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BACK in SCHOOL: Teachers taking initiative on environment education

by Ralph Kuropatwa

Rudi, an eleven year old relative, was with me when I went to meet David Suzuki who was in town on a book tour recently. We lucked into a quiet pause between book signing.

His advice to Rudi and was brief and to the point:

"The word disposable must drop out of our vocabulary. Re-use. Re-use. Re-use."

His comment to me had an even greater urgency:

"There is an ideology that hates nature and wants to destroy it... Show nature to your children, how it is fun and that it is beautiful. They will be very angry when they see others have spoilt all those good times, all the beauty, that they might have enjoyed in their futures."

These comments were still fresh in my mind when I realized that we were once more coming to the beginning of another school year. It would seem reasonable to expect schools to educate children about the environment; adding the four new R's to reading 'riting and 'rithmetic. We checked around to see what is happening and found a quite inconsistent mix -- call it some good news and some bad news.

First, the bad news. At the time of writing, the Manitoba department of Education had not issued guidelines for firm curriculum standards

and expectations to which teachers throughout the province can refer to when planning environmental education programs for their students. Work was under way on a guide, which was not yet available.

The good news is that individual schools and individual teachers have not been hanging around waiting for someone else to take the initiative. Without even pretending to be comprehensive, these illustrations quickly come to mind. Laura Secord, among others, enjoys a school-wide recycling program and makes an annual highlight of Earth Day

recognition. An active, informed community of parents has been of great assistance to the school in this regard.

There are projects in Brandon and Thompson schools, at River East Collegiate and Brock Corydon in Winnipeg. At Elmwood High School there has been a successful restoration of a patch of prairie habitat in conjunction with Prairie Habitats Nursery.

In some schools, each classroom is



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Dashing the dream

By Toby Maloney

Build it and they'll come. That seems to be the interim policy at Manitoba Hydro where they have reacted with dismay, but not despair, to the news that Ontario would rather postpone or cancel the Conawapa power purchase. Manitoba Hydro seems to be holding out hope that some other customer will offer to plug into the giant-sized outlet the corporation is intent on building.

A more rational response would be to rejoice, as many environmentalists will, that Ontario may have saved us from our own stupidity. Built to the hilt with hydro, coal and nuclear, Ontario Hydro is now suffering withdrawal from a serious mega-project addiction.

Like a scared-straight program, Ontario Hydro is telling the juvenile delinquent that mega-projects can lead to economic, as well as environmental, destruction.

Instead of fretting over the number of jobs that would have been "created," and instead of pretending there would have been a \$900 million "profit," Manitoba Hydro now has the chance to plan in a rational manner, for providing our energy needs rather than contriving ways to build hydro dams.

It can be done through conservation programs, through co-generation, through promotion of small scale alternatives -- why do you think Ontario no longer needs to buy the power?

For those who are mindful of the impact on rates, the best news is that Manitoba can change course without having to swallow the costs to date on the Conawapa project!

The reason we haven't already adopted conservation measures that other jurisdictions have been forced to (by a combined pressure from bankers and ratepayers) is that we haven't yet loaded the straw that broke the camel's back. Conservation and co-generation, etc. imply decentralization of the exercise of power, but accumulation of power and prestige is what drives utility executives and provincial politicians.

Since most of us are ratepayers and not utility executives or provincial politicians we should look forward to the eventual celebration when this electric field of dreams is dashed.

OPINION

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Green Educating allows for creativity

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involved with models of the environment - with all the forecasts and simulations that such modelling permits. In other schools, gardens are being established and maintained. Many schools are composting, beginning with the leaves that collect on the fields and playgrounds in the Fall.

One of my favourite programs is the Green Team at the old Argyle School, now Point Douglas. Using a guide called "Heritage Trees of Winnipeg" published by the Manitoba Forestry Association, the Green Team visited trees of particular interest. They didn't have far to look.

In 1891 a nine year old girl, Bessie Goodman, misunderstood an announcement by her principal. It was Arbor Day and the principal had told the children "they" were going to plant trees in the school's yard. Everyone but Bessie understood that this referred to city officials coming down to do their symbolic tree planting for Arbor Day.

Without waiting to find out she had been mistaken, Bessie went off to the riverbank and dug up her very own seedling, a plains cottonwood. She was not, of course, allowed to plant it; that would have disturbed the officially-planned proceedings. But teachers who saw her disappointment, felt sorry for her, and after the visiting dignitaries had left, Bessie was permitted to plant her tiny cottonwood.

The seedling was put in an out-of-the-way spot near the school's water pump. Instead of withering away, as had been expected, the tree survived and flourished in the dampness of the pump area. It grew larger than any other tree in the yard. Now about 96 years old, the tree still stands in the same spot and enjoys robust good health.

Teacher Dave Taylor introduced me to one of his Green Team, a young man named Ryan Missyabit in Grade 5. Ryan told me about recycling, re-using, reducing, using both sides of the paper, taking newsprint to the depot, and visiting Bessie's Tree otherwise known as the Point Douglas Heritage Tree. Ryan and a friend had to stretch out and hug the tree before they could even touch fingertips around the tree. Pretty impressive, I'd say.

Manitoba's teachers are obviously ahead of Manitoba's department of education on this matter of environmental awareness. Nor are

they stuck waiting for departmental assistance before they can proceed.

Teaching materials and suggestions abound. Here are just a few examples:

The Recycling Council of Manitoba has been consistent in its support of the dissemination of educational materials on environmentally responsible behaviour. It has a video, "The Rotten Truth" which is recommended for school age children as well as adults.

The Council's executive director, Heather Macdonald, makes a telling point about a possible start for tying parents, students and schools into the subject matter from the very outset of the school year.

"What environmental criteria," she asks, "are parents applying when they buy the year's school supplies?" Are they purchas-

ing in bulk, with the help of the school? Are supplies shared, in order to avoid waste? Is durability considered as a factor in product selection? What provisions are made for re-using? for recycling? And so forth.

Another resource that is frequently used by teachers is the Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education. The Centre is widely appreciated as an information resource of exceptional naturalist competence. Its composting program is something of a model for community education and home-owner participation.

Environmental education doesn't have to be complex or involved -- visiting special trees or improving the school purchasing practises -- to be relevant. Getting out there and designing a program only takes a little imagination.

Network well-stocked in education resources

by Patti Fanslau

As the old saying goes, time stands still for no one. And once again, time has inevitably moved us into the month of September.

That means several things. Late evening walks turn into early evening walks (if you plan to get in before dark); the leaves on the trees begin their colourful metamorphosis and; the kids are back in school.

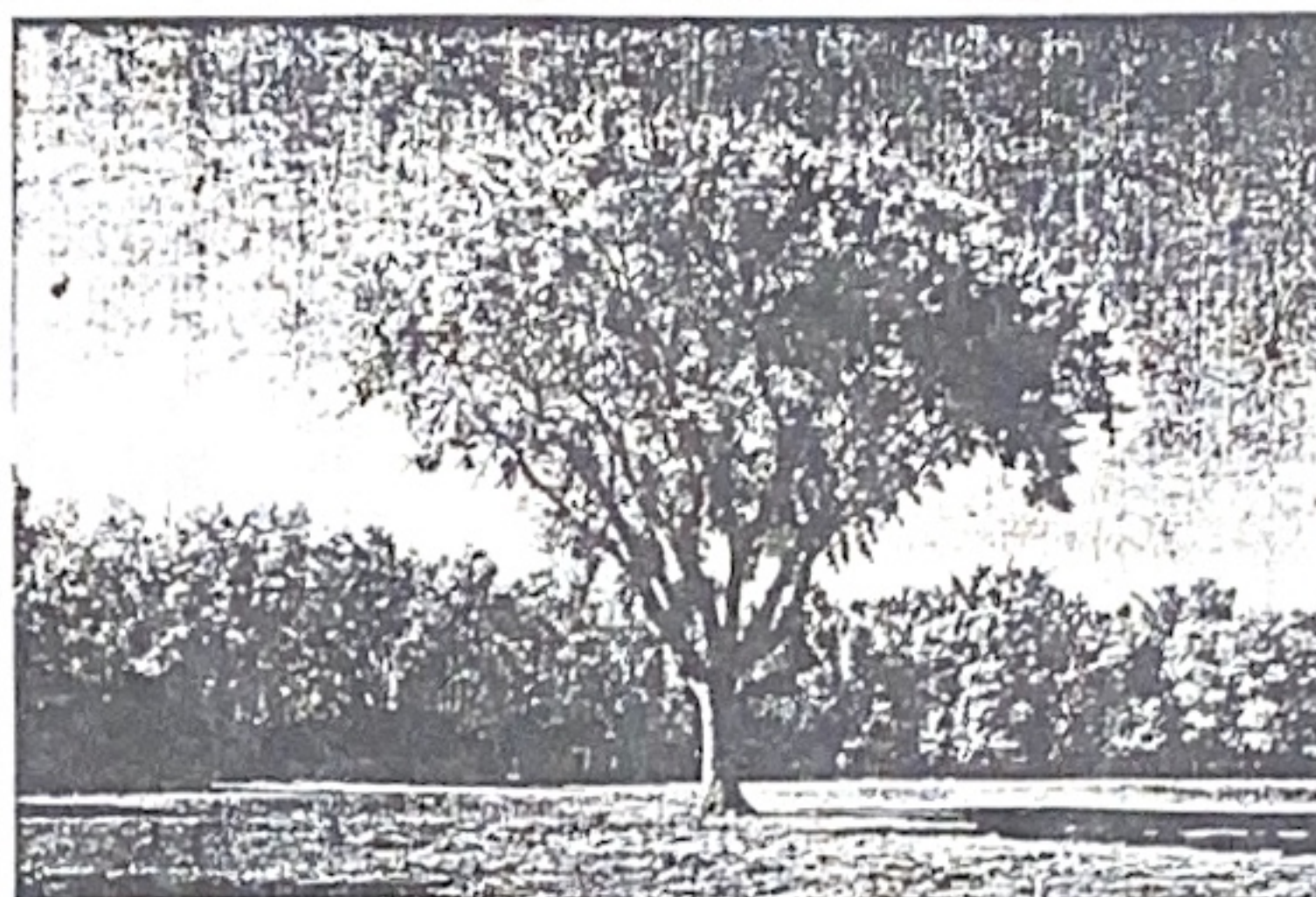
For teachers, it means developing curricula that hopefully teach as many facts as they encourage children to question and probe

their environment, literally.

In many cases, this must be happening. An increasing number of educators are calling the Eco-Network to ask where they can get information, speakers, and/or project ideas to discuss environmental issues with their classes. Green thumbs up to teachers who take the lead in teaching about environmental issues, and to the students who ask enough questions to get teachers going!

At the Eco-Network we have a number of

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HERITAGE TREES OF MANITOBA

MANITOBA
FORESTRY
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V. HILDAHL
M. BENUM

Network resources valuable for educators with initiative

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resources and contacts specifically for educators and students to access.

Probably one of our most comprehensive pieces is the CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CATALOGUE—a guide to selected Resources and Materials. This book/binder lists approximately 1,200 resources (some international, but mostly Canadian) from games and activities to videos, curriculum materials and teaching methodologies.

Each listing includes a descriptive review which highlights the resource's contents, structures, and usefulness as a teaching tool. Each resource also includes the reading level or intended audience, the type of educational use for which the resource is designed, the cost, and address from where to order.

As information changes, supplementary volumes are published. The entire catalogue is revised and updated every two years.

We also have a variety of books and pamphlets available. Numerous newsletters and articles outline what other schools have done and in turn may trigger ideas for you and your school. In situations where we don't have hand outs to distribute, photocopying becomes an option. At the very least, most include addresses where you can write to get your own copies.

One important periodical available is GREEN TEACHER with which some of you may already be familiar. The GREEN TEACHER:

- * RELATES the latest green movement debates to ideas and practice in education for the environment.
- * PROVIDES, with each issue, materials directly usable with teaching groups, and surveys of other resource.
- * IS a networking centre for education in ecological concern energy studies, alternative technology, and peace and development education, strengthening the links...
- * PROVIDES updates on what is happening elsewhere in the world..."

The Eco-Network also has sample education kits such as TREES AND YOU, an education kit for grades four to eight from Friends of the Earth, and Eco-Systems

ALIVE, a curriculum for active learning in nature's classroom, developed here in Manitoba by Kim Tyson.

In addition, the Eco-Network carries the National Film Board Teachers' Guides to audio/visual catalogues from Health and Welfare Canada and the National Film Board dealing with a broad range of environmental issues.

Our latest library addition is a video shot at the Ozone Forum held in June of '92 by the Manitoba Eco-Network. It is called, The Thinning Ozone...What's being done? and is most appropriate for a high school level. A printed report on the forum is also forthcoming.

Don't forget our own Eco-Journal as an education resource. Many of the issues that

are unfolding in Manitoba are overlooked by national publications and curriculum materials. Other local publications like City Magazine, Links Magazine, and Canadian Dimension, are also good sources.

If there is something specific you're looking for and we don't have it, chances are good we can put you in touch with individuals or organizations who do have what you need. Your best bet is to come down in person and browse through our reference section or chat with some of the staff. That's why we're here, and we're always happy to pass on information to people interested in taking action to help our environment, no matter what time of the year.

COMING SOON FROM THE MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK:

The Green Guide to Winnipeg by Lindor Reynolds

A handbook that helps you to develop environmentally-responsible practices, Green Guide to Winnipeg gives practical advice on purchasing and use in general topic areas like home, workplace, and transportation. It offers specific sources for goods and services in Winnipeg and close by in an accessible format.

The Guide to Winnipeg is an ideal Christmas gift. Available mid-November.

To pre-order call the
Manitoba Eco-Network
956-1468

Suggested price \$9.95

Calendar of events

October 15: Town hall meeting on Waste Management with mayoralty candidates moderated by John Sinclair sponsored by the Institute of Urban Studies and the Recycling Council of Manitoba. University of Winnipeg Theatre A (4th Floor, 4M31).

October 21 and 22: formal presentations to the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy in Winnipeg on "Natural Lands and Special Places Strategy" 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Winnipeg Convention Centre (375 York Avenue).

Workshops on the subject are being held in various places around the province in September and October. Copies of the workbook and more information are available from the Sustainable Development Co-ordination Unit (945-1124).

October 24: Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament fundraising dinner at Wheat Song Bakery, 578 Broadway. Full course dinner for \$12 with the net proceeds to WCCD. Two sittings at 7 and 9 p.m. Reservations only. Phone 775-0031.

October 29: Defenders of Nopiming talk by Colleen McCrory of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. St. Augustine United Church 444 River Avenue 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$7. at Eco-Network office.

October 29 to 31: Canadian Marine Life Conference, Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver, B.C. sponsored by Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada. Speakers from Canada, the U.S., Great Britain and New Zealand. For more information phone or fax to 604-736-9615.

November 28: Gifts that Go on Giving: An alternative gift buying fair, Broadway Optimists Community Club, 185 Young Street (just off West Broadway). Builds on the enormous success of last year. All day. Door prizes.

Upcoming in 1993

December 10: Co-operation in Conservation, sponsored by the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association, is a combined meeting of the Conservation Districts in Manitoba and others at the Brandon Agricultural Centre. Call Thor Thorleifson or Derrick Turner at the MCDA 1-747-2503 for more information.

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

Ongoing

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

New Resources at the Manitoba Eco-Network

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

Sourcebook on Sustainable Development, published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development lists organizations, publications, audio-visual materials, and computer networks and databases on sustainable development issues. Because of the international scope of the topic and the sheer number of resources the book tends to lean towards large organizations and prominent publications rather than grassroots materials.

People and Land in Northern Manitoba, is a collection of papers presented at a 1990 conference at the University of Manitoba organized by the Anthropology department. Still current despite the delay in publishing mostly because of the quality of the papers by writers like Bill Pruitt, John Loxley, Jean Friesen and Doris Young, Oscar Lathlin on impacts of mining, forestry etc. on northerners.

Community Workshops for the Environment, published by the

Harmony Foundation, is the latest of several information/action kits for self-organized groups. The handbook offers discussion topics to provide environmental information and facilitate practical action by individuals. Community groups that are interested in using the material can win prizes through Harmony's Environmental Action Challenge. Pick up a free workbook (also available en francais) at the Network while copies last.

Food Irradiation: A Canadian Folly, will soon be available in the Network resource centre. The 200 page research manuscript by Portage la Prairie registered dietitian Karen Graham looks at irradiation and its uses, safety concerns, environmental risks, politics and alternatives. Copies can be ordered for the price of \$14.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling (tax exempt) from "Food Irradiation," 89 Wilkinson Crescent, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 1A7.

The Thinning Ozone, a video recording of the Eco-Network's comprehensive public forum on ozone issues is now available on loan to schools and groups. The video looks at all aspects of ozone depletion, including health and mental health implications, environmental impacts and global politics. Experts in several fields provide up to date information on what we know and don't know about ozone depletion. Call 956-1468 to borrow a copy.



Conference draws top environmentalists to Manitoba

mittees stacked with industry representatives to lengthy public processes that risk being ignored at the political level after months of work.

Manitoba issues discussed

A group of Manitoba activists also met with Charest for a half hour during the conference and addressed several current issues. At the top of the list was the question of the establishment of national park in the Manitoba Lowlands. The province would like to turn Hecla Island Provincial Park over to the federal government, but parks advocates, argue that the site is inappropriate because of the degree of degradation that

has taken place on the island including a highway, agriculture, the Gull Harbour Resort and a golf course.

The group told Charest that two other sites would do a better job of protecting undisturbed areas in the Manitoba Lowlands. Charest assured the group that the park selection process would be allow a lot more opportunity for input and that his department has not decided the issue of where to site the park.

The Manitoba activists also addressed issues such as proponent supplied intervenor funding for federal environment reviews like the Conawapa project and class grants funding for environment groups.

Over 280 delegates and casual participants met at Hecla Island for the One Earth 1992 conference September 18 to 20. The conference doubles as the annual business meeting of the Canadian Environmental Network CEN and an opportunity to draw together activists, many of them prominent on the national scene, to work in national caucuses on broad issue topics like energy, forests and waste avoidance.

The conference also drew participants and presenters from Iceland, England, the Philippines, Guatemala, Zimbabwe and India.

A dozen or so caucuses met and mapped out their strategy for national co-operation for the next year. Many of the caucuses met with Environment Minister Jean Charest and staffers for other departments.

One of the recurring themes for both the caucuses and the CEN is the issue of consultations with various government departments. After decades of banging on the door to get access to the decision-making process before decisions are implemented, environmental groups and the CEN are stretched to the limit trying to participate in the dozens of consultations that pop up each year.

The consultation scene is hodge podge of inconsistency and uncertainty. Groups face impossible deadlines, lack of resources to participate effectively (ie. prepare research papers and meet as a caucus) and processes that range from token participation on com-

Environmental Elder received with standing ovation

At eighty years old David Brower's life of environmental activism spans the period of the most intense development in the history of the planet. Since his birth, in 6000 California streams productive for salmon have been reduced to 200. Eighty per cent of the original stand of Redwoods in his home state were intact in 1912 compared to the 4 and a half per cent which remains today. The world's population has trebled in the same period and in only the last 20 years we've lost one-seventh of the earth's soil.

That rapid degradation of the environment led Brower to chide Environment Minister Jean Charest, his predecessor to the speaker's podium at the One Earth Conference for his use of the term sustainable development, which he labelled "an oxymoron."

"Development requires more and more and more. On a fixed planet you can't do that." Brower inferred that while environmentalists have realized that we need "sustainable communities" we are surrounded by institutions "hooked on con-

ventional wisdom."

A major component of that conventional wisdom is reliance on economic growth as the tenet of prosperity. Brower quoted Hazel Henderson as saying that "economics is a form of brain damage" and substantiated it by pointing out that there has never been a cost/benefit analysis of growth.

"We count the benefits but not the cost to the earth."

Brower also criticized the Canadian Environmental Network for its refusal to take advocacy positions on issues. Brower argued that while enormous segments of our society are willing to make personal sacrifices, even to the point of giving up jobs and lifestyles that cost the earth, environmental groups need to draw the wider public into the political arena.

Brower suggested that the Canada United States Environmental Program, a cross-border council of environmentalists, be revived in order to co-operate on continental issues like energy sales and water diversions.

Brower is also advocating that activists

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RELATED STORIES PAGE 7



by Toby Maloney

Environmental activists should drop what they are doing and join the battle to stop the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

That's the message left by Canadian Environmental Law Association director and counsel Michelle Swenarchuk at the One Earth Conference at Hecla Island in September.

Swenarchuk says that NAFTA is an "overarching unaccountable legal regime" that will limit the ability of the government to set environmental standards or design

Drop everything to fight NAFTA, lawyer advises

sustainable resource management programs. Taken together with the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement NAFTA is the "economic constitution" of Canada, she says. National, provincial and local standards will all be subject to the terms of the agreement, particularly the stipulation that any measure that affects trade "be the least restrictive." But, what if the least restrictive measure is not the best environmental measure?

The agreements set up a system for compliance with international "environmental and conservation" through GATT whereby panels will determine technical, sanitary and phytosanitary (plant-related) standards. Panels like Codex Alimentarius and the Tripartite Animal Health Commission, which are closed and industry-dominated, will have the power to set standards.

"A constitution is being devised that is really anti-democratic," Swenarchuk warned.

As well Canada, through the NAFTA and the FTA will be exposed to American trade remedy law even as it is amended and altered. The United States has won the inclusion of "intellectual property," a gain over the FTA, and will now have the ability to impose its rules on bio-technology to permit the patenting of life forms. Swenarchuk says that the reason the U.S. wouldn't sign the Earth Summit convention on bio-diversity is that it would impact on corporate intentions to flood the agricultural market with designer seeds and plants for which they own the patent rights.

Measures that preclude any restrictions that would reduce the proportion of total production which is exported and the inclusion of "non-energy pipeline operations" (ie. water) are ominous. Swenarchuk says

See Resources page 8

Formula companies find miracle 'cure':

by Elizabeth Sterken

(reprinted from This Magazine, July '92)

The protection of breastfeeding has long been seen as an obstacle to profit by the infant formula industry. Now it may also be an unfair trade barrier in the new world order being promoted by Brian Mulroney, George Bush and other political leaders.

Health and Welfare Canada informed the Infant Feeding Action Coalition (INFACT) last August that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) "superseded" the World Health Organization (WHO) Code of Marketing, aimed at eliminating the formula industry's unethical advertising practices. Furthermore, at a "breastfeeding promotion" meeting sponsored by Health and Welfare's Health Promotion Directorate -- to which formula industry representatives were invited -- health professionals and breastfeeding advocates were told that the WHO Code of Marketing is a restriction on the formula companies' rights to compete freely in the marketplace.

The passage of the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes in 1981 was the culmination of extraor-

dinary efforts by governments, international agencies, activists, women's groups and religious organizations working together to solve a global problem. Whether legally enforceable or not, the code has become the moral standard for international behaviour, although industry has been conspicuous for failing to meet even these basic standards.

The infant formula industry has aggressively resisted compliance with the code, and when forced to comply has actively sought to circumvent it. This latest manoeuvre appears to be an attempt to eliminate the code altogether. Citizen's groups have raised the concern that the FTA may be the model to roll back progressive legislation at the national level as other countries are included in trade talks. Specific concerns have been expressed about both the multi-lateral GATT negotiations and NAFTA.

The largest formula company, Nestle is eager to preserve hospital practices designed to discourage breastfeeding and retain its grip on the majority market share it has in many developing countries. Nestle's heavy presence on the Codex Alimentarius, an international bureaucracy that sets the food

standards for GATT, indicates its intent to use international negotiations to weaken national efforts to enforce legislation or regulations to protect breastfeeding.

While most countries have few delegates at Codex meetings, at the last meeting, half of the twelve-member delegation from Switzerland, Nestle's home turf, consisted of Nestle staff or representatives. The U.S. delegation also included representatives of Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Ralston Purina and other food industry giants. According to Mark Ritchie of the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, "They have found a miracle cure in GATT."

In the case of the trilateral negotiations, the concern is that Mexico will be required to adjust to positions agreed to between the U.S. and Canada. Mexico's hospital practices pertaining to infant feeding -- separation of mother and infant after birth, supplementing with formula and free samples on discharge -- have long been influenced by corporate interests. Nestle's majority con-

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Resources up for grabs

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these give the U.S. "all the ammunition they need to go after our resources."

She predicted, however, that because NAFTA mentions sustainable development it would be sold by its supporters as environmentally beneficial.

"You're going to hear that it's the greenest agreement there is. That's true. None of them are green at all. (NAFTA) has some words in it ..."

Having the words sustainable development in the preamble has no force or effect in law anyway, Swenarchuk said.

Minister begs to differ

Environment Minister Jean Charest later disputed the near unanimous rejection of the agreement by participants at the conference. Speaking at a banquet later the same day, Charest listed what he considered environmental improvements in NAFTA and urged

activists to retain "an open mind."

Among those improvements, Charest listed consultations with environmentalists and the development

of an environmental impact assessment as a first.

He said his favourable interpretation of the deal shows that different people "can come to different conclusions with the very same text."

Swenarchuk's group has challenged the Minister to put the impact assessment to a public review through the Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP). She suspects the internal assessment is woefully



inadequate because when she asked for the terms of reference in the Spring there weren't any. She also complained that trade negotiators she consulted with couldn't understand what agriculture or sanitary standards for food have to do with the environment.

Charest also described a North American Environmental Commission he is establishing. Charest said the commission will deal with continental environmental problems including trade-related issues.

Trade laws supersede health promotion

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trol of the lucrative market, with almost 2.5 million births annually, has led to a situation where 62 per cent of infants are insufficiently breastfed.

Realizing the need to reduce infant mortality rates, reported to be at 40 per thousand (as compared to seven per thousand in Canada) the Mexican government, with the

support of UNICEF, has created the National Commission for the Promotion of Breastfeeding. This commission has been assigned the task of "contributing toward the reduction of infant mortality and morbidity through the promotion of breast feeding." UNICEF has also targeted Mexico to participate in the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative aimed at improving appalling infant

feeding practices in hospitals.

Without changes in corporate practices, the impact is likely to be limited. Nestle has already stated that it will continue to promote formula feeding through the health care system. Reports from Mexico confirm that distribution of free formula continues. Under the guise of "professional evaluation samples" to health care workers, the industry is maintaining its hold on infant feeding routines.

If Canada were to take a committed stand by putting protective measures into place, Mexico's efforts to improve survival rates for infants would be greatly strengthened. On the other hand, if a trade deal undercuts even the minimal protective regulations that currently exist in Mexico, there could well be a negative impact on infant mortality rates. Unfortunately, the Canadian government's current pro-corporate agenda, making its grandstanding at the UN-sponsored Summit for children a farce, leaves little hope that it will make the right choice.

(reprinted with permission. Original title: *Formula companies' Miracle Cure*)

Brower : Embrace restoration

continued from previous page

embrace environmental restoration as a way of setting things right, but also as a means of preventing further degradation of natural areas.

He senses that "if (society) finds out how expensive it is to fix something maybe (it) will think twice before you break it again."

He challenged conference participants to devote one year of their next ten to restoration projects as part of a global "earth corps." Like the "Peace Corps" of the United States it would harness the energy

and idealism of youth, but extend participation to all nations and all ages.

Brower reminded everyone that in all living matter there is a tiny bit of the genetic material that was created on earth four and a half billion years ago. That "bit of wildness in each of you" permits us to function without having to will each breath and each blink of the eye. Brower seemed to be saying that we need to remember we are of the earth and have a responsibility to ourselves to preserve the diversity around us.

CIVIC ELECTION '92

Mayoralty candidates answer on the environment

The future of public transit and transportation, sewage and other pollution of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, preserving natural areas, planning for a greener city – these are all pressing and problematic areas of environmental concern. When Eco-Journal mailed out a questionnaire to ten mayoralty candidates for Winnipeg's civic election it was assumed that most of the candidates would welcome the opportunity to articulate their positions on key environmental issues. Surprisingly only four candidates took the opportunity to answer.

The following registered candidates were sent a questionnaire, but did not respond: Menardo Caneda, Ernie Gilroy, Nick Jones, Natalie Pollock, Charles Scotlend, Susan Thompson. Because of deadlines several candidates who registered later in September were omitted.

Eco-Journal Asked:

1. What will you do to solve the problem of untreated sewage overflow in to the Red River?

2. Are you willing to support

a) the commitment of a greater portion of the city budget for public transit operations? b) capital investment in an expansion and improvement of the existing transit system? c) the design and construction of a system of cycling paths and dedicated lanes for bicycles throughout the city?

3. Do you support the development of a recycling and waste reduction program that is integrated with the current garbage pick-up system? In your opinion, what is the next step for recycling in Winnipeg?

4. Are you willing to discourage or prevent new peripheral and suburban development in order to prevent further urban sprawl?

5. Do you feel it is useful to review capital projects (ie; road widening and construction, bridge building, subdivisions) for their impact on increased automobile use/gasoline consumption and neighbourhood/community life?

6. What would you do to protect existing natural areas within city limits as parks and green space?

7. Would you support restoration of natural areas and native species including landscaping a portion of city property with native plants?

8. Would you support an end to mosquito fogging and a phase out of the use of chemical pesticides by the City of Winnipeg? What action would you take?

Martin A. Barnes

1. We should develop a local economic development strategy based on the creation and expansion of local businesses, environmental projects for water, waste, air and energy.

2. I would propose that Winnipeg develop a first class rapid transit system (as in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver).

3. Yes. I would support the setting up of frequent "drop off" points to make it easy for people to recycle in the meantime. The next step would be to make the recycling of Number Two plastics (margarine tubs, ice cream pails, yogurt containers etc.) possible.

4. No, but I would ensure that farm lands, parks etc. were not affected. Obviously, as

the city expands people need to move further out and people have the right to live where they choose providing it is not destroying land or taking up parklands etc.

5. All aspects should be taken into consideration and the subsequent effects on the community.

6. Wherever possible they should be preserved. If possible a by-law could be passed giving specific protection to particular areas.

7. Yes, I think there is plenty of available space to allow for this.

8. Only if another alternative could be found. I would investigate if there were other means available that were effective.

More Civic Election '92 next page

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CIVIC ELECTION '92

Dave Brown

1. We must allocate resources towards systems which ultimately prevent disposal of any untreated waste into our river systems. We must, at the same time, pursue a program of infrastructure renewal and sewage system upgrading. Capital assistance will be sought from senior levels of government.

2. a) Yes. b) Yes. c) Yes. In principle, there must be a definition of the need and an ability in an orderly and sustained fashion to implement the end result.

3. Request for proposals from the private sector to operate at least cost to Winnipeggers an effective and city-wide recycling system. Equal emphasis must also be attached to shaping people's attitudes as they relate to "Reduce" and "Reuse" which are the first two "R's" in the Four "R" hierarchy.

4. I support planned, orderly market driven

growth contiguous to developed areas. I also support infill housing and rehabilitation of older areas in all "Core Areas" of the city.

5. Transportation systems must attempt to recognize present and future transportation demands and realities in enhanced public transportation systems. Environmentally-clean rapid transit systems must be promoted as the preferred transportation alternative.

6. All activities of the city must be environmentally-sound. Where damage may result, steps should be taken to mitigate negative impacts.

Judicious use of EIA's would be encouraged to balance interests.

7. I supported image route enhancement projects, increased funding to protect against Dutch Elm disease, and encouragement of forestation of portions of the Forks and its walkways with native Manitoba plants. I propose to continue efforts to maintain and enhance a green Winnipeg.

8. I support efforts to find suitable alternatives to existing practices including expanded use of larvaciding.

I would prefer to have to rely upon fogging efforts only as a last resort.

Greg Selinger

1. Your toughest question is the one on how to solve the problem of untreated sewage overflow into the Red River. Obviously, this should be eliminated. The difficulty is that the cost has been estimated at one billion

dollars. Currently, sewage utility rates are going up 10 per cent a year to pay for expansion and upgrading of the South End, West End and North End sewage treatment plans. Given these constraints I would sup-

More Civic Election '92 next page



The Manitoba Council for International Co-operation is currently accepting applications for:

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The Small Projects Fund was established to assist new and/or small community-based initiatives in development education. For the 1992-93 fiscal year, the Canadian International Development Agency has allocated \$51,500 to this fund.

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Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and reviewed monthly. Organizations which already receive CIDA Public Participation Program Funds are not eligible for funding.

For more information or to obtain an application form contact:

Karen Hamilton
Manitoba Council for
International Co-operation
60 Maryland Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1K7
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Mayoralty candidates answer on the environment

continued from previous page

port a triage approach that identified the worst overflows and develop a plan to correct them within a specific time frame. Also, the city, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities needs to advocate federal and provincial financial commitments to clean rivers through their Green Plan and Sustainable Development Policies. In short, I am not aware of any quick fixes that are affordable; however I am committed to progressive improvement of river water quality through any available safe technologies and creative financing approaches.

2. I have supported, and will continue to support, significant public expenditures on improving public transit to be more accessible (low floor buses) and efficient (rapid transit corridors). I am also publicly committed to a system of cycle paths and dedi-

cated routes as a means of providing an alternative to the automobile to and from work and for domestic journeys.

3. I do support and moved a motion for a recycling and waste reduction system integrated with a new automated garbage pick up program. The next step is to integrate the recycling and waste reduction components into the expansion of the automated system.

4. I am willing to discourage urban sprawl, encourage infill housing sub-divisions and re-examine regional land use controls and tax structures. In other jurisdictions residents in ex-urban development pay a portion of taxes back to the city where they work and use services.

5. I do feel it is useful to review capital projects for their impact on increased automobile use and neighbourhood life. I have initiated a policy that commits the city to a policy of environmental impact reviews of major capital projects.

6. With regard to protecting existing natural areas within city limits, I would include this in Plan Winnipeg. This would then be followed up with a specific by-law that gives concrete public hearings and access to any decisions to destroy this ecological capital.

7. I would support restoration of natural areas and native species including landscaping a portion of city property with native plants. This would be accomplished through programs and measures listed above.

8. In reference to supporting an end to mosquito fogging and a phase out of the use of chemical pesticides I would put more resources into abatement measures

that are safe. I would phase out spraying by reversing the onus: no spraying unless you sign a waiver saying you are aware of health risks.

Dan Zyluk

1. The answer is not more regulation, it is more education. The majority of people are not aware of the problem. I would make Winnipeggers aware of this negative externality and have the problem corrected.

2. a) Yes, we must decrease the volume of automobile emissions in Winnipeg. b) Yes. c) Yes. We can follow the example of California and construct cycling paths, but let the people vote on the issue (referendum).

3. Yes, I support this program. The next step is the picking up of sorted garbage — plastics in yellow bags; tins and cans in blue bags; papers in green bags. This system is working in major American cities. North America has eight per cent of the world's population and produces 52 per cent of the world's garbage.

4. Yes, all suburban development must be reviewed for its impact on the environment.

5. Yes, I think the worth of capital projects needs to be reviewed. Imagine people who use computer terminals working at home and not having to drive to a central location, saving gas, automobile wear, pollution of the air. 2100 city workers could do the job from their homes.

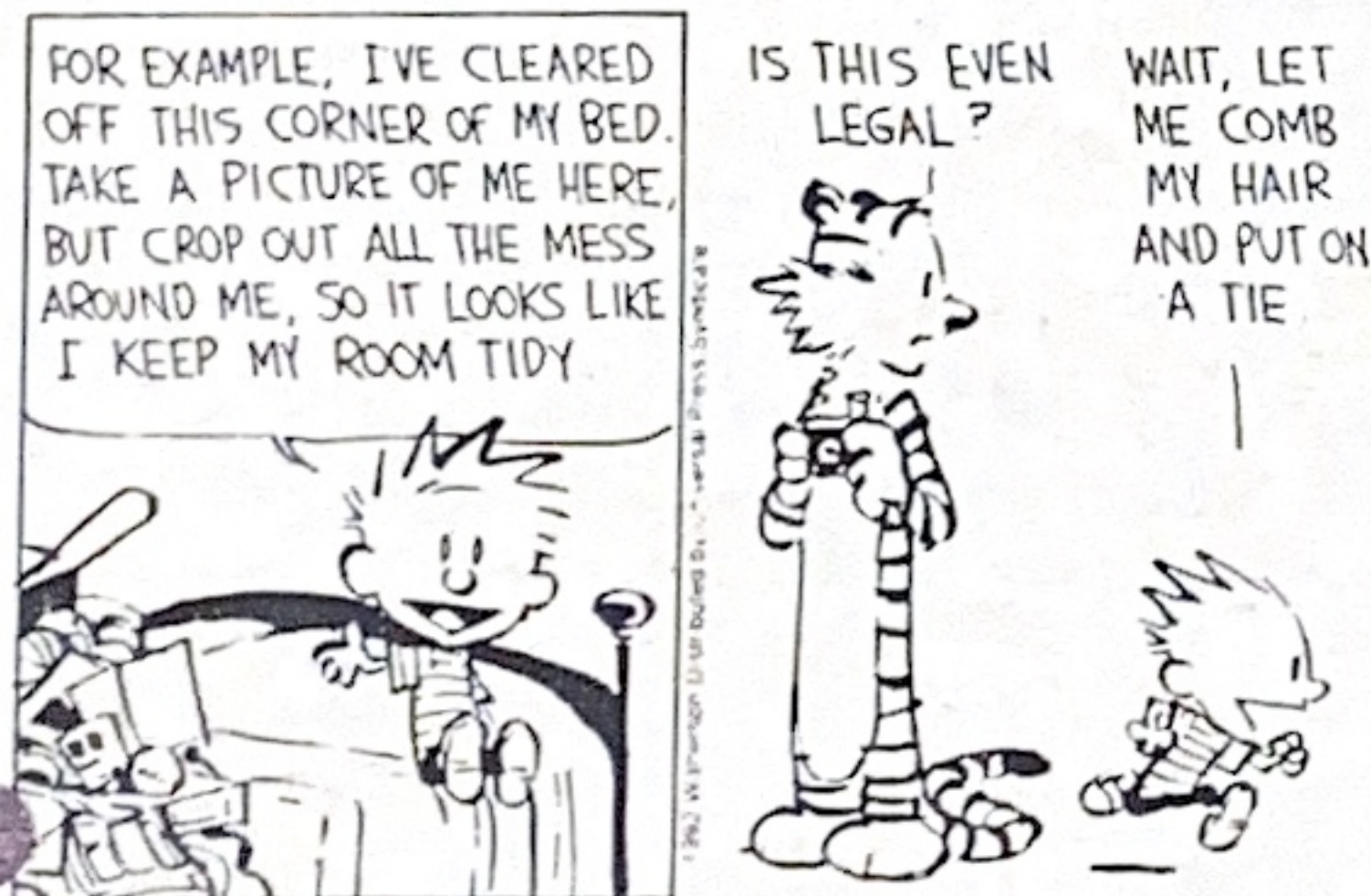
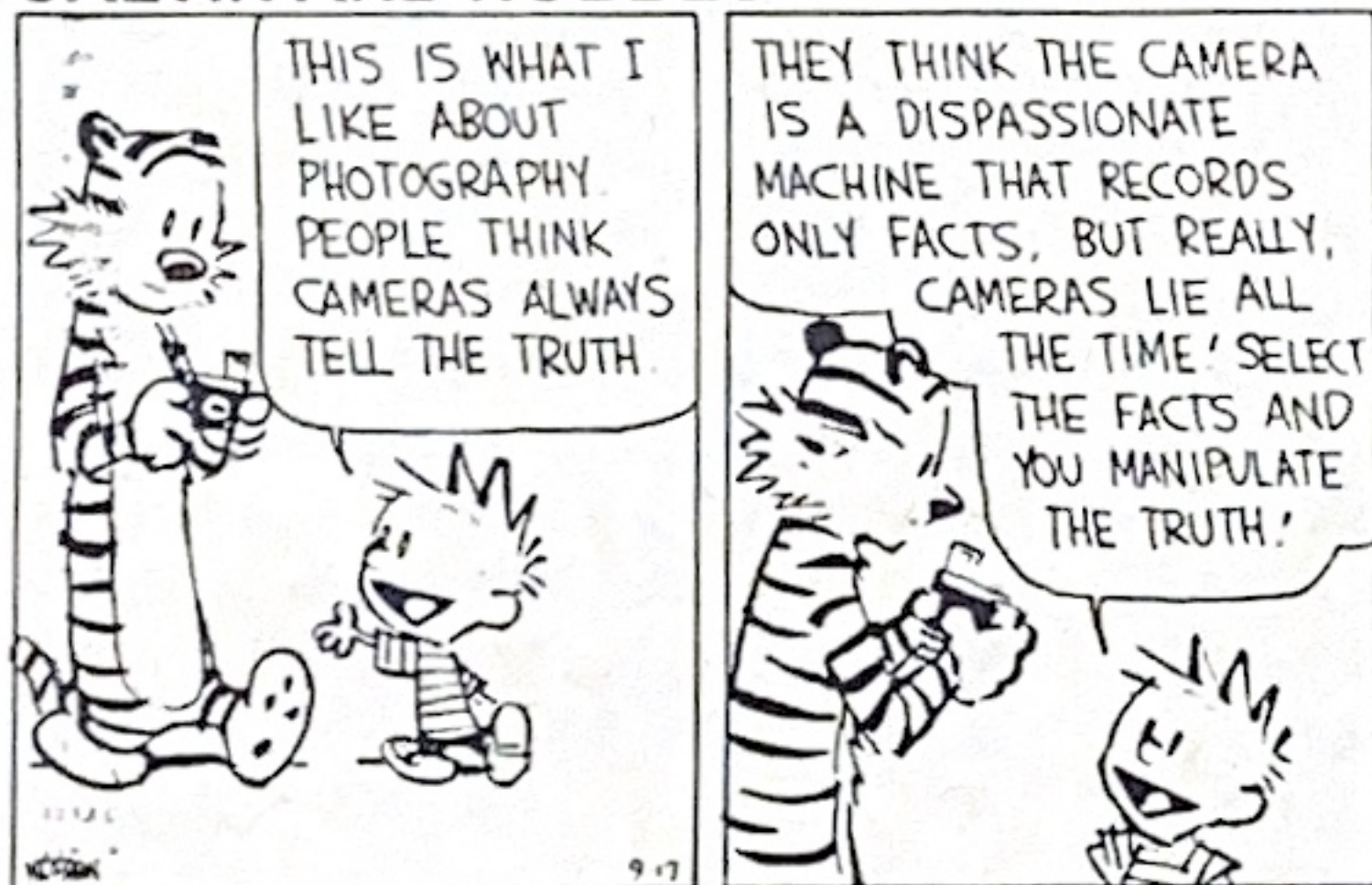
6. Yes, educate Winnipeggers to protect these areas for their children.

7. Yes. See next answer.

8. I would place both of these questions on a referendum.

Let the people decide. I will do my best to educate them in the dangers of spraying. One of my planks in my platform is the banning of CFC's in Winnipeg. A total phase-out of spray/aerosol cans within one year. This may be an unpopular item with some people but let's start plugging those holes (ozone).

CALVIN AND HOBBS



Manitou Abi mediocre model for forests

by Hendrik Herfst,
Defenders of Nopiming

The Manitou Abi Model Forest is not at all the straightforward progressive initiative that recent publications seem to suggest. In fact, with its overwhelming emphasis on technology, tree farms and pesticides, the program is no model at all for how we should be planning to use our forests.

[The Model Forest program is a federal program which funds interested parties -- forest products companies, recreational users, tourism operators, environmentalists, First Nations, provincial governments -- in an attempt to jointly manage a forest using sustainable principles. (See "Manitoba Forest Proposal Top-rated," Eco-Journal, July-August '92) editor].

The Defenders of Nopiming, a new member of the Manitoba Eco-Network, is acting to save Nopiming Forest from clear cut forestry and to create a total ban on logging in Nopiming Provincial Park. Our criticism of the Manitou Abi Model Forest concerns four areas: the federal program itself; the political control of Manitou Abi; the proposal itself; and the involvement of environmentalists in the program.

Where we disagree with other environmentalists is on strategy. The Defenders of Nopiming believe the death of Nopiming Forest is a grave issue requiring urgent action to stop the logging now.

Federal program funds status quo forestry

In fairness to the Model Forests program, the application booklet uses many of the right words and makes the enlightened statement that its aims include a search for efforts which "ensure (that) long-term protection of intact plant and animal communities ... extend to all organisms, regardless of their economic or ecological value." Unfortunately, the government's environmental action is skewed by its interest in development (financial) and their deflection of the real needs of sustainable development (societal).

The Model Forests program is one of the three main components of forestry Minister

Frank Oberle's "Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests" program. Like the other two components, the Model Forests Program seeks to expand forestry research and logging techniques.

In an industry plagued by technocracy, job loss through automation, and a range of environmental ills, more knowledge and technology cannot reverse the problems created by clear cutting, pesticide spraying and mill pollution. Technology has not yet solved any serious environmental problem.

The second weakness of the program is that it assumes development of traditional forestry practices (site preparation, tree farming (reforestation), stand tending and "pest" killing) will form the basis for sustainable forestry. Of course these will not. They will turn our forests into pulp and replace them with tree farms. The program should not have assumed this if it wanted new initiatives. It got what is asked for -- unimaginative proposals.

Finally, the attitude to biodiversity in the Partners program documents is frightening. The appendices actually refer to a seed and gene bank to "conserve seed samples" and regenerable tissue samples of genetically "improved" Canadian tree species. This could be the greatest threat to our forests yet.

Dr. Krystyna Klimaszewska with Forestry Canada has produced the world's first conifer from a single-cell culture, which "opens the door for ... advanced genetic engineering techniques."

These logs with leaves will be to the character of our forest what the Holstein is to the buffalo -- a usurper. Many species of trees will face extinction in their native form, as has already happened with the world's native grasses, and the endless rows of identical trees will ignite pest plagues.

Who controls the model forest?

Model forests support the present feudal baronial power of logging companies by

giving them responsibility for the Model Forests. The lead project sponsor of Manitou Abi is Abitibi-Price, Pine Falls and the cover page identifies the Model Forest area as "consisting of Parts of Abitibi-Price, Inc. Forest Management License No. 1" and reserves, private and crown land. The question arises -- who owns FM 01?

No group other than Abitibi-Price has achieved any meaningful position of strength in Manitou Abi. The Sagkeeng Indian Band voted not to participate in the mill buy-out

recently, in part because they were tired of "being taken for granted" by the management

If you disagree with Abitibi-Price how can you agree with their Model Forest?

group.

Recent events like the unilateral action of advertising for a senior forester to run a "commercially-oriented forestry management (operation)" is further indication of the attitude of Abitibi which was also evident during the Clean Environment Commission public hearings and subsequent decision by the government to continue to allow logging in Nopiming.

If you disagree with Abitibi-Price, given that it is identified as the proponent of Manitou Abi, how can you agree with their Model Forest? A shared partnership in Manitou Abi is not fact.

Especially with the given power structure, how in all the world's naivete did part of Atikaki Wilderness Park end up in Manitou Abi Model Forest? Atikaki was too hard-won to allow a logging company any excuse for having any interest in the area.

As suggested by the technical review committee charged with selecting Model Forest proposals, biodiversity must be a concern of the entire forest. Atikaki is not available to serve that in place of the cutting forest and so the Manitou Abi boundaries must be redrawn to exclude Atikaki. Atikaki is a legislated wilderness and nothing must be allowed to dilute that status!

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Are environmentalists providing a green shield for logging?

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The actual Manitou Abi proposal was criticized by the same technical review committee as taking "... the usual unimaginative (approach) of studying habitat requirements of 'featured species'" and then attempting harvesting silvicultural methods that provide a reasonable facsimile of what they need."

As well the Manitou Abi proposal does not address all other forest values as required in the guidelines for applicants. Considering that Abitibi-Price intends to log some of the last stands of old growth in Nopiming Park, how does Manitou Abi propose to maintain any undisturbed eco-systems?

The guidelines also indicate a responsibility on the part of the applicants to establish a consensus on the objectives and to establish a mechanism to resolve differences, but the Manitou Abi's definitions are loose and the objectives vague.

The differences between Abitibi-Price and the environmental community can only be resolved by the compromise of one or the other's objectives. The general state of the environment is such that we have already compromised too much.

Many deficiencies

The proposal has many deficiencies when compared with the guidelines. The proposal does not incorporate suggestions for social and environmental goals or for a convincing long-term commitment to sustainability.

Even more instructive is how the proposal is organized. Five of eight goals unquestionably involve financial support for extension of present forestry practises. As one reads the budget it becomes evident that those five goals also receive 62.6 per cent of the money.

Considering the value placed on technology and research in this proposal, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that this is a corporate hand out allowing Abitibi-Price to use tax money to underwrite its own expenses. This is a corporation that, last

year, paid out \$32 per share.

One of the Technical Review Committee's criticism's of the Manitou-Abi proposal is that it "considers any forests not being exploited as 'under-utilized.'" The committee almost did our work for us when it wondered how Manitoba's policy of permitting logging in parks would affect the proposal. How can environmentalists be involved in a program that does not respect our basic objectives?

The argument against participation by environmentalists boils down to two points. First the manipulative and destructive past and recent history of Abitibi-Price and its management group suggests that discussion is ineffective and wasteful of our time and resources. Secondly, our participation has been noted and publicized in accordance with everything from clear cutting and logging in parks to expansion of the mill, and that forestry is good for caribou.

Some environmentalists insist that we have to hang in, we have to keep talking. Manitou Abi is obviously not the format.

To continue talking requires that we get a turn to be heard; the process has to stop being a one-sided monologue with the Government-Abitibi alliance winning every time.

We need to be stronger in our demands. The loggers are much more radical than we could ever be, in their destruction of forests and the environment.

Perhaps the fortunes of the Partnership Management Board of Manitou Abi will change and the environmentalists will be listened to, but even the 10 per cent of the funding that environmentalists have a direct interest in -- specifically the public education portion, is at risk because of the structure.

Is it worth the cost to us when our participation provides the company with a green shield from public criticism?

Couldn't we do a better job of educating the

public by focusing on the misinformation, the errors and the environmental devastation?

If we are deciding to participate, anyway, one issue needs to be dealt with. There are environmentalists who will benefit from the Manitou Abi Model Forest Proposal. This is acceptable, however they should declare that they have a personal interest in the project.

All environmentalists should make it clear that their participation in Manitou Abi does not constitute an approval of Abitibi's logging practices by the environmental community, and that their presence does not constitute evidence that reduction of biodiversity or contravention of sustainable development

principles is not taking place.

The issue is too important not to find a way to for the larger environmental community to be included in the Manitou Abi strategy.

The Manitoba Naturalists and TREE (Time to Respect Earth's Eco-Systems) must not act without first

finding a way of continuously polling environmental organizations for their concerns and suggestions. Lack of time and attendance will not suffice to excuse an ultimate failure.

The Model Forests program has singled out five Model Forests applicants as "clearly superior to all others submitted." The Manitou Abi Model Forest was one of the five.

The comments would suggest that the quality of the other four "superior" applications is mediocre at best. Forestry may be in a much worse state than we suspected.

The report of the Model Forests Program selection committee is available in the Manitoba Eco-Net-work resource centre.

**To continue talking
requires that we get
a turn to be heard.
The process has to
stop being a one-
sided monologue
with the Government-
Abitibi alliance
winning every time.**

Animal rights coalition vows to end whale captures

by Toby Maloney

EDITOR'S NOTE -- On September 22 two of the beluga whales referred to in the following article died in the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago after being treated with pharmaceuticals for parasites. The article, a look at the issue of beluga captures and the present and planned efforts of the Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition was written before the fatal incident.

A failed attempt to prevent the capture of beluga whales nevertheless signals a successful first step in ending the practise forever according to one of the organizers.

Manitoba Animals Rights Coalition (MARC) organizer James Pearson says that despite failing to prevent the capture and export of four beluga whales by Chicago's Shedd Aquarium at the beginning of August, the group's intervention marked the first time there was substantive opposition to

the practise here. MARC mounted a court challenge of the export permit issued by Fisheries Minister John Crosby and attempted to get an injunction against the applicant in Court of Queens Bench as well as making the efforts at direct action in the water.

Aside from preventing the capture, MARC was hoping to simply observe the hunt and capture in order to photograph and document what it considers abuse, and to raise awareness in the media. Local, national and international media attention helped meet the goal of raising awareness, and the intervention is only the first step in an ongoing struggle.

MARC and its allies in People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Sea Shepherd Society which helped fund the campaign have served notice to the whale captors that "we're prepared to have people up there. This year we were five people with one boat. Next year it will be 30 people with several boats," Pearson vowed.

While MARC opposition is based on a philosophy that animals other than humans

have an intrinsic value "beyond any value we place upon them" and therefore have a right to be left undisturbed, the group is also extremely critical of the actual practices of the whale captors and aquaria that purchase the whales.

Since 1967 when hunt leader John Hicks made his first beluga whale capture for export at the mouth of the Churchill River there have been 68 whales (including the whales purchased by the Shedd Aquarium this summer) taken to aquaria throughout North America. According to Pearson over a third are dead. The average life span has been five years compared to an estimated 17 to 50 years in their native eco-system. Breeding in captivity has been abysmal with high rates of mortality.

Aside from the suffering in captivity that MARC decries, there is no data on the impact of whale pods of the hunts which

involve several boats speeding through the shallow waters at the mouth where the whales are birthing and nursing their young in the warmer waters. Juvenile whales from 200 to 400, that are the preferred age for aquaria, are "cut" from the pod by a motorboat and forced into shallow water. One of the hunt party jumps onto the whale's back and subdues it with a garden hose in a noose around the neck and a rope around the tail.

The "coldwater cowboys" as they are sometimes referred to do a quick gender check by sticking their hand in the whales' genital slit -- this is inexact and potentially damaging for the sexually immature juvenile whales. In order to come up with the four desired "specimens" for the Shedd Aquarium, as many as 30 whales were jumped, says Pearson.

If the desired gender is determined the whale is lifted out of the water by a sling and brought to shore where it is kept in a holding tank 12 feet by 15 feet and about four feet deep, a rusted tank that used to contain whale blubber when the whales were hunted commercially. As many as five whales at a time, were in the tank, some of them for as long as five days. Seven whales in all were brought to shore, but three were released because blood tests showed the presence of bacteria, parasites and a high white cell count, respectively.

The four female whales that were eventually exported were packed in fibreglass crates again suspended in slings, for the flight to Chicago. Once there the whales will eat thawed fish and swim in treated City of Chicago water. They will never participate in the 2000 kilometre migrations the rest of their herd will experience.

At every stage of the process the whales are traumatized according to Pearson and other aquarium opponents. And no one has any idea what impact the practise has on the surviving members of the pod.

Pearson says that claims the whales are necessary for scientific or public education that will be beneficial to protecting whale habitat are spurious.

At best, researchers will be able to determine whale behaviour in captivity rather any illuminating discovery about whales as they

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Study whales unobtrusively

continued from previous page

are in their natural eco-system, Pearson says. If there is any scientific rationale behind the whale capture why would the capture team permit a big game hunter and circuit judge from the southern United States to come to the site and jump a whale for the thrill of the experience? he asks.

The educational experience is similarly fraudulent in Pearson's view. "It's a freak show... It's a whale in a zoo. It's not a whale as a constituent of a vibrant eco-system."

Ultimately the economics of visitor attendance is what drives the practise, according to Pearson. The Shedd Aquarium, which already receives visitors in the millions each year, is expecting to boost attendance by as much as 1.5 million with the whales. MARC and the other groups along with Chicago supporters, took their case to the Aquarium gates in September leafleting visitors and asking them to boycott the facility until it agrees not to capture any more marine mammals.

Meanwhile in Montreal the federally financed Bio-Dome is expected to go hunting for as many as a dozen belugas in Churchill next summer. The Churchill belugas will stand-in as facsimiles of the St. Lawrence belugas which are virtually extinct because of the lack of will to stop industrial pollution of the river system and to clean up the excesses of decades.

The money being spent to reconstruct an indoor replica of the environment would be better spent on educating the population and the decision makers to protect the local beluga species, Pearson says.

MARC is preparing to fight any capture by the Bio-Dome or any other aquarium owner, by pressuring the federal Department of Fisheries to develop a policy preventing

whale captures and by using a Court of Queens Bench ruling that the group has proper standing to request an injunction against whale capture.

And if the courts don't prevent the practise, MARC and its allies will be back in Churchill, with more support and even more resolve to challenge whale captures.

FREE BELUGA FUND



a MARC project

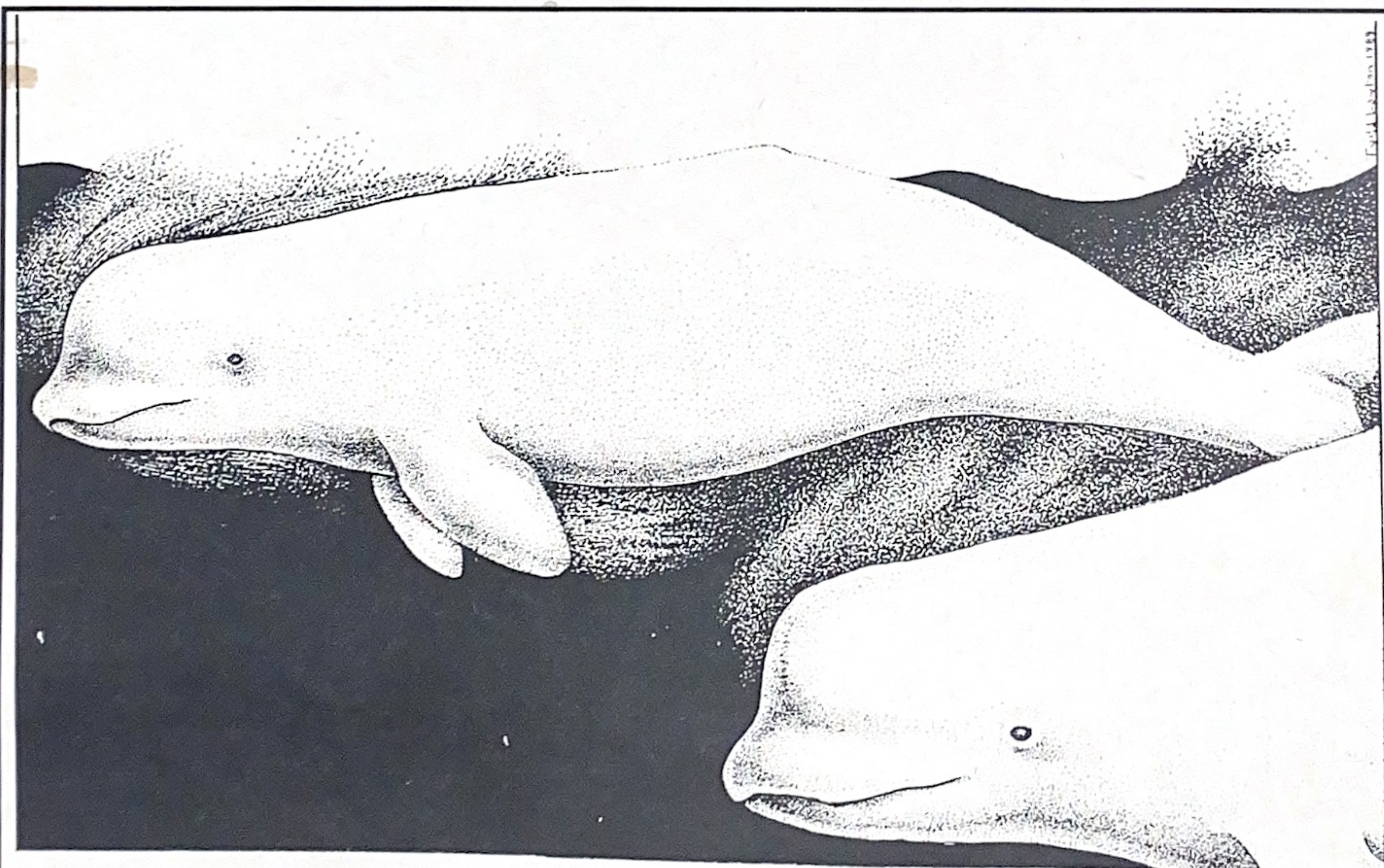


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