



# Manitoba Eco-Network 2003-2004 Annual Report



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## Table of Contents

Message from the Chair.....	1
Steering Committee .....	2
Staff/Contractors .....	2
Activities.....	2
Public Education.....	2
Capacity Building.....	3
Consultations and Government Liaison.....	4
Project Work.....	4
Alliance Building .....	6
Funders.....	6
Volunteers.....	7
2003-2004 Member Groups.....	8

## Message from the Chair

Later this summer my family and I will be leaving Manitoba to pursue new opportunities in New Brunswick. While preparing for the move, I have been envisioning my future in New Brunswick and reflecting upon my adult life here in Winnipeg. My message to this year's members of the Manitoba Eco-Network flows from this contemplation.

Manitoba's environmental community is filled with kind-hearted, intelligent, and hard-working people. Those whom I have worked closely with have greatly enriched my life. At times I have despaired over feelings of personally not doing enough to make our society a little "greener". I ask you not to do the same. Instead, think positively of your efforts—your contributions to Manitoba's environmental community have allowed us together to produce many positive changes in our society's way of thinking about the environment and our stewardship of it. This is our past.

Your hard work is still needed though. There are government plans to clean up Lake Winnipeg but important research on the lake was, until a last minute infusion of money, not going to be able to be completed. There is a much needed land-use planning process taking place in Manitoba's East Side of which very few Manitobans have heard about much less participated in. Initiatives, many of which have resulted from the efforts of our community, abound. The future I see is this community working as individuals and collectively, bringing about the responsible completion of these initiatives.

Finally, thank you for having me as part of the Manitoba Eco-Network. Keep up the good fight.

Sincerely,

Scott Kidd  
Chair, Manitoba Eco-Network  
June 2004

## Steering Committee

Scott Kidd, Member-at-Large (Chair)  
Amy Hawkins-Bowman, Organic Food Council of Manitoba (Vice-Chair)  
Joseph Prymak, Consumers for Responsible Energy (Treasurer)  
Lori Nichols, Living Prairie Museum (Secretary)  
Kate Dykman, Eco-MAFIA  
Kristina Hunter, Faculty of Environment, University of Manitoba  
John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba  
Lise Smith, Consumers' Association of Canada – Manitoba Branch  
Pete Walker, Manitoba Federation of Labour – Environment Committee

## Staff/Contractors

Anne Lindsey, Executive Director  
Liz Dykman, Coordinator  
Larry Laliberte, GIS Project Manager, Librarian  
Adam Melnyk, GIS Technician  
Richie Lebedynski, GIS Technician  
Jennifer Duggan, Climate Change Connection  
Rachel Van Caesseele, Climate Change Connection  
Beth Spurway, Bookkeeper  
Michelle McDonald, Organic Lawn Care Educator  
Monique Laplante, Organic Lawn Care Educator  
Heather Laird, Eco-Journal editor  
David Henry, Eco-Journal Layout  
Glen Koroluk, Researcher  
Rachel Horwat, Volunteer Intern – Youth Serves Manitoba  
Tammy Higgins, On-Site Placement, Climate Change Connection

## Activities

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

**Eco-Journal** – published 5 times during the year with a circulation of 800 per issue.

**Website** – re-designed website offers greater ease of navigation, searchable public registry database and user friendly events calendar.

**Listservs** – updates on issues including biotechnology, climate change, water, pesticides, and forests.

**Displays** – Eco-Eclectica, Beausejour Wildlife/Environment Week, Winnipeg Vegetarian Association “Mad Cow, Mad World”, Menno Simons “Opening Doors: Youth Conference on Discovery, Awareness & Activism”

**Public Registry** – A searchable database of all public registry files dating from September 2001 is now available on our website.

## **Presentations**

**STAM-SAG** – Anne made a presentation at the Science Teachers Association of Manitoba Conference. The presentation included information on the key environmental issues in Manitoba, the services provided by Manitoba Eco-Network, and the work of our member groups.

**BUNYS** – Liz made a presentation on the Manitoba Eco-Network, our member groups, and major environmental issues in the province to the Brandon United Nations Youth Seminar.

**U of M Environmental Assessment Class** – Larry made a presentation on how the public can make use of the public registry system to an Environmental Assessment Class from the University of Manitoba.

**Integrative Women's Health Conference** - Anne made a presentation on organic foods.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Membership Development** – Our network of member groups grew to 50 in the past year with the addition of 5 new organizations.

**Capacity Building Project** – Manitoba Eco-Network is continuing this project in partnership with our sister organization, Saskatchewan Eco-Network and the Ontario-based Sustainability Network to offer capacity building programs to the ENGO community. A Funders Forum was held October 2, 2003, bringing together representatives from Assiniboine Credit Union, the Winnipeg Foundation, Eco-Action (Environment Canada), the Richard Ivey Foundation, and the Thomas Sill Foundation to provide the 30 participants with information on funding programs. A Media Skills workshop was held January 29, 2004 with Mary MacNutt of IMPACS. Thirteen individuals braved the ridiculous cold to learn about effective media work.

**MEN Member Forum** – Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Member Group Forum was organized for April 3, 2004. The successful day began with a Panel on Water Issues around the provinc. Thanks to Bev Sawchuk and Dave Danyluk (SOS), Peter Miller (TREE), Alex Salki (Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium), and Harold Taylor (RRBC) for their presentations, and to Trish Sellers (Water Wisdom) who moderated. The event also included addresses by the Ministers of Water Stewardship and Healthy Living, as well as workshops on effective lobbying with Marianne Cerilli, and using GIS with our GIS project staff Larry and Adam.

**Staff Development** - The Coordinator and Executive Director attended sessions on the new Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. The Executive Director also attended a workshop on Human Resource Management in Environmental Industries. The Coordinator participated in a week-long Boreal Leadership Training, held by the Hollyhock Institute in October, 2003. The GIS Project Manager attended an ESRI GIS Management course.

**Potential move to greener pastures** – A great deal of work was done to move forward in getting the Eco-Centre groups into more environmentally friendly office space. This project is ongoing.

## CONSULTATIONS AND GOVERNMENT LIAISON

Manitoba Eco-Network facilitated a meeting of our groups with the new Minister of Conservation, Stan Struthers, to discuss their current activities, concerns and questions. Steering Committee members met with Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship to discuss the involvement of MEN in Water Education and Outreach opportunities.

Manitoba Eco-Network facilitated a meeting between Efficiency Manitoba and interested member groups on the development of that new agency.

We also coordinated a workshop on the proposed “New Deal” for the environmental community.

Anne participated in conference calls with Environment Canada Prairie region representatives and sister networks in the Prairie/Northern region.

Manitoba Eco-Network has been represented on the Advisory Committee to the East Side Round Table for the Manitoba government’s East Side Planning Initiative.

MEN participated in consultation meetings regarding the Community Climate Challenge with the Manitoba Minister of Energy, Science & Technology.

## PROJECT WORK

**Climate Change Connection** - In Phase II, Climate Change Connection successfully delivered its program of activities. The Connection has;

- provided new resources to the public (Compendium updates, questions/answers on science, web papers)
- delivered 12 presentations to rural schools & interested community groups
- touched all targeted sectors in some manner,
- formed partnerships (research community, municipalities, agriculture),
- through 27 *Connection Updates* kept stakeholders abreast of Manitoba CC info,
- provided new web content, news info and events,
- conducted outreach activities on reduced idling that created 886 Idle-Free Zones, and
- held 4 community workshops for 90 participants.



Climate Change Connection has been able to distribute close to 900+ pieces of CC PEO information, directly reach approximately 550 people, as well as potentially touching 650,000 Manitobans indirectly through 28 publicity pieces in print, television and radio media. These efforts have increased awareness of climate change origins and potential

impacts, as well as increasing actions by Manitobans to reduce greenhouse gases in order to mitigate these effects.



**GIS Mapping Centre Project** – In the past year the GIS Mapping Centre Project has been busy gathering and compiling data, securing necessary software and hardware and has created approximately 15 maps for five different groups. A great deal of the project work has been in relation to the East Side Planning Initiative. Larry and Adam led a workshop to provide information about the project, and how environmental groups can use GIS at a workshop at the Member Group Forum.

Photo Courtesy of The Winnipeg Foundation

**Environmental Assessment Workshop** - A “Workshop for Citizens on Environmental Assessment” was held in Brandon on February 21, 2004. This all day event gave participants information about the provincial and federal environmental assessment (EA) processes, an introduction to the public registry, local case studies, as well as information on how they can become involved.

**Environmental Awards** – The 2003 Environmental Awards were presented at the Manitoba Eco-Network AGM on Tuesday, May 20, 2003. They were awarded to the following groups/individuals:  
Individual Female – Vicki Burns  
Individual Male – Glen Koroluk  
Group – Resource Conservation Manitoba  
Special – Fred Tait  
Outstanding Lifetime Achievement – Carl Ridd



**Organic Lawn Care** - summer staff delivered workshops providing information on alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides for lawn care. Displays of organic lawn care information were held at various community events.

**Collaborative Projects** -The Manitoba Eco-Network also facilitated and/or participated with member groups in project work involving food security and food production research.

## **ALLIANCE BUILDING**

Manitoba Eco-Network is represented on the Environment Committee of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg along with health professionals, environmental advocates, and members of the academic community.

Climate Change Connection brings together a multi-stakeholder group including municipal, academic, business, government and health.

The GIS Mapping Centre Project involves work with universities, government and First Nations.

## **Funders**

Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to acknowledge and thank our funders over the past year.

Core Funding:	Manitoba Conservation Environment Canada / Canadian Environmental Network The City of Winnipeg Employees Charitable Fund Thomas Sill Foundation Gifts-in-Kind Program The United Way Donor Designated Gifts Campaign Province of Manitoba All Charities Campaign
Capacity Building Project:	George Cedric Metcalf Foundation via the Sustainability Network
Climate Change Connection:	Federal Climate Change Action Fund (Natural Resources Canada/Environment Canada) Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (Manitoba Energy, Science & Technology) Manitoba Hydro PowerSmart
EA Workshop	Canadian Environmental Network EA Caucus
Food Production Models Research:	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; via the Manitoba Research Alliance on Community Economic Development in the New Economy
GIS Mapping Centre Project:	George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation The Winnipeg Foundation Sustainable Development Innovations Fund Environmental Systems Research Institute
Organic Lawn Care Workshops:	Human Resource Development Canada Manitoba Urban Green Team Mountain Equipment Co-op City of Winnipeg Winnipeg Public Library

Regular Eco-Journal Advertisers:

Assiniboine Credit Union

Dragonfly Scent-free Bodywork & Massage Therapy

Environment Canada

Organic Planet Worker Co-op

Harry's Foods

House of Nutrition

Manitoba Wildlands

Our sincere appreciation to all our generous individual donors and supporters in the community whose contributions help to maintain the Manitoba Eco-Network and our services.

## **Volunteers**

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped out Manitoba Eco-Network in the past year: Sarayut Tanapat, Soon Won Hwang, Michael Foth, and Stephanie Leitner. Also thanks to all the folks who contributed to the Eco-Journal and those who devoted time and energy serving on our Steering Committee!

## 2003-2004 Member Groups

Boreal Forest Network  
Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Wpg (CPR! Wpg)  
Canadian Nature Federation  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)  
Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba  
Churchill Northern Studies Centre  
Citizens for Better Public Transit Winnipeg  
Coalition to Save the Elms  
Committee for Church in Society (Christ Lutheran Church)  
Concerned Citizens of the R.M. of Piney  
Concerned Residents of Winnipeg (CROW)  
Consumers for Responsible Energy (CoRE)  
Eco-MAFIA (Ecological Males and Females in Action)  
Fort Whyte Centre  
Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory  
Greening West Broadway  
Hog Watch Manitoba  
Independent Media Centre - Wpg (IMC-Wpg)  
Institute of Urban Studies  
International Erosion Control Association - Northern Prairies  
International Institute for Sustainable Development  
Jo Lutley Boreal Environmental Youth Centre  
Living Prairie Museum  
Manitoba Federation of Labour  
Manitoba Naturalists Society  
Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA)  
Manitoba Protected Areas Society (MPAS)  
Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Mixedwood Forest Research and Advisory Committee (MFRAC)  
Native Orchid Conservation Inc.  
Oak Hammock Marsh  
Organic Food Council of Manitoba  
Pembina Valley Conservation District  
Project Peacemakers  
Red River Basin Commission  
Resource Conservation Manitoba  
Roseisle Creek Watershed Association  
Save Our Seine Environment Inc.  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg  
Speleological Society of Manitoba  
Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems (TREE)  
University of Manitoba Environmental Science Program  
University of Manitoba Recycling and Environment Group  
University of Winnipeg Environmental Studies  
Water Wisdom  
Western Canada Wilderness Committee  
Winnipeg Humane Society  
Winnipeg Water Watch  
Winnipeg Vegetarian Association