

Manitoba could become a centre for growing hemp

By Toby Maloney

Trees aren't the only source of paper and they certainly weren't the first. Reeds, cloth and a plant more often associated with the drug culture -- hemp -- were all used to make paper and other useful items before wood pulp came along. But marijuana prohibition, aimed at high THC varieties of hemp, ended competition from commercially produced hemp fibre.

Many say that hemp is a superior fibre producer because it produces more biomass -- more fibre and other plant matter per acre -- than other field crops such as flax, or trees which take decades to reach maturity.

An alliance of hemp fans, potential hemp fibre processors, and the provincial government, receive licences for several trial plots of hemp grown in various locations in Manitoba this year.

continued on hemp paper, page 8

Eco-Journal tree-free section, pages 7-10

With this issue *Eco-Journal* becomes the first general circulation publication in Manitoba to use paper made, not from trees, but from hemp. Because all hemp is currently imported from Asia in small amounts, the price to print the entire publication on hemp would be prohibitive. We've decided to try and use hemp paper in each of the upcoming six issues for one flat -- four pages each. This time the hemp paper is used for the centre spread from page 7 to 10. The paper is donated by the Hemp Exchange in Old Market Square. The rest of our paper is 100 per cent post-consumer recycled (not deinked) donated by Green Earth (with stores on Westminster and Corydon). *Eco-Journal* appreciates the support.

GET A HORSE!

Workhorses make a comeback



Alan Webb works his team of Clydesdales at clearing some deadfall at a Woodlot Owner's Association of Manitoba field day near Libau

Work horses are making a comeback in Manitoba. One reason is that the horses have less impact on the environment than motorized vehicles. They don't burn fossil fuels, they don't hack up the soil in sensitive areas and they don't require the mining, milling and smelting of a half ton of metal before any work takes place.

The other reason is that there is a surplus of draught horse colts because the breeds are desirable for Manitoba's pregnant mare's urine industry. The horses have a relatively larger bladder and they process food more efficiently than smaller horses. Because of the large number of colts produced by the PMU industry, many destined for slaughter, it is cheaper than ever to purchase a team.

Alan Webb of Stonewall makes his living as a bus driver but uses his Clydesdales for hay rides at Quarry Park and Oak Hammock marsh where motorized vehicles wouldn't be as welcome. Webb's horses do the work needed to keep themselves, hauling out manure, and seeding hay crops, for instance, and the hay ride business pays for them.

Continued on page 12

Volume 5, Number 5
September-October, 1995
(date of issue: October, 1995)

Eco-Journal

is published six times per year by the Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau Ecologique du Manitoba Inc. at 867 Westminster, R3G 1B3 (204)772-7542 or fax (204) 772-7563. E mail men @ web.apc.org. Editorial inquiries can be made direct to (204) 534-2317 in Boissevain or by electronic mail.

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Subscriptions to **Eco-Journal** are available at a cost of \$15 or as part of a supporting membership to the Manitoba Eco-Network at a cost of \$25. Group membership dues are \$30. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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

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

Produced with desktop publishing equipment supplied by Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation and Investors Group

An update on Manitoba's many forestry concerns

L.P. releases forest plan

Louisiana Pacific's Forest Management Plan (FMP), a 2-volume document full of facts, figures, and assurances, is now in public registries including the Manitoba Eco-Network, 867 Westminster, the downtown library, and at the Department of Environment at Fort Osborne barracks on Tuxedo. The FMP should not be confused with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The FMP as its name implies is the company's plan for forest management. The EIS is a statement that describes the environmental

impacts of the Plan and how negative impacts will be mitigated. As is usually the case, LP's FMP has an up side and a down side. The up side is its highly sophisticated application of Geographical Information System (GIS) technology.

GIS is a computer system that can overlay landscape and ecological features and human use patterns on maps. GIS is a powerful tool for land use planning and decision-making. Using information supplied by a Stakeholders Advisory Committee and public consultation meetings, LP's GIS has printed maps showing traplines, animal habitat, and special places that may be protected on its forest management maps.

The downside of the FMP is that the Plan is long on generalities and short on

specifics. Some of the deficiencies are due to the short time frame the government allowed LP for completing its plan. Much of the plan consists of rather general statements about how things might be done. For example, page 8.3 which says that forest renewal may be accomplished in a number of ways, is then followed by rambling observations on forest renewal.

The Department of Environment guidelines require that LP's EIS address applicable policies and/or principles encompassed in *A Wildlife Policy for Canada*, the *Provincial Parks System Plan*, *Canada's Forestry Accord* and *Sustainable Forests: A Canadian Commitment*. But the wildlife corridors called for in *A Wildlife Policy for Canada* are not identified, timber harvest planned for Duck Mountain Provincial Park pre-empts the Provincial Parks System Plan, and the plan presents little or no evidence of the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) the Province agreed to in *Canada's Forestry Accord* and *Sustainable Forests: A Canadian Commitment*.

Ecosystem-Based Management

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, *Framework for Developing Goals, Objectives and Indicators of Ecosystem Health: Tools for Ecosystem-Based Management* (1994) defines EBM

continued on following page

Tree Line by Harvey Williams

1995 Eco-Network Steering Committee

Dennis Bayomi, Winnipeg Vegetarian Association
Christine Common-Singh, Sierra Club Agassiz Group
Laverne Dalglish, National Energy Conservation Association
Steve Rauh, Association of Mental Health Workers for the Environment
Harry Mesman, Manitoba Federation of Labour
Nick Carter, Manitoba Naturalists Society
Dave Taylor, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Glen Koroluk, Recycling Council of Manitoba
Chickadee, Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Preserving all species not just the cuddly ones

Continued from previous page

as the integrated management of ecological systems (natural landscapes, ecological processes, physical and biological components and human activities (policies, programs, actions, and evaluations) to maintain or enhance the health and integrity of an ecosystem.

EBM aims to maintain the ecological processes of the land base, by preserving ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. Sound EBM assures the preservation of all species—the useless, obscure and repulsive along with the charismatic, warm and cuddly. The greatest natural disturbances to a forest ecosystem is fire and to a lesser extent, epidemics caused by insects and fungal diseases. Such disturbances have been major factors in shaping the forest as it is today. Yet, the plan calls for the suppression of all fires and the use of insecticides (even in provincial parks) to fend off insects. Instead of leaving damaged and dead trees to be recycled naturally, they must be salvaged where practical.

EBM would let nature take its course, allowing many fires to burn and insect infestations take their course. Humans would take only what the ecosystem could spare.

An Old Wine In A New Bottle

In spite of the fact that its introduction quotes renowned forest ecologist, Dr. Stan Rowe, a strong advocate of EBM, LP's Plan is an expression of traditional forestry values and practices. Tree seedlings for planting will be from naturally superior native stocks which will over time reduce the genetic variability of the forest causing it to lose much of its ecological resilience. Hugh Hornbeck, the Manitoba Naturalists Society representative on LP's Stakeholder's Advisory Committee was a voice in the wilderness (pun intended) when he spoke out for ecosystem integrity. True EBM seeks to minimize the size of the human footprint on the forest ecosystem—LP's FMP would maximize the size of the human footprint on the forest ecosystem.



(m3) of wood comprising 58% of Repap's allowable annual cut (AAC). Since 1989, fire has reduced Repap's AAC from 2.3 to 1.9 million m3. Loss of forest cover in the FML by wildfire has exceeded Repap's harvest by orders of magnitude.

Chitek Lake All-Weather Road

The Chitek Lake All-weather Road will open the largely roadless area that supports the Waterhen First Nation's thriving herd of wood bison to year round access. Wood bison are listed as a vulnerable species—such an isolated herd should receive maximum protection from poaching and introduced disease. The proposed all-weather road into Chitek should be vigorously opposed.

LP's Corporate President Fired

According to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, LP has ousted its maverick boss. At a recent meeting, LP's Board of Directors revolted and demanded the resignation of board chairman and company president Harry Merlo, and two of his henchmen.

Merlo was largely responsible for the Oriented Strand Board (OSB) boom and LP's hardball play on environmental concerns.

Donald Kayser, Merlo's replacement was quoted as saying that the directors were ousted because of the barrage of environmental charges and lawsuits over the fraudulent sale of OSB (see *Last Word, Eco-Journal* July-August, '95).

LP has been indicted in Colorado by a Grand Jury for allegedly misrepresenting OSB to a certification agency, consumers in Washington State have sued LP, alleging that it is defective and fraudulently marketed, and similar suits have been filed in Florida.

Claims could total \$200 million. We can only hope that a new day is dawning at a LP. But with the cloud of uncertainty from the false claims suits hanging over OSB we can't help but wonder what the future holds for production in Canada.

Repap avoids filing ten year plan for the fourth year

Repap has presented its fourth annual cutting plan without having completed its mandatory 10-year Forest Management Plan. The province demands that Repap substantially expand its operations by 1998 but the company is unwilling to go to the expense of developing a 10-year management plan until the nature and extent of its expansion has been determined.

Kraft paper production was recently expanded from 145,000 to 165,000 tonnes per year, consuming 1.1 million cubic metres

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VOLUNTEER EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAM GETS GO AHEAD FROM FOUNDATION

In what can only be described as a huge vote of confidence, the Winnipeg Foundation has renewed funding to the Manitoba Eco-Network's volunteer development initiative. The Foundation's willingness to donate dollars to continue the program for a second year is premised on the desire that this worthwhile program be internalized as a permanent service by the Eco-Network in the future.

The program aims to funnel volunteer energy and commitment from the larger community to member groups working on environmental issues province wide. What lies ahead? According to Jan Westlund, Program Coordinator, 'fine tuning.'

"We know potential volunteers are out there with a willingness to participate and, having now tried a variety of channels, we know what are the most successful means of

reaching them. We'd like to build on our introduction of the Eco-Information Series as a kind of primer to educate new comers.

As well, we'll be working to support the member groups in developing more effective ways to absorb this generous influx of help."

Also, more of an effort will be made to develop the referral capacity for short term, hands-on projects in the environmental community.

If the Volunteer Effectiveness Program tempted you last year but your schedule prevented action, here's a second chance to connect with one of the Eco-Network's 45 grass-roots member groups.

Call Jan at 772-7542 or drop by the office between 9 and 3 weekdays.

What's environmental in Manitoba?

October 6-7: The Rivers of Southwest Manitoba: A Marquis Project Symposium starts on Friday at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Agricultural Extension Centre 1129 Queens Avenue in Brandon. Includes a keynote address by Andrew Hamilton, Head of the Science Division, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation in Montreal. Hamilton, formerly of the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg, will address "Integrated Environmental Monitoring of the World's Rivers." Panels include the Life and Times of Prairie Rivers, Those Dammed Rivers, What's a River For, Recent Approaches to River Management, Pollution, and New River Ethics. A second keynote address by Fikret Berkes on Rivers Natural Resource Management: A Global Perspective. Saturdays' proceedings consist of a choice of field trips including visits to various places along the Assiniboine, the Souris, the Plum Lakes Wetland complex and a canoe excursion on the Souris guided by river historian Bob Caldwell. For more information or to register call Dave Kattenburg at the Marquis Project 727-5675 in Brandon.

October 14: Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization fall clean-up at the shelter in Glenlea from 9 to 3 p.m. (lunch provided). Join a crew to rake leaves, prune trees, wash windows and clean cages. Thirty to 40 volunteers are needed. Call MWRO at 883-2122 for more information.

October 10-28: Vegetarianism - Your Key to Good Health will be on display at the Winnipeg Centennial Library, Main Floor. The Winnipeg Vegetarian Association has organized the display to showcase books, magazines and other resources for learning about

the importance of a vegetarian lifestyle during International Vegetarian Awareness Month. The group is planning other activities throughout the city to observe the celebrations during the month of October. For more information call Dennis at 889-5789.

Calendar of Events

October 16: Clean Environment Commission Hearings on the proposed BFI Landfill, 1 - 5pm and 7 -10pm at the Grosse Isle Community Hall. Continued on Wednesday, 18th if additional time is necessary.

November 15: Concerned Citizens of Manitoba hold a general meeting about AECL's plans for disposing of nuclear waste in the Canadian Shield, and an update on related issues. This is your chance to learn more about nuclear waste, and to discuss your concerns with other members of the community. 7:00PM. LOCATION: TO BE ANNOUNCED. For more info. please call Anne at the Manitoba Eco-Network office 772-7542.

November 21: Preserving ecological integrity in our provincial parks, sponsored by the Manitoba Eco-Network. Parks Branch is beginning a public consultation on Land Use Classification and a System Plan for Provincial Parks, in preparation for proclamation of the new Parks Act. Government's intention is to honour its prior commitments for logging and mineral exploitation in the Parks.

Can environmentalists hope for additional protected areas? Hear a variety of views on the preservation of our natural spaces at Part of the 95/96 Eco-Information Series ... In the Centennial Library Assembly Room, 7 p.m. Admission by donation.

Coalition points to public opinion to support the case for strong legislation

From a Media Release by the Endangered Species Coalition

The release of a legislative proposal to protect endangered species is a good first step but requires strengthening, according to the Canadian Endangered Species Coalition. While the Coalition congratulated Sheila Copps for her commitment to a federal Endangered Species Act and applauded her extraordinary efforts at public consultation, they say the document she released falls short in a couple of key areas. Initial reading of the document indicates that the legislation will not provide the safety net essential to the protection of Canadian endangered species.

"In Canada, the protection of species is still at the manageable stage" noted the Coalition's campaign director, Francesca Binda. "We are concerned that this bill does not provide the comprehensive protection to avoid critical care measures in the future."

Specifically, the Coalition will be seeking clarification on the issues of habitat protection and the definition and scope of federal authority. "Since 80% of species decline can be attributed to loss of habitat, the listing and protection of critical habitat are vital components to any Endangered Species Act", noted Mary Granskou of the Coalition's Steering Committee.

In addition, the Coalition will ask the Minister to demonstrate that "federal authority" applies to all species at risk in Canada. "This bill will be of no use if federal authority only applies to parks or species which walk into government buildings" stated Stewart

Elgie. The Coalition believes a federal law should apply where provinces can't or won't protect species at risk. There are still eight provinces and territories which have no endangered species laws.

"A species on the brink of extinction is of national concern" noted Binda. "Canada made an international commitment at the Rio Convention to protect species at risk, a commitment which is supported by Canadians."

A recent Angus Reid poll, commissioned by the Coalition, demonstrates that an overwhelming majority of Canadians (94%) support the idea of federal legislation to protect endangered, threatened and vulnerable species of animals and plants, 74% saying they "strongly" support it, and 20% saying they "somewhat" support it.

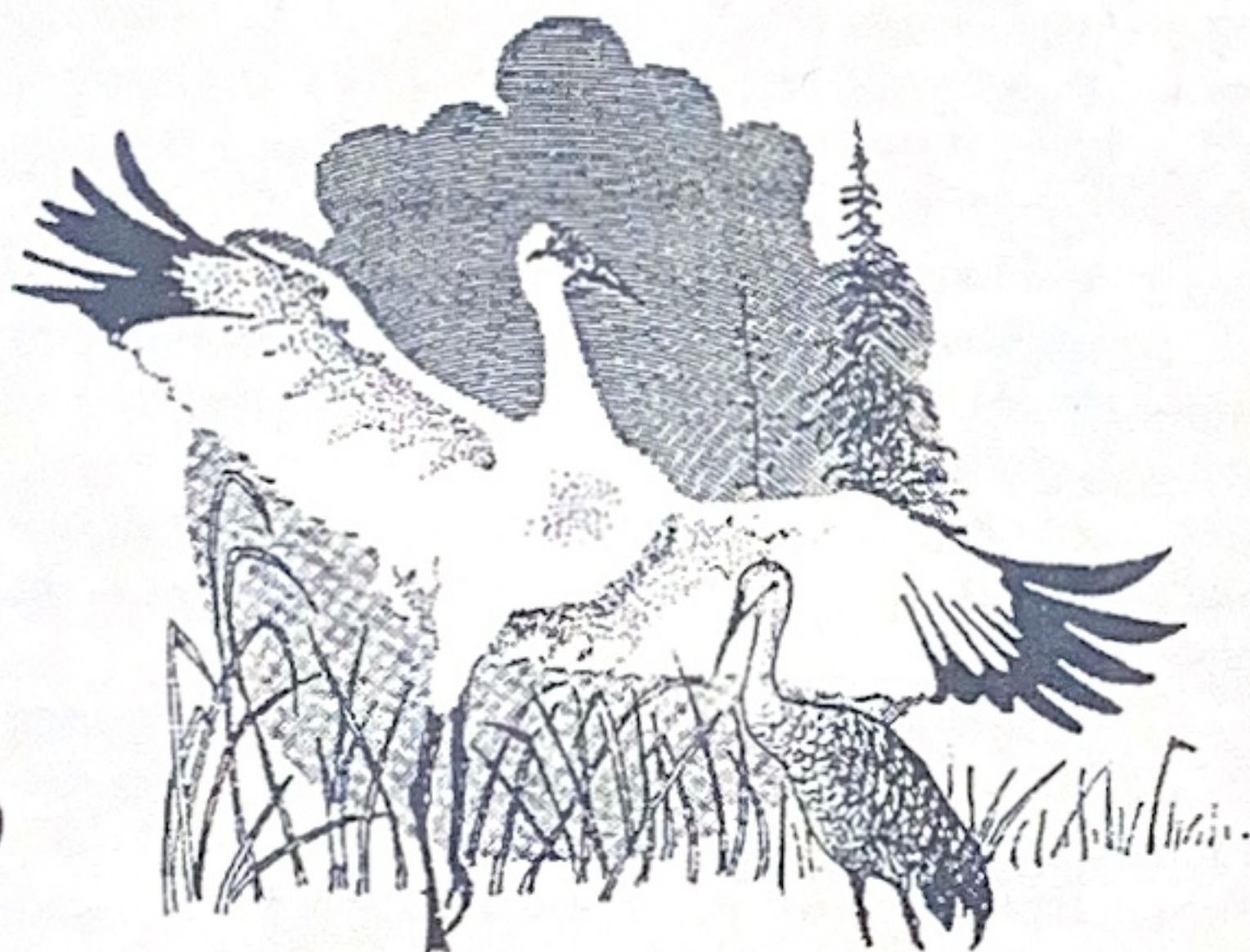
Further, three-quarters of Canadians (75%) believe that endangered species of plants and animals should be legally protected "wherever they live", while a minority (20%) think that these species should only be protected on public land, and not on private land.

A break down of responses to the poll by Manitoba residents showed a degree of concern approximately the same as the national average.

The Coalition, which has grown to over 80 Canadian organizations, looks forward to working with the Federal government to strengthen the plain language bill.

"The Minister has committed to improving this bill and we will be holding the government to that" said Binda.

For further information, please contact Francesca Binda, Campaign Director for the Canadian Endangered Species Coalition, phone: 1-800-267-4088, fax: (613) 562-3371, email: 75667.3720@compuserve.comat (613) 562-3447



Casualty list

Definitions: *Extinct*: gone from the entire planet *Extirpated*: extinct from Canada, but known to exist elsewhere in the world

MAMMALS

Extinct

Dawson Caribou	~1944
Sea Mink	1894

Extirpated

Atlantic Walrus (Northwest Atlantic)	1850's
Black-footed Ferret	~1974
Grey Whale (Atlantic)	pre 1900
Grizzly Bear (Plains)	1883
Swift Fox	1928

BIRDS

Extinct

Great Auk	1844
Labrador Duck	1875
Passenger Pigeon	1914

Extirpated

Greater Prairie Chicken	1970's
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FISH

Extinct

Blue Walleye	1965
Deepwater Cisco	1960
Longjaw Cisco	1975
Longnose Dace (Banff)	1986

Extirpated

Gravel Chub	1958
Paddlefish	~1900

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Extirpated

Pygmy Short-horned Lizard ?	
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PLANTS

Extirpated

Blue-eyed Mary	1954
Illinois Tick Trefoil	1888

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Honey bees, humans and certified organic farms face aerial poison

Canola spraying crosses the line

By Toby Maloney

• A mother looks up and watches a plane low on the horizon. A stream of spray falls behind as the plane swoops over a canola field. She goes into the yard to fetch her two year old from the sand box. As she scoops up her daughter, the plane turns at the correction line and starts back for a second pass. Instead of lifting up and veering off before the road the plane keeps coming, over the road, over the yard and, still spraying, finally pulls up just before her house. The mother and her daughter have just been sprayed with Lorsban, an organophosphate insecticide that remains active in the fields for three days. They go to hospital and are checked over night, but for what? For future incidence of cancer? For chemical sensitivity?

• Eighty-five kilometres to the south a farm family wakes early to do the chores. The smell of Lorsban is all through the house. Outside, it is so windy that they have to hold their hats on. A plane is still applying the spray on the nearby canola field. The family members are concerned for their health, but in a way are relieved the spray hit their yard and not their fields. If the spray had made it to their grain, they would lose their organic certification for at least three years.

• A beekeeper breaks down his hives at night so he can move them in anticipation of spraying by a neighbour who has given him a day's warning. The trick is to keep the bees out of the fields during the spray. In the morning he realizes that spray from a different field has drifted for 400 metres onto the hives. The bees, exposed on the front of the hive because of his precautions, have now been decimated.

• Another farmer is checking his fence line, making some repairs, when a plane starts its pass on a neighbouring field. The plane sprays right over him and his pasture. He doesn't show any symptoms immediately, but who can tell?

These are stories of rural Manitoba. These could be the stories of rural Manitoba for years to come. Two seasons in a row large amounts of insecticide have been applied, mostly on canola fields for Berthe Army Worm and Diamond Back Moths. Berthe Army Worm infestation costs big time and farmers who stand to make \$200 an acre from the tiny seed don't hesitate to spend \$7 to \$10 an acre to protect their crop.

Because the Berthe Army Worm affects the crop at the flowering stage, just prior to maturity, the spray is applied either from the air or using high clearance ground

sprayers -- vehicles on large thin wheels that ride between rows and with the undercarriage of the vehicle mounted high enough to clear the flowers on the crop.

Add wind to the scenario and you have the kind of drift that greeted Celia Guilford and her family when they awoke on August 1. Their home in Clearwater reeked of Lorsban, wherever the windows had been left open. On August 1, many windows are open.

Guilford was furious because she knew that it was the third day of four straight days in which there had been high winds. She corroborated this with Environment Canada which reported winds of 30 kilometres per hour with gusting in excess of 50 kilometres per hour. It was too windy to fly a kite or wear a hat without holding it on, she later told CBC Radio. And too windy for spraying, aerial or otherwise. The Manitoba Agriculture guidelines say that spray should not be applied at wind speeds over 15 kilometres per hour.

"I don't think there was a single applicator that paid any attention to that recommendation," she said.

As an organic farmer Guilford and her husband Robert knew that if the spray had hit from another direction it could have meant the loss of their certification for three years. In a way they were "grateful" that their home garden, their home and a pasture occupied by a relative's cattle had been hit, instead of their grain fields which are further to the south.

Still "we had to breathe that stuff all day long ... it's the kind of chemical that just hangs there all day long."

That's in fact the reason many farmers switched to Lorsban, a Dow-Elanco product, this season. The Berthe Army worms feed in the cooler evening or early morning temperatures, leaving only a few daylight hours in which direct contact spray can do the work. With a wider "window" of application it is seen as more effective than the Decis that was the popular spray the year before.

That decision has had a big impact on another kind of farm neighbour. Beekeepers are reporting large losses of bees, and honey, as much as a third of honey production for one of the largest producers in the province, because of the spray.

Manitoba Beekeeper's Association president Terry Fehr says his members expect a certain amount of loss to spray, but things have been getting worse.

Because the spray is being applied at full flower

Green Tip from Environment Canada



Compost that Jack!
Pumpkins can go right in the composter instead of the garbage. And roasted seeds make great eating!

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

and during the day, you can virtually guarantee large numbers of bees and other beneficial insects will be in the fields. The switch to Lorsban has probably had a big impact, according to Fehr. He notes that 1.3 million acres were sprayed last year without the kinds of losses seen this year.

Because the busy season for beekeepers is just wrapping up, the association hasn't completely tabulated the damage, but a loss in excess of \$10,000 for an individual beekeeper is fairly standard, Fehr says.

It isn't so much the kind of spraying, as when the spraying takes place, that concerns the beekeepers. Fehr would prefer ground applications at night when most bees are back in the hive, but in many cases he says any spraying is unnecessary.

Fehr says he talked to a Manitoba Agriculture spotter who asked applicators for a list of fields they were going to spray. Out of 11 fields only one had an infestation to speak of, but all were sprayed eventually.

Fehr says some farmers could be preempting an infestation, but more than likely they're spraying just because their neighbours have sprayed.

The Beekeeper's Association has tried to provide public education in rural areas, by sending a pamphlet to Ag Reps and chemical companies. The association doesn't oppose the use of spray and would like to maintain good relations with their neighbours, whose fields provide the pollen that the bees harvest.

But Fehr would like other farmers to appreciate that there is a mutual benefit, a benefit the bees provide to the farmers for free.

An agrologist at the University of Manitoba has estimated that honeybees provide a \$50 million per year pollination service to Manitoba farms. The honeybee pollination boosts crop yields and helps with a quicker seed set for canola, buckwheat, and sunflower crops.

"When we destroy honey bees we destroy that benefit," Fehr says. His association intends to bring the issue up with the Agriculture Minister and farm groups, but it is too early to comment on the response they have received so far.

Guilford on the other hand is disgusted with the department's response to her complaint. She was told that her complaint against the applicator would result in a

notation on his file, but unless there were a lot of complaints against an individual applicator nothing more would be done.

Seeing the problem as an isolated incident is excessively narrow given that planes were spraying all across the province on those days. And farm neighbours may be reluctant to complain in small communities.

Guilford says it is very awkward to complain about neighbours' spray when farm families rely on good relations and cooperation with those same neighbours. She took the issue up with the owner of the chemical company, who happens to be one of the friends they don't want to antagonize. She says they had a good discussion about the problem. A letter by Robert to the local newspaper produced a sympathetic response from others reluctant to express their concern publicly.

As for the Agriculture Department, Guilford is going to be calling on the government for more than a guideline on wind speeds.

"I want to see this windy recommendation turned into a law so that if this happens again I can call the RCMP and have the applicator pulled off the field and have his licence pulled," she said.

It rankles her that the government paid a lot of money -- "thousands of dollars" -- to set up a training program intended to licence applicators at Assiniboine Community College.

"The spraying has been worse since they started it ... all I've seen is more licensed applicators and worse applications happening."

For years both Robert and Celia, both active in the Organic Producers Association, have taken the approach that they would provide information about organic farm-

ing to whoever needed it, but not preach to other farmers. They have always stressed the positive aspects of organic farming as opposed to the negatives implicit in chemically-intensive agriculture.

"We've always preferred to let other people decide if they want (information)... we don't push it on other people. If you have questions we'll answer them."

But now she's questioning the miracle crop -- canola. She knows farmers are pushing the rotations -- growing canola more often than the one in four years that is recommended to take care of disease and insect problems -- and becoming more and more dependent on spray every year. She wonders why anyone would want to promote a crop that is so chemically dependent and doesn't hesitate to advise consumers that there are healthier cooking oils on the market.

On this issue, for the Guilford's a line has been crossed, the line between their personal health and safety and the line at the edge of their property.

"I don't think anyone has the right to inflict their poisons any where other than their own land," Guilford said.



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.



Agriculture Department actively involved in hemp tests

Continued from page 1

The province funded the trials with a \$25,000 budget and helped to get the federal licences required to grow the low THC varieties of cannabis plants, but they were responding to a group of hemp promoters that go by the name of the Manitoba Hemp Alliance. The group includes business owner Martin Moravcik, who with four other partners, runs a retail outlet called The Hemp Exchange in Winnipeg.

When Moravcik, who is also involved in a hemp import and export venture called The Emperor's Clothes, asked for a meeting with Agriculture Minister Harry Enns he received a warm response. He was there to present an organized plan for growing hemp and found that farmers had been inquiring about growing hemp, and that a group of students had already briefed Enns about the potential benefits from producing the crop. Enns was enthusiastic about getting the jump on other provinces and put the Hemp Alliance in touch with his Department's New

Crops Agronomist Jack Moes in Brandon.

That led to Manitoba being awarded five of the nine licences for growing hemp in all of Canada. The others include one in Tillsonburg, Ontario, where the first modern hemp trials in Canada were conducted in the 1994 growing season, two licences in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan also new this year.

Moravcik says that the plan is basically to "prove or dispel any myths or truths about what this plant can do (and) see what varieties are commercially viable."

In total ten acres were planted in Manitoba this year, mostly with varieties from eastern Europe — former Soviet Bloc countries where the plant has been grown continuously while marijuana prohibition in North America has prevented the non-narcotic uses here. The farmers participating included one organic grower, but the locations are not being publicized to prevent visits from curiosity seekers.

A fair amount of red tape in the project stems from the official and societal reaction to marijuana, even though these growers are more interested in stalks and seeds than leaves and flower tops. The project's licences require that the concentration of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, in the crops not exceed .3 per cent. (Commercial marijuana growers aim for a concentration of at least 5 per cent.) Unfortunately that means the project is saddled with the cost of testing which accounted for 40 per cent of the project's costs.

Moes says that a couple of the European varieties exceeded the limit slightly (but still not in the range anyone would consider smokeable) and had to be destroyed without any further evaluation. As well the RCMP have the right to enter the fields and test the crops themselves.

Moravcik says that the remaining crops including a Ukrainian variety that produced well, will be tested for fibre characteristics, for cellulose content and for potential uses including fibre or pulp and paper. But the unique thing about the Manitoba trials is that they are the only ones that have planned from the beginning to take the plants to the seed stage in order to evaluate the seeds as an edible oil source. Hemp seeds are apparently very high in linoleic acid, an essential fatty acid that is considered desirable. Both Moravcik and Moes are enthusiastic about the potential of developing a high value crop from the seeds because that will also enable the sale of the fibre at a price that would be competitive with other new crops, such as wheat straw which are being tested as a source of fibre for the pulp and paper industry.

The superior strength of hemp is what led to its main use as a twine or rope source in the early part of the century, but the fibre was also used as a strengthener in fabrics. The main problem was the labour required to decorticate or separate the usable fibre from the hemp stalks.

Moravcik says that hemp could be an efficient source for ethanol.

"Soil instead of oil," Moravcik says.

Although Moravcik, as a business owner forced to import product at heavy costs, has an obvious financial interest in any hemp production here, it would be a mistake to believe that is his motivation.

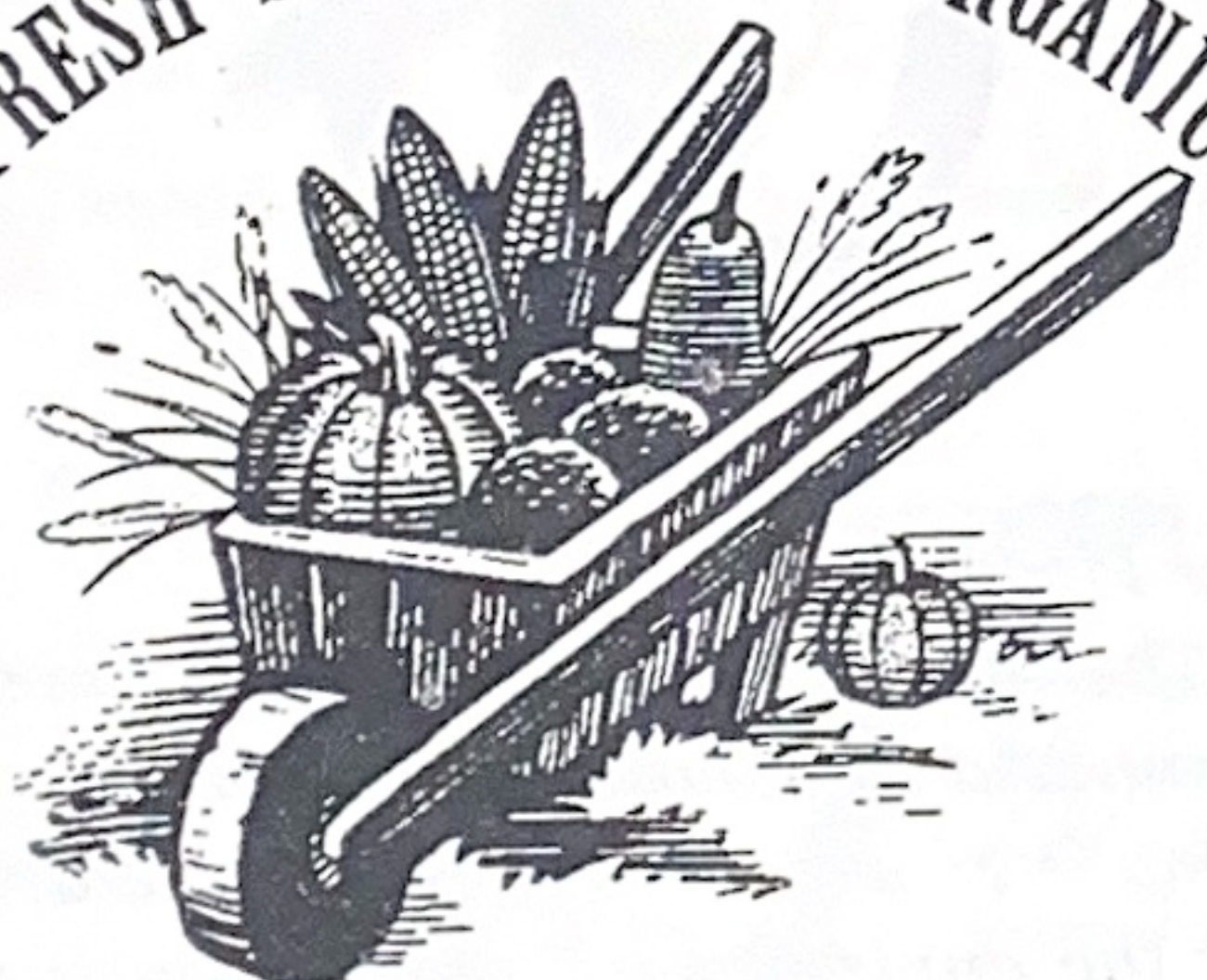
He is actually driven by the hope of an alternative to deforestation and to

Continued on following page

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Sorting out the hemp from the hype

a lifestyle dependent on fossil fuels.

"If you're talking about severing the ties to petrochemical and forestry ... you're talking about a new way of living on the earth," he said.

While the project to grow hemp carefully avoids any connection with the outlawed production of marijuana, Moravcik in his own business refuses to disassociate hemp products from the drug culture, which he says has lessons for all of society, including knowledge about a crop that can help ease the destruction of forests.

He says that society needs to listen to people who are "fringe dwellers" — people who travel to the edges of society and return with information that most people can't or won't access. He considers it a travesty that "this society puts them in jail." He only asks that society not "throw the baby out with the bath water, by refusing to accept hemp because they are afraid of marijuana."

He says he doesn't see any hope for ecological salvation coming from the mainstream and that "if you want a different picture you have to go to the fringe."

Meanwhile Jack Moes says that most people are quite open to the project and the connection, however tenuous, with marijuana "hasn't got in the way at all." He says it is critical to maintain rigid controls on the THC levels in order to convince the federal minister to give the eventual results a try commercially. He envisions at least two more years of similar trials before there is enough information to make a good case for the federal Minister of Health to permit full-scale commercial production.

And Moes says that hemp can't possibly be everything it has been promoted to be — no insects, no diseases, no problem with weed competition.

"My perspective is there is a lot of hype associated with hemp ... nothing is that good. Part of our goal is to find out just how much truth there is behind these hype statements," Moes said.

The experience so far is that there are disease problems (sclerotinia, which affects canola and wild mustard at the flowering stage) as well as insect problems in the form of Berthe Army Worm, and even some weeds that crowded out the hemp plants in places.

Another barrier to overcome is agricultural technology. Much of the hemp grown in Manitoba was harvested by hand, but if hemp is going to compete commercially, according to Moes, harvesting technology will have to be adapted — combines for instance — for the tall plants and tough stalks. This year one remaining field will be harvested by cutting it down with a side bar mower and then after the plants dry in the field a few days, running a combine over the fallen plants to collect seed.

Moes is pleased with the yields at this point, although he hasn't been able to evaluate it entirely. It appears that the plots will yield stalk "in the range of 5 to 10 tonnes per hectare." That comes in a bit higher than flax, which does produce more usable fibre, but don't forget this is the first year with varieties that have never been tested before.

Moravcik is quite enthusiastic about the yield from a Ukrainian variety which tested so low in THC it couldn't be measured. He says there are Ukrainian-Canadian farmers in Manitoba that already know how to grow the crop. He on the other hand, intends to stay involved in a marketing context, because of the retail network he has already established with stores all through Canada, the U.S. and even Europe.

This isn't the first time hemp was grown in Manitoba. Before

marijuana was prohibited as a narcotic in 1938 there were several growers in the Portage la Prairie area. Moes says that, according to Manitoba Agriculture records hemp production peaked at 1200 acres in 1926 and was already dropping off by the time of the Narcotics Control Act. The fibre was being used to produce rope and lower quality textile products, but was inhibited from further processing because technology lagged behind the cotton ginny which revolutionized the textile industry. Hemp never produced the equivalent for mechanized separation of the useful fibre from the stalk.

Moravcik is confident that hurdle can be overcome. He is confident that resourceful people in Winnipeg can develop ways of processing and manufacturing the fibre. He says that Winnipeg doesn't have the money that other cities have, but the people are resourceful and barter could finance the development of processing systems.

You would think he was just some slick promoter if it weren't for impassioned arguments for organizing society differently. He even advances a social argument for converting forestry jobs into agricultural jobs, saying that the latter require a higher degree of skill and training and provides a greater opportunity for value added development.

But promoter he is, and he can hardly contain himself when he says that Manitoba has the soil and the climate for this crop — "perfect, perfect, perfect, perfect."

"Hemp could be a real boon to this province."

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Sierra Club pilot project urges citizens to take care of their CFC's

Make your home part of the ZERO-ZONE

By Toby Maloney

One casualty of the summer long media blitz to "save" the Jets may have been public awareness about a unique program to actually do something about ozone depletion.

The Sierra Club of Canada, through its Agassiz group in Winnipeg, has launched a pilot project to enlist the participation of Manitobans in ensuring the CFC's in their possession don't get released into the atmosphere.

Manitoba was the first province to regulate the handling of ozone depleting substances and the repair of equipment containing CFC's.

That event stemmed partly from a creative alliance between industry, government and environmentalists. The Sierra Club decided that history of cooperation would make Manitoba a good choice for their pilot project ZERO-ZONE.

The essence of the project is a kit distributed to individuals and small businesses with information about ozone depletion, and a pledge to be returned to the Sierra Club, promising to take care of the CFC's in the home owners' refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner and car air conditioner.

But getting the kit into people's hands, requires a lot of leg work, according to Sierra Club Chair Christine Common-Singh. That could have been helped by a better media response at the time of the program's launch August 1. That launch was delayed several times in order to involve municipal and provincial officials who were called to meetings on the Jets situation more than once. Then the reporting was overshadowed by the three month media obsession with the hockey team, according to Com-

mon-Singh.

Citizens action kits assist the homeowner in assessing the amount of ozone-depleting chemicals in their appliances and vehicles. Individuals are encouraged



to tally up the total volume of ozone depleters in their household and pledge to inspect, maintain, and dispose of them so as to ensure zero emissions to the atmosphere. Stickers provided in the kit are to be attached to refrigerators and air conditioners as a reminder that the commitment to ozone protection is a long-term one. The kit also provides alternative choices for consumers purchasing new equipment.

"Since a single CFC molecule (the most common ozone depleter) can destroy an estimated 100,000 molecules of [atmospheric] ozone, any effort Manitobans make to prevent CFC emissions is significant," the kit says.

Fifteen thousand of the kits have been printed and about half have been distributed. So far the response rate has been low, but the group is hoping for a

push in October to provide a better basis for evaluating the campaign.

The program originated with the idea that people felt removed from the causes of ozone depletion. Focus testing funded as

part of the campaign showed that "most people are extremely concerned (about ozone depletion) but felt that there was nothing they could do in their own lives except slap on sunscreen," Common-Singh said.

The early indications from the project show that people tend to respond if they are pre-disposed toward environmental groups, but prying a response out of the rest of the population may be difficult.

On the other hand no one has responded negatively toward the project or its components, Common-Singh said.

Part of what the campaign is up against is that ozone depletion is invisible, its more serious affects like skin cancer take years to show and even the milder impacts such as sun burn are difficult to quantify.

But Common-Singh isn't disheartened by the obstacles to creating awareness on the issue because the campaign is a pilot project after all. The results will be evaluated in order to determine the best way to enlist the users of CFC's in preventing the destruction of atmospheric ozone.

The project was funded by the Winnipeg Foundation and Environment Canada with support from the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association and CAA Manitoba.

The campaign could have used more money to pay for a full time staff at the beginning, but now the principal need is for volunteers to get the word out.

Common-Singh says that several motivated volunteers who can take the kits and explain them to organizations or to the public in shopping malls is the biggest need for the Zero-Zone campaign now.

Zero-Zone kits are available at the Manitoba Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre and elsewhere in Winnipeg.

For more information call the Sierra Club's Zero-Zone office in Winnipeg at 984-2454 or 1-800-665-7135.

Most people are extremely concerned about ozone depletion but feel there is nothing they can do in their own lives except slap on sunscreen

... Christine Common-Singh,
Sierra Club, Agassiz Group

Why citizen action on ozone depletion is critical

By Robin Round Atmospheric Campaigner, Sierra Club of Canada

While levels of stratospheric ozone continue to decrease at alarming rates and scientific evidence of adverse impacts continues to mount, a widespread public perception exists that everything that can be done is being done.

Over one hundred nations have signed the Montreal Protocol, a landmark agreement to reduce the use of ozone depleting chemicals globally, the federal government has enacted import/export reductions, and Manitoba's Ozone Protection Regulations were revised in 1994. Surely the situation is well in hand.

Not so. While CFC (the most common ozone depleting substance) production is falling in the North, special exemptions under the Montreal Protocol are allowing for increased production in Southern countries and special sectoral production in the North.

Federal regulations turn off the tap on new production of ozone depleters but provide no regime for the destruction of the estimated 130,000 metric tonnes of these chemicals currently in use in equipment across Canada.

Provincial recovery and recycling regulations reduce short-term emissions of ozone depleters, but offer no long-term solutions and are largely unenforceable given reduced provincial monitoring budgets.

So what can be done?

While action must be taken at all levels of government to find regulatory solutions, consumers have a role to play in ozone layer protection.

Most Manitobans remain unaware of where ozone depleting chemicals are in their homes and how to prevent them from escaping to the atmosphere where they cause ozone depletion.

Forty per cent of all ozone depleters in use today are found in household refrigeration and air conditioning

equipment.

Because stratospheric ozone depletion will be a significant environmental problem for at least the next 80 years, any effort on the part of citizens to help reduce ozone depletion is not insignificant. The Sierra Club - Agassiz Group, in cooperation with the Sierra Club of Canada, has launched "ZERO-ZONE", a public education and action plan to involve the citizens of Manitoba in the prevention of stratospheric ozone depletion.

The project is designed to prevent emission of ozone depleting substances to the atmosphere, encourage public awareness and support for provincial ozone protection regulations thereby increasing compliance and effectiveness, and to foster environmental citizenship at the individual and community level.

Why a public education programme if provincial regulations are already in place?

MOPIA, the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association, reports

that lack of consumer awareness is pressuring regulatory violations.

Where mechanics once "topped up" a leaking auto air conditioner with CFCs, regulations now mandate complete repair of the faulty unit. Some consumers, frustrated at the expense, are looking for service stations that will break the law.

Heightened public awareness of recovery and recycling legislation could instead provide pressure for new legislation for CFC destruction. Recovery and recycling is essentially a stop-gap measure, designed to hasten the phaseout of new CFC production and to avoid costly retrofits of existing equipment.

No agreement or regulation at any jurisdictional level addresses the question of destruction of ozone depleting chemicals once alternatives have penetrated the market.

There are millions of tonnes of ozone depleters around the world currently destined for the stratosphere unless the public forces regulatory changes.



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Workhorses go where skidders, tractors can't manoeuvre without damaging soil and trees

Continued from page 1

And now Webb is hoping to revive another tradition with work horses — logging. At the behest of the Woodlot Owner's Association of Manitoba director John Christie, Webb has been using his team of horses to pull firewood and sawlogs out of Christie's land. Christie doesn't want motorized vehicles disturbing the ground and damaging maple trees that might be tapped for syrup.

Webb says that typical equipment for a do-it-yourself logging operation — skidders, tractors, backhoes — are very rough on the terrain they cover. The problem is with manoeuvrability — getting stuck in mud and doing damage to the ground or scraping bark off trees six feet off the ground when turning

in tight places.

Webb, who is looking for his own woodlot to put his brief experience with horse logging into action, welcomes the comeback, but doesn't think they will ever recover their once pivotal role in large agricultural or forestry operations.

He does see the use of horses growing in popularity for do-it-yourself woodlot owners or smaller mixed farms where the economics of owning a horse is more

feasible.

A pair of colts can be had for as little as \$500 plus another \$100 for the harness and they can be trained for "small selective jobs

with minimum disturbance."

Compare that to an average tractor which will run \$25,000 and depreciate

by \$5000 as soon as it is driven off the lot. A well trained team of horses will appreciate in value and will even provide its own replacements. And fuel for a horse is easily grown on the prairies.

Webb says he doesn't see any ethical problems with using horses to do work, given that they are well treated and know that he won't ask them to pull a load that is beyond their capability. The horses seem to prefer to work, he says.

By an accident of the economy, Webb actually has academic training related to his interest in low impact logging and the hayrides through Oak Hammock Marsh.

He graduated from the Masters of Resource Management program at the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba several years ago after writing his thesis on mitigating the impacts of motorized vehicles used for guided tours in sensitive areas around Churchill.

Webb found that the job market was not welcoming for his specialty and has been supporting himself as a school bus driver, supplemented with his interest in horses.

It's an interest he hopes will evolve into an occupation.

Horses don't burn fossil fuels, they don't hack up the soil in sensitive areas and they don't require the mining, milling and smelting of a half ton of metal before any work takes place.

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PAGE 12 • SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1995 • Eco-Journal

Coast to coast global awareness

Global Change Game goes on national tour

Bon Voyage! to the Global Change Game. A hardy group of young folk set out on their bicycles last week to undertake a cross-Canada tour for their fast-paced gymnasium-sized educational game.

With sponsorship from Environment Canada, Via Rail (they'll travel by train through the mountains), World University Services of Canada, the Royal Society of Canada Global Change Program, Mennonite Central Committee, and Woodcock Cycle Works, the group is taking a game famous in Manitoba into the other provinces.

The first stop will be Edmonton. From there, they'll head to the West Coast, and after a deserved break at Christmas, they'll be off to the East Coast.

The game is played on a hand painted map of the world the size of a basketball court, and challenges participants (some 70 at a time representing the people of all regions of the world) to work together to provide the necessities of life for themselves while addressing regional and global social, environmental and economic problems.

Eco-Network Executive Director, Anne Lindsey, spoke at the official send-off of the tour. Fresh from a turn at the game the day before, here's what she had to say:

"It's easy to forget the glaring inequities that exist around the world, when our day-to-day life is not a survival issue. Most of us here don't ever have to worry about sending our children to bed cold and hungry (though sadly, that kind of thing is becoming more commonplace in the Western world). The Global Change Game is a good reality check - a sober reminder of what life could be like if you happened to live somewhere else, in a different set of circumstances.

It's also somewhat exhausting as the number of decisions and issues that you face becomes greater and greater.

The game challenges us to think about possibilities - to test the unthinkable, if you happen to have the power; and to experiment with creating a better world for all - to live up to the aspirations which we all like to claim as our own - compassion, caring, co-operation.

I must say that being a North American

in the game - having room to swing your arms around on the map instead of falling into the ocean like the people on the Indian subcontinent - having lots of health care buttons, and food tokens to spare - is in itself a scary position to be in. Especially as countries from around the globe line up to request aid - to offer cultural enrichment in exchange for food and shelter, to beg you to take in one of their stuffed animals (each one represents 100 million people, with no food, no standard of living and no health care attached).

You begin to get a sense of the awesome responsibility we have in real life. You start to understand why pollution control seems like a luxury to citizens who are collecting black armbands when the census-takers come around.

And yet, as we well know - protecting the water, soil and air that we depend upon is not a luxury at all, but an absolute necessity if the earth is to continue to sustain her many inhabitants.

The Global Change Game gives a perspective on environment and development which is unmatched as an educational tool.

If students, or indeed any of us, are to begin to understand the complexities of these issues on the world stage, we need a place to start, a place which will stimulate creative thinking. My 14 year old daughter

played the game yesterday, and she's really excited by all that she learned and the chance to participate in creating solutions.

This is the kind of experience which young people may well use as a springboard to greater involvement in their community and world affairs".

(Note: Global Change Game was the deserving recipient of one of the Eco-Network's Environmental Awards this year.)

The Rivers of Southwest Manitoba: A Marquis Project Symposium. October 6 and 7

Friday sessions start 9 a.m.
1129 Queens Ave. Brandon.

Keynote addresses
Andrew Hamilton, Head of the Science
Division, North American Commission
for Environmental Cooperation
&
Fikret Berkes, Natural Resource Institute

Saturday:
Field trips along the Assiniboine, the
Souris and the Plum Lakes Wetland
complex

Call Dave Kattenburg 727-5675

PRESERVING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY IN OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS

Parks Branch is beginning a public consultation on Land Use Classification and a System Plan for Provincial Parks, in preparation for proclamation of the new Parks Act. The Government's intention is to honour its prior commitments for logging and mineral exploitation in the Parks. Can environmentalists hope for additional protected areas? Hear a variety of views on the preservation of our natural spaces at Part 1 of the 95/96 Eco-Information Series.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7 PM IN THE
CENTENNIAL LIBRARY ASSEMBLY ROOM.
Admission by donation. Call 772-7542 for info.**

Everyday Exposures:

An index of common chemicals

by J. H. Olafsson

Gasoline: Toxic Chemistry from the pumps

Gasoline is a petroleum product made up of hundreds of chemical compounds called hydrocarbons. The hydrocarbons are refined from petroleum by separating and chemically altering the compounds. In the finished product volatile hydrocarbons are blended to form a fuel well-suited to spark-ignition engines.

But before gasoline reaches the gas pumps, a number of other chemicals are also added. These are the additives which improve engine performance and protect engine parts.

One important group is oxygenates — oxygen containing chemicals. These chemicals give the gasoline a higher octane rating.

Oxygenates can make up as much as 10 per cent of the gasoline. Alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol are common oxygenates.

Another important group of compounds is called ethers and includes methyl-tert-butyl ether, ethyl-butyl ether, methyl-tert-amyl-ether, and diisopropyl ether. There are also other smaller amounts of chemical additives which act as oxidation inhibitors, corrosion inhibitors, metal deactivators, demulsifiers, anti-icing additives, dyes, deposit controls, and carburetor/fuel injector detergents.

Danger from gasoline fumes

The dangers of the toxic emissions from car exhaust are widely recognized — ranging from ground level ozone to the greenhouse effect in the atmosphere. The banning of leaded gasoline in 1990

substantially reduced one of these emissions (lead) from the air. It has also eliminated one of the dangerous toxins from gasoline. However, fumes from gasoline continue to pose a serious health risk, especially to children. Inhalation of even a small amount can cause serious lung damage.

Gasoline is frequently used by solvent abusers because of the "high" brought on by the hydrocarbons. Toluene, a hydrocarbon found in unleaded gas, produces effects in the body not unlike intoxication with alcohol. However, the physiological damage caused by the inhalation of gasoline is grave. Acute, heavy exposure can result in unconsciousness, cardiac arrest, asphyxiation while unconscious.

Chronic abusers of solvents can suffer from brain damage, peripheral nervous system damage, liver problems, and kidney damage.

Gasoline also presents a fire danger because of its highly flammable nature. When exposed to air, the vapour is potentially explosive. As the vapour is heavier than air it begins to disperse but remains close to the ground. Fire spreads along the path of the vapour.

Gasoline contamination in soil, often from underground storage tanks that have leaked, is a serious problem in Manitoba. If the soil is not removed before a site is re-developed gas fumes can seep in through the foundations of new buildings.

Soil from seriously contaminated sites must be removed and treated.

Household sources

Gasoline is so widely used in vehicles, farm machinery, lawn and garden equipment and recreational vehicles that it is a rare household that does not use or store some gasoline.

Reducing exposure to the dangers of gasoline fumes

Avoid storing gasoline, wherever possible. If it must be stored, use only approved containers and keep them well away from children, pets, heat, and any potential source of spark fire.

Gasoline should never be stored or used inside the home. Use gasoline and gasoline-powered engines only in open air. For gasoline spills, cover the affected area with sand or earth, and deposit in a tightly-covered container. Contact the fire department for information on disposal.

For further reading

1. *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept. of Energy, The Motor Gasoline Industry: Past Present and Future, Washington, D.C. National Energy Information Center, 1991.*
2. *Koren, Gideon, The Parent's Guide to Poisons in the Home, Don Mills, ON: Stoddart Publishing, 1994*
3. *Avis, Harry, Drugs and Life, 2nd ed. Sacramento, CA: WCB Brown & Benchmark, 1993*
4. *Tester, Arthur V. & Tester, Clem. B. Emergency Aid: Children and Household Materials, Calgary Detselig Enterprises Ltd. 1984.*

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Human Rights and Ecological sustainability

*excerpted from the introduction to an article in
Speaking About Rights: Canadian Human Rights
Quarterly Newsletter (Spring 1995)*

by Allan McChesney

Decisions taken by governments and aid institutions to proceed with development schemes, while down-playing environmental and other concerns of people in the path of development, can sometimes result in mass violation of human rights.

Decisions taken by those in power to suppress vital information can also contribute to wide-spread environmental damage and to deprivation of the human rights to health and life. This occurred through the initial cover-up of the Chernobyl disaster, and has happened more than once due to large-scale oil spills in far northern regions of the planet. Ecology activists and writers have been arrested, attacked or killed in many countries simply for speaking out against real or potential environmental tragedies.

In these and other ways human rights promotion and environmental responsibility are interrelated. Human rights activists often assist environmentalists by supporting their rights to obtain information and speak out against environmental hazards, and to challenge potential harms in court.

Similarly environmentalists offer valuable assistance by calling for the protection of indigenous peoples whose livelihoods and cultures are threatened by development projects that may destroy their base for pursuing traditional livelihoods, customary areas of activity and sacred sites.

Since serious ecological damage may threaten human rights to life, health food, work and development, the objectives of human rights and environmental activists frequently overlap.

Despite the apparent inseparability of many human rights and environmental protection goals, the proponents of each cause have historically functioned in separate realms. A combination of limited organizational mandates and restricted conceptions of human rights organizations have prevented many human rights organizations from working for the recognition of human rights pertaining to the environment.

At the same time, many environmentalists have shown reluctance to use the language of human rights in achieving their goals. Some environmental philosophies reject a human-centred bias, stressing the intrinsic value of nature and ethical rationales for protecting the environment from being despoiled by humans, rather than focusing on the rights of humans vis-vis the environment.

Reread

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Sign me up as a member of the Manitoba Eco-Network
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☐ \$50 Other organizations (businesses, government departments
and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for group membership)

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[Charitable tax receipts available for amounts over the cost of membership]

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

Name(s) _____
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Area(s) of interest _____ Volunteer skills _____

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

A supporting membership includes a subscription to **Eco-Journal** as well as notice of events and regular updates on issues and is open to any individual.

TODAY



TOMORROW



Wake Up To a New Day at The Hemp Exchange
131 ALBERT STREET Downtown 947-2315

To: All members of the Manitoba Eco-Network
From: The Steering Committee

*It's Fall, and that means that our members will soon be receiving in the mail a short letter requesting a donation to support the core operations of the Eco-Network. This will be our third "Annual Appeal". It's a once-a-year campaign to help cover the expenses of the **Resource Centre, Eco-Journal** (membership fees cover only a portion of the publishing costs), office staff, rent, telephone and other related items. These are the parts of our budget - the essential base of the Network - for which it is very difficult to fundraise from conventional sources.*

*We've been fortunate over the years to receive some funding from Environment Canada (via the Canadian Environmental Network), and local foundations have been generous in supporting projects (such as the **Volunteer Effectiveness program**). Unlike many of our sister Networks, we in Manitoba receive no funding from the provincial government.*

Federal cutbacks, provincial indifference and a generally difficult economy, have placed the Manitoba Eco-Network in a precarious position, financially. We believe that over the years, the Network has played a valuable role in the community, especially in being a clearinghouse for environmental information. It is both gratifying and humbling to realize that many of you, as members and donors, must have shared this belief.

We want to continue in our mandate to be an environmental resource for Manitobans, and for our member groups, but it is clear that we depend upon the community of people who believe that the health of the planet is still a priority. Please consider a generous donation when your Appeal letter arrives. And thank you, one and all, for your continued support!