

Eco-JOURNAL

Manitoba RESEAU
ECO-NETWORK ECOLOGIQUE
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September-October, 1991

ECO-NETWORK MEETING TO FOCUS ON ABORIGINAL THEME

The Eco-Network will hold its semi-annual general meeting on November 2, at the Unitarian Church, Sargent at Banning. The theme for this meeting is **Aboriginal People: Environment and Development**. We are fortunate to have Roy Mason and Linda Clarkson as our guest speakers.

Roy is Ojibway-Cree originally from Island Lake, Manitoba, now working as a native counsellor at the Brandon School Division. He also teaches at Brandon University in the Native Studies Faculty, and likes to write and play traditional music. Roy will be doing a workshop on "Aboriginal Perspectives on the Environment", which provides a valuable and thought-provoking overview, challenging all of us to examine our own concerns and the relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal society.

Linda will follow with a presentation on "Aboriginal People and Development." A veteran on work with aboriginal organizations, Linda is currently working in Winnipeg to help set up a national network of environment and other groups that will offer support and expertise for non-violent direct action by aboriginal people, such as the Peigan Lonefighters, who are resisting environmentally and culturally destructive projects. Designing alternative economic development is also part of her work.

(See Agenda--page 2)

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SHAPING CANADA'S FUTURE TOGETHER Proposals



Canada

Constituting Environmental Mayhem

by Toby Maloney

At first blush environmentalists are unhappy with the constitutional proposals tabled by the federal government both for what was included and for what was left out.

While tenant advocates, women's groups and labour have all reacted negatively to the proposal to admit property rights to the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms, environmentalists are wondering if we aren't about to enshrine the right to pollute private property in our foremost law.

As well, sections suggesting the federal government should withdraw from involvement in areas of jurisdiction currently shared with the provinces like for-

(See Bill of Rights--page 8)

Eco-Journal

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Editor:Toby Maloney

Contributors this issue:

Nick Carter, Margaret Kapinga, Anne Lindsey, Toby Maloney, Harry Mesman, Kemlin Nembhard, Kim Tyson, Randy Webber.

Manitoba Eco-Network

Executive Director: ... Anne Lindsey

Executive: Chair

..... Jack Dubois
Vice-Chair/National Steering
Committee Representative

Brian Pannell
Secretary Bill Goddard

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... Citizens Against Neurotoxins

Nick Carter
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REREAD:

A quick flip through
other periodicals

by Toby Maloney

TV or Not TV

Given that a recent study of Gulf War coverage on television showed that the more television you watch the less you know, turning off the tube entirely is probably something we should all seriously consider.

There's another environmental benefit from going tubeless, however. **Earth Island Journal**, in its Summer 1991 issue, noted that widespread television use requires enormous amounts of energy production even when the darn things are turned off. Because most remote control colour television sets have a warm up function, the Rocky Mountain Institute has determined that nearly 1000 Megawatts of energy per year is used in the United States just to make the picture available immediately.

Also, when they are running, colour TV's consume three times more energy than black and white's because they require three electron beam "guns" to create the three primary colours while the black and white sets use only one. RMI estimated that exchanging all 133 million TV's in that great country to Black and White (an emergency measure employed in Cuba) would save the equivalent of twenty-two 1000 Megawatt nuclear power plants. The total consumption for America's dangerous addiction (a problem shared by Canadians as well) is 35.6 billion kilowatt hours per year.

Tune in and turn off.

Eco-quote

A wildlife biologist hired to monitor the implementation of an environmental impact assessment recommendations for a SaskPower hydro line isn't impressed. After quitting in disgust when SaskPower ignored its own studies and among other things cut right through a Bald Eagle's nesting area, Don Harron was quoted in **Borealis'** Canadian File as saying:

"There's not really any such thing as an independent monitor. In my case, it was made clear to me that unless I toed the line, they would find somebody else. I walked out before it got that far. You'll find that with every environment assess-

ment company in the province; increasingly their job is becoming public relations. The proponent is paying the bills and you do things the way he wants them."

Let's all move to PEI

If all 5.5 billion people on earth were gathered together on Prince Edward Island and given a 60 centimetre square to stand on, only 36 per cent of the island would be occupied. At the current rate of growth of 26,000 more people each day, it would take until the year 3091 before someone had to go over and stand on Island or the mainland.

While we might need a little more than 60 centimetres to live on, it certainly seems as though population growth isn't as large a problem as our ability to use our resources wisely and share the available space.

*Social Studies, Globe and Mail,
September 6*

Nukes in the schools

Check out the special report on "The nuclear industry goes to school" in the summer issue of **Green Teacher**. The report includes articles from New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (written by **Concerned Citizens of Manitoba** member Dave Taylor).

The articles are written by educators with an interest in energy issues and the common theme in the four provinces is that pro-nuclear industry information including some very subjective material is not being balanced by counter arguments from anti-nuclear groups. Large public relations budgets are used to introduce the pro-nuclear agenda into the schools at all levels from elementary to university.

AGM MEETING AGENDA

Nov. 2 Unitarian Church (Sargent & Banning)

9:30-10:00 Business meeting and reports

10:00-11:00 Updates from member groups

11:00-11:30 Refreshments. Please bring a cup!

11:30-12:30 Workshop: Aboriginal Perspectives on the Environment, with Roy Mason

12:30-1:30 Presentation and Questions: Aboriginal People and Development, with Linda Clarkson

Childcare will be provided, but WE NEED TO KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF YOU REQUIRE IT.

Please call 956-1468 to register for child care.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 10: **Manitoba Naturalists Society** presents *The Sacred Earth Show*, a slide show by Saskatoon nature photographer Courtney Milne at 8 p.m. in the Jubilee Auditorium at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute. Stunning images of the earth's mystical sites will challenge and inspire all. Courtney Milne will present the show and will have copies of his latest book, *The Sacred Earth* available. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Manitoba Naturalists Society, 308-128 James Avenue. Proceeds will go to support the Naturalists Society. Call 943-9029 for more information.

October 15: **Gorillas in the Mist: The True Story (An evening with Ian Redmond)** 7:30 p.m. at the University Centre Multi-Purpose Room, University of Manitoba. Wildlife biologist and conservationist Ian Redmond was Dian Fossey's assistant and friend while he studied mountain gorillas in Rwanda and Zaire from 1976 to 1983. He was an advisor to the film *Gorillas in the Mist*. He is co-ordinator of the African Ele-fund and a broadcaster and author of several books for both children and adults. Tickets available from "Answers" or by phoning University of Manitoba Students Union office 474-8211.

October 16,17,18: **Clean Environment Commission** public hearings on **Abitibi-Price Inc. Eight Year Forest Resource Management Plan**. St. George Parish Hall, St. George, Man. 1:00-5:00pm and 7:00-10:00pm. For more information call, collect 1-326-2395.

October 19: **Abitibi-Price** public hearings continue in Winnipeg at the Ward Technical Lab. 745 Logan Ave. 10:00am.

October 18-19: **Manitoba Men's Network** sponsors local observance of international **BrotherPeace Day** and other events. Kicks off with a performance by Geoff Morgan, a humorous songwriter with four albums about men, at the West End Cultural Centre on Friday night at 8 p.m. Saturday starts with a pancake breakfast at All Saints Church (Broadway at Memorial) at 9 a.m. This year's march leaves from All Saints at 11:30 a.m. BrotherPeace is an international day of awareness and action to end male violence.

October 18-20: **YM-YWCA of Winnipeg, with the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation**, is holding "Sustainable Cities: New Partnerships" A Conference on Urbanization. Areas to be covered are: Community Support and Human Services, Economic Development and The Built Environment. For more information, call 942-8157.

October 21: **Manitoba Naturalists Society** Indoor Program features forest ecologist Stan Rowe, speaking on "Wild Places: A Look into the Future," 8 pm, Basic Medical Sciences Building, Theatre A. Call 943-9029 for more information.

October 29-31: **Clean Environment Commission** public hearings on **Charleswood Bridge** at the Viscount Gort Hotel. Check with CEC, 1-326-2395 for times and details.

November 1: **Marquis Project** (Brandon) is hosting a Caribbean dinner and dance "A Hot Time in a Cold Clime," featuring Winnipeg band Caribbean Connection, spicy foods and door prizes. Tickets are \$20. Call 1-727-5675 for more information.

November 2: **Manitoba Eco-Network Semi-Annual General Meeting**. Unitarian Church, Sargent at Banning. 9:30-1:30 pm. Theme is "Aboriginal Peoples: Environment and Development." (see notice this issue). Please bring a coffee cup. Call 956-1468 for more information.

November 3: **Manitoba Naturalists Society 5th Annual Wildlife Art Show and Auction**, Lions Place, 610 Portage Avenue 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the auction at 2 p.m. Admission is \$2. Proceeds go to Tall Grass Prairie preservation.

November 9: **Manitoba Eco-Network Social Evening**, featuring Ballroom Dancing! a Potluck Supper and a Dessert Auction. 6 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church. Tickets \$5, available at the Network office, call 956-1468 for more information.

November 12: **DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS, EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING COPY FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE OF ECO-JOURNAL.**

November 23: **Marquis Project 6th Annual Agriculture Conference**. This year's theme: "Agriculture and the Economy". Call 1-727-5675 for more information.

November 25-27: **Clean Environment Commission** Public Hearings on the **Red and Assiniboine Rivers Water Quality Objectives** in Winnipeg, location to be confirmed. Call 1-326-2395 for more information. (Hearings in Selkirk to follow).

November 30: **IDEA Centre** and other groups, including the **Eco-Network**, sport their wares at "Gifts That Go On Giving", a sale to benefit both holiday gift-givers and groups working for social change. All Saints Church Hall, Broadway and Osborne, 10am to 6pm.

UPCOMING: The third **Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Workshop** will be held February 14-16, 1992 in Brandon, Manitoba. Built around the theme of "Integrating Land Use, People and Endangered Species," the workshop will be of interest to naturalists, farmers, academics and agricultural/resource professionals alike. Co-hosted by the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University, Department of Natural Resources, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society. More information from the Institute 727-9734.



Dept. of Political Studies
Univ. of Manitoba
Tel. (204) 474-8383



M.L.A. CONRAD SANTOS, Ph.D.

596 Townsend Ave.
Wpg., Man. R3T 2V2
Tel. 269-4121

Legislative Bldg. Ph: 945-3710
NDP Caucus Room 234, Ph: 945-4918
Wpg., MB R3C 0V8

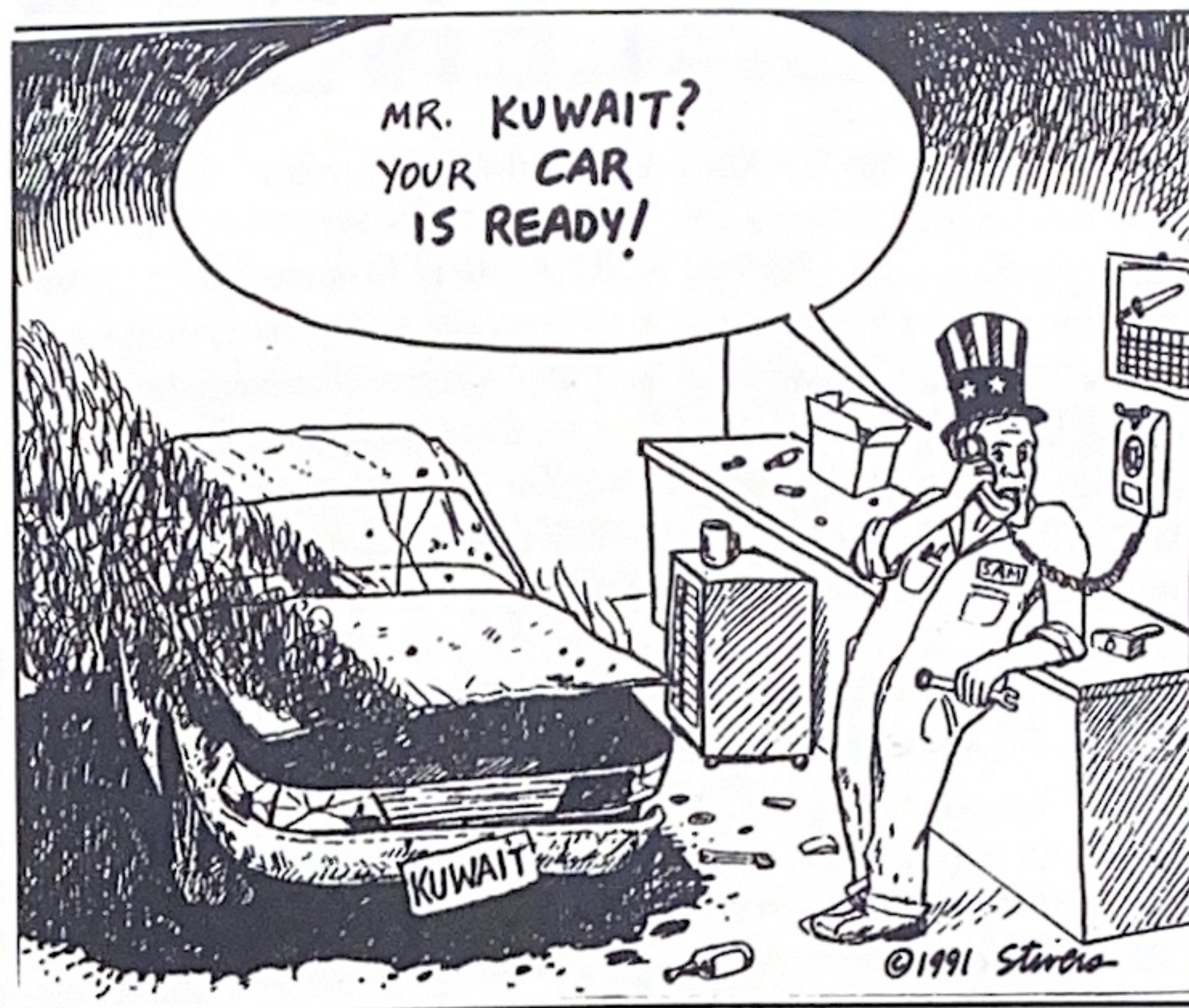
Resources on Gulf War and Environmental Disaster

* Friends of the Earth has made available a package produced by its Gulf Assessment Team, a group of scientists the organization sent to the region to examine the environmental consequences of the Gulf War. Over the summer the group reported:

* that the scope of the oil fires is generally worse than reported and the situation is getting worse; the oil spills have affected 500 kilometres of Saudi Arabia's coastline, salt marshes and offshore waters; smoke is reaching higher altitudes than previously reported and both regional and global climatic impacts have been underestimated; over 5090 wells continue to burn (10 per cent of the world's daily oil consumption is going up in smoke); oil lakes are beginning to catch fire as desert temperatures rise; massive disruptions to underground geology have occurred; firefighting strategies are inadequate; governments in the Gulf are overwhelmed and the problem requires multi-nation attention as a global environmental emergency.

The summary report and supporting releases and press clippings are available for use at the Manitoba Eco-Network Resource Centre.

* The Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security's library is advertising a database on international environmental



issues, including help with research on the environmental effects of the Gulf War, on potential environmental conflicts elsewhere and on global warming and how it affects North-South relations.

The Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security is a crown corporation set up in 1985 to provide information on international peace and security issues. You can call the institute's library in Ottawa (collect until the end of 1991) at 613-991-0768.



Brushcuts cartoon by Julie Price now available as a T-shirt at the Manitoba Eco-Network

Labour confronts environmental concerns

by Harry Mesman

A committee of the Canadian Labour Congress has confronted, head-on, even the most difficult environmental questions including the mythical false trade-off between jobs and the environment.

As directed by the delegates to its 1990 convention the CLC through its environment committee, has developed a comprehensive labour-oriented environmental program. Anyone reading the statement would agree it is a straightforward plan for the future.

The overall thrust of the 30 page document--The Canadian Labour Congress Policy Statement on the Environment, June 1991--is succinctly detailed in a six point executive summary that bears highlighting here:

The CLC recognizes and advocates a central place for the environment and social and economic policy.

Noting how labour has historically been instrumental in the creation of social policies which "benefit the whole community as citizens and consumers," and citing how pensions and Medicare as prime examples, the paper details the extent to which labour has already progressed on the environmental front with conferences and co-operative efforts with environmental organizations. As the paper notes, this is only the beginning of an active labour environment agenda.

The CLC endorses sustainable development as popularized by the Brundtland Commission.

The Brundtland report, the paper points out, calls for working people to "play a role in the environmental revolution" and forgoes the solutions that called for sacrificing employment for environmental survival. Its introduction of the theme of sustainable development, at least as originally intended, can be supported by labour. This section also details how Canada's record on enact-

ing the principles of the Brundtland Report is extremely poor, particularly the Green Plan, which is dismissed as "an assembly of existing components and a series of speculations as to what might happen in the next decade."

While job security is a fundamental concern of workers, it is possible to reconcile full employment with environmental protection, provided some mechanisms are put in place for the transition to sustainable development.

Obviously, jobs and income are the main concerns that workers have about sustainable development. The CLC position paper details the ways in which jobs versus environment is a false choice and outlines the aims of an environmental displacement policy:

- *workers whose jobs are affected by environmental reforms should be fully retrained and compensated (this must be recognized in all government grant and regulatory programs dealing with environmental solutions);*
- *all new environmental policies and programs should honestly state all anticipated economic repercussions (as well as their distribution) and make provisions for appropriate adjustment measures;*
- *financing industrial adjustment in Canada as a whole should be a larger priority for government;*
- *environmental organizations should specifically support environmental retraining and compensation schemes as a positive means to full environmental protection.*

There are a large number of legitimate routes in public policy to sustainable development, but government regulation is most central and effective, with proper compliance and enforcement.

While noting the various "instruments" of environmental change (environmental action, government action, lifestyle action changes, workplace and community action, education and "economic instruments" such as pollution credits and Green Taxes) the CLC paper argues forcibly for

government policy and legislation as the most effective method of fostering meaningful change. Labour generally believes that the concept of sustainable development can not be implemented in a market based economy without extensive government intervention or regulation and that those regulations should mandate performance standards and corporate reporting requirements.

The "Zero Emission" of pollutants is a necessary and feasible policy for pollution control.

Making a very compelling case for its feasibility and noting the alternatives have rarely worked, the paper observes that "the zero emission philosophy is the only one that will lead to a clean environment without degradation and gross threats to human health." This position is also in line with the CLC's traditional "zero exposure" stance on workplace carcinogens.

Workplace and community action at the local level are essential in securing a clean and healthy environment; within the workplace, collective bargaining is the most effective method of obtaining protection for the work environment, the community, and the physical environment.

More than any other union activity, environmental action, the paper correctly points out, has a very strong community component. As such, union environmental action will require an educated membership, strong links with community activists, effective use of the media, liaisons with other union efforts and good communications with the local, national and international labour organizations. The importance of bringing environmental issues to the bargaining table is also emphasized in the policy statement with a detailed outline of a typical environmental agenda provided.

(See Blueprint -- Page 11)

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A Wish List for Winnipeg? Plan Winnipeg process grapples with environment issues

by Nick Carter

The process of assessing the effectiveness of "Plan Winnipeg" - (the master blueprint for regulating development in Winnipeg and at its boundaries) is currently being broadened to include the Winnipeg resident-at-large.

Most cities with any pretense at keeping abreast of current thinking on their futures attempt such exercises at reasonable intervals. Plan Winnipeg in 1986 was structured around two fundamental objectives: the most effective strategy for encouraging the maintenance and revitalization of older established neighbourhoods; and the optimal (cost effective) location for new neighbourhoods in the suburban periphery." A vision of the City was last enshrined in the document "A by-law ... to establish the Greater Winnipeg Development Plan for the City of Winnipeg and the Additional Zone (April 1986)."

The by-law is really a set of policy statements with their objectives accompanied by designated "policy areas" to which the statements apply. For example a policy to co-operate with federal authorities on regulations for the airport accompanies the objective of protecting the operations of the airport from potential hazards.

In a mere five years, there have been many changes in outlook, not least of which is the putting about of the notion, if not the understanding, of sustainable development. It will be interesting to participate in the events of "City Week" which begins on September 23, to hear what we make of sustainable development applied in an urban context. What is a sustainable city, after all?

It is encouraging to see that the consultation process to date (involving councillors, stakeholders, experts and "keenly interested individuals" in issue identification and commentary) has discarded organization along lines of municipal departments and has instead adopted five topic areas. These are: urban development management; economic development; environmental management; social equity; and urban image.

We have to hope that Review 92 will be followed by a hard look at the means by which an environmental (ecological?) overview will be given to all city activities.

Putting it very bluntly, in terms of two controversial developments, the Charles-wood Bridge and The Pines would not be assessed only as the precise physical presence between Roblin and Portage and a housing structure, respectively.

Can we really assess the impact of a river crossing without a deep examination of the bridge's fit in the overall car vehicle use, reduce Carbon Dioxide etc. which could be related to this proposal?

For the other example, aside from the commitment of yet another portion of the river bank to private use for many years, this project appears to fly in the face of the Plan Winnipeg objective to protect the airport.

Am I alone in my unease? Lest present

behaviour be perpetuated, can we so improve Plan Winnipeg that we first develop a set of principles and objectives against which all councillors test their support for future decisions?

I am a layman in matters of city planning, party to only a portion of the review process. For discussion purposes however, a few of the environmental issues to be addressed are listed with a few opinions.

*** Winnipeg as a "sustainable city ..."**
There is danger in not coming to terms with what we mean, danger in the complacency which lies in verbal convenience equally applied to the durability of street surfaces (See Wish List--Page 11)

Learning the value of 'rootedness'

People who own cars tend to lose track of the distance travelled each day between shops, cafes and workplaces.

People without cars know only too well that shopping, visiting friends or getting to events around the city, usually involve a major investment of time and energy travelling on public transportation.

Those distances travelled and our over-reliance on transportation is partly what contributes to the sense of rootlessness people often feel even when living in neighbourhoods.

Those who make decisions about how our communities are designed, decisions which force dependence on a vehicle, often don't understand what rootedness--a sense of belonging and contributing to a community--is about.

The proposed closure of the Brooklands, McPhillips and William Avenue branch libraries is a case in point.

Libraries are one of the few public meeting places left in neighbourhoods. They are heavily used by people who don't drive cars.

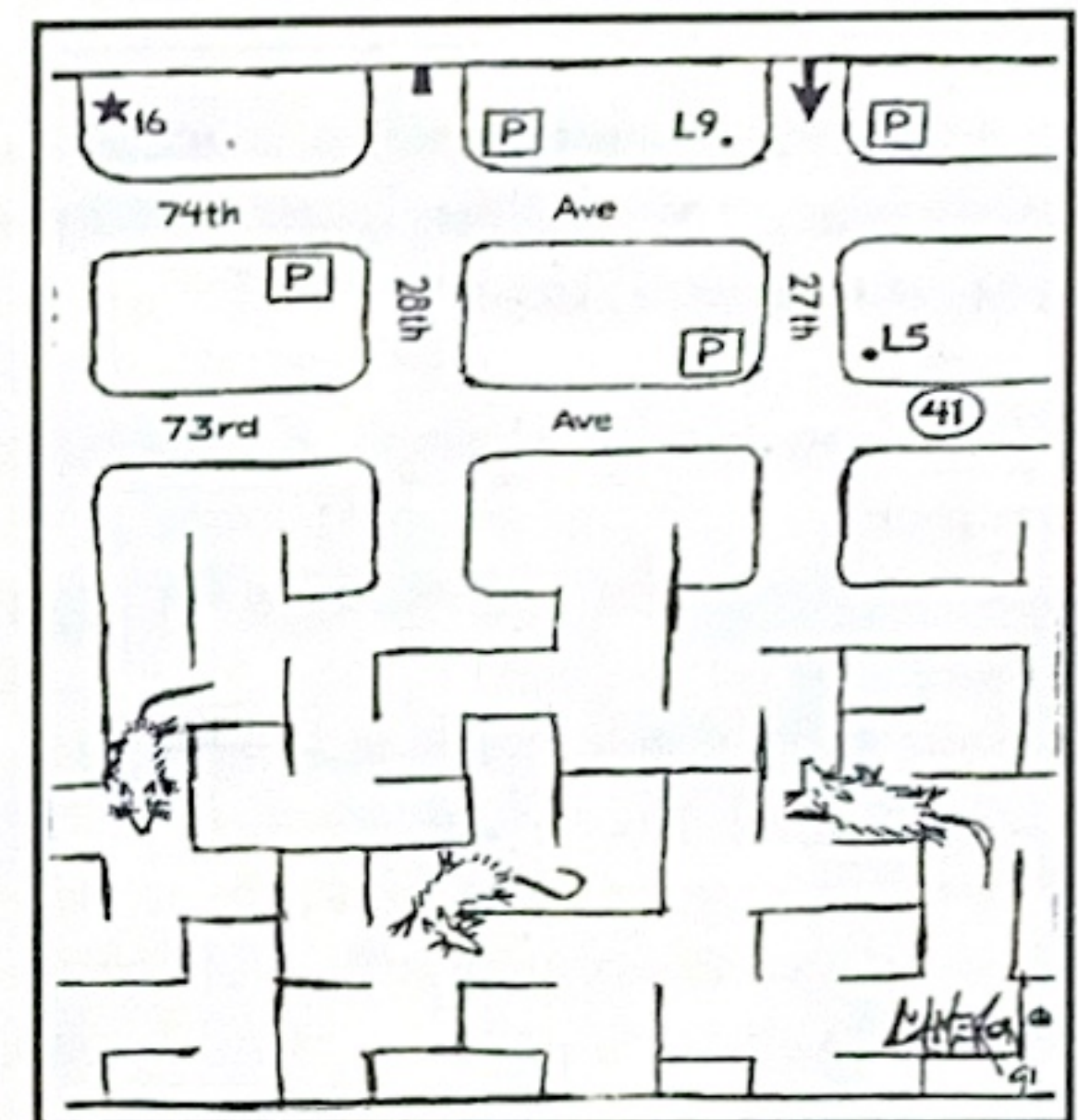
Decisions to shift school boundaries force children to relocate from their neighbourhoods and walk long distances across busy intersections. The shift from a neighbourhood school--uprooting youngsters--can be traumatic for children and their parents.

Zoning laws which prohibit a mix of commercial with residential usually mean people can't get to diversified shopping districts without using some form of transportation.

Informal meeting places in public are becoming an endangered species. Mall eateries which instruct patrons to "avoid loitering" or "limit your stay to 20 minutes" have taken the place of local pubs and corner coffeeshops.

David Morris, co-director with the Institute for Local Self Reliance in Minneapolis says society is evolving into a place where it is ever harder for deep roots in a community to take hold.

He's absolutely right.



We feel the effect of that uprootedness in different ways.

Elderly people must move into specialized seniors' housing because they can't rely on neighbours to help them out and the services they need require travelling.

Parents with small children live lonely lives, isolated from each other and from cultural and entertainment events, avoiding the strain of travelling long distances with children.

Young people vandalize properties when they grow up lacking bonds to the places of worship, schools, families, which traditionally tied them to communities.

We need neighbourhoods where we can walk to libraries, diversified shopping districts, parks, cafes and schools. We need to feel we belong to a community and that it belongs to us.

Morris says rootlessness undermines our economy as well as the quality of our lives. He points out that more rooted cultures such as Germany and Japan are now out-competing us on the economic front.

We need to relearn the value of rootedness, the cost of losing it is high.

Editorial and graphic reprinted courtesy North Times (Canadian Publishers) February 19, 1991

Enviro-video project funded

Environment Canada news release

The International Coalition of Land/Water Stewardship in the Red River Basin has been granted \$81,921 by the Environmental Partners Fund of Environment Canada for a video awareness project. Education Manitoba and Turner-McCulley Productions will contribute expertise and production capability for the project valued at \$87,666.

The aim is to motivate youth through videotape instruction on how to become involved in community based environmental action. The project was funded in the fifth round of funding awards under Environmental Partners fund--the first time that awareness projects were eligible.

The deadline for the next round of applications is December 1.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS....

The Thomas Sill Foundation has provided a generous grant to the Eco-Network for the start up of a development program aimed at long-term sustainability for the organization. Watch for more news in the next issue of *Eco-Journal*.

The Eco-Network recently received a \$5,000 grant towards operating expenses from the Manitoba Community Services Council, Inc. The Council is funded with lottery revenues provided by the government of Manitoba. The money will be used to staff the Network's resource centre, part time.

During the summer, the John Labatt People In Action Program provided the Network with salary support for Kemlin Nembhard, who began work on the "Environmentally Friendly Living" Project. The goal of the project is to publish a guide to environmentally-friendly living in Winnipeg. Kemlin has completed a couple of key sections and the Network continues to look for avenues for funding and completing the remainder of the project.

Earlier in the year, the University of Winnipeg Students Acting for the Environment (UWSAFE) donated proceeds of their sales of reusable coffee mugs (\$1,000) to the Eco-Network, and Students Embracing the Earth donated \$500 from the proceeds of their environmental social.

To these and all our other supporters and donors, we extend heartfelt thanks.



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1000-266 Graham Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3V4

Toll Free: 1-800-665-7135
or
in Winnipeg 983-8574

Environmental Bill of Rights (continued from page 1)

in the recently released 59 page document "Shaping Canada's Future Together: Proposals." The preface says the proposals are "intended to give focus to a national dialogue" and outlines how a special joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate (Joint Parliamentary Committee on a Renewed Canada) co-chaired by Winnipeg South MP Dorothy Dobbie that will seek "broad participation."

Property rights vs. the right to a clean environment

The area that is perhaps most alarming is the offhand way "property rights" is suggested without any attempt at defining what rights beyond those that exist in common law are intended or what limits if any should be placed on same. Apart from a rambling statement about charter rights and a balance between individual and "community rights" (the word 'collective' was perhaps too much for the privy council word processor) the document offers no rationale for including property rights in the Charter.

Supporters of "property rights" like the Canadian Real Estate Association and some Conservative Party members say that it is necessary to protect individuals from unfair expropriation or limitations placed on their use of properties by governments.

Winnipeg Real Estate Board Assistant Executive Director Gary Simonsen says organizations like his have documented "a large number of cases" across Canada where governments have either expropriated property without fair compensation or have restricted types of use for future development that never proceeds and ultimately causes financial loss to the owner.

He cites as a typical example a government decision, provincial or municipal, to widen a road at some later date and then, after numerous delays and all the while restricting the owner from using his property to the fullest, the governing body decides not to expropriate.

"(The owner) is left holding a piece of property, precluded from doing anything with it, held in limbo (while the decisions are made) and there's no basis for going to court," says Simonsen.

Simonsen rejects concerns that without a strict definition, proper rights could allow an owner to pollute his or her own property saying that property rights are needed to protect the right to "use and enjoyment of one's property, not to protect the abuse or misuse of one's property."

He suggests that property rights may even protect the environment, by giving an adja-

cent property owner "another route by which to address that, through the inclusion of property rights. The sword can cut both ways."

Winnipeg environmental lawyer Brian Pannell disagrees pointing out that individuals already have civil remedies for suing their neighbour, but the problem has always been, and would remain, how do you prove, for instance, that those dioxins found in your garden soil come from the friendly neighbourhood incinerator rather than some other source?

*"If there's property rights,
I want an environmental
bill of rights. In fact I
want an environmental
bill of rights, anyway,"*

Pannell says that extending charter protection to a property owner could, however, allow a challenge of the power of the government to apply rigorous licensing provisions. Provisions that might prevent that same incinerator from being built next door.

Even though charter rights may be limited to the extent that it can be "reasonably and demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society," broadly worded or undefined property rights would put the onus on the government to argue that any regulation of the owner's use or enjoyment of property is justified and constitutional. That would lead the government to pick and choose, because of the cost of litigation, which legal battles it was prepared to wage. And that would leave at least some some questionable developments free of proper regulation, believes Pannell.

"(It would) give the property owner a bigger stick than the people who are trying to enforce environmental protection," he says.

Jumping jurisdictions

Alberta environmentalist Martha Kostuch, a veteran of jurisdictional wrangling between the provinces and the federal government from her work with the Friends of the Oldman River, is more alarmed at signals the federal government could abandon its constitutional powers in some areas. The document specifically names several "candidates for streamlining" or delegating of environmental protection authority to the provinces including wildlife protection, transportation of dangerous

goods and soil and water conservation.

But Kostuch thinks an even greater decentralization of authority is embodied in another section dealing with "residual powers" which advocates a constitutional amendment to enable the "delegation of legislative authority between the two levels of government with the mutual consent of the legislative bodies involved."

Delegation by mutual consent could be used to prevent citizens from forcing the federal government to undertake its responsibilities for environmental protection in areas of federal jurisdiction such as migratory birds or inland fisheries, or even aboriginal affairs as has been attempted in the Rafferty-Alameda case, the Oldman River Dam project and the Great Whale project in Quebec.

Both Kostuch and Pannell wouldn't want the provinces to have any more power than they have now.

"What we see normally is provinces abusing their powers. They are more likely (than federal politicians) to find a perceived economic benefit to justify (a project)," Pannell said. Theoretically, federal power can provide checks or balances on a province which is too eager to permit questionable development.

Kostuch is also concerned about the property rights proposal because she doesn't know how it will be interpreted by the courts. But she is clear on one thing she would like to see:

"If there's property rights, I want an environmental bill of rights. In fact I want an environmental bill of rights, anyway," Kostuch says.

Manitoba Eco-Network Executive Director Anne Lindsey echoes that sentiment: "Why are they afraid to put environmental rights in? If they are really committed to sustainable development they should take it to the full extent and give us an environmental bill of rights."

Kostuch criticizes even the one clause that might help to mitigate the proposal's tendency to chip away at environmental protection—the proposal to include sustainable development in the Canada clause which would outline Canada's characteristics and values.

"What does it (sustainable development) mean? It has been interpreted so many ways by so many people," Kostuch says.

As for Pannell he's left wondering whether 'sustainable development' could mean the Brundtland Commission definition or "the way it's being wrongly interpreted as nothing more than an endorsement of the status quo in terms of environmental abuse."

So far the proposal of sweeping changes to Canada's constitution seems to have left the house very untidy, at least in the area of environmental protection.

A copy of "Shaping Canada's Future Together" is available at the Network's resource centre. To get your own copy or to get involved in the process call 1-800-561-1188.

Householders take to depot

by Randy Webber

While only a small portion of Manitoba's hazardous waste is generated by householders, the vast majority is disposed of improperly. Research elsewhere has indicated that up to five per cent of hazardous wastes are generated from households which dispose of it in landfills and sewers or dump it on the ground.

To address that problem, the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation (MHWMC) has been operating a year round depot since December of 1989 to collect and properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Most of the collected materials are currently shipped out of Manitoba for disposal, either in Ontario or the United States, at licensed disposal facilities.

Householders can bring materials to the Depot where trained staff help unload and then sort and package the wastes for transportation. During its first year of operation, over 1500 householders used the Depot as a drop off for HHW. In 1991 attendance has increased by 67 per cent over the same period for last year.

Typical wastes include used motor oil, paint, and lawn and garden products such as weed killer and pest sprays. During the first year of operation more than 38 tonnes of material were collected. The volume will grow in 1991 in accordance with the increase in traffic being experienced.

One of the more frustrating aspects of operating the Depot, is having to dispose of materials that are still usable. Oil can be re-refined or used as an alternative fuel, options that are utilized by MHWMC where possible. Paint, which comprises over one third of the total volume received at the Depot presents an interesting dilemma because much of it is still in usable condition.

Common Hazardous Products In The Home				
Class	Household Cleaning	Home Improvement	Lawn and Garden	Automotive
CORROSIVE 	- Laundry and stain removers - Toilet cleaners - Floor wax stripper - Drain cleaners - Oven cleaners - Some bathroom cleaners - Bleach - Lye	Muriatic acid	- Most swimming pool chemicals - Roach killer	Acid batteries
FLAMMABLE 	- Methyl hydrate - Furniture cleaner - All aerosol cans	- Acetone - Contact cement - Paint brush cleaner and solvents	- Insect repellent - Camping fuel - Kerosene - All aerosol cans	- All aerosol cans - Methyl hydrate
TOXIC 	Isopropyl alcohol	- Wood stain - Wood preservatives - Varnish remover - Turpentine - Paint thinner - Varsol	- Dandelion, weed insect and grass killer - Lawn fertilizer - Malathion - Camping fuel	Radiator coolant and antifreeze
REACTIVE 	- All aerosol cans - Bleach with any acid or base	All aerosol cans	- All aerosol cans - BBQ and camping fuel - Propane cylinders	All aerosol cans

In an attempt to direct this material away from straight disposal, MHWMC, has entered into a unique program with the Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity Re-Store which collects and re-sells used construction materials (see "Filling a Need Instead of a Dump," *Eco-Journal*, July-August 1991).

In a classic case of one person's garbage becoming another person's gold Re-Store has agreed to sell usable paint brought to the Depot. Other materials including stains, glues and assorted building products are also picked up.

Preliminary figures suggest at least one third of all paint brought to the Depot is successfully re-used/re-sold by Re-Store. The provincial Department of Government Services also picks up and re-uses a small amount of material each week.

The MHWMC Depot is located at 745 Logan Avenue and is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. MHWMC also assists residents of rural Manitoba with household hazardous waste collection events sponsored by local communities.

Randy Webber works for MHWMC



PAUL EDWARDS
M.L.A. St. James
Liberal Environment Critic

1 - 1311 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Mb. R3G 0V3
(204) 783-9977

Room 132E, Legislative Bldg.
Winnipeg, Mb. R3C 0V8
(204) 945-8720

Marianne Cerilli
NDP Environment Critic



I welcome any suggestions,
information, or questions you have on
environmental matters.

Contact: 945-1567
222-0074

234-440 Broadway
Wpg. MB R3C 0V8

Development Unlimited: The struggle to protect Oak Hammock

by Kim Tyson and Margaret Kapinga

Have you been to Oak Hammock Marsh lately? If you visited during August you would have had difficulty enjoying the natural sound of the marsh; the grind of the earth-movers, spewing their diesel fumes, drowned out the symphony of wildlife you might have expected to hear.

Ducks Unlimited and the Manitoba Government were chomping at the bit for some time. Just three days after the passage of Bill 38 opened the gates (Royal assent was provided on July 29) the race was on to prepare the marsh for its new look. A snow fence was in place to bar public access to the building site and construction equipment was rolling.

How does Bill 38, also known as the Wildlife Amendment Act, make construction at Oak Hammock possible? It gives the Minister of Natural Resources, in this case PC veteran Harry Enns, the discretion to "authorize the construction, operation and maintenance of any building, structure or thing in a Wildlife Management Area.

The government soon realized that without such an amendment, their plans with Ducks Unlimited would likely be ruled illegal by the Court. Enns tried to justify his actions by stating that Bill 38 does not extend to him any greater authority than was extended to previous ministers with the same portfolio. However, Enns' predecessors have always proceeded by introducing regulations which are bound by the intent of the Wildlife Act even though those regulations have permitted practices otherwise not allowed in Wildlife Management Areas. They did not modify the Act itself and they did not affect the elements of protection contained in the Act as Enns has

done. Now the protection of all of Manitoba's Wildlife Management Areas is in jeopardy for the sake of one Ducks Unlimited project.

The Protection of these rare wildlife species is of the utmost importance

Opposition to DU's project has increased since the start of construction. Resolutions condemning the project have been passed by the Canadian Nature Federation, the Sierra Club of Canada and recently the American Ornithologists Union (referred to derisively by DU as "quasi-professionals" in a recent *Winnipeg Free Press* article). Yet, despite this growing opposition, Ducks Unlimited and the government continue to ignore, or pretend to ignore, the public outcry.

On the legal front, the Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh are pressing on despite the amendment to the Wildlife Act. On September 17 Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh argued their case in Court of Queens Bench that the project still offends the zoning by-laws of the South Interlake Planning District and consequently the Planning act even if the other barrier has been surgically removed from the Wildlife Act, but their argument was rejected by the judge later in September. At the time of

writing no details about an appeal were available. The Manitoba Government was scheduled to respond in late September at the time of writing.

You may wonder why citizens in the Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh

continue to fight. It is because they believe this development is morally and ethically wrong; that the laws of the land are being twisted, ignored and violated to suit the purposes of few individuals; that the protection of these rare wildlife spaces is of utmost importance, especially from the superficially benign presence of organizations like Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The next time you visit Oak Hammock Marsh, stop and think about what is really going on. You may notice the sign indicating the site for the "Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre." The term "office building" has long since been purged from DU public relations statements, and from most of the media coverage. Seventy-five per cent of the costs for building the interpretive centre are covered by taxpayers' money; the building occurs on crown land (for which DU pays a fee of \$1 per year for 50 years) yet the entire facility is referred to as "Ducks Unlimited's Conservation Centre."

Perhaps that is not completely outrageous since the agreement signed by DU and the government stipulates that the operation of all facilities will fall under DU's jurisdiction after a period of five years. Not a bad deal for DU! And all in the name of "education." What kind of education and at what cost?

It's September at the time of writing and the bulldozers are parked. DU has determined that the migratory season commenced on September 1 and will end in late October or whenever they are ready to start digging again. Are they worried about wildlife? We guess all the ducks and geese will be gone by the time the engines roar again.

As we walked along the boardwalk at Oak Hammock Marsh on a beautiful August afternoon, trying to block out the disturbing sounds of bulldozers we noticed a sign in the marsh that read "Preserve Habitat: Don't Pick Plants." The sign should instead read "Preserve Habitat: Don't Construct Office Buildings in Wetlands!"

Kim Tyson and Margaret Kapinga are representatives for Friends of Hammock Marsh

EnviroFit Consulting Inc.

#303 - 100 Osborne St. South
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3L 1Y5



Jay Cowan

Ph: (204) 452-5746 Fax: (204) 477-5298

All in all, the policy paper is not only a highly commendable blueprint for how the labour movement must conduct itself in order to take its rightful place as a leader for environmental change, but also an excellent outline for a societal approach to maintaining a liveable planet.

The statement will go before the next CLC convention in Vancouver in June of 1992.

Readers interested in obtaining a copy of the Canadian Labour Congress Policy Statement on the Environment (June 1991) should contact Harry Mesman at The Manitoba Federation of Labour, 101-275 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2C 4M6 (Phone 947-1400).

Wish List

(Continued from page 6)

and the preservation of bird populations. All judgments on land use impact upon ecological systems. The "environmental horizons" of officials and councillors must be broadened beyond tree-planting, swatting mosquitoes, and nearest (and cheapest solid or liquid waste dump).

*** Tightening the drawstrings -- looking inward ...** Winnipeg's population growth is very low. Why, then, must we take up agricultural land, expand services, add traffic, run the risks of increased pollution and increased energy consumption when imaginative, consultative neighbourhood improvement is available to us? We need not be dismayed with the progress made since 1986 of moving towards revitalization of the Inner City. It is something to build upon. Are we captured by our developers and wholly dependent on help from senior governments?

*** Getting a handle on transportation ...** In no other aspect of planning do environmentalists feel as "blocked" by entrenched attitudes as they do in the field of urban transportation. We generate no less Carbon Dioxide and Nitrous Oxide than other cities of comparable size. World fuel supplies are diminishing. Winnipeg's population is becoming older and poorer. Downtown is a sea of stationary cars most of the day, interspersed with buildings and vehicle routeways. Not more than one in ten cars holds more than one occupant ... and so on.

Dance time for environmentalists

Mark your calendar for a very special "Dinner and Dance" evening, November 9. The Network is hosting a Pot-luck supper, followed by a Dessert Auction, and an Introduction to Ballroom dancing led by a qualified dance instructor (there'll be other music as well). This is a fundraising event for the Network, but tickets will be a very reasonable \$5 per person. (Available at the Eco-Network office). We think it will also be an unusual and fun evening - a good opportunity for people to get *in touch* with each other.

Please bring a contribution for the dinner (dishes and silverware will be provided), and for the budding gourmets out there, please consider donating a fancy dessert for the Auction! (Please call the office and let us know ahead of time).

The event will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 830 North Drive in Fort Garry. Dinner will start at 6pm.

Put on your dancing shoes and bring your appetite!

Despite these signals of ecological stupidity and economic inefficiency we seem to perpetuate and cater to easy private vehicle movement as the first priority in transportation planning, unable to break into less damaging modes such as a slick transit system, safe bicycle ways and pleasant walk-about.

All in all, it is fairly obvious that the resident with the least income is the least well-served by taxes invested in access and movement around the city.

*** Shooting ourselves in the foot ...** Most cities seem to possess a few abominations tucked away in their history, partly because bold financial measures have not been undertaken to correct the problems of inattention. Thus it is with Winnipeg's sewer system to the huge detriment of the city's major environmental asset -- its rivers -- and to the derision of our neighbours who help to sustain Winnipeg's economy.

But securing Winnipeg's drinking water supply is much less costly and can be done now, whether this is done by protecting the source, or by conserving daily usage. Similarly, a simple policy of inhibiting river bank development and protecting the natural forest needs only political will and some good legislation.

*** Polishing the image ...** There are fine things in Winnipeg. People chose to live in this city and visit. Possibly, we handle our cultural mix quite well. But a city of rivers should enhance its asset, deliberately seeking ways to show care and pride in them.

Green space should be used to link with the rivers because of the absence of topographic relief. A first consideration in land-use planning might be the impact that a change would impose on the river corridors. Overall -- in the rules which govern commercial services and signs and lighting and movement along our access routes into town -- harmony and grace should prevail over ad-hoc control of development.

Tell the City of Winnipeg what you think. Write or phone your councillor and the City of Winnipeg Planning Department, 395 Main Street, Winnipeg R3B 3E1 (Phone 986-4183).

For further reading "Plan Winnipeg" 2nd printing, May 1991 City of Winnipeg Planning Department; "Quarterly News, Information Winnipeg;" (Four times per year), Planning Department; "City of Winnipeg Downtown Profile: 1990 Statistical Survey," Planning Department. Two useful articles appear in "Alternatives" Volume 18, Number One ("Land use in the Ecologically Sensible City, E.P. Fowler and "Calming motorized traffic" by Maria D. Lowe).

For more general ideas and solutions on urban planning questions try "Green Cities: Ecologically Sound Approaches to Urban Space" edited by David Gordon (Black Rose Books) Sustainable Communities by Sim Van der Ryn and Peter Calthorpe (Sierra Club Books) both available in the Eco-Network bookstore.

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