

ECO-JOURNAL



Volume 4, Number 5

September-October, 1994

Calling all Eco-Network supporters: Funding "review" threatens regional Networks/CEN

by Steve Rauh, (CEN Treasurer / MEN National Steering
Committee representative) and
Anne Lindsey, (MEN Executive Director)

The future of the Manitoba Eco-Network is being jeopardized by a federal government review of all grants and funding to "interest groups."

One organization designated as an "interest group" is the Canadian Environmental Network of which the Manitoba Eco-Network is a regional affiliate.

An Environment Canada official has stated that the government will drop all funding for the regional offices of the CEN, although it is difficult to have this confirmed.

In the Case of the Manitoba Eco-Network (MEN) this would mean a loss of a major source of funding. In the current fiscal year the grant from Environment Canada (through the CEN) was \$22,000 or about 20 per cent of our overall budget. (This compares with about \$20,000 that we raise in donations, subscriptions. The foundation advertising and \$22,000 is im-
lowers us to lever
foundation
depend to carry
Manitoba. Incidentally MEN is one of only two regional networks that did not receive any provincial core funding in the past several years, despite our role as a source of information for the public.

**Environment
Canada warns
CEN to be "leaner
and meaner"**

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grants, project revenue,
merchandise). The
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the various project and
grants upon which we
out our activities in

The federal review was announced by Paul Martin, Minister of Finance in the February budget. Treasury Board is leading the review, advised by an interdepartmental committee which includes Environment Canada. They will come up with the criteria which each department will then apply to its decisions on funding various groups.

So far, these initiatives are going ahead before a full consultation on the relationship between government and voluntary organizations has been conducted. It is quite clear that the secrecy and speed of this review is deliberate.

The process addresses some very important issues about the role of government, the role of voluntary organizations, such as the CEN, and their joint mission to serve society's interests. The relationship between government and the voluntary sector is more complex

Please see Critical page 6

Taking the dog for an Earthwalk '94



Manitoba Eco-Network supporter Riffle (wearing the hat) and his friend Marnie Jull went the distance for EarthWalk '94. Riffle raised \$68.07 ifrom his friends in the neighbourhood including cats, dogs and a hamster. Riffle signed his sponsorship form with a paw print, naturally. Sixty per cent of Riffle's proceeds will go to the Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition. See page 10 for more on EarthWalk '94.

COMPLIMENTARY
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Eco-Journal

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Move-a-torial

by Toby Maloney

Normally when someone or something happens at the Manitoba Eco-Network we put it under the headline **Network People**, but since this announcement affects the functioning of **Eco-Journal**, I thought I would explain up front, as it were.

I'm leaving Winnipeg for Boissevain and the Turtle Mountains region, but I'm not giving up my niche as editor of **Eco-Journal**.

I'll no longer fulfill the duties of Director of Communications on staff, but I will continue, on a contract basis to edit **Eco-Journal** from home.

Letters, submissions and messages can still be left for me/Eco-Journal at the Manitoba Eco-Network office 867 Westminster. Or you can call me direct (phone and fax) at 1-204-534-2317. Write to Box 1139, Boissevain, R0K 0E0.

Because I'll be too far away to attend many events, demonstrations, meetings etc. I hope I can count on fellow activists to c.c. me with their news releases, posters etc. In some ways I'll be more reliant on you to help keep other readers informed.

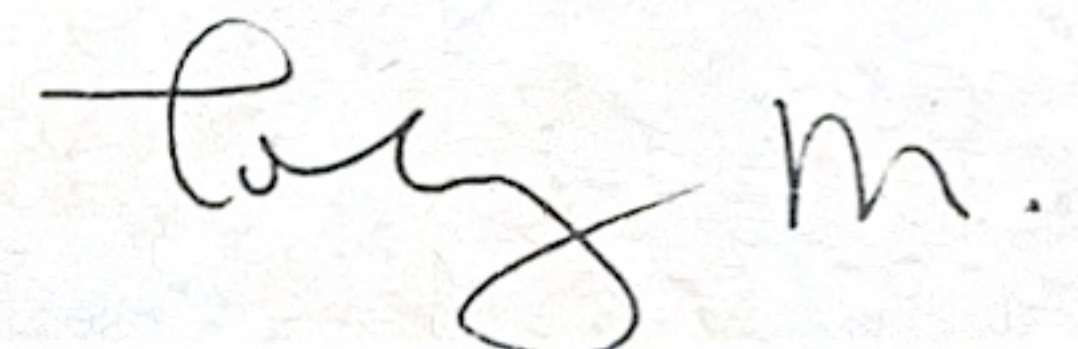
So why Boissevain? The Turtle Mountain region appeals to a family of former Canadian Shield dwellers who have also come to love the prairie and its people. We hope

there is an opportunity to work towards greater self-reliance and to build community around cooperation, on growing food sustainably, and on ecologically-sensitive local economic development. Things we need to learn.

We see rural repopulation as critical and inevitable. Right now we feel there is an opportunity to help define the return to rural areas around the above ideals and to avoid the eventual exurban sprawl that has been gobbling up land with roads and strip malls elsewhere.

Perhaps at some point others would like to talk about ways of doing this. We'd be happy to join with other efforts in this direction.

While I'm at it, I'd like to say how much I appreciate the enlightened approach the Eco-Network board and staff is taking to accommodate my desire to leave the city. And I'd also like to say that it in the six years we've lived in Winnipeg, my family and I have always found our ideas and participation on issues and in organizations to be welcome and encouraged. This is a large part of our reason for staying in Manitoba. We'll be around.



The 1993-94 Manitoba Eco-Network Steering Committee

Jack Dubois, Wildlife Society, Manitoba	 Chair
Sue Proctor, Harvest Natural Foods Collective	 Vice-Chair
Harry Mesman, Manitoba Federation of Labour	 Secretary
Steve Rauh, Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment	 Treasurer
Nick Carter	 Manitoba Naturalists Society
Dennis Bayomi	 Winnipeg Vegetarian Association
Bryan Johnson	 Citizens Against Neurotoxins
Rick Penner	 Recycling Council of Manitoba
Helen McCullough	 Winnipeg Water Protection Group
Brian Pannel	 Manitoba Environmentalists Inc.
Jason Loughhead/Danishka Esterhazy	 Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition
Sacha Kopelow	 U of W Students Acting for the Environment

L.P. approval quick and dirty

With the formality of Clean Environment Commission hearings out of the way the Environment Minister made short work of giving approval to Louisiana Pacific to

UPDATE

begin construction on its Oriented Strand Board plant in Minitonas.

The CEC released its recommendations on August 25 and the Environment Department issued a Stage 1 licence the next day. The only area where the Clean Environment Commission recommended more controls than the company agreed to was in a recommendation to require the installation of low NOx burners to control emissions of oxides of nitrogen. This was also the only recommendation the Director Larry Strachan chose to reject. Strachan told CBC radio that technology that would have been required in the U.S. isn't necessary because the air is cleaner in Swan River.

Since that time the department has also issued its stage 2 licence so that construction work can proceed before freeze up. Baseline studies of ambient environmental conditions around the plant will be conducted concurrent with rather than prior to construction.

"Just Say No to Clearcutting" Demonstration, 6 p.m. at the Manitoba Legislature on October 13.

No summer holiday at MB Environment

Staff at Manitoba Environment had a busy summer, churning out environment licences. In July August, the department issued several major, and controversial licences including the Louisiana Pacific referred to above, the Main and Norwood Bridges Replacement (see story page 12), the Deacon Reservoir expansion, a particle board plant in Elie, and the Abitibi-Price Pine Falls wastewater treatment plant. Advertising and open houses for Repap's forest licence were also in August (see following story). Proponents seem to have learned from Monsanto's example. Its application for a licence for its new dry Roundup plant in Morden last year was advertised and issued in mid-summer with only one objection.

Repap spells process backwards

Process is the issue again for Repap's forest licence application. Once again the province is allowing the company to apply for a licence on the basis of a one year, rather than a five or ten year plan as was the case with Abitibi-Price in Pine Falls. Objections on process were recorded in the public registry from MKO, Alice Chambers, Bill Pruitt, Lindy Clubb (for Western Canada Wilderness Committee) and Harvey Williams for TREE. WCWC demanded the minister provide an explanation for not requiring a detailed Environment Impact Assessment and asked to be included in the decision-making process on the interdepartmental Technical Advisory Committee that reviews the company's cutting plans.

"The August meeting in Winnipeg was not a public forum for consultation, but rather a public relations exercise designed to showcase non-binding regulations," wrote Clubb.

Williams notified the Department that his group will be examining the plans with an eye to principles of forest and eco-system management the province has signed onto in a number of federal-provincial and provincial documents.

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City linking participation in provincial recycling program to rejection of BFI landfill

The City of Winnipeg's cooperation with the Manitoba Product Stewardship Program may depend on the province blocking a plan by BFI to make a new landfill just north of the City.

BFI has made an environment licence application to build a landfill in the R.M. of Rosser just beyond the perimeter highway. The proposed landfill would be much larger than necessary to serve the rural communities BFI says it is aiming for. Since BFI has the largest market share for commercial garbage haulers it pays the largest share of tipping fees at the city landfill sites. The city charges \$40 per tonne, partly as an effort to discourage waste, and also to cross-subsidize residential garbage pickup and waste minimization programs, but BFI could run its own landfill for only \$20 per tonne.

The withdrawal of BFI's current tipping fees and tipping fees from other waste haulers drawn to the Rosser site by lower tipping fees would leave a \$7 to \$10 million hole in the city's budget.

One City councillor has said privately "this means war" and predicts the end of any waste minimization or education program in the city should the province allow the application.

Non-profit proposal for MPSP

A City of Winnipeg forum to consult with the public about recycling options, exposed some major weaknesses in the Manitoba Product Stewardship, but a the desire for blue boxes in every driveway may tilt the city towards the plan, anyway.

Despite its utter lack of targets for reduction, the absence of re-use (i.e. refillable bottles), its silence on education, and its avoidance of the issue of ICI -- industrial-commercial-institutional waste (at least half of all garbage in the landfill), the plan seems headed for implementation in time for the next provincial election.

In many parts of the province it will provide welcome funding for local recycling efforts, although it may displace local processing efforts in smaller centres. In the City of Winnipeg decision-makers face a clamour of proposals from small curbside collectors, giant would-be corporate recyclers, unionized city workers, private and non-profit depot operators.

One innovative submission, by Mennonite Economic Development Associates, Mennonite Central Committee and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 500 (which represents city workers), would share the collection of recyclables between city workers and a non-profit recycling organization established by MCC and MEDA. MCC, which administers a similar program in Edmonton (responsible for half of the collection there) and MEDA would focus their efforts on hiring up to 50 per cent of its employees from the Welfare rolls and would allocate "a minimum of 50 per cent of the surpluses of the organization" into a foundation for community economic development in the City of Winnipeg. Other hiring would give priority to workers displaced from existing curbside recycling operations.

ECO-BRIEFS

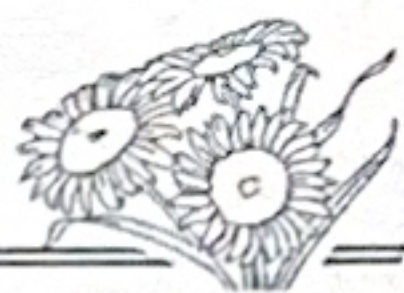
by Toby Maloney

Conservation data network established

Manitoba Natural Resources has set up a conservation data centre in conjunction with the Museum of Man and Nature, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada that will consolidate and update information about plants, animals, and natural communities.

The provincial effort will be part of an international network of conservation data centres including four other province, all 50 United States, and several Latin American countries.

During the start-up phase, the five-person staff will work out of the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. The province has put \$250,000 plus the office and staff toward a two-year budget of \$640,000.



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October education series

Held Saturdays at 2 pm FREE

October 8 Understanding homeopathy
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October 15 Cross-cultural approaches to diet and
nutrition *with Ray Lendvai*

October 22 Aromatherapy *with Carrie Forsythe*

October 29 Herbs and your health with
Walter Enns (to be confirmed)

October 5: Fall and Winter Tree Care Workshop, 7 p.m. at 2799 Roblin Blvd. (west entrance to Assiniboine Park) sponsored by the **Coalition to Save the Elm's Tree For All** program. Everything you need to know about winter tree preparation, pruning, watering, mulching, basal treatments, cankerworm banding, leaf composting. Free admission, but register in advance by calling 832-7188.

October 8: Manitoba Regional Consultations for the United Nations World Summit for Social Development, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15, Crossways in Common (Furby at Broadway) facilitated by **CHO!CES: A Coalition for Social Justice**. A day for discussion and learning -- a one day conference for the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of experience related to issues of world poverty and social disintegration. The local consultations will be drawn together to form a Plan for Action to be taken to the United Nations World Summit for Social Development in Denmark in March 1995. Call 944-9408 for more information.

October 15: Brother Peace Day sponsored by the Manitoba Men's Network. 8 a.m. to noon at Klinik (870 Portage). Breakfast, workshops on ending men's violence and a ceremony at Vimy Ridge park. \$5 admission. Call 475-5990 for more information.

October 15: Tree Planting Workshop 1:30 p.m. Fisher Park (between Oakwood and Ashland in Riverview) sponsored by the **Coalition to Save the Elm's Tree For All** program. Prepare to get your hands dirty at this hands-on workshop! Gardening gloves and spades welcome. Free admission, but register in advance by calling 832-7188.

October 17: So what is Sustainability? **Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program** 8 p.m. Centre Franco-Manitobain (340 Provencher). International Institute for Sustainable Development President and CEO Arthur Hanson looks at global crisis and explains IISD's role. For more information call Indoor program chair David Milton, 1-746-8457.

October 29: Pruning Demonstration, 1:30 p.m. at 2799 Roblin Blvd. (west entrance to Assiniboine Park) sponsored by the **Coalition to Save the Elm's Tree For All** program. Learn proper techniques to make your trees healthy and happy. Free admission, but register in advance by calling 832-7188.

October 31: The Experimental Lakes Area: Eco-system Research in a Canoeist's Paradise with John Shearer. **Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program** 8 p.m. Centre Franco-Manitobain (340 Provencher). Learn how world-class aquatic research is conducted in a pristine wilderness area. For more information call Indoor program chair David Milton, 1-746-8457.

November 3-4: Organizing for Social Change with Si Kahn, performer and Executive Director of Grassroots Leadership, all day both days at Crossways in Common (Furby at Broadway) except lecture and cabaret. Includes workshops on Tactics and Strategies,

Union Organizing in the '90's, Organizing in the '90's: Building a Community Culture, Building Community: Coalition and Social Movements, Music, Popular Culture and Social Change and a Cabaret (One Big Choir). \$25 per workshop session for individuals

sponsored by organizations, free for all others. \$12 for the cabaret on Friday night (at Gas station Theatre). sponsored by CHO!CES, CUPE, CAW, Faculty of Social Work, U of M, MACSW, U of M Faculty Assoc. Register by October 20 to Si Kahn

workshops, 503-275 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4M6. Call 944-9408 for more information.

November 13: Vegetarian Dinner, 6 p.m. Crossways in Common (Furby at Broadway) fund raiser for **Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition**. Live harp music. \$10 tickets from MARC members. Call 477-6203 for information.

November 14: School Goes Wild and Spirit Sands (doubleheader). **Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program** 8 p.m. Centre Franco-Manitobain (340 Provencher). Richard Zuk details Springfield Collegiate's creation of a range of wildlife habitats in their school yard and John Whiteway shares his film and story about one of Manitoba's most surprising natural areas. For more information call Indoor program chair David Milton, 1-746-8457.

Calendar of Events



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Critical network role already hindered by review

Continued from page 1

than its superficial treatment in the media or some Reform Party comments would indicate.

Environment Canada has made it clear that they expect CEN to find ways to deal with reduced core funding and to become "leaner" and "meaner." Their comments are ironic, because as a mostly voluntary organization that employs staff as back-up, the CEN stretches its dollar to the maximum. CEN's current funding is well below the level targeted by the Green Plan, and it is such a small part of Environment Canada's overall budget, that it would be hard to achieve any meaningful savings. Given the need for much greater participation by citizen groups at the regional and national level in the environmental problems of Canada, and given the fact that we spend our funds judiciously and for the improvement of the environment, we are in need of considerably more federal funding, not less!

In the case of CEN, we currently function as the only broad-based environmental organization that participates with governments in the development of Environmental policy. We act as the go-between for thousands of member groups and the government nationally, and as a communications mechanism for 45 groups in Manitoba.

The proposed cuts would not allow the organization to meet its current national and regional mandate — nor would they enable

government to maintain a viable, equitable participatory decision-making process on environmental issues.

Perhaps most alarming, is that this initiative is not consistent with the Liberal Red Book's environmental commitments or the government's intention to move toward a sustainable society. The opening page of the Red Book states that:

We want a country whose governments are

Canadian people. The Liberal program of investing in people will be as valuable in surmounting our environmental challenges as it will be in overcoming our economic challenges. A new Liberal government will build on this public awareness and give individuals new tools to protect the environment and to participate in environmental decision-making.

The important consultative and cooperative relationship that has been developed and sustained by the positive government/CEN relationship of the last decade has improved the democratic process. But much more needs to be done, and the CEN, which already stretches its dollar well beyond the limit, needs more funding.

Should our role be circumscribed, the environmental community and participatory government will be considerably handicapped. This would seem especially unwise at a time when environmental issues are becoming increasingly serious and complex.

The CEN is currently working with other national voluntary organizations to ask that Treasury Board and Finance conduct a full consultation process on the relationship between government

and voluntary organizations.

Eco-Network needs members help!

In addition to groups working together nationally, we need regional and local help to affect this process. It is quite likely that back bench Members of Parliament are unaware of the issue. The best way to create some interest within the Liberal caucus is to have it raised as a regional issue. We are urging Eco-Journal readers and supporters who are represented by Liberal members to contact them and ask for a meeting in your riding as soon as possible.

Please send letters of support for the CEN, and the MEN, expressing these points to the following cabinet ministers:

Paul Martin,
Minister of Finance
Rm. 515-S, Centre Block

Please see next page

We are not "interest groups!"

Some points you may want to STRESS in your letters of support:

- We work for the public interest and benefit all Canadians by doing valuable community service -- we have no private or profit-oriented interests.
- How your own group or interest would be affected by cuts
- Voluntary groups cannot sustain cuts because we are already hanging from the end of a frayed shoestring
- Demand for our service increases as government cuts back its programs
- National networks and umbrella voluntary groups help to link the country at a time when federalism is threatened
- The CEN facilitates group involvement in federal government consultations, delivering citizen solutions for government problems

efficient, innovative, and cooperative, not only with each other, but with business, labour, the learning sector, environmentalists, and volunteer groups.

In the section on sustainability the Red Book says:

Individual Canadians are far ahead of their governments in their desire for environmental protection. Our greatest asset in moving towards sustainability is concern for the environment, combined with the resourcefulness of the

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Reminding the Ministers about the Red Book

Continued from previous page

House of Commons
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Art Eggleton,
Treasury Board Chair
Rm 207 Confederation Bldg
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**Now is the time for all good
activists to come to the aid
of your network**

It is critical that Minister of Environment Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps hears about the role played by the regional networks, the CEN and the voluntary sector in environmental protection. The CEN has already been negatively affected by the funding review. We were on the verge of signing a three year funding agreement and instead were given only a one year commitment. The agreement goes until March 31, 1995. Funding uncertainty costs organizations a lot in missed opportunities, higher rents, and low staff morale. Write to her at House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6.

It appears that groups defined as "public interest" groups will retain their funding. These are groups that benefit society as a whole rather than an identifiable group. Environmental groups obviously fall into this category.

The CEN and regional Networks fulfil a vital role in the environmental movement of Canada. The work we do benefits all

Canadians. We cannot allow ourselves, and the environment to be labelled a "special interest."

For more information call 772-7542.

More Resources on funding: "Four good reasons to fund voluntary organizations." (article CEN Bulletin, summer 1994)

"Interest Group Funding and Canada's Social Infrastructure" (brief paper from Alberta Environmental Network (403-433-

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Host Hotel for the Symposium is the Delta Winnipeg. For reservations call 800-268-1133

For more information, contact: Canadian Forest Service, Manitoba District Office, 200-180 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A6 phone 983-4817 or fax 983-8792

Province-wide volunteer base aids injured wildlife

by Brian Ratcliff

With a membership of over 400 and a strong province-wide base of 100 volunteers, the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization is out there for injured wild animals.

Volunteers assist with all aspects of the operation, from answering phone calls about wildlife in distress to capturing and transporting injured animals, providing convalescent care, offering educational presentations to school and community groups, and assisting with other necessary tasks such as fund raising, record keeping, training, newsletter production, and administration.

Each year, the number of wildlife cases we attend to increases by more than 20 per cent as we become better known, and as more people find and try to help injured and orphaned birds and mammals. In 1993 we responded to over 6000 telephone calls, and handled nearly 1200 wildlife cases.

Building a permanent home

In order to better respond to the growing number of wildlife cases, we have taken steps to establish Manitoba's first permanent wildlife rehabilitation centre at Glenlea, Manitoba. A two acre site has been leased from the University of Manitoba, and two surplus buildings provided by the Department of Natural Resources have been moved onto the site.

During 1993 we began to construct outdoor caging and to convert the two buildings to office and hospital facilities. We now have an administration building, which is available to volunteers for training and meetings, and will eventually include a library and computer records system. A hospital building, containing an examination room, indoor convalescent caging, and a food preparation area will also be completed in the near future.

The construction of outdoor caging to house injured and orphaned animals has also progressed well, thanks to the assistance of many volunteers, and three students hired under the provincial Green Team initiative.

Mending on the fly

Since birds representative 85 per cent of the species treated, most of the caging constructed to date has been designed for these animals.

In 1993 a flight enclosure measuring 110 feet by 20 feet was built. The flight consists of two parallel tunnels, and is intended to encourage rehabilitated birds of all types to fly long distances in order to regain



muscle strength prior to release. Other outdoor caging constructed during 1994 included: a large enclosure for passerine (perching or song) birds, consisting of eight smaller units all interconnected by gates and attached to a large central aviary; an L-shaped convalescent cage, and two medium-sized cages for birds of various sizes. A waterfowl rehabilitation enclosure which will include a pond a cattail wetland is currently under construction. Caging for mammals has also been designed, and will be constructed as funding permits.

Member Group Profile:

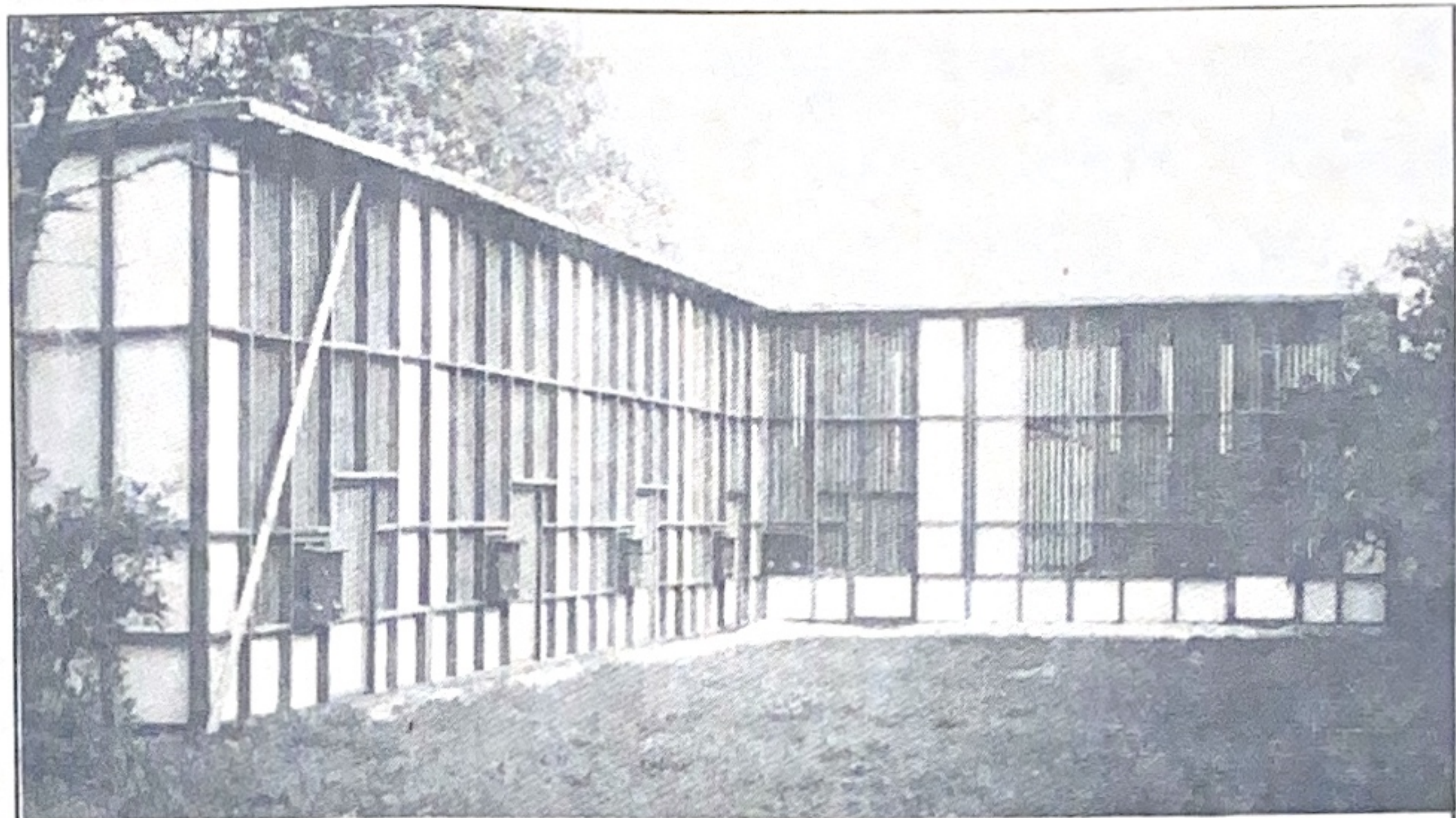
Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization

The Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization was founded in 1984 to consolidate the efforts of conservation groups, zoos, and private individuals who were interested in conducting wildlife rehabilitation. In 1986, MWRO was incorporated as a registered non-profit organization with the objective of providing proper care and handling to the injured and orphaned wildlife found each year throughout the province. By 1989, a province-wide volunteer rehabilitation network had been implemented in response to a growing public demand for the services.

Continued from previous page

Since the founding of MWRO in 1984, all wildlife rehabilitation has been carried out in the backyards, basements, and living rooms of volunteers. Now, with the development of a permanent wildlife rehabilitation centre at Glenlea, we will be able to carry out most activities from the Centre. This will facilitate the hands on training of volunteers, provide for the more accurate monitoring of injured animals, and should generally help us to increase the public profile of MWRO as members of the public will now have a physical entity with which they can more easily identify.

Brain Ratcliff is the manager of the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization Centre. For more information about MWRO call 883-2122.



Recently constructed recovery enclosure for injured birds at the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at Glenlea Research Station just south of Winnipeg.

photo by Ellen Cramm

If you find an injured or orphaned animal or bird:

- Place the animal in a box with an old towel or paper towels
- Punch air holes into the box from the inside out
- Place a small dish of water in the corner of the box
- Keep the box and animal in a warm, dark, quiet, area
- Call MWRO (897-1589) for further info and instructions

Volunteer Opportunities at MWRO

Volunteers work within a committee structure under the leadership of coordinators. Activities include: volunteer coordination, public relations, fund raising, membership, and centre development and rehabilitation (medical orphan care, convalescent care, telephone answering, animal transportation, and records keeping). Call 883-2122 to become a volunteer.

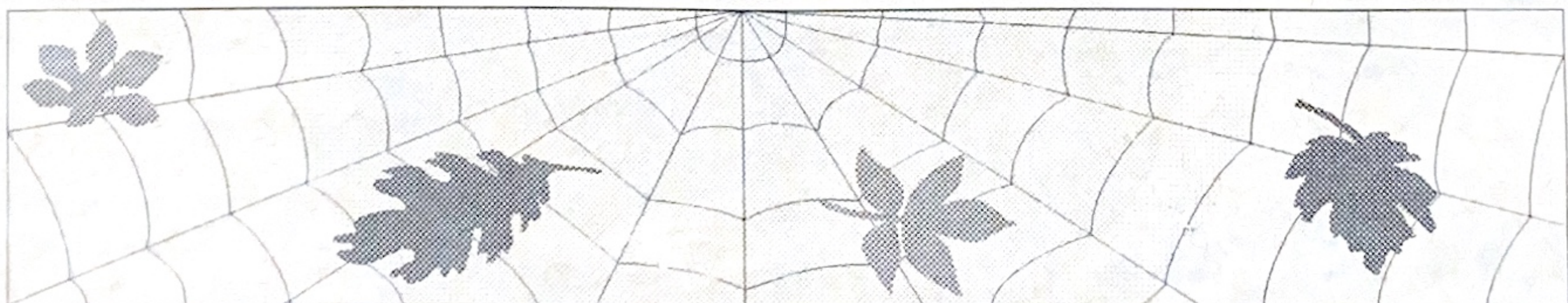
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ETC. ETC.**



"Concept" of deep disposal for radioactive waste to be studied Impact Assessment without an environment to assess?

by Anne Lindsey for
Concerned Citizens of Manitoba

Just what does a nuclear waste repository mean to you?

An economic boom and jobs, jobs, jobs? Or a slowly ticking time bomb posing a long term threat to the environment and public health?

These are only two of the many scenarios likely to be discussed when public hearings get under way into the concept of deep burial of nuclear fuel waste in the rock of the Canadian Shield.

The hearings won't start until late 95 or early 96, but AECL (Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.) the Crown Corporation responsible for nuclear waste, will release its Environmental Impact Statement sometime this Fall. The EIS is the culmination of years of research into deep rock burial. The bulky volumes of technical references for the EIS already released cover issues such as vault size, pre-closure

assessment, geo-hydrology, transportation, and public involvement.

What they, and the EIS don't cover, are issues such as the continued production of nuclear waste, and the connections between civilian and military uses of nuclear technology -- areas which many participants in the scoping hearings insisted be put on the table for the review.

FEARO (the Federal Environment Assessment Review Office) the agency conducting the review has also never adequately addressed the fact that since this review is not site specific -- it is only of a "concept" it is essentially an environmental assessment in the absence of an environment. This sidesteps neatly the likelihood of strong "not-in-my-backyard" opposition.

In spite of these failings, many groups have made the decision to apply for intervenor funding and participate in the process. (Likely the demand for funds will far exceed the \$600,000 that is available.)

Concerned Citizens of Manitoba (CCM) Manitoba's unofficial nuclear watchdog since AECL established its waste research in the province 15 years ago, is one such group. CCM plans to hold community meetings in a variety of locations to gauge the public reaction to a possible nuclear waste repository, and its related infrastructure. At the same time, CCM will be reviewing current literature on socio-economic impacts of nuclear waste facilities, contacting communities in other industrialized and non-industrialized countries who have been or may be impacted by nuclear waste disposal and examining alternatives to deep rock burial -- a "disposal" option to which the group is strongly opposed. (CCM plans to collaborate on analysis of the highly technical issues, with other groups in Nuclear Working Group

of the CEN's Energy Caucus).

Nuclear fuel waste remains toxic and dangerous for hun-

dreds of thousands of years. CCM believes that counting on technology to prevent leakage of radioactive materials into the groundwater of the Canadian Shield for so many years has to be an article of faith, no matter how good the science and computer modelling produced by AECL.

High on the agenda of concerns for CCM is the possibility that Canada will become a nuclear waste dump for the world.

The "reference vault" being assessed could hold up to 10,000,000 nuclear fuel bundles during the life of our nuclear reactors. Canada, however, is expected to produce only 4.5 million fuel bundles.

"Where," wonders CCM founding member and Lac du Bonnet resident George Ylonen, "are we going to get the other 5.5 million?"

The answer may lie partly in a little known section of the Canada/US Free Trade Agreement, which states that Canada may not prohibit the importation of the use of nuclear fuels from the United States!

This has ominous overtones, especially considering the vast quantities of nuclear waste stored in the US, and the political difficulties which the long-term disposal issue has encountered there.

In 1987, CCM's long crusade to obtain provincial legislation banning nuclear waste disposal in Manitoba became a reality with the passing of Bill 28 -- the High Level Radioactive Waste Act. But it is important to note that this is provincial legislation in what is really a federal jurisdiction and that it could be overturned if push came to shove and the federal government decided to site a repository in Manitoba.

What you can do to get involved:

- Write the premier and the opposition leaders and tell them you support Bill 28.
- Write to Anne McLennan, federal Minister of Natural Resources (responsible for AECL) and tell her the same.
- Contact Concerned Citizens of Manitoba at 452-2352.
- Stay tuned for updates and meetings.



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EarthWalk '94: Manitoba environment groups highlighted in fundraiser/awareness day

An EarthWalker's perspective

by Ellen Weiser

Earthwalk '94 took place on a sunny September day. Though it could have used more people, all who came enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The four kilometre walk started in front of Harvest Collective on Westminster Avenue and ended up in Bonnycastle Park near the Forks.

Along the way action stations were set up various member groups of the Manitoba Eco-Network where you could either write a letter to a politician, paint something into a forest mural, and many other activities to help save our environment.

Most offered a single specific action. For instance gloves and garbage bags were available for walkers to each pick up a few items of litter under and near the Osborne Street Bridge. By the end of the event the area was clean of all debris. At another table walkers were invited to pledge to maintain a vegetarian diet for a period of their choice, and at another were encouraged to wear a sticker promoting International Buy Nothing Day (the following September 24).

The object of EarthWalk '94 was to try and raise money for the Eco-Network and its member groups and some awareness of the issues we face in Manitoba. Walkers had a choice of getting a sponsor form and collecting sponsors for the walk.

The way it

worked was that 40 per cent of the money raised went to the Eco-Network and the other 60 per cent will go to a member group of the walker's choice.

The EarthWalk was fun and good exercise for anyone who wished to join. It had excellent news coverage and I think everyone is looking forward to Earthwalk '95 .. I know I am.

Ellen Wieser is a student and environmentalist in Winnipeg.

EarthWalk '94 photos

Walkers sign in at the Earth Walk table on Westminster (bottom right), a young walker expresses her attachment to the environment at the Defenders of Nopiming station in Mostyn Park (below) while Hendrik Herfst and NDP environment critic Marianne Cerilli talk issues.



Minister: Traffic concerns not environment issues

Hearings waived for bridge mega-project

To the consternation of neighbourhood residents, the \$88 million Main and Norwood Bridge project has been summarily approved without Clean Environment Commission hearings.

The project will replace bridges that are single spans of five lanes each with two sets of parallel four lane structures, nearly doubling the capacity.

Most observers were surprised in mid-August when Environment Minister Glen Cummings waived Clean Environment Commission hearings and approved plans submitted by the City of Winnipeg.

Since the much more modest Charleswood Bridge project had been subjected to C.E.C scrutiny, opponents of what by comparison is a mega-project had taken for granted that hearings would be called for Main-Norwood.

Delegates from residents' associations invited to serve on the Project Advisory Committee struck by the City found that their suggestions at best would result in cosmetic (rather than substantive) improvements. Sensing a whitewash, many ceased to attend PAC meetings. And, as if to confirm their suspicions, the Minister issued the environment licence within a week of the City's preferred construction timetable.

City Side by Jeff Lowe

Questioned by the media, Cummings offered an intriguing insight into the mind set he brings to his portfolio:

"Any outstanding issues," he opined, "are traffic-related ones - not environmental ones."

What we stand to lose

At risk as a result of the massive scope of this highway and river-crossing project are two of Winnipeg's oldest and most distinctive neighbourhoods - as well as a spot of incalculable importance in the history of human activity in North America.

Squarely in the midst of the project site is Mayfair/Stradbroke -- a densely-inhabited enclave that harbours elementary and nursery schools, daycares, hospices, shelters, and high percentages of multi-unit subsidized housing, young children, and single-parent families. Immediately across the Main Street South "traffic canyon" is South Point of The Forks - thought to have hosted aboriginal trading encampments dating back 6,000 years or better; and more recently, several forts that served as the jumping-off point from which the exploration and population of the whole of northwestern North America by Europeans was staged.

At the project's southern terminus, Norwood boasts an abundance of stately turn-of-the-century homes and garden apartments (an assortment of which appear on the City's "conservation list" of historic buildings).

Help Wanted

Canada's 101 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and 45 National Wildlife Areas protect wildlife and habitat, but they can't do the job alone.



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to help care for
all habitats.*

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Canada



Evidence of environment impacts ignored

The coalition of community and public-interest groups organized to fight the City's plans for the bridges had amassed a voluminous case as to why the Manitoba Government ought to refuse to licence the work altogether. As they had apprised the Environment Minister in their formal appeal to him in June to wield his authority to have the C.E.C. weigh the matter, no less

Continued on next page

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than three major pieces of Provincial legislation -- the *Clean Environment Act*, the *City of Winnipeg Act* and the *Heritage Resources Act* are arguably being violated in various ways by the applicant's proposal.

Inasmuch as the Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by two private consultant firms narrowed the inquiry to look only at the immediate construction area, the documentation accepted as conclusive by the Minister is deficient.

Relating to the Environment Act, the C.E.C. (had it been called into session) would have heard that insofar as engineering design alternatives were compared, the least environmentally and aesthetically obtrusive option -- tunnelling completely beneath the two rivers and the tip of the Ft. Rouge landmass -- was never considered. Nor was the possibility of providing environmentally friendly rapid transit

(as a means of avoiding a huge expansion of Because the Environmental Impact Assessment focused exclusively on the immediate project site, the upstream and downstream traffic effects of its operation have not been appraised. The set of bridges in question handles traffic from no less than five of Winnipeg's 12 defined travel corridors (4 radial + 1 cross town). Whereas the new ones are to be built to an eight-lane standard, St. Mary's and St. Anne's Roads for the time being are to remain much narrower.

We can predict with some confidence that solving one bottleneck will quickly induce another. Then, agitation by exasperated motorists will be seized upon as justification for widening both St. Mary's and St. Anne's Roads. Many drivers who presently use Osborne Street/Dunkirk Drive will be attracted to the then more commodious St. Mary's route. As it consequently will eventually reach a saturation point, calls will then arise for Osborne and Dunkirk to be correspondingly enlarged. The ultimate cost-figure attributable to the project thus has been omitted.

No cycle bridge to the Forks

Citing alleged "safety concerns," Winnipeg's Streets & Transportation Department also has been insistent on postponing construction of a formal cycling and pedestrian pathway south from The Forks along the west bank of the Red to Churchill Drive. The pedestrian/cycle path faces postponement despite the fact that the Forks Renewal Corporation in 1987 pledged itself to assisting in the achievement of such a connection; and, with nearly 100% of the property already in the hands of public entities. Indeed, Streets & Transportation, has already been allowed to remove a disused rail overpass spanning Main Street South that was supposed to have been reserved for the purpose of facilitating direct pedestrian and cyclist access to The Forks.

South Point under siege

The ecological integrity of South Point at The Forks is similarly compromised. It is proposed to twin Main Street South by appropriating additional space to the east of the current road allowance. The result will be to bring massive traffic flows within metres of the actual confluence of the two great rivers.

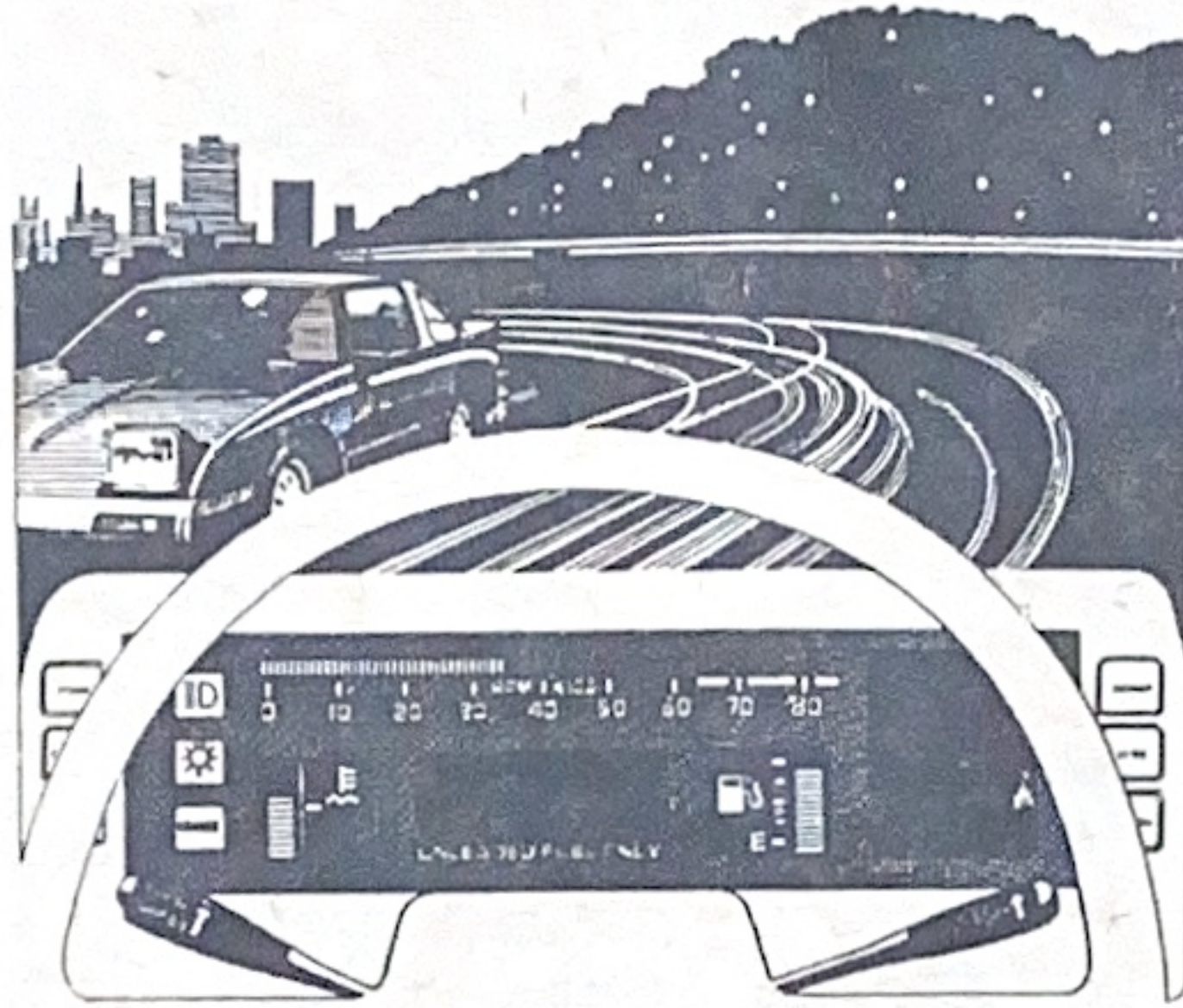
Of all of the lands at The Forks, South Point most closely approximates how the surroundings may have looked in their original, unspoiled state. While railway-bridge approach embankments dominate the outer edges of the site, they also act to buffer its interior from vehicular fumes and noise.

The Forks Renewal Corporation has committed South Point to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs -- for the purpose of establishing an Aboriginal Centre there. Native elders have already expressed doubts as to whether adjacent urban development and traffic make it suitable for a spiritual sanctuary. Anything that would bring traffic even closer could preclude

the planned Aboriginal Centre.

Where the *City of Winnipeg Act* is concerned, numerous

Continued on next page



How traffic engineers see neighbourhoods



Our Pledge...

The Manitoba Telephone System is committed to conducting its business in a manner which reflects consideration for the environment and supports the principles of sustainable development.



Project runs roughshod over Plan Winnipeg

Continued from previous page

provisions of the newly-minted *Plan Winnipeg: Toward 2010* are contravened outright. Just a few of the weightier ones address

- the development of environmentally-sensitive lands
- the encouragement of alternate modes of transportation
- minimization of the impact of non-local traffic on neighbourhoods
- giving priority to public transit for moving people to and within Downtown
- maintaining existing capacity of regional streets, bridges, etc.
- acknowledging the potential advantage of public transit over the private automobile "within the Downtown, at major access points to Downtown, along the major radial regional street system," etc.
- undertaking measures to encourage "the proportion of trips made by multi-occupant vehicles and non-motorized means" and (as a means of assuring compliance with all of the preceding in practice as well as in theory)
- binding the City to abide by the policy dictates of Plan Winnipeg particularly when Council sets its budgets.

Since the Minister of Urban Affairs Linda McIntosh has the statutory power to reject, alter, or ratify Plan Winnipeg, she may

City Side ... continued

accordingly move to enforce compliance when it is being treated as if non-existent. Her lack of protest suggests that she is either ignorant of such possibilities or, tacitly approves of the City's scofflaw conduct.

As part of the *Plan Winnipeg* update approval process, the Province is currently requiring the

City of Winnipeg to carry out an omnibus study of area-wide transportation needs. Toward that end, the Province's Ministry of Urban Affairs is kicking in a substantial funding contribution. The primary reason for the study is the changed conditions that have rendered Winnipeg's existing transport plan (based on the population-distribution and travel patterns of the late 1970s) outdated.

The major phenomenon that has occurred in the ensuing decade-and-a-half has been the accelerated construction of new housing subdivisions in the City's southeastern sector — which has fetched a companion surge in population and traffic volumes. This is the very part of Winnipeg — South St. Boniface, and South St. Vital — which is to be serviced by the new bridge facility.

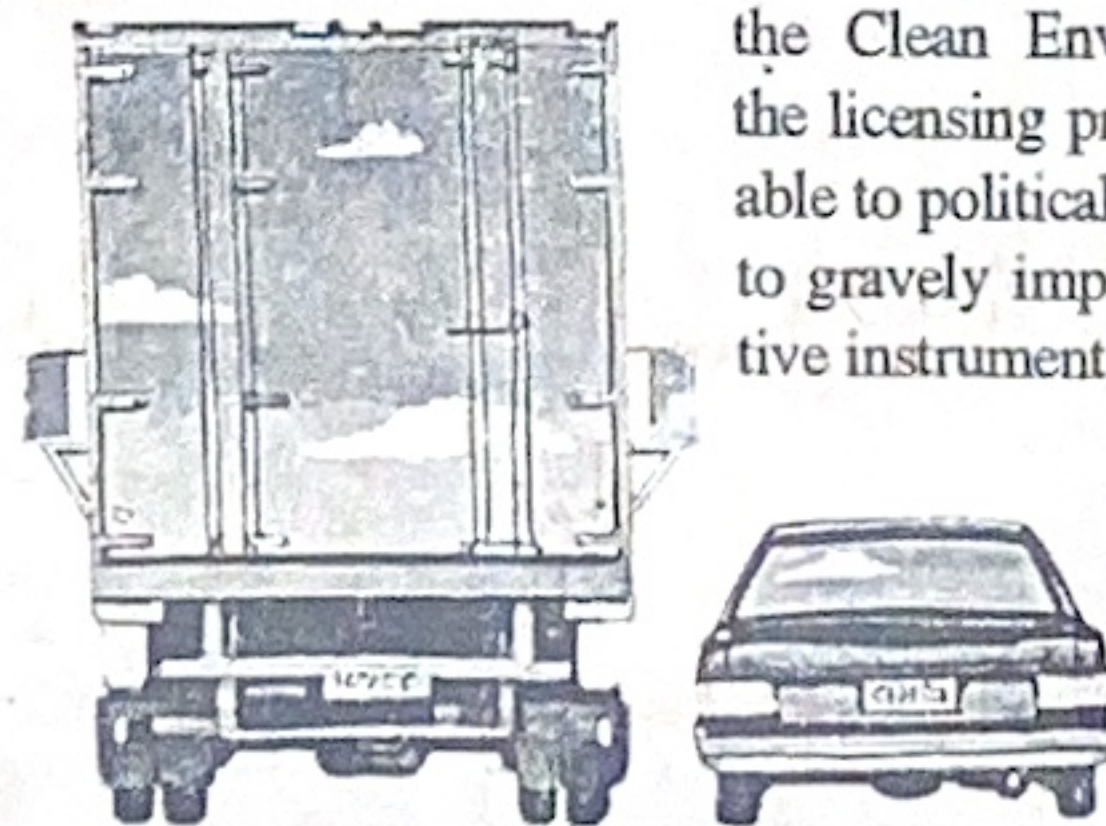
The study just getting underway — *TransPlan 2010* — in all probability will report that conditions are now ripe to warrant the outfitting of the above areas with some variation of rapid transit. However the Main and Norwood Replacement Bridges with their hefty price-tag (\$88 million and counting) and greatly expanded traffic-carrying capacity would tend to pre-empt rapid transit for the foreseeable future. In a crucial sense, *TransPlan* has already been fatally compromised. One is made to wonder whether the Departments of Environment and Urban Affairs ever compare notes.

The final piece of Provincial legislation that is being sidestepped is the *Heritage Resources Act*. Reputable archaeologists are of the opinion that — on account of its well documented historical pedigree — partially-vacant land flanking Main Street South to be taken to accommodate four additional lanes of roadway is likely a rich repository of pre- and post-historic artifacts.

There is also a potential for human remains to be uncovered. Instead of inviting archaeological teams, however, to carefully sift through the entire tract prior to its disturbance (the better that it might first be certified free of heritage resources), it is planned that recovery be accomplished incidentally to the carrying on of heavy construction activity.

In light of all these considerations, opponents are left with a feeling that hearings were circumvented because the weight of damaging evidence would have made licensing of the project that much more embarrassing for the Government. The overriding lesson from what has transpired in this missive language of ment Act regarding leaves it so vulnerable to chicanery as efficacy as a protective instrument.

For more
information call
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In our next issue of Eco-Journal:

- A report from the national Forests Caucus.
- Hazardous Waste facility on hold?
- Dismantling Canada's Environment laws in the name of harmonization.

Submissions and advertising deadline November 15.

Rio Summit Update



Primary uses of Agenda 21 at the grassroots level

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I'm also enclosing a donation of _____ to help with your public education activities.
[Charitable tax receipts available for amounts over the cost of membership]

Total Amount enclosed _____

I'm interested in volunteering for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

Name(s) _____
Group (if applicable) _____ Telephone # () _____
Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____
Area(s) of interest _____ Volunteer skills _____

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

A supporting membership includes a subscription to **Eco-Journal** (value \$15 per year) as well as notice of events and regular updates on issues and is open to any individual.



Reseeding the grassroots: Eco-Network program helps to extend a hand

by Jan Westlund

Hundreds of determined volunteers work tirelessly in environmental and social reform groups to improve life in this province every day. Like many people, they have families, jobs, commitments, responsibilities. In addition to those concerns, they also shoulder battles against the short-term decision-making and misplaced priorities which destroy living creatures and priceless eco-systems in return for profit. With the common good as their currency, their work pays benefits to us all.

Some of these non-governmental organizations have been around for years. Others were recently created to deal with a pressing issue and may fade away when the problems have been, one hopes, resolved. They work to protect land and water from ill-conceived development, to conserve forests, to minimize waste, to prevent underground disposal of nuclear waste and, most important of all, to empower people to have a say in the policies which impact on their lives daily.

Warm welcome for new volunteers

Despite the diversity of issues undertaken by Manitoba Eco-Network member groups, their general response to new volunteers is universal. Each would warmly welcome anyone with a genuine concern about the issue at hand coupled with a willingness to find out more about its

From volunteer to volunteer program coordinator

How do you end up running a volunteer effectiveness program for a non-profit group? By volunteering of course.

The Manitoba Eco-Network's new Volunteer Effectiveness Program coordinator, Jan Westlund, was taking a night school course in marketing and communications when she decided that a group in her neighbourhood, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society, needed a higher profile. She volunteered for what became the group's public relations committee and worked on their newsletter. She eventually became a staff member in charge of community relations.

That work experience gives her "a view of how people get interested in volunteering. You have to allow for people's abilities to grow, she says."

"I'm looking for all sorts of people to come forward who have never been involved before."

complexities.

Many of these organizations are short-handed, under-funded and over-burdened ... almost everyone of them could use more help today.

The Winnipeg Foundation has come to their aid with a grant to develop a Volunteer Effectiveness Training Program through MEN. The program supports the recruitment of volunteers, matches them with the group to whom they're best suited and provides follow up with workshops and training where necessary.

Surveys outline volunteer interests and needs

Each volunteer and group is being surveyed for interests and needs by program coordinator, Jan Westlund. Currently, the work of interviewing MEN member groups for their specific volunteer requirements is almost complete.

As potential volunteers indicate a willingness to turn their ideals into action, they're asked to complete a questionnaire revealing their personal interests, skills and volunteer experience as well as expectations. Armed with that knowledge, the coordinator will place and support new volunteers in the organizations where they're most likely to have a mutually satisfying experience.

One component of the program will undertake to reach people who have never volunteered before and to initiate them into the joys of working for change instead of dollars. Students, retired people and people working at home will be targeted.

Another component will track once-active volunteers with the hope of enticing them back for more. As well, a speaker's bureau will be developed to raise the profile of member groups and their respective issues in the community at large.

*To get involved in an environmental group
or to find out more please call 772-7542.*

TEN MOST WANTED

VOLUNTEER LIST

Manitoba's environmental groups need your help!

Any help is welcome, and any interest can be become a skill, so call and see where you can fit in. Based on initial surveys and discussions with our member groups, there is a current need by the Eco-Network and its member groups for these particular skills:

clerical/organizational
writing

researching

fund raising

public speaking

computer literacy

desktop publishing

video filming

resource centre development

volunteer coordination