



WINDS OF CHANGE ON THE EAST SIDE OF LAKE WINNIPEG?

by Peter Miller, Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems

In 1992, Canada's natural resource ministers, forest industry leaders and some conservation, aboriginal and academic groups signed a remarkable document - the *Canada Forest Accord*.¹ In response to the discord of blockades, boycotts, arrests, publicity blitzes, and court actions at sites across Canada, it was an accord to end the "war in the woods" spelling out the terms for a durable peace. But the terms have not been fulfilled and controversies continue, including on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. What are the prospects for an honourable peace?

The *Accord* is a visionary proclamation to capture the beliefs, values and commitments of Canadians with respect to our forest heritage. It speaks of the "spiritual qualities and inherent beauty" of our forests which "are essential to our physical and mental well-being" and the importance of forests for "the health of all life on earth." It also speaks of maintaining the economic benefits of forests for forest-dependent communities and Canadians. And it affirms our role as forest stewards and declares that "Canadians are entitled to participate in determining how their forests are used and the purposes for which they are managed."

Public participation

This last promise has been slow to materialize. Despite signing the *Accord*, Manitoba, like most provinces, has continued to negotiate Forest Management License Agreements (FMLAs) without public participation, requiring critics to revert to combative strategies. True, forest companies must conduct consultations for annual plans, but the allocation of guaranteed volumes occurs prior to any demonstration that the intensity of harvest and road

infrastructure required to remove the timber are compatible with other forest values. The policy is still *timber-first multiple use* "to allow other resource opportunities within designated forestry land, so long as such opportunities complement and do not conflict with existing or future forest harvesting operations."²

Fitful winds of change are blowing.

The federal government, in support of the *Canada Forest Accord*, has invested millions of dollars since 1992 to create 11 Model Forests across Canada, each governed by a multi-stakeholder board.³ Unfortunately Model Forests lack any forest planning authority, but they have created working relationships and a body of research on how to do things better. Periodic assessments of the Model Forest program remind us that we have not yet gone the distance to implement the ideals of the *Accord*.

Four years ago, the provincial government created a new plan to fulfill the *Accord* within a framework of Ecosystems Based Management (EBM) that links citizen values with ecological understanding. A pilot project has been underway for a couple of years, awaiting completion in the new year. But the Forestry

Branch made clear in May 1998 that this pilot would not interfere with the business-as-usual private, bilateral negotiation of a new FMLA with Pine Falls Paper Company (PFPC) expected to conclude by the end of 1999.

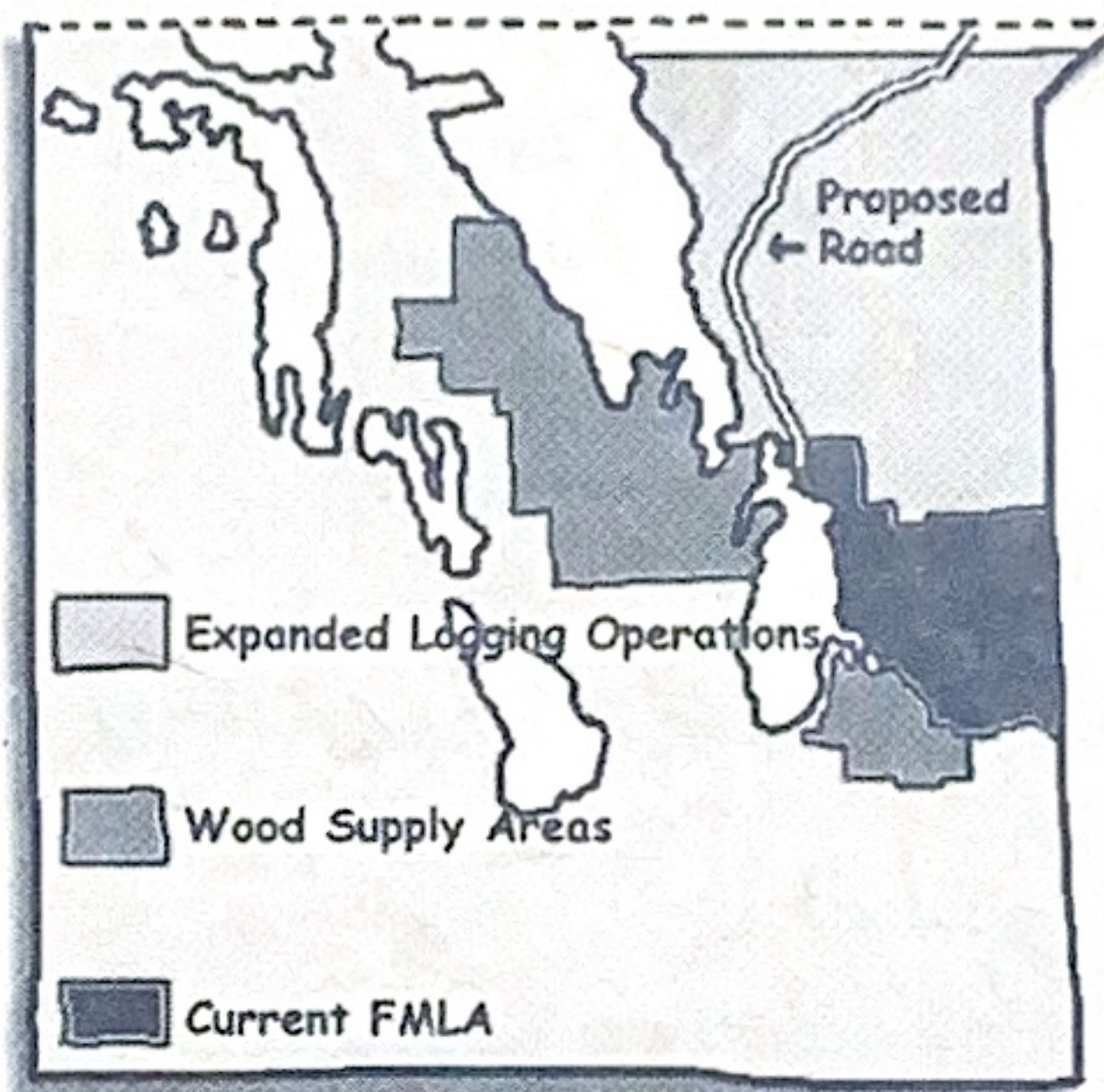
In the face of such recalcitrance, environmentalists developed a *Coalition for Sustainable Land Use Planning* in 1999.

In February, 10 ENGOs requested researched participatory land-use planning in fulfilment of the *Accord's* pledge. Then Natural Resources Minister Glen Cummings replied that bilateral negotiations would continue and he regarded PFPC's public consultations as fulfilling the pledge.

A May 6 meeting with PFPC generated a list of 20 ENGO concerns. A follow-up workshop to address them was planned, but, without a government commitment to take part, the ENGOs subsequently declined to participate and instead held a press conference.

On October 14, 12 ENGOs wrote the new government requesting that they fulfill their pledge to conduct land-use planning on

See *Doer Confirms* page 5 ➔



What's Inside ...

EcoFest Planning	Page 3
Hydro Consultation Update	Page 4
The Green Party Campaign	Page 6
Teaching the 4 Rs	Page 9
Forestry at UW	Page 11

COMPLIMENTARY
Please consider subscribing

Volume 9, Number 5
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1999
(date of issue: December 1, 1999)

ECO-JOURNAL

is published five times per year by the
Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau
Ecologique du Manitoba Inc. at
2-70 Albert Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1E7
phone (204) 947-6511
fax (204) 947-6514
Email men@web.net
http://www.web.net/men

Editor

Anne Lindsey

Contributors this issue:

J.P. Brunet, Barbara Eadie, Lyle Ford,
Randall McQuaker, Peter Miller,
Brian Pannell

Layout

David Henry

Manitoba Eco-Network Executive Chair

Dennis Bayomi - Winnipeg Vegetarian
Association

Vice Chair

John Sinclair - Resource Conservation
Manitoba

Treasurer

Steve Rauh - Campaign for Pesticide
Reduction! Winnipeg

Secretary

Pete Walker - Manitoba Federation of
Labour

The Manitoba Eco-Network is affiliated
with the Canadian Environmental Network.

Individual Subscriptions to **Eco-Journal** are
available at a cost of \$20 or as part of a
supporting membership to the Manitoba
Eco-Network at a cost of \$25. Group mem-
bership dues are \$40. Advertising rates are
available upon request.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR WORLD GO AROUND!

Where would we be without the gener-
ous, social-minded souls that volunteer their
time and talent to make things work in our
office and Environmental Resource Centre??

Most recently, computer wizard Kevin
Miller deserves a medal for his professional,
relatively pain-free conversion of all our
programs to an updated pentium; thus sav-
ing us from the perils of a Y2K-inspired dis-
aster. His timely contribution is matched
by the multi-tasking George Harris who's
kindly undertaken a much-appreciated book-
keeping function at the Eco-Network on a
continuing basis. Brian Proctor, webmaster
extraordinaire, pulled together a creative
team to develop our website last winter, and
while regular updating of the site remains a
challenge, the layout and graphics result-
ing from his work continue to solicit many
positive comments!

Not all the jobs volunteers assist us with
are equally glamorous but they're cer-
tainly essential none-the-less. We're grate-
ful for help with our Annual Appeal follow-
up phone calls provided by Liz Dykman,
Toby Maloney, Steve Rauh, Eb Scherer,
Faye Walker and Peter Walker. Also,
thanks to Liz Dykman and Karen Hoeberg
for their help around the office this fall.

Because it's so easy to take for granted
the volunteer assistance that's donated on
an on-going basis, we'd like to acknowl-
edge our volunteer Steering Committee.
Without the guidance and support of these
leaders from the environmental community,
many of whom are swamped by issue-ori-
ented work of their own, our path would be
greatly impeded.

Our warm thanks to you all.

ECO

GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Our thanks go to everyone who has so
generously responded to our Annual Ap-
peal Campaign. These donations are a vital
part of our annual budget - they help to
keep our office functioning! If you haven't

written that cheque yet, it's not too late.
Remember, donations received by Decem-
ber 31 are eligible for a tax receipt for the
1999 tax year. Make this your Millenium
Donation!

ECO

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GRAPHICS!

Get your drawings published. It's always
a challenge to find illustrations for the Jour-
nal, so we invite you to submit your line
drawings on environmental topics. We'll
place them in an "art file" and use them for
illustration if a suitable article shows up -
with credit to the artist of course! We are
especially interested in children's drawings,
but will happily accept from children of all

ages. Submit your drawing in black ink (or
pencil) on white paper. Colour will not re-
produce well.

Subject matter? Anything "environmen-
tal". Trees, animals, people, food ... you
name it. Send your artwork to 2-70 Albert
Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1E7, atten-
tion: Eco-Journal.

ECO

Manitoba Eco-Network Steering Committee, 1999-2000

Dennis Bayomi, Winnipeg Vegetarian Association
Shirley Lord, CHOICES - A Coalition for Social Justice
Steve Rauh - Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Winnipeg
John Sinclair - Resource Conservation Manitoba
Eb Scherer - Manitoba Naturalists Society
Pete Walker - Manitoba Federation of Labour

ECOFEST - A SHOWCASE FOR WINNIPEG'S STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

by John Cunningham, Friends of Churchill Parkway

I was born in the North End of Winnipeg in a little, yellow stucco house on Manitoba Avenue about half a block away from the CPR Beach Tracks. At that time, ditches ran along both sides of the track. In the spring, when the snow began to melt, the ditches became magic kingdoms. They filled with water and became a breeding ground for all sorts of exotic life, which could fire a child's imagination. It did fire mine.

I would go down there every day to catch tadpoles, wrigglers, water spiders and other aquatic life. Butterflies of all varieties flitted across the grasses. This was the ideal place for a child to grow up.

Boyhood imagination

My parents are still on Manitoba Avenue — but the ditches aren't. They (the ditches, not my parents) were covered up to control the mosquito population. Did that do any good? Far as I can tell, the mosquito population is still pretty high.

It seems the only effect of this bureaucratic myopia was to wipe out tadpoles, wrigglers, water spiders, butterflies, and boyhood imagination. The ditches provided free entertainment and a fantastic learning opportunity. Is it any wonder that there is a youth problem today? Thank god that various stewardship programs have been formed in Winnipeg. Perhaps at some future time, children can again discover nature's beauty.

Stewardship showcase

In the meantime, Winnipeg residents need to be informed of the accomplishments of our stewardship groups. The best way to accomplish this is to develop some event that will be a showcase for these efforts.

This is where ECOFEST comes in. The objectives of ECOFEST are to: 1. showcase the achievements of the stewardship groups; 2. provide a means of educating the residents of Winnipeg on ecological matters; 3. provide a forum for children to learn about nature and the environment. The first ECOFEST is planned for the second weekend in September (the one following Labour Day). It would hopefully be held on the grassy area along Churchill Drive - the area in which the Friends of Churchill Parkway is active.

Rotating Site

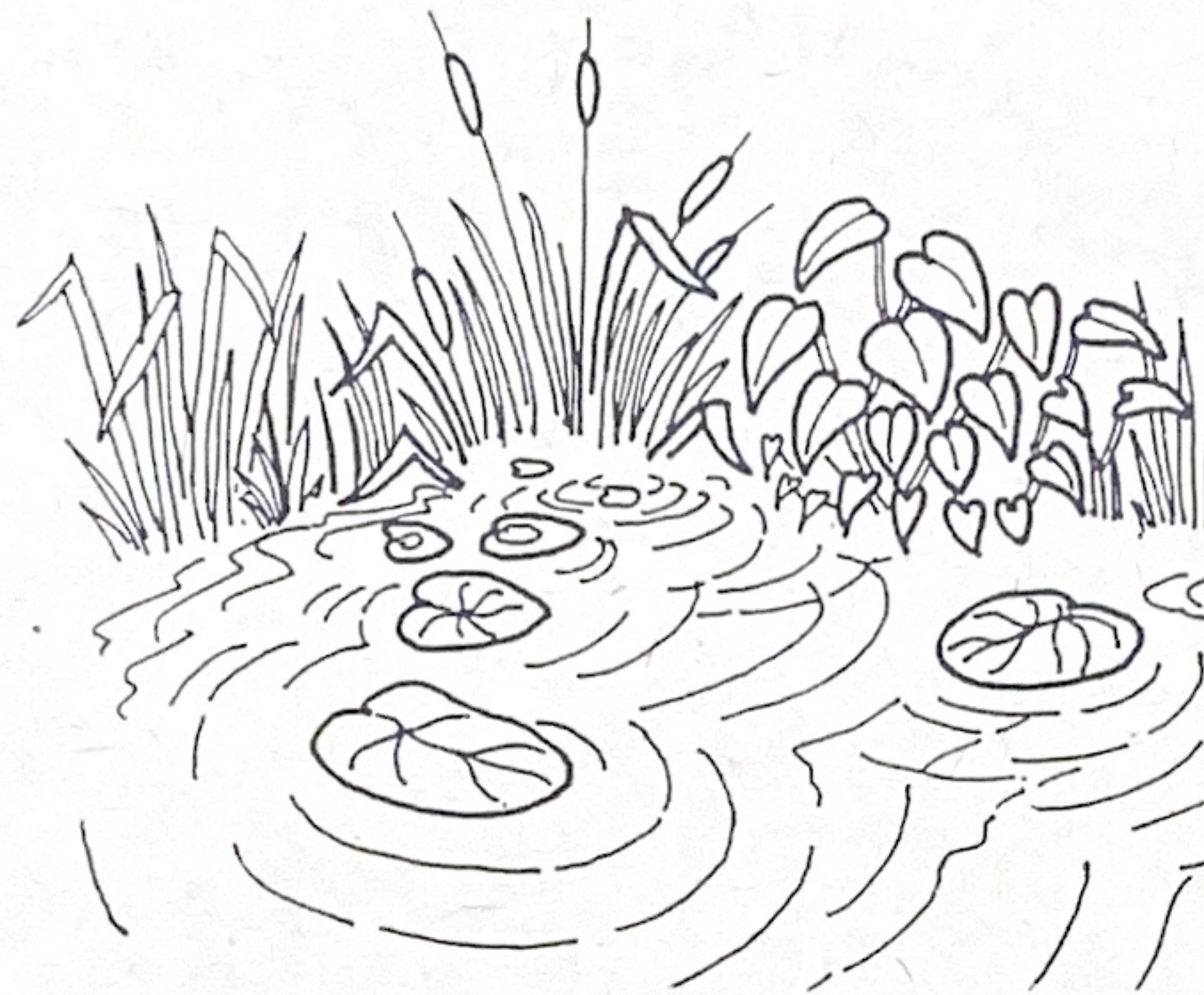
The plan would be then to rotate the site on an annual basis around the various locations in which stewardship groups are active - the Seine River, Omands Creek, Bruce Park, etc.

To attract people to these sites, free music would be provided. In addition, Organic growers could be encouraged to hold an organic farmers' market there.

To attract children, arrangements could be made for strolling clowns and other enticements. Booths could be set up by the environmental groups in Winnipeg to inform citizens of the various ecological alternatives available - for example, for pest and weed control. Ecological projects could be designed to involve the children in attendance.

All of this, at present, is merely a dream. It needs your help to get off the ground. Volunteers are required to arrange for bands, to design children's ecological projects, etc. If you are interested, please contact me, John Cunningham, at 475-5374 to let me know what aspects you might be able to assist in. I look forward to hearing from you.

ECO



SHOAL LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

In case you missed them, a series of Public Open Houses were held in late November on the Shoal Lake Watershed Management Plan. Such a plan has been identified as necessary by the Governments of Ontario, Manitoba, Canada and the First Nations who make their home on the lake.

Shoal Lake straddles the Manitoba/Ontario border. The watershed encompasses a broad geographic area in both provinces, and is an important recreational destination for cottaging, fishing and other activities. Two First Nations live directly on the lake, and of course, Shoal Lake is the source of Winnipeg's drinking water supply.

It's not too late to become involved in the development of the Watershed Management Plan. For more information, contact Dave Green, Manitoba Conservation at (204)945-0585 or email: dgreen@gov.mb.ca

ECO

HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE
MAY YOU FIND PEACE,
HEALTH AND JOY!

MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

MANITOBA HYDRO CONSULTATION UPDATE

by Brian Pannell

The last issue of the Eco-Journal informed readers that Manitoba Hydro is examining the possibility of hydro-electric generation at three locations (Notigi, Wuskwatim and Gull) and is also considering building a natural gas fired turbine in southern Manitoba. Readers were also told of a new approach to planning and public consultation, summarily described as early, open, public, funded, informed and potentially influential, in which the utility is engaged.

To date there have been three meetings between Manitoba Hydro and volunteer public participants. The public participants, who are predominantly from the environmental group community, are self-selected and include Peter Miller, Rob Altemeyer, Gail Whelan-Enns, Barry Wild, Duncan Stewart, Gary Raven, Scott Kidd, Elizabeth Fleming, Don Sullivan, and myself. This list is not final. Persons interested in participating in the consultation may contact any of the persons listed above for details. Regular representatives of Manitoba Hydro at the meetings include Ryan Kustra, Wade Munro, and Angie Adams.

Resource Planning

To date it has been agreed that the initial meetings should provide an information base to ensure that all persons have a high degree of knowledge about the issues likely to be discussed. In that vein, the first and second meetings involved presentations from Ed Wojczynski on the status of resource planning at Manitoba Hydro.

Mr. Wojczynski's presentation covered Hydro's organizational structure, an overview of the Manitoba Hydro system, the resource planning process, some market information, the resource options, the utility's 1999 power resource plan, and the status of Manitoba Hydro's response to climate change.

The third meeting received a presentation from Tom Akerstream, a manager with Manitoba Hydro's Power Smart program, on the topic of demand side management (or DSM). Demand side management is an important alternative to building new generation when additional power is desired. Demand side management is the search for greater efficiencies in the use of existing power, thereby permitting existing power to be re-allocated to new uses.

Demand Side Management

The next meeting, on December 1, will examine details of Hydro's DSM programs. The meeting after that will likely cover transmission line issues, past, present and the utility's hopes for the future.

At the same time, preparations have begun to bring in private expertise, initially in the area of planning and demand side management, to review Manitoba Hydro's work and comment. The private consultants will be accountable to the public participants.

As the information base is established, the meetings will begin to move toward more debate of the merits of alternative choices in generation, DSM, transmission lines, impact mitigation, and the like.

Potpourri of Information

A potpourri of information which has arisen during meetings to date -- On transmission lines: existing transmission lines to the U.S.

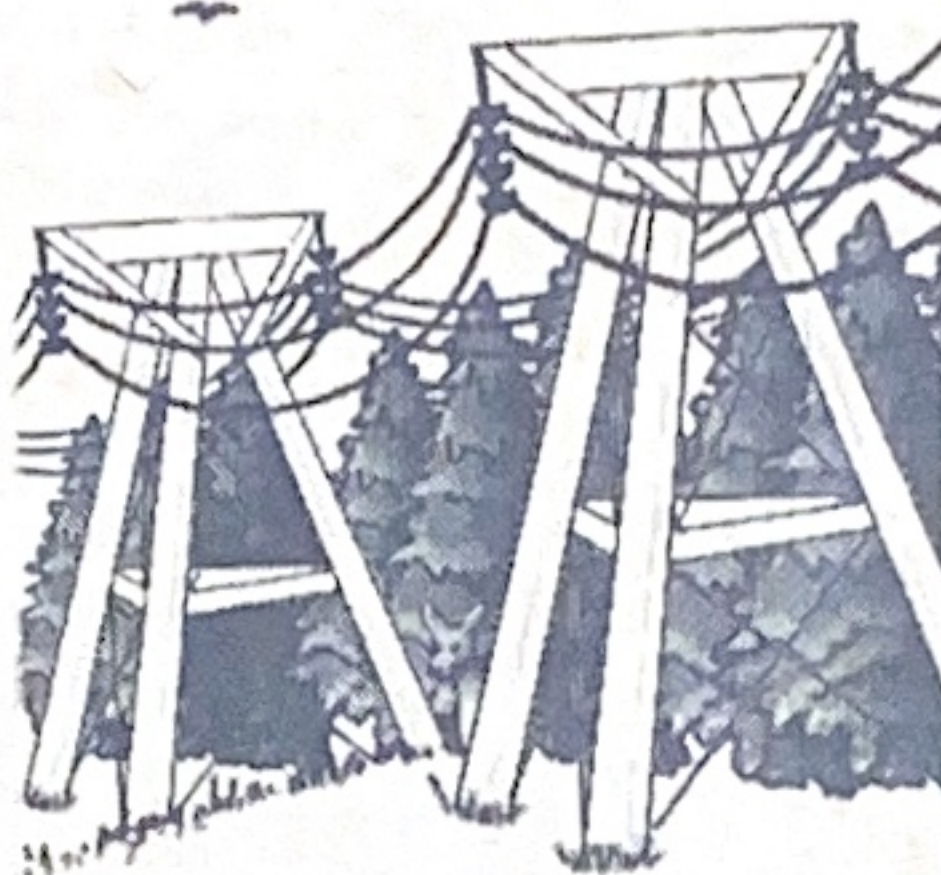
are often used to near capacity. The system has a lesser capacity to convey power to Manitoba than away from Manitoba. An additional line to the U.S. is now under consideration for Southwestern Manitoba. The possibility of shipping power beyond Manitoba's northern boarder is under discussion.

On demand side management: The U.S., once a leader in DSM, has seen DSM programs reduced significantly in recent years. In Manitoba, DSM (brand name: Power Smart) continues to be a cost effective means of obtaining energy.

On planning: Manitoba Hydro, in its consideration of Wuskwatim and Gull generating stations, has discarded plans to operate at high water levels. As a result, should such stations be built, there would be almost no additional flooding and a significant reduction in the electrical generating capacity of each dam. Another of Hydro's options, Notigi, is a water control structure which is already in place. By adding generators, Notigi could provide 65 megawatts of generation capacity.

Public participants meet privately the evening following each meeting with Hydro to discuss their approach to the consultation. At the time of writing, the next meeting will be December 2, 1999 at the offices of the Eco-Network, 2nd floor, 70 Albert St. at 7:30 P.M. For further information, you may contact Brian Pannell at 779-4668, or by e-mail at umpannell@cc.umanitoba.ca.

ECO



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
- Environmental Assessment



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

DOER CONFIRMS PLEDGE FOR LAND-USE PLANNING

... continued from page 1

the East Side. Premier Doer has just confirmed the pledge and indicated that Conservation Minister Oscar Lathlin will coordinate a meeting with ENGOs.

In the meantime PFPC, the Province and First Nations have been negotiating prospective economic joint ventures, co-management of an expanded FMLA and a regional trunk road up the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. They will release a draft Memorandum of Understanding November 30th at Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation. The bilateral model has become trilateral, still excluding the general public, except through PFPC.

On November 19th, representatives of PFPC and several ENGO groups met. PFPC indicated that, besides converting to a more efficient Thermal Mechanical Pulp (TMP) mill, they hope to build an adjacent sawmill (half owned by interested First Nations), which will more than double (from 360,000m³ to 750,000m³) their annual wood requirements. They still are operating on a schedule that depends on First Nation and provincial government approvals but not large-scale land use planning. The ENGO representatives tried to persuade them that agreements should be contingent upon outcomes of a public land use planning process, which they should support rather than seeking a faster track that would pre-empt the public planning.

Government and industry have subscribed to a principle of "Fair and Effective Decision Making," of which it is said, "Generally, indicators of fair and effective decision making include the degree of public participation during three key stages: designing decision-making processes, implementing forest management decisions,

and monitoring progress toward sustainable forest management."⁴ We now find ourselves at the first of these. Government and the public face the challenge of constructing a credible land use planning process for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. We do not start from scratch but have the above local initiatives to build upon and the example of British Columbia's Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) process as a possible model. As an ENGO community of multiple organizations, we have demonstrated our united concern. Last February we wrote:

"The wilderness rivers, lakes, wetlands, rocky outcrops and slow-growing boreal forests along the east side of Lake Winnipeg are home to a diversity of wildlife, have been the traditional homelands of Aboriginal peoples for centuries, and deserve the input of all Manitobans in determining their future conservation and sustainable use before allocations are made."

Do we have the staying power to see the process through? Will you be a part of it?

Endnotes:

1. The Canada Forest Accord is online at http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs/nfs/strateg/acontrol_e.html
2. Manitoba Natural Resources 1994. *Missions and Roles of the Forestry Branch*.
3. See, for example, <http://www.ManitobaModelForest.net>
4. Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. 1997. *Criteria and Indicators of sustainable forest management in Canada 1997: Progress to date*. pp.44-45.

ECO

*While banks
focus on
net worth,
we prefer*

self-worth

When you invest in people the returns are immeasurable. At Assiniboine, everything we do is guided by our strong belief that values like fairness and social equity benefit everyone in our community. We call it our "values-added" approach. Call your nearest branch to find out more.

**ASSINIBOINE
CREDIT UNION**

Banking the way it should be.

Web Graphics & Site Builds

Good craft is well

made and pleasing to work with, while Art is a name you pay for beyond the production cost. Don't be fooled by high prices ... get the work done. Well.

David Henry
943-4316

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RUN AS A GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE GREEN MEANS GO!

by Lyle Ford

Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has!"

I ran for MLA in the Lord Roberts constituency in the 1999 provincial election as a Green Party of Manitoba (GPM) candidate. The GPM only formed in November of 1998 so unlike all the big parties, we weren't a registered party. That meant we weren't able to provide tax receipts for donations. As such, we didn't have a "war chest" (we prefer to call it a "peace chest") in the bank when the election was called. We became a registered party only two weeks into the election, when we fielded six candidates.

Help was forthcoming

I've never been a member of a political party before, much less a candidate. Most of the other Green candidates (Phyllis Abbe, Markus Buehler, Chris Billows, Dave Nickarz, and Alex Reid) were like me: tending to introversion; ambivalent about the political process; and inexperienced with elections. I was, as you might expect, intimidated by the process at the beginning, but it became easier as the campaign evolved. My overwhelming impression is that it wasn't all that difficult. I had lots of help from friends and family, but I also had people coming forward that I'd never met before. People living in the riding found out that a Green was running, and took the trouble to call and offer to help with handing out flyers or knocking on doors. Others donated money. People were involving themselves independently, and acting on their principles.

Gary-sized Charisma

I went into the election convinced that our system is based on personality politics, not ideas, and that as an ordinary Green lacking Gary-sized charisma, I would be completely ignored. I'm more positive about the process now. Of course, I was ignored by the Free Press and by the CBC until I phoned to complain, but somehow word got out. The goals of the Green campaign were modest. We wanted to become a registered political party so that we could provide tax receipts for donations, to raise awareness of Green politics, and to gain as many votes as we could given our financial state. We accomplished the first two goals and did amazingly well on the third.

Considering that none of us spent more than a few hundred dollars on our campaigns, we got an astonishing return on our investment. I spent \$100 and received 1.39 % of the votes, which is very near what I expected. The point of my campaign was not to get elected (who says Greens aren't realistic), but to let people know that they had an alternative to business as usual.

Abbe was Star Candidate

How well did we do? Wherever a Green ran against another small party candidate, the Green placed ahead. Our star was Phyllis Abbe who took 4.86 % of the Wolseley vote! In fact, Phyllis received a larger share of the vote than three Liberals, nine Manitoba Party candidates and all of the Communists and Libertarians. Overall, the GPM took 2% of the vote in the six ridings we ran in, which is a larger share than five of the ten Manitoba Party candidates, five of the six Libertarians and all of the six Communists

received. I think the Green vote would have been even higher but for the fact that this election was very polarized between the NDP and PCs. If one or the other had a clear lead, people would have felt comfortable spending their vote on the Greens. The votes we got represent only a portion of the Green voters out there. Next time, we'll have more money, more people, and more experience. We'll do even better, and the time after that we'll grow again. With ten times the resources, we'll probably get ten times the votes!

The Candidates' Debate

Probably the best part of the campaign was the candidates' debate. Markus and I were the only Greens that had the opportunity to take part in one, which is too bad. For me, it was a great forum for getting our platform across, and 75 community members were exposed to environmental information and thoughts they might not otherwise have had. Our platform made it easy to point out that the other parties are unaware of the connections between environment, health, nature and the economy.

My favourite moment came when, in response to a question about environmental law enforcement, the PC candidate sighed and muttered "not the environment again!" All I had to do was paraphrase our platform notes and watch the audience members nod their heads in agreement.

Ideas Made Perfect Sense

I really had the sense that what I was saying rang true for a lot of people there. At the end of the debate, several people came up and said that although they felt that they couldn't vote for the Greens, our policies and ideas made perfect sense. I couldn't convince all of them that they should vote for us, but at least I got them thinking about issues that no other party even mentioned. Best yet, I forced the NDP, Liberal, and PC candidates to answer questions about the environment. The answers weren't great (for example:

See Not the Environment next page →

dragonfly *scent free*
bodywork and
massage therapy



Robin Faye
774-9547

761 Westminister Avenue, Winnipeg



PINAWA NUCLEAR LABS TO BE DECOMMISSIONED

Waste to stay on-site for now

The Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) has announced the plan to decommission the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) labs at Pinawa, Manitoba. AECB needs to give regulatory approval for the decommissioning, and must carry out an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act before any regulatory decisions can be made. As part of this requirement, AECB must ensure that a comprehensive study of the project is conducted, and a Comprehensive Study Report prepared.

Research discontinued

According to the AECB announcement, the so-called Whiteshell Laboratories were established in the early 1960s to carry out AECL research and development activities for higher temperature versions of the CANDU reactor. Significant programs carried out at WL included the operation of the organic cooled WR-1 Reactor, the Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Program, the SLOWPOKE Demonstration Reactor Project, and various activities related to use of the Accelerator.

AECL discontinued research and operations at WL as a result of the federal government's program review process.

The attempted sale of the site operations to the private sector was not successful, so the government and AECL is proceeding to shut down the facility.

The Scope of Assessment document is now available in draft form for public review and comment. It outlines what the compre-

hensive study should cover: which structures and lands require refurbishment and or decontamination; description of the site area, the various alternatives that will be considered, and so on.

Underground Research Lab not included

It is important to note that the decommissioning does not include the Underground Research Laboratory at nearby Lac du Bonnet. Also, the document points out that there is not as yet a site or option approved for the long-term management/disposal of high-level radioactive wastes, so that wastes will remain on the site under AECB license until such time as they can be transferred to some permanent facility. Final decommissioning cannot take place until that time. The document states that "The establishment of a waste disposal facility is not in the scope of this project".

The draft document is available at the MEN Resource Centre (947-6511), and on the AECB website (www.aecb-ccca.gc.ca). Copies and further information may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Barclay Howden, Head, Operational Facilities Licensing, Research and Production Facilities Division, Atomic Energy Control Board, 280 Slater St. P.O. Box

1046, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

[Public comment was requested by November 26, and readers will obviously have missed that date. However, if you wish to make comments, it's always a good idea to do so anyway]

ECO



"NOT THE ENVIRONMENT AGAIN!"

... continued from previous page

"It's impossible for an MLA to ride the bus." "I certainly don't support higher gas taxes - it's too expensive already."), but at least people had the opportunity to judge them and make up their own minds.

The Real Issues

In short, running for the Greens was easier than I had expected, fun at times, and a positive, encouraging experience. I really hope that in the next election more environmentalists step forward and do the same. Lots of people share our passions and concerns, but they're not articulated often enough, or given enough of an audience.

Elections are great opportunities to bring the real issues forward. In an election campaign, we can speak directly to the people instead of the politicians. If we're serious about protecting the environment, that's how we have to do it. Governments want to concentrate on short-term successes because that's how they survive. They will ignore the environment, at our peril, in order to

hand out tax cuts and other vote-getting projects. The people know better at heart, and if we give them a way to express that knowledge, they'll take the opportunity. We really can make a difference.

Unfortunately, the environment is going to do a lot of motivating for environmentalists over the next few years. Flooding, global warming, and hog offal floating down the Red River is going to bring out the vote much more effectively than a few pamphlets and doorstep visits. The more of us that come forward and put ourselves on the line, the less damage all of us will be liable for in the future. We're going to have a federal election soon enough, and I heartily encourage everyone who reads this to work with the Greens to stop the destruction. If enough of us do just a little bit of work, we can put out some of the fires burning all around us. No one else is going to do it for us.

You can reach the Green Party of Manitoba at 488-2831, or on the Web at www.greenparty.mb.ca.

ECO

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE BREAD CO.

OUR PRODUCTS ARE MADE WITH ORGANICALLY
GROWN, STONE-GROUND PRAIRIE GRAINS
BREADS, BUNS, CINNAMON BUNS, MUFFINS,
COOKIES, PIES, CAKES

MON. - FRI. 7AM TO 6PM
SAT. 7AM TO 5PM

859 WESTMINSTER AVE. WINNIPEG, MB R3G 1B1
BAKERY - 783-5097 OFFICE: 779-4082 FAX: 779-4002

The Organic Experience

Your Organic and Whole Food Source

Free Delivery of Organic Produce and Groceries

For produce list and grocery catalogue phone
between 9am and 5 pm: 779-8570 or 291-8451

Nutritionplus

PREMIUM QUALITY, NATURALLY SOURCED VITAMENS
MINERALS AND SUPPLEMENTS

Organic Products

#16 - 2077 PEMBINA HWY. PH: (204) 269-5954
WINNIPEG, MB FAX: (204) 269-5968
R3T 5J9 TOLL FREE: 1-877-269-5954

BY APPLEBEES IN THE PEMBINA VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE

HOUSE OF NUTRITION LTD.

Vitamins, Herbs, Health Foods

Wide Selection of Organic Produce

770 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0L7

Phone 775-9044
Fax 774-9044



"A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY"

NEW! EXPANDED! ORGANIC SECTION

GOATS MILK - SOYA BEVERAGE
RICE MILK - ORGANIC PRODUCE
FLOURS - CRACKED GRAINS
MIXES - REGULAR GRAINS & MORE

EG: FLOUR: Corn Meal, Millet, Rye, Whole Wheat, Barley, Oat, & Spelt
GRAINS: Rolled Oats, Oat Bran, Golden Flax, Wheat Bran, Red Lentils
MIXES: 7 Grain Cereal, 7 Grain Flour, 8 Bean Soup.

905 Portage Ave / Between Arlington & Burnell
Open Monday to Saturday 8AM - 9PM Closed Sunday

WE DELIVER! 987-8849

TRACKING THE BLUE BOX IN THE CLASSROOM

by Randall McQuaker, Resource Conservation Manitoba

What are egg cartons made of? How can old newspapers be used to make new paper? Why do they use so many different kinds of plastic to make things? Why don't they just chop everything up and use a big magnet to recycle? Is a blue box made out of recycled plastic? Kids have all kinds of questions when the presenter from Resource Conservation Manitoba's Environmental Speakers Bureau shows up.

RCM launched its service for schools in November 1998 with financial support from the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation. Volunteer presenters visit classrooms with posters, diagrams, photographs, and samples of recycled and recyclable materials. The Bureau currently operates in Winnipeg, offering presentations on high-interest environmental topics for students from Grade One to Senior Four (Grade Twelve). The service is provided free to schools.

Education and fun

Although resource conservation is a serious matter, organizers of the Bureau see no reason to stress doom and gloom. "We can learn about these issues and still have fun," insists Mary Melnychuk, an educational consultant who has helped put together presentation outlines and volunteer orientation materials for the Bureau.

This year, presentations for younger grades are geared around a crusading R-Team — a squad of cartoon superheroes developed by Melnychuk and graphic artist David Henry. The characters take their names from a range of relevant 'R words' including Regain, Recharge, Refill, Repair, and a host of others.

In developing the service, RCM decided to include value-added extras — not just a speaker to come into the classroom, but also attractive visual aids, supplementary information for teachers, reproducible handouts for their students, and lists of student activities. Suggested follow-up activities include designing the perfect container, research on a million-year picnic (to find out how long it takes for things to break down in a landfill), comparison of consumer and conserver approaches to a bag lunch, and writing "solution songs" (devising environmental messages to fit familiar tunes).

Four Key Rs

4 Rs Presenters tell students about four key Rs: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Particular attention is paid to the idea of Rethinking consumer purchases. Do I really need this item? Do I already have something I can use instead? What went into making it? How long will it last? Can it be repaired if it breaks? What happens when I don't need it any more? Can it be reused or recycled,

or will it end up in a landfill? This emphasis on Rethinking is an effort to promote critical reflection and to encourage students to consider the ecological consequences of their everyday resource use decisions.

Response from students and teachers has been enthusiastic. "I didn't know you could make a hat out of pop bottles," one Grade

Five student exclaimed. Another took a look at the photos of bales of aluminum and boxboard and pronounced them "cool." A Grade Two teacher reported, "The students were extremely interested in the samples and the things they could touch."

Training Provided

The Bureau provides volunteers with training, tips on presenting to young people, background information on the topics, presentation outlines, and suggested approaches to encourage student participation.

Jacqueline Mikolash started volunteering with RCM's Speakers Bureau last year. The University

of Winnipeg library worker says the presentations are "a perfect opportunity to capture kids' interest and show them how they can help the environment. You really feel you are doing something worthwhile." Mikolash likes the fact that the presentations are upbeat. She feels they offer "a fun way to get good environmental habits going at a young age." And, she adds, it is heartening to see how much children care and how much they know about recycling and the environment.

"The kids are great," agree organizers. "They are keen and they ask great questions. They have their own experiences to relate and their own ideas to share. We can just about guarantee that volunteers will have a terrific time." RCM is committed to the safety and protection of children, so volunteers are screened to ensure suitability for placement.

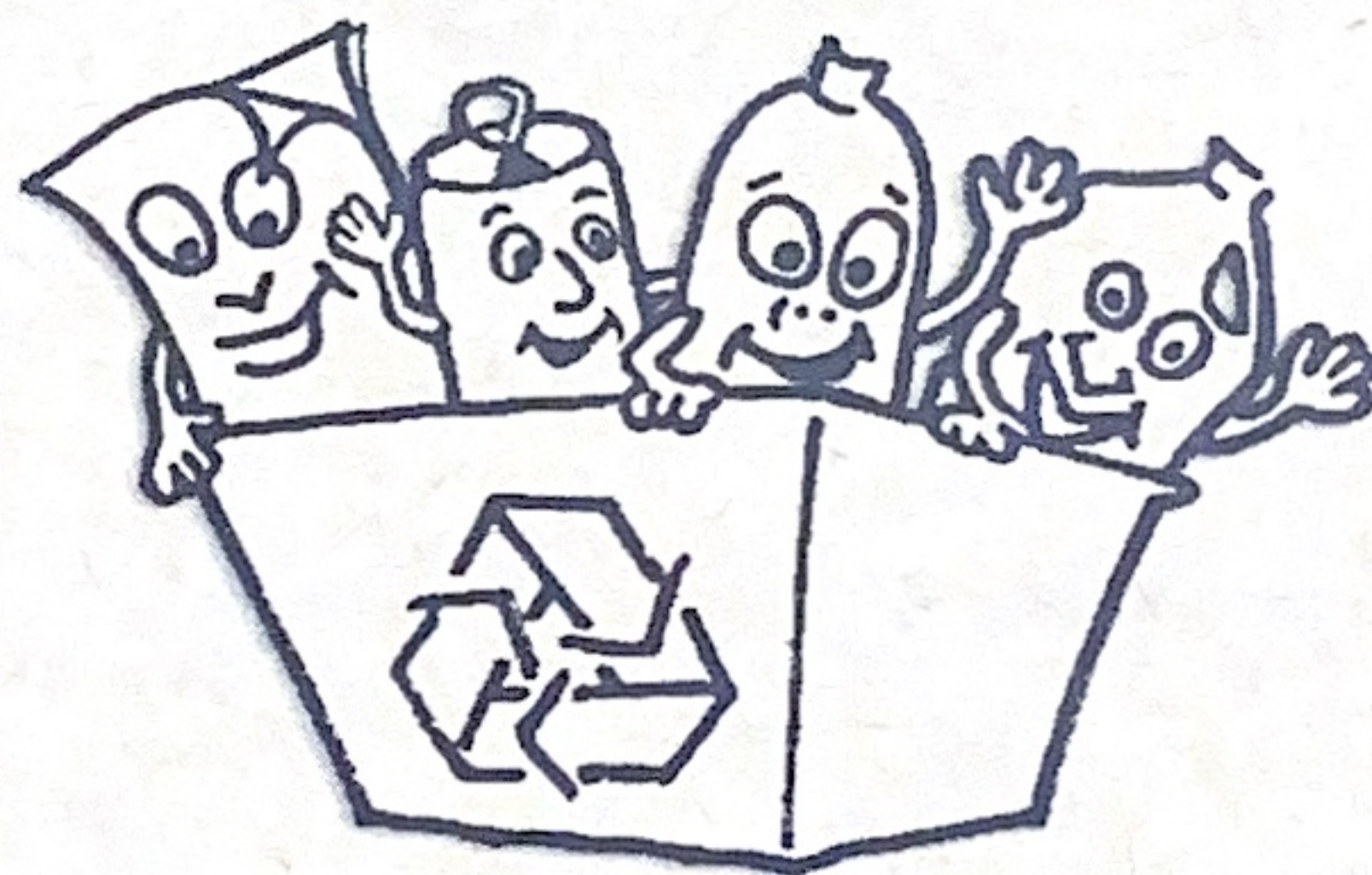
Classroom presentations offered by the Environmental Speakers Bureau focus on waste reduction and resource conservation.

Tracking the Blue Box follows four common materials (paper, metal, plastic, glass) from blue box through reprocessing to end use. It also critically

considers the role of recycling as a resource conservation practice.

Paper Chase explains how paper is made, how it can be recycled, and how alternatives can replace some or all of the wood fibre in some paper products.

See *Introducing* page 11 →



THE KLEEFELD LAND CO-OP

by Jim Beckta

The Kleefeld Land Co-op is being formed to purchase a 46-acre piece of land one mile north of Kleefeld just off Hwy. No. 216. The land was developed in the 1950s to grow vegetables. It was part of a family farm owned by Jake Kliever who, over time, sold various pieces off for building lots. A few years ago, he gave the remaining land to his four children who are the present owners.

In 1994, Jim Beckta, as coordinator of the Earthshare Agricultural Co-operative of Central America, worked with Central American refugees on this land growing organic vegetables. Since 1996, the land has been leased to a local dairy farmer who grows alfalfa to feed his dairy cows.

The land is 46 acres in size. Twenty-four acres are under cultivation while the remaining 22 are forested. The twenty-four acres are broken up into 3-8 acre size parcels and surrounded by tall trees which serve as heat traps to promote better vegetable growth. The soil is light and sandy, ideal for vegetable growing. There are a number of old apple trees, numerous saskatoon and chokecherry bushes.

Four different pits, two large and two small, dug on the property, served as retention ponds for irrigation. There is an artesian well, drilled in the '50s with a five foot static head. It is deep with clean, though hard, water.

Although the land is zoned in a way which allows for sub-division into parcels no smaller than four acres, there are no plans to sub-divide. The land is a haven for wild life. Deer, rabbits, raccoons, gophers and wild turkeys roam freely. The land will be kept chemical free. The surrounding properties, mostly treed, give it a buffer from chemical agriculture.

The Co-op

A co-operative is being set up to purchase the land. Shares will be \$2,000 each and no more than fifty shares will be sold. This will cover the purchase of the land and allow for a small cushion should someone wish to sell back their share to the co-operative.

The co-operative will be managed by a board of directors and executive director. Annual meetings will be held to discuss and vote on co-op matters. Additional meetings will be held as the need arises.

After consultation with prospective members, it was decided to present a solid vision for the co-operative for its first five years.

This will give stability and security to those buying into the co-op and a chance for the members to get to know one another before major changes are made.

The Vision

A group of individuals owning a piece of land, to receive spiritual and material nourishment from that land, and to protect and care for the land in a way that promotes the welfare of the land and its stewards.

The Vision in Practice

The property will shelter a variety of activities. Organic agriculture, spiritual and physical regeneration, and simple enjoyment of nature are its simplest and most obvious uses. Over time, the membership of the co-op can develop other uses as their energies and vision allow.

After consulting with prospective members, a number of activities were thought out and will be the core of the co-operative's first years.

1. The 24 acres of cultivated land will be leased to Jim Beckta for five years. This land will be certified organic by the Organic Producers Association of Manitoba and cultivated according to OPAM's standards.

2. Of this 24 acres, garden plots will be marked off for the use of the members. Each share owner will have access to one plot (maximum size 50' x 50'). Manuring, land preparation and watering can be arranged with Jim Beckta. There will be a charge for these services.

3. At present, there are no functional buildings on the property. Over the next five years, small cottages could be built on the property to allow members to stay for a few weeks at a time for a retreat or to simply enjoy nature. These cottages would be built using methods and materials that are environmentally sustainable. Funds for building the cottages would be raised independently of initial share capital.

4. Members will be allowed to set up tents for up to one month at a time on the property. At present, there are no outdoor toilets built. These can be built inexpensively by the members. The artesian well will provide fresh, clean water.

5. Jim Beckta will prepare a quarterly newsletter containing information about the co-op and related matters. The newsletter will be distributed via email and fax.

6. The land will be available to workshop co-ordinators who wish to give workshops from time to time on subjects which deal with healing and different aspects of nature.

Global warming, genetically modified foods, PCB-laden whales and fish; these and other happenings suggest that we, the humans, have fouled our nest. And the earth that sustains us, feeds us and carries us is protesting. Manitobans are experiencing the second major natural disaster in three years.

This project is not a romantic "back-to-the-land" gesture. It will be more like touching the earth. Listening to the earth. Attuning to the earth and all that it grows. Being in contact with our food as it is grown; experiencing our healing as we learn to allow the planet to heal itself; letting the differences which divide humans dissolve as we steward a piece of our earth together.

It can be a place where we can start again.

For more information, please call Jim Beckta at 832-4197 **ECO**

10 Things You Could Do If You Owned Your Own Low-Maintenance Organic Farm

1. Play your flute by the pond
2. Sit on the big rock, stare and do nothing
3. Weed the broccoli
4. Pick the apples
5. Make connections with farmers in developing countries
6. Chat with the dandelion spirit
7. Gather firewood
8. Keep a piece of land chemical-free
9. Plan a healing centre
10. With co-owners, build a community that is earth-friendly

I am looking for people to buy shares (\$2,000) in an organic farm. For more information, please call Jim Bekta at 832-4197

FOREST ECOLOGY GROWS ON CAMPUS

by Barbara Edie

(Reprinted with permission from *The University of Winnipeg Journal*, Fall/Winter 1999-2000)

The University of Winnipeg is branching out to establish a new Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research (C-FIR) that will act as a research facility dedicated to understanding the sustainable management of regional forests.

Visiting Researchers

C-FIR, to be located in the heart of the University of Winnipeg campus, will bring together a multitude of researchers in areas that include biology, biochemistry, economics, philosophy, conflict-resolution, anthropology, geography, GIS and climatology. The centre will also draw visiting researchers from industry, government and the community at large.

"Our university shines as an interdisciplinary school. This program takes the interdisciplinary teaching approach through to research and combines the best of the two," says Rod Bollman, chair of the University of Winnipeg Biology Department. "This will be one of the few truly interdisciplinary forest ecology programs offered in Canada. We're going beyond the norm and looking at issues such as the social value of forests."

A Centre of Forestry Expertise

The research centre and expanded course curriculum in Environmental Studies will combine efforts to support key areas of sustainable forestry management and related development. "It will be a centre of forestry expertise in Manitoba that can be accessed by industry and other stakeholders, including First Nations people, environmental groups, and government bodies such as the Department of Natural Resources," explains Bollman. "C-FIR will have a fully interdisciplinary research program to implement made-in-Manitoba forest research."

"The new centre will also offer many collaborative opportunities for graduate students and other researchers," says Katherine Schultz, associate vice-president academic of research and graduate studies at the University of Winnipeg. "It's great news for our

regional forestry industry and the inclusivity of research in sustainable management will also reflect traditional interests and emerging social values."

Schultz also notes that the University will now offer the widest range of forestry relevant programming within Manitoba or Saskatchewan. In addition to educating students, it will be possible to provide training for regional forest industry employees. "It gives the University a unique opportunity to expand its interdisciplinary forest research," Bollman adds.

The Research Approach

The research approach is to "utilize a knowledge of the forest past to understand the present and future," Schultz explains. Past research in areas such as traditional land use, climatic change and biodiversity will shed light on present studies of natural disturbances, harvest practices, growth and yield determinations and so on. Researchers then can explore future issues such as better monitoring of forests, forest protection and health, genetic variability and social values.

New forest ecology research is not all C-FIR will bring to the University and to the province. Through the Canadian Foundation of Innovation, the federal government has committed \$607,000 to support the new centre. That amount will be matched by the provincial government, and another \$300,000 will be sought from the industry sector. "In total, that means about \$1.5 million for the University," says Bollman.

Three Forestry Ecologists Added

Renovations and construction of C-FIR are expected to begin in the fall of 1999. A 1,000-square metre space will be converted to provide laboratory facilities, research areas and archives. Three full-time forest ecologists have been added to the biology Department to develop programming. Their teaching and expertise will complement and build on the work of a multidisciplinary team of 10 to 12 researchers already at the University of Winnipeg. **ECO**

INTRODUCING THE CONCEPTS OF STEWARDSHIP

... continued from page 9

My Life as a Can documents the energy and resource inputs involved in producing aluminum, outlines the benefits of aluminum recycling, and notes the importance of closing the recycling loop.

Plastic is Forever explores where plastic comes from, describes how it is recycled, and looks at a variety of materials made from different kinds of plastic.

Composting: Nature's Recycling examines the amazing process by which organic waste is turned into a valuable material that plants and gardens love (humus). It identifies some of the organisms that do the work and discusses why composting is such a key waste reduction activity.

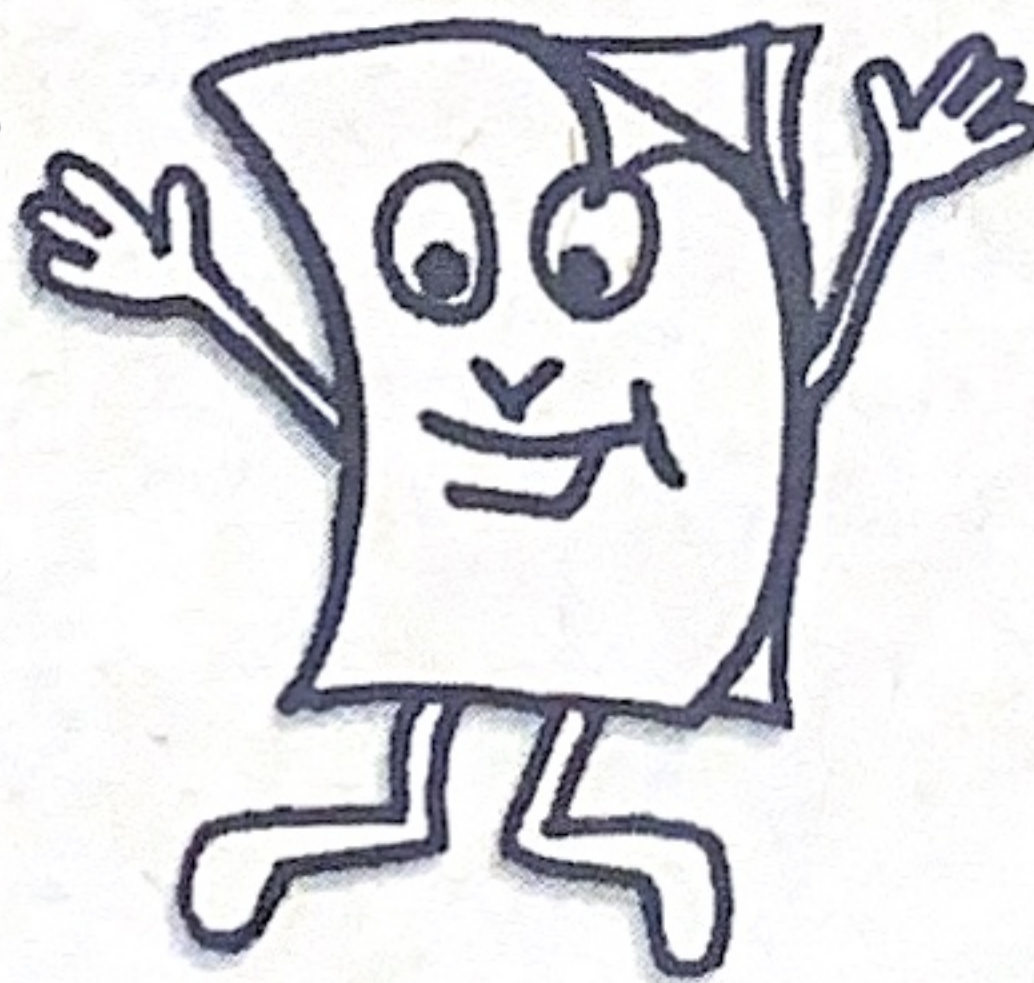
Our Ecological Footprint (for Grades Four and up) asks whether our rates of consumption and waste production are sustainable, and whether our

use of resources is fair to others with whom we share the planet. Students consider specific ways we can all help to make a difference.

Beyond the Blue Box (for Senior One to Senior Four) looks at the steps in the recycling loop and introduces the concepts of environmental stewardship and life-cycle analysis.

Resource Conservation Manitoba is a non-profit centre for applied sustainability. Formerly the Recycling Council of Manitoba, RCM promotes ecological sustainability through environmental education and development of alternatives to unsustainable current practices.

To obtain more information about the Environmental Speakers Bureau, to volunteer or to book a class presentation, please call RCM at 925-3777. **ECO**



SAVING THE SEINE

by Jean-Pierre Brunet, Save Our Seine Environment

During this year's annual cleanup, Save Our Seine reached a milestone. The celebration of this achievement was written up in this letter to the Winnipeg Free Press that for whatever reason, was never printed.

Out of the Woods

Last weekend, [the last weekend in October] SOS Board Members, volunteers and city workers finished an extended cleanup that had begun the weekend of October 16 in the worst stretch of the Seine, the industrial corridor of Old St. Boniface. This was the tenth year SOS has called upon the general public for its annual ritual of cleaning the Seine.

Admittedly, it has sometimes felt like a life sentence. Almost a thousand volunteers have rolled up their sleeves during a 10 year period, including: schools, colleges, environmental, historical, church and community groups, scouts and guides, Urban Green Teams, as well as City Councilors, MLA's, and a Lieutenant Governor. Ten years, tons of debris, hundreds of shopping carts and tires later, we can honestly say that we have done it. For the

moment, the Seine in this area is completely clean. It has been an extraordinary act of citizenship. To the many that have helped us in whatever manner reach this milestone, the sincerest of thanks.

Like human character, the Seine will still have the onerous task of rebuilding from a tarnished reputation. For those still in doubt, they will need only to discover the beauty of SOS's recently built trail, or better yet, visit the corridor by canoe. Only then, will they realize what the fuss has been all about - the rescue of one of the richest natural and historical regions that can be found in our city.

Your readership, caught in the pangs of a Rome that is burning and a city in flames, would do well to be reminded (before they board up the house and flee to the suburbs) that there are silent armies that are at work in this city. You can either burn a city down, or make it more beautiful. You can destroy a neighbourhood by fire, or by a different fire, make it more habitable. Ultimately, the city that we inherit, is the city, we all collectively - in one way or another, decide.

Jean-Pierre Brunet, President, SOS River Environment Inc. **ECO**

GM FREE CUISINE

by the MEN's Biotechnology Working Group

Kudos to Yves Veggie Cuisine, a Canadian company that listens to its customers. Yves makes a variety of soy-based deli products such as veggie hot dogs and sandwich slices, handy additions to a vegetarian diet. Many customers have apparently called in to Yves' toll-free comment line to request that the company use only non-genetically-modified soy ingredients, and the company has responded positively.

Yves' future soy contracts will be only the "identity-preserved" variety, thus guaranteeing a non-genetically modified product. To our knowledge, Yves is the first Canadian company to make such a move with its product line, and they are to be congratulated. Many European companies have made a similar commitment as a result of widespread consumer concerns about genetically modified foods.

ECO

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 # () _____ E-Mail _____

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

