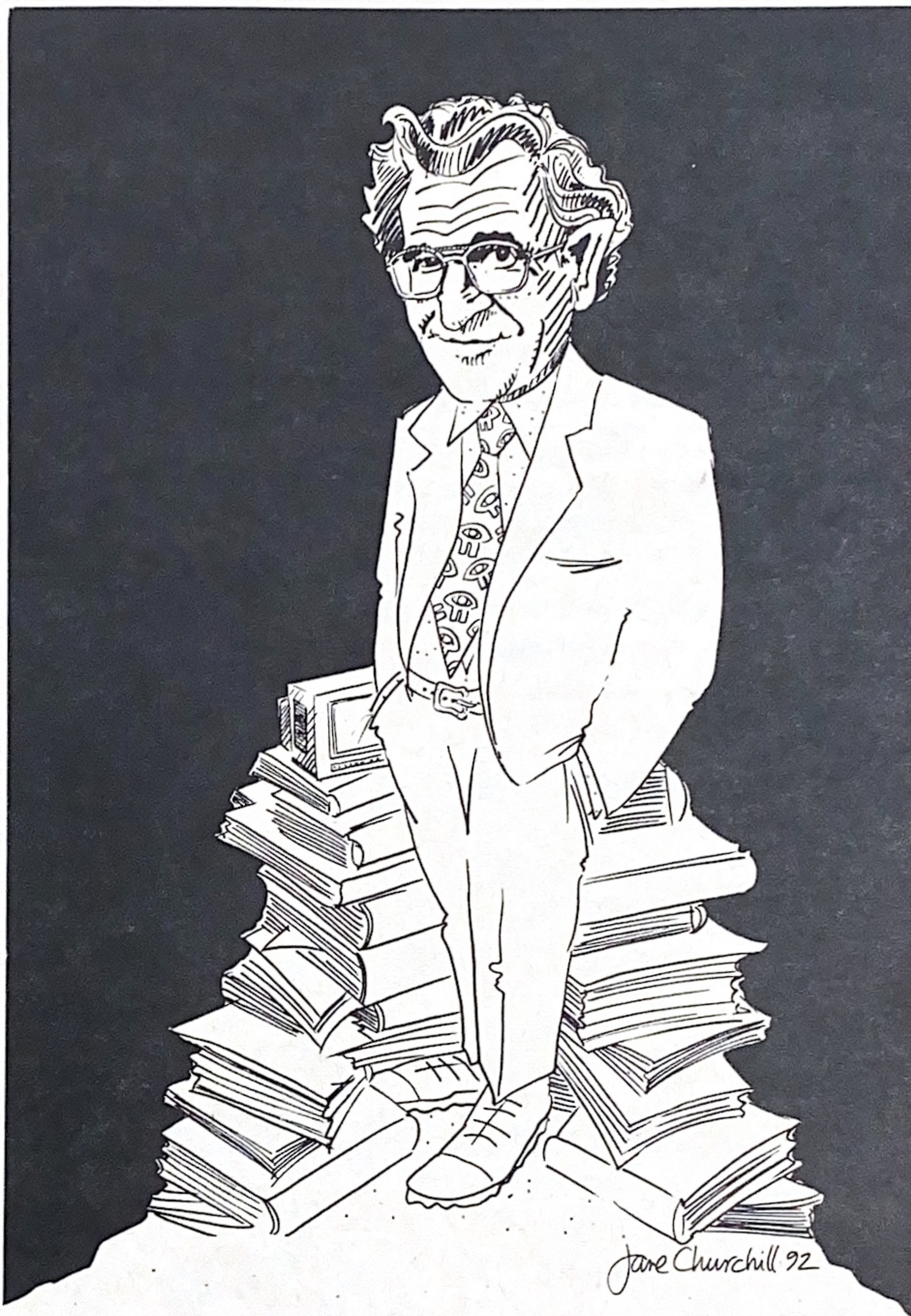
Recently a young Korean was imprisoned for organizing a demonstration against the country's CANDU purchase, which brought 100,000 people into the streets of Seoul. (Oshawa Times, July 17, 1992). Energy Minister Jake Epp has yet to release the details of the contract covering the reactor sale to South Korea.

Nuclear waste shipments to Manitoba are not only significant to proliferation, they also emphasize the intention of AECL to use Pinawa as a storage depot for its nuclear wastes. AECL is waiting until it

receives federal approval to dispose of its ever-increasing quantities of waste somewhere in the Canadian Shield.

Prior to 1987 Pinawa brought in close to 400 bundles of spent fuel from the Douglas Point reactor on Lake Huron in addition to nuclear waste from other

See HOGWASH, page 15



December 11th-17th, 7:30 Nightly

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CONSENT**
NOAM CHOMSKY
AND THE MEDIA

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Heritage trust would replace private corporation

Coalition critical of commercial development at the Forks

By Toby Maloney

A coalition of groups opposed to a commerce and concrete-oriented development plan for the Forks is advocating a restructuring of the Forks Renewal Corporation into a heritage land trust.

Marcia Nozick, a representative for

Greening the Forks and a member of the coalition says that the reason the Forks Renewal Corporation is proposing downtown-style urban redevelopment where the public expects a park is that the corporation has to justify its own existence.

In order to enter into commercial agree-

ments with private developers the Forks Renewal Corporation pays out large salaries to its management, professional fees for various schemes and conceptual plans, and promotion. The salaries and expenses associated with trying to be self-sufficient are themselves driving the need for commercial development which in turn creates the "need" for more expenditures, Nozick says. Those expenditures can never be recovered despite the corporation's mandate to become self-sufficient from tax revenues.

That mandate, combined with the corporation's closed door approach to planning has generated "Phase Two" development concepts

that are anathema to ecologists and others in the coalition such as: an all-season aqua-leisure centre (100,000 to 250,000 square feet); the extension of Portage Avenue south through the centre of the 100 acre main site right up to the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers behind the Johnston Terminal now being renovated as commercial space; 500 to 2000 units of housing possibly as part of a six storey parking garage and commercial complex; and an "international trade centre." A multi-cultural centre again with a commercial component to fund the centre is still on the books from Phase One, and the extension/realignment of the Provencher Bridge to connect with St. Mary and York Avenues through the site is far from a dead issue according to Nozick.

Corporation defends record

Forks Renewal Corporation (FRC) Communications Manager Marilyn Edmunds defends the corporation's record on preservation saying that it has set new standards for handling archeological artifacts and exceeded all of the guidelines for heritage preservation. She says that for one thing, the project has been limited to re-development of existing buildings, an exercise in which she claims the FRC has set new standards for preservation of heritage values. She says concrete that forms a retaining wall and shores up the riverbank in the boat launch area has saved a 6000 year old camp that was slowly sliding into the river. She also points to landscaping with native species in the same area as an achievement.

Edmunds rejects any criticism about the Phase One Development that has proceeded so far, and says that the concepts being considered in the Phase Two draft plan are just that, concepts. She says that the market research and public input the corporation has solicited indicates that "people like very much what we have done so far and want more of the same."

Asked if that support includes the development of commercial space, Edmunds said that the public supports commercial development as a way of funding the public amenities like the Riverwalk, the program-

continued on next page

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CALENTURE

Shocked to find themselves suddenly unemployed, four members of the middle class are forced to take desperate measures. They take to gambling to pay the rent. CALENTURE is the newest work from Winnipeg playwright Bruce McManus. "For a lot of people, the lure of gambling is the lure of self-destruction," says McManus. "I was really struck by how similar some gamblers, who are determined to lose, are to people in this country who are determined to elect governments that will destroy them." CALENTURE features an all-Winnipeg cast of Megan McArton, Lora Schroeder, Mariam Bernstein, David Warburton, Gene Pyrz and Mark Hellman.



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continued from previous page

ming and the open areas. She says that studies have probed specific areas, but she is not at liberty to say if the public is opposed to residential development or the Portage Avenue extension, for instance, until the draft plan is released for public comment in January. After a reasonable period for public input the board of the Forks Renewal Corporation will tender its recommendations to the three levels of governments (federal, provincial and the City of Winnipeg) that finance the private corporation. For now she insists that to become self-sufficient and pay the three-quarters of a million dollars in property taxes as well as fund the restoration of heritage buildings and archaeological preservation of the site, there must be a commercial component to any new development that is considered.

She also rejects a criticism from Nozick that developing commercial space at the Forks only poaches from the already overbuilt stock of commercial space in the city, particularly in heritage buildings in the Exchange District. Her response is that the Forks Renewal Corporation has met with representatives of the three adjacent Business Improvement Zones and that the reasons for businesses locating at the Forks is "not necessarily related" to vacancies in the other areas.

Despite any protestations about the Forks Corp. mandate Nozick is convinced that the enterprise will still rely on the input of public funding and is headed for the same scenario as Harbourfront in Toronto where cost overruns and over-enthusiastic revenue projections created a huge drain on the public purse as well as blocking off much of the view with high-rises and concreting over the open spaces.

For instance, the City of Winnipeg has a no-growth economy, a fact that has to be faced. Commercial development at the Forks is only going to "undercut the tax base. (It) pushes the prices around and spreads it thinner." Nozick says.

As well, infrastructure for commercial development is so much more expensive than restoration as greenspace that maintenance costs for a park are small in compari-

son even as an ongoing cost. "It's way more expensive to develop land commercially than it is to mow the grass," Nozick said.

She says it is a myth that the Forks should be self-sufficient because it will expand the city's servicing requirements for roads, sewers and transit -- subsidies that are hidden from view -- offsetting taxes that are collected.

Nozick's heritage trust would be developed more like the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City than Harbourfront or Granville Island in Vancouver. Like the Plains of Abraham, the

Forks is a significant site for all of North America, while the latter two developments are not heritage sites. Treating

the Forks as an adjunct to the downtown business districts will devalue the site rather than preserve it as an urban park that appreciates and even adds to the downtown.

The structure of the heritage trust would be a non-profit corporation with a board elected by members (members being any citizen with an interest in joining/paying a nominal fee). It would be a legal trust to own the Forks land in perpetuity. The mandate of the trust would be to "develop" the site according to ecological, historical and heritage guidelines like a world heritage site.

**Mandate
preservation not
profit**

The principles for deciding what development should proceed would start with maintenance and preservation, restoration, reconstruction (to a known early state) and finally adaptation to present day to permit the construction of a museum or multi-cultural

centre consistent with the other heritage goals.

"If you had a set of principles like that and someone came up with an arena (proposal), you would say, 'well, that doesn't quite fit,'" Nozick explained.

That would remove the pressure to put anything and everything at the Forks and ultimately destroy its value as a public meeting space.

Special interests such as heritage groups, aboriginal organizations or ecological organizations could appoint some of the directors instead of being advisors to a private corporation as is the case with the current situation. The open membership would ensure public accountability and the trust could still generate revenue through membership fees and fund-raising as a charity.

The coalition is set to go head to head with the Forks management once again in January, determined that the site is for people not parking lots.

Planning for people not parking lots

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Round Table Credibility Damaged by Natural Lands and Special Places process

The workbook on Natural Lands and Special Places has seriously damaged the credibility of the Manitoba Round Table on Environment. Instead of addressing the Brundtland Commission's concern about a sustainable future for humankind the Round Table has allowed itself to be used as an instrument to justify the Government of Manitoba's current political agenda.

The Natural Lands Workbook distributed by the Manitoba Round Table is a grotesque distortion of the Brundtland report. The spirit of the Brundtland report is that we should take from our natural lands only what we need. The spirit of the Natural Lands Workbook is that we should take as much as we think we can get away with and portrays sustainable development as meaning that every economic opportunity on natural lands should be pursued.

The Brundtland Report identifies six major policy areas that must be addressed if sustainable development is to be achieved. One of those six policy areas is the world-wide loss of biodiversity. According to the Brundtland Report, "the Diversity of species is necessary for the normal functioning of eco-systems and the biosphere as a whole." (page 13); "Development tends to simplify ecosystems and the biosphere to reduce their diversity of species. And species, once extinct, are not renewable. The loss of plant and animal species can greatly limit the options of future generations; so sustainable development requires the conservation of plant and animal

TREELINE

by Harvey Williams, TREE president

species." (page 46). On the basis of the evidence and the expert opinion it has obtained, the Brundtland Commission concluded that development that results in loss of global biodiversity is not sustainable.

The essence of the Brundtland Report is that developed countries like Canada must not only cease development that impacts negatively on the ecosphere, but that we must reduce our present level of impact. A world ecosphere in which the majority of the people are deprived of many of the basic necessities of life is not a sustainable ecosphere. Again, in the words of the Brundtland Report, "Sustainable global development requires that those who are more affluent adopt life-styles within the planet's ecological means ..." (Canada for example). (page 9) Brundtland is emphatic in its assertion that the kind of development that has taken place in the present industrialized societies is not sustainable and that industrial societies must constrain their development momentum in ways that make it sustainable.

According to Brundtland, "Meeting essential needs requires not only a new era of economic growth for a nation in which the majority are poor, but an assurance that those poor get their fair share of the re-

sources required to sustain their growth." (page 8)

Clearly,

this plea for increased development is aimed, not at countries like Canada, but at, what are euphemistically termed, the developing nations of the world, nations that are afflicted with chronic poverty and deprivation that suffers recurrent famine and high infant mortality. It is our mindless and often reckless development coupled with the developing world's justifiable urge to develop that now threatens the life-support systems of Spaceship Earth. Manitobans live in an

industrially developed nation whose per capita environmental impact if extrapolated to all nations of the world, would not be sustainable.

The Round Table has redefined the

term "natural lands" to fit the Government agenda. The Round Table's Workbook defines natural lands as "Lands which includes (sic) water that support native plants and animals of a mixture representative to the natural ecology of the area. Such lands may be subject to management, recreational and resource harvesting activities that will not significantly change the ecological characteristics of the land." The Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines natural "as formed by nature without human intervention." Accordingly land is natural only so long as humans have not altered it. Humans may be managed so as to limit their impact on natural lands but natural lands, by definition, are un-managed lands. Further, the above definition preempts the public participation process for which the Workbook was published by prescribing in advance that management, recreation and resource harvesting will occur in natural lands.

Why include forestry?

The Workbook lumps parks, forest reserves, ecological reserves and wildlife management areas together as "natural lands." A workbook on forestry has already been reviewed, and a revised policy sequel titled, "What you Told Us" released. It does not make sense to include forest reserves in the natural lands workbook. Many forest reserves such as Sandilands are managed primarily for wood fibre production. There has never been any indication of intent to preserve such lands for biodiversity.

If the Manitoba Round Table is serious about developing a strategy for sustainable development, it should develop a strategy for preserving biodiversity.

If it wishes to restore its credibility, it should recall the present Natural Lands Strategy Workbook and label it for what it is, an effort to justify the provincial government's proposal to dismantle the major parks in the provincial park system and minimize its commitment to preservation.

*Natural lands, by definition, are
unmanaged lands*



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DECORATIONS

Rhoda 'Rembrandt'
 Rempel

Hats off to all CEN and Regional
 Network staff who pitched in
 willingly whenever called upon.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS, ALONG WITH
 THE MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK:

Abitibi-Price salvation rests with environmental considerations

by Glen Koroluk

A very difficult decision is in the making. The newsprint mill located in the community of Pine Falls is under dire economic strain. Abitibi-Price, North America's largest newsprint producer, is losing money on this mill, as well as on its overall operations, and wants to unload it as soon as possible. The management, employees and community are investigating the possibility of a buy-out in an attempt to make it economically viable for the future. Can the mill in Pine Falls survive in the future?

The answer is that it's possible, but it is also clear that economic viability is tied to environmental considerations.

History of extraction

Built in 1926, the Pine Falls operation has, historically been one of Abitibi-Price's most profitable. This was due largely to the company's practise of taking profits rather than re-investing in upgrading during peri-

ods of economic success. As an example, \$160 million of profit during the last ten years was spent elsewhere — specifically on new super mills in the southern United States.

At present the entire Canadian newsprint industry is struggling for economic survival and has registered total losses of \$900 million in the last two years. This trend will continue for a number of reasons:

- 1) recycling legislation in the U.S. will favour U.S. mills with ready access to large amounts of recycled fibre (most Canadian production is for export to American cities).
- 2) increased competition from new low-cost, high-speed, state-of-the-art mills in the U.S., financed with profits from predecessor operations like Pine Falls. These mills utilize recycled newsprint from the "urban forest" and trees that mature faster in the south than in the north.
- 3) demand for newsprint from publishers has stagnated during the recession and is not expected to improve over the next decade

States. Trees also mature in one quarter of the time in the warmer southern U.S. than in Canada's boreal forest.

Capital investments required

In order to make the Pine Falls mill competitive in the North American market, a huge sum of money is needed to support this initiative. Environmental upgrading is required in order to meet federal standards by the year 1994. This will require a secondary effluent treatment facility.

A de-inking facility will be required to meet U.S. demand and a new wood room is planned for the proper storage and treatment of virgin stock.

Modifications to the steam plant to increase energy efficiency and a new press section addition to increase paper machine speed are also in the upgrade plans. On top of this, a natural gas pipeline is part of their modernization. Total costs over the next five years will be in the vicinity of \$400 million.

It's quite obvious that the federal and provincial governments will be instrumental in funding the modernization of this mill. In the 1980's corporate parent Abitibi-Price was raking in profits and paying dividends instead of re-investing capital into their inefficient mills and down-sizing. Now, it appears that public funds will be used to bail out an antiquated mill. It is also becoming evident that the buy-out plan will still ensure that Abitibi-Price retains controlling ownership of the mill. The losers in this deal will be the employees, the tax payers and the surrounding communities.

The fundamental problem in the proposed buy out of the mills is that their planned expansion and modernization is placing them out of the market. To get a better overview of this, one has to critically analyze their present marketing of newsprint. Seventy-five per cent of the mill's production is sold in the U.S. while 24 per cent finds its way into the Canadian market.

The de-inking facility that is proposed will be able to produce 50 per cent of their

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As recent as the early 1960's, Canada filled 80 per cent of the U.S. newsprint demand. Today, that figure stands at close to 55 per cent and is continually on the decline. Production costs for newsprint are on average 30 per cent less in the United

continued on next page

continued from previous page

production with a 40 per cent recycled content.

Abitibi's U.S. customers are largely concentrated in the mid-west states where there are currently no recycled content laws for newsprint. But this will change. Congress is currently re-authorizing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Once passed, amendments to this act will call for newspaper publishers all across the U.S. to use at least 35 per cent recycled content by the year 1995 and increasing to 50 per cent by the year 2002. This automatically places a 25 per cent market loss for the Pine Falls mill by the year 1995. By the year 2002, it is difficult to imagine where the mill will sell its newsprint. While virgin fibres will always be needed for the production of pulp and paper the amount needed will decrease over the next decade.

What can be done?

1) The Pine Falls mill and woodlands operation should be identified as only one component of regional economic development. Alternative or diversified economic development initiatives within the region must be aggressively pursued and implemented using the Model Forest Program as a guideline. The current proposed Model Forest program does not allocate enough funds nor identify sufficient alternative economic plans.

2) If a de-inker is installed, it must have the capacity to meet market demands by the year 2000. That would mean at least 40 to 50 per cent recycled content running on both paper machines.

3) Environmental damages such as the contamination of the Winnipeg River System must be settled with the affected communities before any buy-out is considered. Abitibi-Price must be liable for its damage.

4) Land use and land claims must be settled with the First Nations of Hollow Water, Little Black River and Sagkeeng. These communities must also play a larger role in the woodlands and mill operations.

5) The Canada-Manitoba Partnership Agreement in Forestry which was signed in March 1991 and calls for a two per cent increase in timber supply by the year 2000 must be renegotiated to reflect alternative fibre supply and market demand.

6) Forest Management Licence 1557 signed between Abitibi-Price and the Province of Manitoba must be renegotiated to reflect alternative fibre supply of old newsprint, old magazines, and other fibres.

While any decision on the future of the mill is difficult at best, it is important that when decisions of such nature are made,

Ecologists/forestry workers meet

A meeting between environmentalists and workers at Abitibi-Price Pine Falls, and representatives of two First Nations communities in the area in late October allowed an opportunity to present various views, but produced few tangible results.

The Defenders of Nopiming organized the meeting between the groups and Valhalla

Society activist

C o l l e e n McCrory, at the Maskwa Project a wilderness hostel southeast of Pine Falls. The environmentalists met with mill management in the morning and then toured the Abitibi-Price newsprint mill in the morning. Abitibi-Price managers upbraided the environmentalists for disseminating inaccurate information in the media. They were particularly concerned that the size of clearcuts in the Abitibi-Price forest manage-

they involve the people who are directly affected. This would include labour unions, aboriginal people and others who use this area for activities other than logging. If the Government of Manitoba is serious about promoting the concept of sustainable development, it must become more active, and in a non-partisan fashion.

Once modified, the Pine Falls mill can become a success. Sustainable forestry practices can be achieved and recycling can become a reality in this province. Jobs will be lost within the industry, but other types of economic activities can be found in the region. It is important to note that the recycling industry and the transportation industry will benefit substantially.

ment licence area were being exaggerated and that forestry practices were being compared unfairly with British Columbia.

Local representatives of the three unions at Abitibi-Price, also defended the company's record on forestry practices. All sides indicated a willingness to keep the lines of communication open.

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CIDA consults with NGO's

by William Goddard,
Crossroads Resources Group

Representatives of 60 environmental organizations including ENGO's from India, Senegal, Uruguay, Chile and Costa Rica met October 31 to November 3 to review the agenda of the International Affairs Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network. The focus of the discussion, part of consultations funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, involved planning a follow-up to the UNCED or Earth Summit Process. A full report on the process will be available in early December in the Manitoba Eco-Network office. The "Workplan 1991-92" of the International Affairs Caucus (IAC) is also available.

NAFTA resolution

The IAC decided at its meeting to ask organizations to work locally to educate the electorate and to make connections with Action Canada Network to reject the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). A "Call for Action" has been issued by the caucus, and a copy is available at the Eco-Network office.

Permanent CIDA program

As a result of the success of the pilot EDSP (Environment and Development Support Program) partnership program, CIDA sponsored a full consultation with the ENGO's. The main news of the meeting was the announcement the program will be a permanent partnership project. The choice of working with CIDA will be up to individual organizations.

Also CIDA has committed itself to a Sustainable Development Policy. Contact CIDA in Hull, Quebec (819) 953-6060 for more information on its programs and policies.

For information about the International Affairs Caucus check the Eco-Network Resource Centre or call Crossroads Resource Group (947-9160).

Environmental Assessment of farm income programs under way

An environmental impact assessment of Agriculture Canada's two key farm income support programs is under way. When the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) and the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) programs were established on the heels of widespread western drought conditions and rock bottom commodities prices in 1991 the enacting legislation included a stipulation that the programs be reviewed for their environmental impact after the first two years of the program.

The clause on environmental impact in the legislation broke new ground for a government that has been reluctant to submit its policies and programs, as well as projects, to environmental review. With over \$2.3 billion dollars paid out to farmers under the programs the potential for environmental impacts is important to consider.

Sustainable Agriculture proponents and some organic farmers have criticized the programs for increasing supply, and for causing the continued or increasing use of marginal lands, for grain production.

The review is being conducted by Environmental Management Associates of Calgary and will include the results of a survey of program participants and briefs from interested groups and individuals. Briefs were to have been submitted by October 31 to Environmental Management Associates in Calgary.

The assessment will be submitted to national advisory committees for the two programs and then to the federal and provincial governments by April 1, 1993.

Nominations

are now being accepted for the

Manitoba Eco-Network 1993 Environmental Awards

Nominations for individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to environmental protection or awareness in Manitoba are now being accepted.

Please include a brief note supporting the reason for your nomination with the name of the group or individual and mail it to:

Manitoba Eco-Network
Box 3125
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4E6

Reread: a brief scan through other periodicals and newsletters

This instalment of Reread is devoted to reprinting verbatim an interesting exchange in the November 12 issue of the *Blurb*, the faxletter of Forestry Canada's Manitoba District Office. A project to map wetlands funded under the Canada-Manitoba Partnership Agreement in forestry had been reported on in a previous issue of the *Blurb* and elicited the following letter to the editor.

"I wish to offer the following comments on an article in 'Blurb' concerning the potential of Manitoba wetlands for drainage and forest production.

Wetlands have a wide array of values over and above their potential to be developed for wood fibre production. Your newsletter alludes to their value in flood control and water retention. As well, wetlands are important habitat for many species of plants and animals and a major reservoir of carbon for the planet.

Such sites should not be considered wastelands available for expensive drainage projects and conversion to "productive forest growth." I believe it is preferable to direct our limited resources to maximizing the potential of lands already dedicated to forest production or capable of producing forests without intensive and fundamental alteration.

The experiences of agriculture in managing drained wetland areas (especially

peatlands) for crop production are instructive.

The costs of drainage and conversion often cannot be matched by the productivity of the converted landscape. As well, all the other wetland values are completely lost, and unanticipated "downstream" impacts of the drainage project can be severe.

Forest managers and the forest industry have much to be proud of with their

record of environmentally-sustainable use of our forest resource.

I do hope that careful thought and consideration be given to this particular avenue of investigation, for it could have important consequences, not only for the northern landscape, but for the image of the forest industry itself.

Richard C. Houlden
Chief Executive Officer
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

A response from Steve Zoltai, Project Leader

The project proposal is in fact aimed at mapping and evaluating wetlands (including peatlands) for a number of wetland functions: hydrology, peat (carbon) storage, forestry use, and peat extraction. This information is intended as a factual background for evaluating the wetland functions in Mani-

toba. It would identify areas that must not be disturbed for any reason, such as marshes and shallow lakes that are vital habitats for waterfowl.

Neither Forestry Canada nor the Province of Manitoba is proposing to ditch any wetlands for forestry purposes in connection with this or any other project.

To our knowledge, not a single acre has been ditched in Manitoba for forestry purposes. However, many square kilometres of marshes and shallow lakes have been "converted" to agricultural use (Saskatchewan delta, other inland deltas, countless prairie sloughs).

It is our intention that an informed wetland conservation program cannot be instituted unless the location and extent of different kinds of wetlands is known. Only then can protection be concentrated to preserve the threatened or rare wetlands.

Forestry Canada is committed to follow the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation, published by Environment Canada in 1991. Our staff has taken an active role in developing this document and we intend to follow the spirit and letter of the policy."

In the next issue of Eco-Journal:

- *The Manitoba Green Pages -- groups, contacts, issues
- * A Review of '92 * What is a Park? ... and More

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 2

mental organizations to participate in the Model Forest. These principles, which have been incorporated into the core vision of the Model Forest proposal, commit the Model forest Partners to strive for:

1. Respect and care for the community of life of which we are a part and exploration and conservation of the ecological processes and biodiversity of our shared forest and wildlife heritage.

2. Respect for the diverse streams of human experience, learning and culture that shall guide a multi-valued appreciation and wise and equitable use of the forest.

3. A candid and open problem-solving approach that faces squarely potential negative impacts and conflicts and attempts to resolve them in accordance with the principles of respect for the community of life and the human community.

4. Reliance upon human integrity working creatively with nature's inventions and productivity to solve problems, pursue new opportunities, and improve

environmental and economic benefits and efficiency.

The principles recognize a legitimate place for using the forest as an economic resource, but they do not subordinate all other values to that one, as does, for example the mission statement of Manitoba's Forestry Branch. Is this not a better framework for addressing the issues than the status quo?

There is always the danger, of course, that principles like these may be honoured in the breach, but having stated them we invite periodic assessment of our efforts to promote them and invite the Defenders of Nopiming, and others, to subscribe to them, too, and join their energies and insights to ours.

Does the Model Forest

endorse logging in Nopiming Park and in the Manigotagan corridor? No, it does not. But neither does it forbid these, as the MNS and TREE urged in appealing Abitibi's license. Our proposal acknowledges that this is an area of profound conflict between the

Partners. The Model Forest commits us to the Endangered Spaces Preservation objectives and supporting research, but at the same time requires us to address the resource requirements of industry. We are looking for creative solutions. This is just one instance of Model Forest Partners who have different bottom lines committing themselves to try and address one another's priorities. Our whole proposal was built upon the identification of such problem areas.

It is important we think, neither to exaggerate nor to underemphasize the differences between the Manitou Abi Partners. Differences are exaggerated if one assumes no shared values (eg. that only environmental groups care about the environment, only aboriginal people want to preserve culture, and only Abitibi and government care about the regional economy). In that case there would be little basis for co-operation and any alliance could appear to be a pact with the devil. We do not believe that we are parties to such a pact.

On the other hand the differences are underemphasized if there is no recognition of different value priorities and inequalities in power. Hendrik is right to remind us that it was Abitibi that was invited to meet with

Cabinet last Spring and not ourselves, and that (this was followed by the overturning of

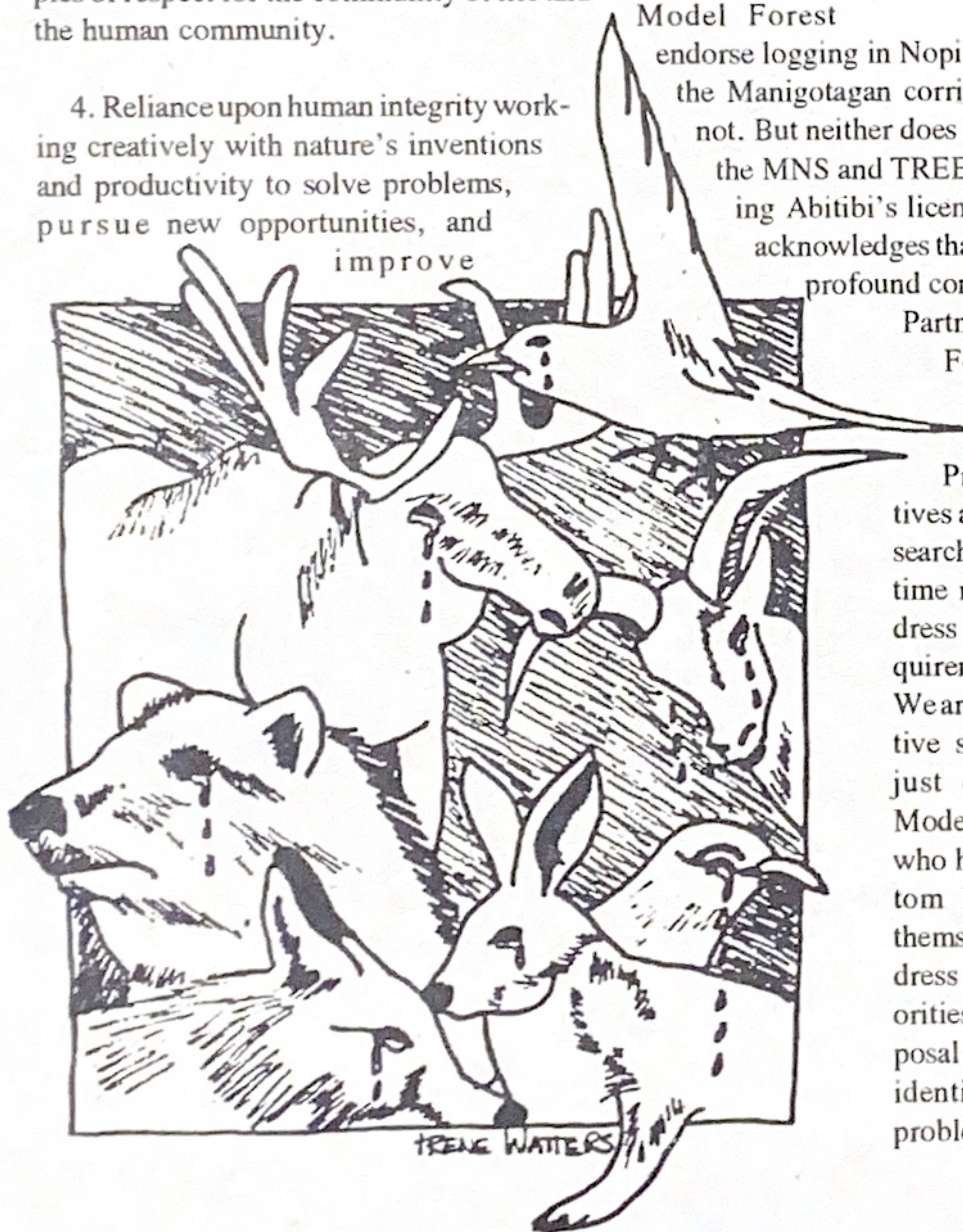
some of the CEC recommendations. But solutions based on power assertion are unstable in the long run, particularly in a democracy, and we believe that Abitibi is committed to working with the other Partners to establish a more democratic, and if possible, a consensus model of forest management. After all, despite their size, they have just one vote on the Model Forest Board. Their willingness to undertake this democratic risk should be recognized, respected and applauded.

How can individuals and groups participate in the Model Forest? There have been a number of opportunities to date, including workshops, at the Eco-Network last January and at the University of Manitoba in September. The latter workshop established a series of working groups, in which different stakeholders may take part.

Moreover, our Board meetings are open to visitors. Anyone wishing to be informed of future opportunities who is not already on the Manitou Abi mailing list, may contact one of us.

Sincerely,
Alison Elliot (942-2897)
and Peter Miller (786-9832).

More LETTERS next page



Conference recharged batteries

Letters continued from previous page

On Saturday September 19, 1992 I attended my sixth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Environment Network at Hecla Island, Manitoba. It was just sensational! My batteries are recharged for another year.

Usually 60 to 100 delegates come from every province in Canada and many extra locally. Many belong to a number of organizations so the variety of concerns and expertise, wisdom and understanding of connections and the holistic view is increasing.

Scientists, non-scientists and lay people are represented. Almost half the leaders are women and in many sectors more than half the active members in committees.

The opportunity to meet old and make new friends is a pleasure equal to hearing about all the concerns and activities across Canada and the world. There were so many workshops and caucus meetings where information was shared, concerns expressed, and actions planned.

It is a clearinghouse and sharing like no other group I know. The formal structure exists and works to connect environmentalists over a 5000 mile wide by 1500 mile high map of a country. And it has survived 10 years of abuse, neglect, frustration and intimidation.

Lots of years we spent almost half our annual meeting debating how we could deal with the latest set of rules and demands to qualify for our pitifully inadequate bundle of tax dollars to save the country.

Repap (\$200 million) Cadillac-Fairview (\$100 million) Hydro (\$500 million) get 1000 or 10,000 times as much to destroy the country.

If we tried strong action our funding would disappear. I've tried for six years to create a movement to demand that citizens opposing projects over \$1 million receive one-tenth of one per cent of the capital cost.

Where did TREE, Friends of Oak Hammock, The Conawapa Coalition, The Rafferty-Alameda team come from? Almost all had major participation from people in the Network and its national co-operation.

Federal Environment Minister Jean

Charest took up the old club Saturday night demanding we attend a conference and start raising more money more efficiently. Let's demand that he put on the agenda the second paragraph above.

Dave Brower, 80 years old was the feature speaker, founder of Friends of the Earth and co-founder of many other leading environment groups. He held the audience spellbound with his wisdom, understanding and honest explanation of the corner of room into which we have bulldozed ourselves.

I've heard him four times and believe he is not only a great moral and intellectual leader, but a great orator.

In maybe 45 minutes he covered the

whole world and its problems. Since 8000 B.C. we have been perfecting unsustainable development, destroying self-sufficient stable local communities all over the world to obtain power and profit from exports and imports and created technologies.

I am proud to be associated with the Canadian Environmental Network. Watching the presentations and awards by the delightfully human and humane women and men and their different styles and Dave Brower's presentation was as classy an act as "Cats." Thank you!

Ken Emberly

AECL rejects critics' accusations as "Hogwash"

continued from page 5

facilities. These shipments slowed down for a number of years, until the middle of 1991, when they increased dramatically.

In the past year alone over 300 kilograms of spent nuclear fuel, most of it from Ontario, has arrived in this province in shipments which occur on the average of once a month.

Ironically, Harry Johnson of AECL went on record in the Winnipeg Free Press (Nov. 5, 92) as saying this figure was "hogwash", when the information was extracted from his company's own documents. AECL is not being forthright with Manitobans.

[This has escaped the interest of the Winnipeg Free Press which when contacted about the error in its article suggested that Concerned Citizens of Manitoba send a letter to the editor rather than publicly correcting the information themselves.]

Citizens must be vigilant in their attempts to monitor this crown corporation whose exemp-

tion under the Freedom of Information Act seriously restricts the public's knowledge of its activities.

Dave Taylor is a spokesperson for Concerned Citizens of Manitoba and a Member of the Steering Committee of the Campaign for Nuclear Phase-out.

What you can do:

Write to Environment Minister Jean Charest and request an environmental assessment of AECL's new business of shipping nuclear wastes into Manitoba. Join the Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout C.P.. 236 Station Snowdon, Montreal H3X 3T4.

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