

2008 Manitoba Envirothon Final Report



2008 Manitoba Envirothon Winning Team
Baker Colony School from MacGregor

Executive Summary

For the past twelve years the Manitoba Forestry Association, along with its partners and funders have been the proud host of the Manitoba Envirothon. In 2008 thirty-three teams competed in Pinawa for the chance to represent Manitoba at the 2008 Canon Envirothon in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The theme for 2008 of *recreational impacts on ecosystems* gave the students and opportunity to explore how our leisure activities affect the natural environments. To help the students explore this issue we held the spring workshop at Camp Morton north of Gimli. In addition to the hands-on equipment training in soils & land-use, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife, teams heard presentations about recreational impacts on natural areas, principles of 'leave-no-trace' camping, and definitions about the establishment and use of parks in Manitoba. We also introduced the students to GPS and GIS-a topic we plan to include in all future Envirothons.

The Manitoba Envirothon took place in Pinawa from May 22-24, 2008. The teams were housed and fed at Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre. After an evening of creative, ice-breaking team introductions the students went to sleep in preparation for a full-day of challenging questions on the field test. The field test took place in two locations in the LGD of Pinawa: one trail was set-up near the gold course and beach and the second trail was set-up near the marina and hiking trails. Given the large number of teams participating this year we decided to try having less stops on each trail but two teams per stop. This change had mixed reviews from the students who were worried about the second team overhearing their answers.

Following the field test teams were given an opportunity to hear a presentation from Don Sullivan who has recently created a book of photographs that showcases the beauty of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg and to promote the movement to designate this area as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After the presentation, teams held an energetic trading session before heading to bed for another nights sleep. The following day teams prepared and delivered their oral presentations which focused on developing an eco-tourism plan for a community on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

After the scores from the field test and oral competition were tallied the winning team was Baker Colony School from Mac Gregor. This is the first time that a team from Baker will represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon. This is also the first year that the Steering Committee has conducted two additional training sessions for the winning team to help them prepare for the Canon Envirothon. This winning team mentorship focused on in-depth hands-on training and a mock oral presentation.

The weather was sunny and warm throughout the event which further enhanced the warm hospitality we received from the staff at the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre.

The 2009 Envirothon theme is "biodiversity in a changing world". The Steering Committee has chosen the International Peace Garden as the location for the 2009 event. The Manitoba Envirothon has used the Peace Garden site two times in the past so we look forward to returning to this beautiful and scenic location.

We have said it before and we will say it again- the success of the Envirothon program is largely due to the commitment, passion, and endless energy of our numerous volunteers, partner organizations, and funders. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationships with these partners in environmental education.

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1. 2008 Summary of Winning Teams

1.1. Team Placement

In addition to awarding the top four teams we also award “runner-up” prizes to teams who have demonstrated excellence in a particular theme. These teams did not necessarily have the highest score but they likely had the second or third highest score. This system for awarding prizes lets us recognize more teams than just the top four teams, who in many cases had the highest scores in the themes. By recognizing the “excellence in” categories we can give recognition to teams that had high scores but not necessarily the *highest* score in each category. These teams are:

Excellence in Forestry, Fairholme Colony School (Team A)
Excellence in Soils & Land Use, JH Bruns Collegiate (Team A)
Excellence in Aquatic Ecology, College Jeanne Sauve
Excellence in Wildlife, Fort Richmond Collegiate
Excellence in Theme, Maple Grove Colony School
Excellence in Orals, Springfield Collegiate Institute
Rookie, Kelvin High School
Climate Change, North West Soil Management Association



Team Introductions are always creative and often hilarious! Teams tell us that socializing and meeting other students from across the province is one of their favourite things about Envirothon.



1st Place Team



The team from Baker School in MacGregor, Manitoba won this year's Manitoba Envirothon held in Pinawa. Team members Jennifer Waldner, Susan Waldner, Joseph Waldner, Jeremy Waldner and Melanie Waldner (same surname but not one family) delivered a very solid, well-reasoned Orals Presentation that capped off a top ten Trails Test Finish. They were assisted in their efforts by advisors Ernie and Johannes Waldner and Frances Maendel.

TOP SCORE: Forestry and Theme



2nd Place Team

The second place team came from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Winnipeg. Kathy Stardom and Barbara Fuller advised Erin Collins, Lindsay Cook, Victor Lee, Aaron Henderson-Gracie and Kaitlin Sanders. TOP SCORE: Aquatics

3rd Place Team

Third place went to the team from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School. Former Envirothon competitor Kathleen Peden and teacher Rick Wowchuk coached this team, from a school that places highly with amazing consistency. The team members are Amy Currie, Kirsten Larson, Erika Brandson, Ryan Branconnier and Nikki Highmoor.



4th Place Team



Fourth place went to the second team from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, the North West Soil Management Association Team. Edward Shao, Breanne Anderson, Nyla Burnside, Teagan Markim and Matthew Forbes were advised by teacher Alex Verbo and former Envirothon competitor Shawn Stankewich. TOP SCORE: Soils & Land Use

We would also like to congratulate Fort Richmond Collegiate who had the highest score in the Preliminary Oral Presentation.

2. New for 2008

Based on student, advisor and volunteer evaluations and the initiatives of the steering committee and staff at the Manitoba Forestry Association, we make changes to the Envirothon each year. Our focus is to create a program that helps students excel in their understanding of the natural world and its connections to our economy, our health, and our culture. We also want to offer an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone involved. In 2008 we had a number of new initiatives.

2.1.1. Mystery Teams

For the first time ever, we surprised eleven veteran teacher/advisors with the opportunity to write the field test as if they were a team of students. With only moments notice the morning of the field test, the two advisor teams traveled the trails experiencing for the first time the pressure that their students experience at the event. Both the teachers and students indicated that this was a very positive experience because they each gained a better appreciation of the field test. The mystery teams place 3rd and 4th in the field test overall. Not bad for being surprised that morning!

2.1.2. Manitoba Association of Conservation Districts

In the winter of 2007 we had the opportunity to have a display and do a presentation at the Manitoba Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) annual convention in Brandon. We had borrowed the Mini-Envirothon kit from Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre for our display booth. This generated a lot of interest in the Envirothon program as people completed the mock field test and received a prize. Our presentation focused on the potential partnership between the MACD and Envirothon in achieving mutual goals of youth environmental education. The audience had a chance to hear about Envirothon from the perspective of an advisor and a student as Al and Erin Thorleifson from Manitou joined Andrea Swain on stage to talk about their experience with Envirothon.

We would like to thank the Manitoba Association of Conservation Districts for inviting us to this event and Manitoba Hydro for sharing their booth space with us.

2.1.3. GIS/GPS

In 2008 we convened a small sub-committee who were charged with incorporating GIS and GPS into the Envirothon program. This exceptional team of Al Tyrchniewicz (Tyrchniewicz Consulting), Steven Hills (Assiniboine Community College), Dusty Molinski (Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre) and Jennifer Lidgett (Tembec) met a number of times to compile a series of resources and activities to train the teams in the theory and equipment use. The Manitoba Envirothon purchased two GPS units for use on the field test.

2.1.4. Winning Team Mentorship

The winning team for 2008 was given the opportunity to meet with members of the steering committee on two occasions. One training session took place at Baker Colony and focused on one-on-one training in forestry, soils, wildlife and aquatics. The second session was a mock oral presentation. The team prepared and delivered a 20 minute presentation based on a question written by their advisors and the committee.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the training sessions:

Jim and Myrna Potton

Glenn Peterson, Forestry Branch, Manitoba Conservation

Rebecca Mckay, Forestry Branch, Manitoba Conservation

Christine Tymchak, Wildlife and Ecosystems Protection Branch

Dean Berezanski, Wildlife and Ecosystems Protection Branch

Laureen Janusz, Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship

David Hay, Manitoba Water Stewardship

Curtis Cavers, Agriculture Canada

Brendan Carruthers, Manitoba Hydro

Byrnes Benoit, Spectra-Productions Inc.

John Sinclair, Natural Resource Institute, University of Manitoba

Susan Eros, Department of Justice, Government of Canada

After the Canon Envirothon we will seek feedback from the team to determine if the mentorship was useful.



3. Steering Committee

Much of the success of the Manitoba Envirothon is attributed to the high level of commitment and enthusiasm that our Steering Committee volunteers give to the program each year. A number of our volunteers have been with the program since its inception in 1996. Each of our committee members takes the lead of a sub-committee or participates on one of the sub-committees. The Steering Committee met monthly from September 2007 to May 2008. A wrap-up meeting was held in early June to debrief the event and to begin planning for 2009.

2008 Steering Committee Members:

Jim Potton	Retired	Co-Chair
Glenn Peterson	Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch	Co-Chair
Brenda Robinson	Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch	Volunteer Committee
Avery Ascher	Atikameg Forest Centre	Northern Outreach
Michael Cavers	Resident of Pinawa	Logistics, Orals
Gil Godard	Manitoba Hydro	Logistics Co-Chair
Brendan Carruthers	Manitoba Hydro	Logistics Co-Chair
Lisa Tack	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Test Writing Co-Chair
Rebecca McKay	Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch	Test Writing Co-Chair
Laureen Janusz	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Member-at-large
David Hay	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Member-at-large
Christine Tymchak	Manitoba Conservation-Wildlife Branch	Member-at-large
Jennifer Lidgett	Tembec	GIS/GPS Activities
Cathy Shaluk	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Member-at-large
John Sinclair	University of Manitoba	Orals Committee Co-Chair
Bob Austman	Manitoba Model Forest	Orals Committee Co-Chair
Shauna Da Costa	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Workshop & Field Test Committees
Michele Kading	Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre	Mini-Envirothon Liaison Member-at-large
Allen Tyrchniewicz	Tyrchniewicz Consulting	GIS/GPS, Workshop Committee
Byrnes Benoit	Spectra Productions	Media & Communications

In addition to the steering committee there are many other volunteers who write the field test and oral scenario. These activities require a number of site visits each fall and spring to ensure the questions are site specific. They work closely together to write the questions, deliver the field and oral tests at the competition, and mark the test. These volunteers also bring the hands-on equipment and samples used by the teams on the field test.

4. Thank you to Sponsors

Each year the Manitoba Envirothon begins the challenge of securing funding for the program. In addition to approaching long time private industry funders we also approach new organizations who may relate to the current theme or because we are holding the event in their community.

In early 2008, we learned that we were successful in securing a three-year treasury board agreement with six provincial government departments. This funding will go a long way to assisting us in our plans for developing new initiatives that will increase the number of students participating in the program.

In 2008, the Steering Committee developed a sponsor recognition program. This recognition program will provide us with more a uniform approach Based on our new recognition program, we awarded our first "Legacy Partner" tree of appreciation to Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba Hydro has supported the Envirothon program both through funding and in-kind support from their exceptional staff, Brendan Carruthers and Gil Godard, who are active members of our steering committee.

Sponsors were recognized in the event program, on the event t-shirts, and were mentioned at the event itself.

The following organizations provided funding for the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon:

Legacy Partner

Manitoba Hydro

Sustaining Partner

Manitoba Water Stewardship

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

Manitoba Conservation

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Mackenzie Seeds

Jiffy Canada Incorporated

Manitoba Model Forest

Encouraging Partner

Canon Envirothon

Assiniboine Community College

Friends of the Envirothon

Jim and Myrna Potton

The following organizations provided in-kind support for the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon:

AECL Whiteshell Laboratories
Agriculture Canada
Assiniboine Community College
Boreal Forest Network
Byers Environmental Studies
Canadian Forestry Association
Climate and Green Initiatives
Ducks Unlimited Canada
ECO Matters Inc.
Environment Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service
Green Manitoba
Husky Energy-Minnedosa Ethanol Plant
Local Government District of Pinawa
Louisiana-Pacific Canada Limited
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch
Manitoba Conservation Districts
Manitoba Conservation – Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch
Manitoba Hydro
Manitoba Model Forest
Manitoba Science Academy
Manitoba Water Stewardship
Marantz and Sons Ltd.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Parks Canada
Pinawa Secondary School
Pinawa Community Development Corporation
Red River Basin Commission
Seine-Rat River Conservation District
School District of Whiteshell
Spectra-Productions Ltd.
St. John Ambulance
Tembec – Pine Falls Operation
TetrES Consultants Inc.
Turtle Mountain Conservation District
Tyrchniewicz Consulting
RBC-Kenaston Commons Branch

The following organizations provided prizes for the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon:

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment Canada/Husky
Energy-Minnedosa Ethanol Plant
Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch
Manitoba Conservation – Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch
Manitoba Conservation – Pollution Control Branch
Manitoba Water Stewardship-Fisheries Branch
Marantz and Sons Ltd.
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Tembec Inc –Pine Falls Operations
RBC-Kenaston Commons Branch

5. Competing Schools

During the 2007/2008 we attended numerous conferences and events to promote Envirothon. The largest conference was SAG which was held in the fall. In addition to setting up a display, we had 23 teachers attend a workshop where they learned about the Manitoba Forestry Association's programs, including Envirothon. We would also like to thank the Manitoba Model Forest who worked closely with the teams in the Model Forest area around Pinawa. The Manitoba Model Forest promoted the Envirothon in the schools, paid the teams' registrations, and did some training with the teams.

This additional promotion seems to have paid off as we had 36 teams register for Envirothon. This is 6 more teams than we have had in any previous year. As the event approached three teams had to withdraw from the competition due to student conflicts with other activities.

The following teams competed in this year's event:

Baker School, MacGregor
College Jeanne -Sauve, Winnipeg
College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, Winnipeg
Cormorant Lake School, Cormorant
Ecole Secondaire Kelvin High School, Winnipeg
Fairholme Colony School-Team #1, Portage La Prairie
La Salle Red Boine Conservation District-Team #2, Portage La Prairie
Fort Richmond Collegiate Team, Winnipeg
East Interlake Conservation District-Team #1, Gimli
Gimli High School-Team #2, Gimli
Grant Park High School, Winnipeg
Helen Betty Osborne, Norway House
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #1, Winnipeg
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #2, Winnipeg
Lord Selkirk School Green Team #1, Selkirk
Lord Selkirk School Blue Team #2, Selkirk
Maple Grove Colony School, Lauder

Morden Collegiate, Morden
North West Soil Management Association -Team #1, Swan River
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School-Team #2, Swan River
Oak River Colony School, Oak River
Pembina Valley Conservation District - Team #1, Manitou
Nellie McClung Collegiate-Team #2, Manitou
Pinawa Secondary School, Pinawa
Powerview School, Powerview
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Thompson Treehuggers #1
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Thompsen Treehuggers #2
Shaftesbury High School Team, Winnipeg
Springfield Collegiate Institute, Oakbank
Vincent Massey Collegiate Green Musketeers Team #1, Winnipeg
Vincent Massey Collegiate CO2 Destroyers Team #2, Winnipeg
Westwood Collegiate - Team #1, Winnipeg
Westwood Collegiate- Team #2, Winnipeg



Our "Mystery Teams" of advisors had a great time and were very good sports as we sprung it on them the morning of the field test.

6. Envirothon Workshop

The 2008 Manitoba Envirothon Workshop was held in Camp Morton near Gimli, Manitoba. Thirty-five teams attended the workshop. Despite a thick layer of ice on Lake Winnipeg, the weather cooperated and we had a calm and sunny day for the workshop. After a warm welcome from a Conservation Officer from Winnipeg Beach, the teams were divided into groups so that we could have small groups of students at each training station.

6.1. Workshop Schedule

9:30	Teams arrive at Camp Morton
9:30-10:00	Team Registration & Snacks (Hall at Camp Morton)
10:00-10:30	Welcome (Hall at Camp Morton)
10:30-12:30	Group A: Topic Training: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, recreational impacts (GIS/GPS) Group B: Recreational Impacts on Ecosystems Presentations
12:40-1:10	Lunch (students, volunteers, presenters)
1:10-3:10	Group B: Topic Training: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, recreational impacts (GIS/GPS) Group A: Recreational Impacts on Ecosystems Presentations
3:10-3:30	Closing Remarks and snacks to go
3:30	Teams leave

6.2. Thank you to our presenters

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our presenters who took the time to travel to Camp Morton, deliver presentations, and provide supplementary material to the students.

Theme :

Jackie Avent, Leave No Trace Master Trainer
Morgan Hallett, Senior Park Interpreter, Whiteshell Provincial Park
Bob Austman, Manitoba Model Forest

Forestry:

Glenn Peterson, Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch
Rebecca McKay, Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch
Andrea Kraayeveld, Manitoba Forestry Association

Soils & Land Use:

David Hay, Manitoba Water Stewardship
Dennis Schindler, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives
Michele Erb, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Wildlife:

Christine Tymchak, Manitoba Conservation-Ecosystem Protection and Wildlife Branch
Cathy Shaluk, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Dean Berezanski, Manitoba Conservation- Ecosystem Protection and Wildlife Branch
William Watkins, Manitoba Conservation- Ecosystem Protection and Wildlife Branch

Aquatics:

Shaunna Da Costa, Manitoba Water Stewardship
Laureen Janusz, Manitoba Water Stewardship
John Shearer, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Marilena Kowalchuk, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

GIS/GPS:

Steven Hills, Assiniboine Community College
Jennifer Lidgett, Tembec-Pine Falls
Dusty Molinski, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Allen Tyrchniewicz, Tyrchniewicz Consulting

6.3. Thank you to workshop volunteers

An event such as the workshop would not be possible without the help of many other organizations. We would especially like to thank the following:

- Camp Morton staff for preparing the site in time for our arrival.
- Cheryl Bailey for encouraging us to hold the workshop in the Gimli area!
- Kiwanis Club of Gimli for the great food, the mini-donuts, and the help tidying the hall at Camp Morton.
- Assiniboine Community College Students for helping with the GIS and GPS training session and for providing door prizes.
- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre for the use of the GPS units and for assisting with the training.
- Myrna Potton for assistance with team registration.
- Gil Godard, Brendan Carruthers, Shawna Da Costa, Allen Tyrchniewicz for logistics and assistance in planning the workshop.

6.4. Evaluations

A more thorough summary of the workshop evaluations can be found in Appendix A.

7. 2008 Manitoba Envirothon Competition

Thirty-three teams competed in the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon that was held in Pinawa, Manitoba. The theme for 2008 was "recreational impacts on ecosystems". The teams and volunteers were housed and fed at Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre. We had a great experience working with Wilderness Edge staff and at the end of the event we presented them with a framed print donated by the Fisheries Enhancement Fund of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

On Thursday evening the weather cooperated as teams used their imaginations and creative spirit to introduce themselves. Teams did skits, songs, and even interpretive dance to express their personalities and tell us a little about where they came from. Despite risk of embarrassing his two daughters who were participating in the Envirothon this year, Glenn Peterson was our Emcee for the evening. His endless stream of jokes were a hit with the audience!

On Friday, the weather was perfect for the field test which was held in two locations. The Field Test Committee had set-up a trail at the Golf Course and at the Marina; both located in the townsite of Pinawa. Throughout the planning of the event we had tremendous support from the LGD of Pinawa. For example, the LGD staff delivered tables to the trails and they allowed us to use the portable toilets in the area.

Given the large number of teams the field test committee decided to try having two teams per stop and increasing the time at each stop from ten minutes to twelve minutes. Based on the evaluations from the students there were mixed reviews about this new format. The main concern from the students was that the other team could hear their answers. Although many students indicated that they didn't have any problems with the new format. The steering committee will look closely at the evaluations to determine the best format for 2009.

Another change in 2008 is that we surprised our veteran teachers with an opportunity to participate in the field test as if they were a team of students. These "Mystery Teams" jumped at the chance to take the test and were very good sports about the whole thing. The feedback from the teachers was positive. They said it gave them a better understanding of the pressures, time crunches, and fatigue that their students face.

After a gruelling field test, the students and advisors were treated to a slide show and presentation from Don Sullivan who has created a coffee table book and website (<http://www.manidooabi.org/>) featuring his photographs of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg and promoting the nomination of this area as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After the presentation, teams went outside to do a trading session. The trading session is always a hit with teams as it is a great way to get to know each other.

On Saturday, teams were given the Orals Scenario and they had two and a half hours to prepare their response. While the students were preparing for the orals, the teachers participated in a debriefing with members of the field test committee. Members of the committee reported that teachers were generally very positive about the test and the event in general.

The results of the competition were:

- 1st Place Baker Colony School
- 2nd Place Vincent Massey Collegiate
- 3rd Place North West Soil Management Association
- 4th Place Swan Valley Regional Secondary School

The team from Baker Colony School in MacGregor, Manitoba will attend the 2008 Canon Envirothon in Flagstaff, Arizona from July 28 to August 5th. The team is excited about their trip and we are very proud that they will be representing our province at the North American competition.

Prior to leaving the winning team participated in two mentorship training sessions as discussed earlier in this report.

7.1. Event Schedule

Thursday, May 22

- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Arrival and Registration
- 5:30-7:00 p.m. Dinner (Cafeteria)
- 7:00-10:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions (Courtyard-outside)
 - Team Introductions
 - Socializing
- 11:00 pm Lights out

Friday, May 23 (Field Test)

- 7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Cafeteria)
- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Training for Trail Guides-Advisors that's you!
(tent outside Wilderness Edge)
- 8:30 a.m. Teams meet in tent outside Wilderness Edge
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Teams receive briefing on the day, assign trail guides, travel to trails
- 9:30 am Trail test starts
- 11:40 am-1:00 pm LUNCH for Teams and Advisors (Cafeteria)

Volunteers eat lunch in Pinawa Room-Command Centre

- 1:00 pm Teams and Advisors meet in tent outside Wilderness Edge

1:00-1:30 p.m.	Trail Guides meet their teams and travel to the trails
1:30 p.m.	Trail testing resumes
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Free time
5:00-6:00 p.m.	SUPPER (Cafeteria)
7:30 p.m.	Oral preparation for teams and advisors (Auditorium, Pinawa Secondary School)
8:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Trading Session, recreation and socializing (Auditorium, Pinawa Secondary School)
11:00 pm	Lights out

Saturday, May 24 (Oral Competition)

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Cafeteria)
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Team Orientation to Oral Competition (Cafeteria)
8:30-11:00 am.	Team preparation for Orals
9:00-11:00 a.m.	Test review & debriefing for Advisors (Agassiz Room)

11:00a.m.-12:00 pm	LUNCH for Teams (Cafeteria) Team #1-7 (eat first) Team #8-14 (eat second) Team #15-34 (eat third)
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LUNCH for Advisors and Volunteers (Manitoba Room)

The afternoon activities will take place at Pinawa Secondary School.

12:00-1:40 pm	Preliminary Oral Presentations (Rooms #1-7)
2:15-2:30 p.m.	Announcement of finalists (Auditorium)
2:30-4:00 p.m.	Final Orals (Auditorium)
4:00-5:00 pm	Awards and Closing (Auditorium)
5:00-5:45 p.m.	SUPPER (Cafeteria at Wilderness Edge)
6:00 pm	Departure-See you next year!

7.2. Thank you to Volunteers

Each year many volunteers commit time and energy to help us make this event a huge success. In the past volunteers have told us that participating in Envirothon is the highlight of their year!



Vicki	Asu
Bob	Austman
Nathalie	Bays
Amanda	Bazin
Rita	Bazin
Byrnes	Benoit
Dean	Berezanski
Lise	Boiteau
Rod	Bollman
Bruce	Bremner
Bob	Brudy
Tim	Byers
Brendan	Carruthers
Jenefer	Cavers
Michael	Cavers
Linda	Christianson
Ayla	Cottes
Jeffery	Cottes
Glenn	Cure
Shauna	Da Costa
Arlene	Davidson
Bev	Dube
Lyn	Dunford
Katherine	Fedirchuk
Irene	Friesen
Laura	Gisti
Gil	Godard
Jodi	Goerzen
Sayer	Graham
Don	Grant
Connie	Hamon
Donald	Harron
David	Hay
Karen	Hildahl
Steven	Hills
Laureen	Janusz
Vince	Keenan
Brian	Kotak
Jerry	Kozak
Kelly	Leavesley
Jennifer	Lidgett
Bev	MacKenzie
Bob	MacKenzie
Tabitha	Martens
Kyla	Maslaniec
Lynda	Matchullis
Andrew	McCuiag
Keith	McGregor
Rebecca	McKay
Andrea	McLean
Erb	Michelle
Peter	Miller

Kirby	Papineau
Glenn	Peterson
Dan	Philippot
Jim	Potton
Myrna	Potton
Ian	Ripley
Judy	Ripley
Brenda	Robinson
Cathy	Shaluk
John	Shearer
Steve	Sheppard
Randall	Shymko
John	Sinclair
Murray	Smith
Jennifer	Stewart
Don	Sullivan
Tim	Swanson
Lisa	Tack
Walter	Tokar
Christine	Tymchak
Allen	Tyrchniewicz
Barry	Waito
Rudy	Wall
William	Watkins
Jill	Whitford



Our youngest volunteer, Ayla Cottes at her 2nd Envirothon!

7.2.1. Volunteer Comments

Volunteers (23 evaluations completed)

- When asked to list the best three features of the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon volunteers responded with the following comments: location, weather, topic, great organization, great kids, colour of green shirts!, smooth running of entire event, kids with similar interest getting together, kids learning that science is ok and interesting, opportunities for students to learn and express themselves outside of their school, interaction between students and volunteers, changing topics annually welcomes different students, gathering students from all over Manitoba, networking for the volunteers, interaction with other professionals in related industries, energy and enthusiasm, educational component and hands-on, team introductions, putting students in a new environment, meeting new people, learning to work in groups, very current and topical theme, diversity of judges, student centered, well designed orals question with real application, "Manitoba" experience, good kids having good times, outdoor adventures, high energy level, patience of staff and volunteers.
- Some areas where volunteers felt we could make improvements are: providing an organized outing to a local area of interest for the participants, separating the teams a little more at the stops, keep an updated and current list of the volunteers so it is easier to contact them, trail captains would benefit if they had their own digital watch, the classrooms are distracting as there is too much on the walls!, teams are very tired at the end of the day so it may be helpful to have seating at the stops and water and snacks, incorporate post-secondary institutions, promotion of Envirothon in South Eastern Manitoba!, test horn audibility on trail prior to test, central reporting area for changes to schedule, "shutterless" camera during orals as this may have been distracting to team and judges, get photo releases from teams and volunteers, more diversity in the judging panels, more cultural awareness of training for the particular theme
- Ways the program has improved over the years: judges introducing themselves is positive, we should work to include more First Nations students and volunteers, the points allotment in the score sheet is more balanced, more focus on how to learn the material, focus on the cultural component (ie historical backgrounds of the cultural geography of each community and how environmental stewardship is seen and the ways to overcome these obstacles)

Other quotes from volunteers:

"Great atmosphere, lots of energy, lots of helpers/directors, questions and advice readily available. Approachable, friendly and appreciative."

"I am always awed by the MFA and the Envirothon Committee. It is especially interesting to hear your changes and adaptations to continuously improve the competition and the learning experience."

7.3. Student Evaluations

Sixty students completed an evaluation form. A number of highlights from the evaluations include:

- 28 students indicated that the resource materials were the most helpful in preparation for the field test, 6 indicated that both the resource materials and workshop were equally helpful, 21 indicated the workshop was the most helpful, other responses included help from advisors, prior knowledge and studying previous year's tests.
- When asked what problems the students encountered with the new structure of the field test 29 students indicated that they did not have a problem with the test, the other half indicated that they did not like two teams at a stop because they were afraid the other team could overhear them, they did not have privacy, the other team spent too much time with the equipment, they felt crowded
- 53 students indicated that the oral presentation was a valuable and worthwhile experience. Some of their comments include: gave insight on the East Side of Lake Wpg., improved organization skills, good preparation for real life presentations, improved public speaking skills, it helped bring together everything we learned, let us put our ideas out, fosters good team work and innovation, it made you think on your feet. Of the 5 students who indicated "no" they had interpreted the question as if I was asking them about the presentation by Don Sullivan not their own oral presentation.
- 53 students indicated they would like to be involved in Envirothon again next year, 2 students said maybe, 4 said no and 3 who said this because they are graduating this year.

Some suggestions from the students were:

- More hands-on for the theme
- Make the questions more even-aquatics had a lot and forestry and soils had very little
- Divide up the trail test into subjects: one for forestry, one for theme, etc.
- There was too much equipment this year and took too long to do them
- Put all of the aquatics, soils, etc questions on one sheet. It will make for better handling
- More practical questions and more hands on work
- Make the prep time for orals longer was a common suggestion
- Have the hutterites cook was mentioned a couple of times but surprisingly there were few comments about the food.
- Add a separate half-hour Envirothon oral prep session for practice with cue cards and posters.
- Lots of students suggested that we make Envirothon longer-3 days.

Meeting new people and socializing were among the participants favourite things about Envirothon.

Some comments from participants were:

"My favourite part of Envirothon is how it integrates everything - how it is in the real world"

"The field test was my favourite part because it was challenging and a lot of fun."

"The last four years at Envirothon have been great, amazing! Thank you for all of the knowledge, all the experience, all the food and all the fun! I will miss this immensely"

"My favourite part was getting to learn more about the environment and making new friends."

A summary of the advisor evaluations can be found in Appendix B.

7.4. Media Coverage

At the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon we had the most media coverage of any Envirothon to date. We had articles in The Clipper (Beausejour), The Free Press (Winnipeg), The Paper (Pinawa), the Central-Plains Herald Leader, The Western Canadian (Manitou), and The Winnipeg Sun. We were also profiled on Open Road a Shaw TV show. A sample of the media coverage can be found in Appendix C.

8. Financial Statement

2007-2008 Manitoba Envirothon

INCOME	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Prov. Govt. Sources		
Manitoba Agriculture, Rural and Food Initiatives	\$ 4,000.00	
Manitoba Energy, Science, Technology & Mines	\$ 4,000.00	
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth	\$ 4,000.00	
Manitoba Water Stewardship	\$ 4,000.00	
Manitoba Conservation	\$ 4,000.00	
Manitoba Aboriginal & Northern Affairs	\$ 4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Corporate & Non-Govt. Sources		
Manitoba Hydro	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Jiffy Canada	\$ 2,500.00	\$1,993.32
Manitoba Model Forest	\$ 2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Assiniboine Community College	\$ 500.00	\$500.00
Other		
Jim and Myrna Potton	\$ -	\$200.00
Committee Clothing Recovery	\$ -	\$225.00
Canon		
Canon Canada Mini Grant	\$ 500.00	\$500.00
Canon Envirothon Mini Grant	\$ 1,400.00	\$1,483.80
Canon Envirothon Diversity Grant	\$ 2,500.00	\$1,954.00
2006 Canon Envirothon Legacy	\$ 20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Team Registrations		
Primary Team (29 teams)	\$ 14,500.00	\$12,700.00
Second Teams (7 teams)	\$ 5,250.00	\$6,750.00
Workshop		
Registrations	\$ 2,520.00	\$2,956.57
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 81,170.00</u>	<u>\$60,762.69</u>
EXPENSES		
Workshop		
Facility	\$ 10.50	\$10.50
Legacy Gift to Camp Morton	\$ 200.00	\$300.00
Food (\$13.50/person)	\$ 3,402.00	\$3,920.00
Snacks	\$ 200.00	\$180.26
Equipment (Equip., Potties, etc.)	\$ 300.00	\$300.00
Competition		
Accommodation, Facility Rental & Food	\$ 36,000.00	\$28,381.78
Community Centre	\$ -	\$160.10
Equipment	\$ 700.00	\$106.00
Awards	\$ 200.00	\$200.27
Porta-Potties	\$ 500.00	\$0.00
Audio/Visual	\$ 500.00	\$350.31
T-Shirts	\$ 3,500.00	\$2,992.49
St. John's Ambulance	\$ 300.00	\$300.00
New Initiatives		
Northern Outreach	\$ 4,000.00	\$735.44
Training Trail and Kit	\$ 3,000.00	\$0.00
GPS/GIS	\$ 1,000.00	\$857.92
Middle-School Program	\$ 3,000.00	\$0.00
Canon Envirothon		
Canon Membership	\$ 250.00	\$250.00
Canon Competition Registration	\$ 800.00	\$830.88
Travel Assistance	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Learning Materials		
Contracts	\$ 2,000.00	\$0.00
Web Site		
Dev. Costs	\$ 500.00	\$246.00
Administration		
Coordinator	\$ 30,000.00	\$21,140.14
Materials, supplies, & Postage	\$ 1,000.00	\$962.23
Mileage	\$ -	\$184.36
Committee Clothing	\$ -	\$1,187.50
Committee Meetings	<u>\$ 240.00</u>	<u>\$597.50</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 93,602.50	\$66,193.68
BALANCE	-\$ 12,432.50	-\$ 5,430.99

9. Recommendations and plans for 2008

The 2009 Envirothon theme is "biodiversity in a changing world". The Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee has recommended that we return to the International Peace Garden. The Manitoba Envirothon will take place from May 21-23, 2009 and we look forward to increasing the number of students and schools participating in the event.

9.1. Recommendations

The Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee met in early June to debrief the event. Recommendations that followed from this meeting include:

Field Test Recommendations

- Ask for grade levels of students on the registration form so that this can be taken into account when preparing the test and when analyzing the results.
- Do a workshop session on how to read and answer test questions.
- When do the team briefing we should have a number of veteran volunteers available to help answer questions.
- We should have a system in place for mentoring co-chairs. That way every year there would be a new volunteer and a "veteran" volunteer as co-chairs each year.
- We should try to bring bikes for the trail monitors so that they can get around to the stops quickly or depending on the trail we may want to have ATVs.
- Test co-chairs should be floaters on test day so that they are available for trouble-shooting.
- Although we like to recognize the funny responses on the test we don't want to hand out prizes for the funniest answer-we don't want to encourage teams to focus on being silly.
- Volunteers who are setting up the test need to carry a copy of the test with them.
- Include a copy of the question at each stop so the volunteers at that stop know what the teams are working on at their stop.
- Tape a copy of the instructions/tips for volunteers to the tub at the stop.
- We may want to expand the volunteer positions to include more trail captains so that there is a volunteer for each trail that takes the lead in ensuring the stop attendants and monitors have what they need-especially when we are getting set-up in the morning.
- The trail monitors and captains need to have walkie talkies with them.

Oral Presentation Recommendations

- Recruit a volunteer to the orals committee whose responsibility is logistics for the preliminary and final orals. They would coordinate the set-up of the rooms, etc.
- Show students exactly what materials they will be given during the preparation and what materials they are allowed to take into the preliminary and final orals presentations.
- Do a five minute training on using a microphone prior to the start of the finals with the top four teams.

Rules and Procedures Recommendations

- Establish a 3-person Rules Committee
- Make reviewing the Rules and Procedures document an agenda item for a steering committee closer to the date of the event so that all committee members are familiar with the Rules.
- Have a white board outside of the command centre to write last minute instructions. Teams and advisors would be told that they are responsible for checking the board.
- Consider establishing a policy where teams have to submit questions about the rules in writing.
- Teachers would like to receive these ahead of time.

Appendix A Workshop Evaluation Summary

Students (73 out of 160 completed)

1. What was the most useful part of the day?

- Hands-on GPS training (6)
- The theme session...woohoo GPS!!
- Bob was cool and had useful info. (2)
- Getting out and doing things-not just reading the information.
- All of it! (2)
- The topic training sessions (33)
- The wildlife 3 part info. Thing. I learned a lot and it will come to use in MB Envirothon. (3)
- All of this is very important and has just as much requirement as everything else. Nothing was unimportant.
- Hands-on components (10)
- The theme presentations (3)
- Everything!
- Forestry session (4)
- The Model Forest was something I had not heard about (2)
- Aquatics
- The models of fish and the fish dissection
- Learning the aquatics science opportunities open to us as young adults
- Learning about leave no trace and provincial parks (2)
- Soils was most useful (6)
- I enjoyed the presentations about Mb Provincial Parks and LNT. I will use the information in my life.
- It was all great. I don't know why but it seemed so much better than last year. Hands on soils stuff and interesting presentations in the afternoon.
- Learning about map grids

What was the least useful?

- Boring presentations were not very useful or engaging
- Nothing (13)
- Having three presentations in a row-thought they were interesting.
- The cold weather.
- The presentations-particularly the length was too long to focus perfectly (12)
- Parks talk
- Some of the general speakers didn't help me with wildlife knowledge.
- Lunch
- Leave no trace (10)

- Sitting down for a long-time
- Model Forest Presentation (3)
- The presentation that the lady did with the riparian zones (2)
- Identifying fish and the forest presentation
- Some of the information about soils was too fast and too complex to understand fully.

Please provide specific comments on the following:

Topic training session

GIS/GPS

- Fun-the university students were kind
- Very interesting but our leader was hard to understand
- Sooo fun-I loved the GPS
- Great and very interesting
- It was good and very helpful!
- A lot of fun playing with the GPS

WILDLIFE

- Really informative (4)
- More specific and most useful
- I loved the hour divided into 3 groups so we learned a lot better.
- Very educational facts and good instructions.
- Interesting and helpful
- Awesome
- Very good and interesting
- Very good, loved it!

FORESTRY

- Really informative and interesting
- Good lots of info.
- Great, enlightening
- I enjoyed it and took a lot away (2)
- Very knowledgeable presenters
- Awesome! Glenn Rocks!
- Very interesting, fun, informative. (2)
- Amazing, no changes
- Full of important information, it was good we got to use the tools
- I like the hands-on training like using the borer

AQUATICS

- It was fun
- Informative (2)
- Very good and informing
- It was neat but could be more hands-on
- Very interesting and fun to do hands-on stuff
- Verry good
- Useful (2)

- They were really good
- Good amount of information
- Very related to binder and useful
- Good-need to be more hands-on and technical
- Interesting and helpful
- Was very informative and presenters were easy to talk with. Laureen was excellent!
- Pretty good

SOILS

- I enjoyed them a lot. The best sense joining the Envirothon 3 years ago.
- Some of the information about soils was too fast and too complex to understand fully.
- Very good and informative. I liked the hands-on things.
- It was educational but sort of boring.
- Lots of important information to share
- Very useful, somewhat interesting
- Very interesting, descriptive information
- Great presentations-really know their stuff
- It was fun and I learned a lot
- Excellent-2 years ago we were lectured at and I fell asleep
- Best one I have been to in 3 years
- Long but useful
- Fun but would like more hands-on
- Soil profile excellent

Theme presentations

- Boring and too long (10)
- Very interesting and inspiring
- I liked it, it was very informative (4)
- Very interesting but difficult to concentrate after awhile (5)
- Very useful-learned lots. (3)
- Learned a lot more than I knew before.
- Really fun to learn
- Too broad
- Excellent
- Great! Entertaining!
- Biased
- They were really good
- Pretty long and painful
- Leave no trace was really cool
- Very informative (7)
- The parks presentation was good and had info. on all topics
- Most were useful but the leave no trace didn't have much to do with our topic other than just camping
- Leave no trace was good. Model Forest didn't convince me that most forestry is bad

- Loved them! Especially about Prov. Parks and LNT.
- Lots of different aspects
- It was ok-it was hard to see from the back
- Interesting and not as many facts and stats memorization as last year

Food/location:

- The food wasn't very tasty
- Very yummy and beautiful
- Veggie food was so good-along with the donuts!
- Good, very well set-up
- Good food (25)
- Donuts were lovely (3)
- Perfect very good
- Beautiful scenery/good location (9)
- Delicious food but not enough (4)
- Well done just offer more variety of food.(3)
- Need better bathrooms
- Excellent (6)
- Gimli Rocks
- Food was not fulfilling!

If you are a student, do you feel that you are better prepared for the Manitoba Envirothon in May now that you have attended the workshop?

Yes (76)

- I saw things in real life instead of just reading them
- Yes, there was a lot of info. I didn't know before (3)
- I feel equipped to answer any question
- I got a broad overview of what to expect
- Now I see why this is really important in an interactive way that allows me to really connect with the way it connects
- I had hands-on experience with my topic (5)
- Yes, because I didn't know anything before!
- Yes, because I learned a lot more than I originally knew!
- Yes, because some things weren't in the binder. (2)
- Yes, because I got a small idea about the Envirothon works. (3)
- Seeing the furs in the wildlife workshop was helpful.
- I was able to have questions answered my teacher couldn't.
- Experiencing things in person makes everything a lot easier.
- It gives me something to focus on
- I learned specific things about the provincial parks
- It really allowed me to know what would be on the actual test (2)
- Yes because I didn't know much about the oral presentation
- I do feel much better prepared. I was happy to learn about all the field testing tools and it was just good to get an idea of the kind of things I

needed to study. Overall, it was a helpful workshop and I'm glad I attended.

- You get to hear some things explained and it is easier to learn
- They answered all the questions I had to my satisfaction
- This information helped me 100%! I was completely lost before and this really explained a lot.
- I got to spend time with experienced people who knew my topic.
- I was provided with things I didn't have at my school.
- I learned lots about the soils binder and lots of techniques
- There was a lot of hands-on experience gained and questions answered
- Yes, because I knew nothing about soils before
- I paid more attention because it was much more interesting

No (1)

- Not really, I already knew because this is my second year, I also learned GPS in school.

Somewhat (2)

- The topic presentation helped a lot but group presentations didn't help.
- I have attended 3 workshops in the past and they are very repetitive but also informative.

What can we do to improve the workshop for next year?

- More interactive and fun. (2)
- Theme presentations were long thus I lost interest.
- Timing was great. Try to avoid indoor activities on such nice days.
- Little bit shorter sessions and a break besides lunch.
- Make a longer period for topic training sessions.
- Longer topic, shorter theme, no chilli.
- Better food, warmer.
- More training sessions. (4)
- Have it later in the year so that it is not so cold.
- Call everyone to lunch at the same time.
- It was great! Keep it up!
- Better presentations
- More time for topics, less time for theme presentations, more breaks and warmer weather.
- More breaks (2)
- Shorter presentations
- Have a short trail test
- Maybe rotate more and have slightly shorter sessions
- Good timing maybe just look at other things that are going on ie: Biotech Unesco National Conference, etc.
- I would have preferred to break-up the long presentations with more hands-on stuff. (2)
- Maybe to hear about other topics a little also.
- More hands-on and a quicker pace.
- It was very good.

- More comfortable conditions
- No comments, I thought it was fine just the way it was

TEACHER COMMENTS ABOUT WORKSHOP

- All but one teacher indicated that they prefer to observe the students rather than having their own session.
- Having a chance to use the hands-on equipment is most useful
- Most teachers felt the format is working well
- One teacher indicated they would prefer to have the workshop on a Thursday so that they are not driving on a weekend
- "The entire day was awesome. I wandered and picked up great info. at each location."
- Make theme presentations more interactive.
- "I really enjoyed them all but the theme presentations were most useful, especially the one re: parks"
- "I like the longer more intensive topic training sessions". "Presenters were excellent, well prepared, lots of hands-on, nice small groups."
- "More in depth was great!"
- 2 hrs. per binder was an excellent idea as topic could be covered in greater depth.
- Hands-on-the smaller groups were better this year.
- It's all so well-organized and workshops are specific and useful.
- Well informed and genuinely interested and presented. Very nice, great day!
- "Actually it would be great to have a 2 day session in order to take in everything"

Appendix B Advisor Competition Evaluation Summary

Advisors (25 evaluations completed)

CLASSROOM/LESSON MATERIALS:

- 15 teachers indicated they liked receiving the resources in CD format.

-Some of the info. was easier to study than others. Soils, Forestry and Wildlife were very well organized but aquatics was huge and not as easy to break-up into reasonable pieces.

-It might be helpful to have a file with "new" material in it-saves time for advisors because we reuse the binders!

- 5 indicated they would like both a CD and a hard copy
 - like the CD format but they were disorganized within the categories
 - the CD saves paper but the students printed it out anyway (generally on single-sided). Perhaps provide binder resources to schools the 1st year, then in following years just provide any new/theme/changed material.
- 1 indicated they would prefer paper

How did your school use the study materials?

CLASS CURRICULUM (4)

SCIENCE CLUB (11)

OTHER (13)

Was the study material received early enough in the school year?

Yes (18)

No (6)

Do you like the format in which the Envirothon resources are presented? Why?

-better organized

-provide one paper copy double-sided to each school and CDs. If materials change from year to year, then provide only updates this allows the advisors to glance over all materials easily.

-some sections were hard to follow, the links to other resources often made it hard to follow logically through a section

-a table of contents including the attached materials

-consolidate into fewer files so that it takes less time to print

-shorten longer documents to focus on what they need to know

-prefer documents to websites as it is easier to know what part to focus on

-CDs are easier to hand to students-less daunting for new students

-make sure there is no duplication within folders and subfolders

-CDs are good because the students have the option of studying electronically or print it off at their leisure when they want

-web references should be hyperlinked in documents

- material should be available online for downloading
- everything seemed well organized
- prioritize the materials to help direct the students
- have a file labeled "new material" for teams using the same material as last year
- provide a hard copy binder to new schools in first year and then send any updates on CD
- soils, forestry and wildlife were very well organized, aquatics was huge and hard to understand
- printing was time consuming
- have a list of new and discontinued materials so that old resources already printed can be reused
- easy to access, well organized, objectives listed
- easy to find everything
- easily accessible with disk format and up to date with newsletter
- liked the advisor copy with everything on it
- many problems with computer

If you could change one thing about the resources what would it be?

- CD format would print easily into hard copy
- there would be only one file per subject
- more specific objectives
- the theme is often very broad but the questions are very specific so it's tough to know what to study
- perhaps more equitable for each discipline-it seems no one wants to do soils because it so huge and is perceived as boring-lessening the amount may make this topic more attractive
- we need hand outs on the hands-on stuff
- arrange in order of "must know", "nice to know", "not likely" (but that would take away the responsibility of the teams for preparation)
- aquatics is too much
- it would be great to have a CD of past years
- each resource be numbered instead of a list of icons
- better organized
- some sections were hard to follow-the links to other resources often made it hard to follow logically through a section
- Theme is broad however questions are site specific. Not sure how this should be changed it at all. There is no doubt the questions are very good and is a challenge to plan

Please comment on the educational value of the resources and/or the program as a whole:

"program is a great hands-on!"

"a fabulous opportunity for extension learning"

"the resources/program are excellent as an enrichment activity for the students"

"I continue to think this program is one of the best opportunities to prepare students for their lives after high school".

"Outstanding!"

"This program is one I have always believed in. These students are our future stewards."

"Good, interdisciplinary, application/hands-on oriented materials"

"very appropriate enrichment to a science program"

"The resources and program are excellent as an enrichment activity for the students"

"A very valuable program. A great learning experience for the students."

" The resources provide challenging and excellent materials and the entire program is top-notch. The students and advisors gain so much –team and community building skill and life long positive attitudes."

"I think this is a fantastic educational opportunity for the kids! It allows them to learn and apply practical environmental knowledge."

"Very educational-not only for scholastic pursuits but important life lessons like teamwork learned as well."

"Wow, wow, wow! (as always)"

"Unbelievable-glad to see the program expanding and evolving-incredibly vital"

"It compliments the science program very well but I'd like to see more related to Geography as a discipline."

"Very useful and topic materials are consistently interesting and valuable"

"The lifeskills that students gain is wonderful. Working as a team, studying independently, and station testing are important qualities to learn that are not always addressed in the classroom."

Was the correspondence and information you received, clear and useful to you?

Yes (22)

3 did not respond

We would like to find out if you think the study material is too easy, too hard or just right.

- Most teachers ranked all of the binders as a difficulty level of 3 out of 5.
- Some comments included that the soils was too difficult and daunting and the forestry binder was too long.

- One teacher indicated that the low test marks may mean the study materials were too hard.

ENVIROTHON WORKSHOP

- 14 teachers indicated that the workshop was helpful in their learning and preparation for the event
- 11 did not respond or had not attended the workshop

FIELD TEST:

For those who have participated in past MB Envirothon's, were the changes to this year's field test an improvement?

- Allows for quicker trail test! Great hands-on!
- The steering committee are always trying to improve on their mistakes and are open to suggestions and change
- Fewer stops meant less fatigue and giving up in the afternoon. More hands on was great-but sometimes two equipment questions were on same page and that was hard. Longer stop times was good.
- we like the hands on and site specific questions-makes the field test more relevant
- more hands on is always excellent. The questions for each stop seemed to be organized so that 2 simultaneous activities don't need the same page at the same time. Any chance of setting it up by topics?
- shorter trail was good as there was less loss of focus
- less stations and more time seemed to reduce stress for kids
- the hands-on at every site was SUPER! Thanks for all your efforts on this!
- gave students more time to do hands-on stuff and they have to learn how to work in a situation that may not be ideal but this is a skill that had to be learned
- The time allowed at each stop was great. 2 teams per stop let me see how two teams answered and worked together
- practical questions were great but resolution of dual team stations is needed
- hands-on and site specific is so much better than a test you can take in a classroom

What problems, if any, did you encounter with the new structure (shorter test, longer stop times, two teams per stop, etc?)

- Two teams traveling together could be problematic (are the answers really theirs, distractions, potential sabotage)
- a bit more time at some "hands-on" stations
- no real problems-just make sure that each team has their own equipment and that all equipment is the same (microscopes)
- learn to live with is as it is good to have lots of teams involved
- a bit more time at hands-on stations
- the students were not too positive about the 2 teams/stop but with future preparation they will adjust. Good use of space and time.
- not enough equipment at stop 2 (soil pit) should be 2 pits! Students need lots of time for that as it is very difficult
- A bit busy but a wonderful challenge. New/younger teams might have found it tough!
- Just simple things that can be worked out like 2 sets of maps!
- I do wonder about the two teams concept but I think it will work

- Equipment times weren't long enough
- The students had to coordinate themselves to make the best use of time available at each stop. They couldn't all work together or they would run out of time.
- None-it ran smoothly-although I would single side the test so papers can be give to different group members with greater ease

10 teachers indicated they would prefer being a trail guide versus doing the test as it they are a team of students.

15 indicated they would like to do the test or they took the test and think other teachers should have the same chance.

GENERAL:

What was your favorite part of the Envirothon program?

-team building

"working with our student! They are a very inspirational group and were so enthusiastic about taking on the studying of the material. It was fabulous to see them embrace the opportunity to learn and apply their prior/new knowledge."

- the field test-it was fun and challenging
- all fabulous!
- All of it!

"The material, the people, the competition and of course being woken up by Jim's beautiful voice in the morning!"

"Seeing the students so excited and interested in science materials and activities beyond the scope of the classroom curriculum, and getting to know such a wonderful team of students!"

"I love it all-the socializing, the event, the great t-shirts, the team building, and interaction with the students to get here, the fabulous organization and volunteers...excellent overall!"

"To see how well organized and event of 300+ people can be! Great job!"

"I love seeing how the students become part of a team and work creatively to problem solve. They grow so much-academically and socially."

"Watching the students interact with the other groups. Getting to know one another and experiencing different cultures/ideas is a wonderful addition to Envirothon."

"Hands-on, field test portion...field work is rarer and rarer in schools...this is a great opportunity for enrichment."

"The assurance that many of today's youth are passionate about the environment and very knowledgeable in the area as well. Helps me sleep at night-hope for the future."

"The fact that it opens up new areas of interest and creates a lifelong passion for the sustainability of our resources. It has changed my focus in career planning. It goes above and beyond the standard high school work."

"Getting to meet new people, learning about topics because that helps me too"

If you could change one thing about Envirothon (overall) what would it be? Why?

- I think you are doing a great job. Just keep working on making the field test as fair and hands-on as it can be.
- to not allow the bottom 5 teams to return for 1 year. Weed out the weaker teams and give more opportunity to the new teams. Also discourage fooling around.
- the cost is becoming an issue for us but I understand the need for the increases. We are still willing to pay as required because the experience and program are so valuable to us.
- keep moving it to other parts of the province rather than Wpg. and Brandon. This year's Boreal forest was great and I'm excited about the possibility of going to Churchill.
- promote recycling
- being able to encourage more schools to participate
- a list of equipment to become familiar with earlier in the year-especially for schools new to the program
- Does the breadth of material need to be so large? Is this necessary to be competitive at the Canon level?? Can specific outcomes be identified for each area?
- Mega phone instructions on Saturday morning were hard to hear
- In terms of questions I really don't like the specific number of questions that are memorization eg: # of parks in MB
- Nothing! Well-organized, fun, educational
- Perhaps more time to explore local attractions in mixed groups
- As a first time teacher a meet and greet for the advisors would have been useful
- provide milk and yogurt for the kids
- sell it! Get more people involved. This should be in every high school. We can do it, we just need to sell the value of the experience.
- other than introductions, a scheduled large group activity such as a jeopardy style quiz

Would you like to be involved with Envirothon again next year?

Yes (24) 1-said they are not sure because it is time to get younger teachers involved

Would you recommend the Envirothon to a colleague?

Yes (25)

Other comments:

- 2 advisors commented that a number of students did not obey the 11 o'clock curfew. "The 5:50 singing wake-up was not respectful of the students and advisors need for sleep. It should be the responsibility of the advisor to wake students."
- Singing wake up call would be more appropriate at a later hour
- accommodation was too cramped
- food was cold 90% of the time
- Would have been a good idea to have at least one First Nations judge on the final panel to select the winning team
- Thank you for another great year! Every year if just gets better!

- "What a well-organized and successful event-very impressed with the overall structure, accommodations, staff/volunteers, educational value, networking potential, (for students and teachers)-I had a great time and so did my team!"
- "Great Envirothon! Except for the cold showers, of course. Test had very few flaws and the oral question was broad enough that creativity played a large role. If only we could do this more often! Thanks to all volunteers!"
- "I have fun every year! Thanks for making it that way!"
- "You guys are awesome for all you do! You get better every year, and thanks for the fantastic weather too-well done!"
- "Overall a wonderful experience. It is amazing to see the students absorb the information willingly and use the hands on equipment. Great job!"
- The cameras during the oral presentation came part way through this could be intimidating for new teams. There was also a lot of outside noise.
- "It was a great learning experience. Thank you for the opportunity. See you next year!"
- "Look forward to next year!"
- "Why not make 5 spots (accommodations, meals) available for schools who are not yet on board to send one teacher as an observer of the actual Envirothon? Could you get a sponsor for this?"
- Provide advisors with a list of schools, advisors, names, subject areas, and email contacts."
- "I think the 3 considerations for next year are all great. Would love to see it in the Ducks or Riding Mountain. Don't mind tenting but in May we could have one of those rotten weekend so it could be too much of a risk. Like the newsletter and too all of the steering committee-thank you very much!"
- "Thanks for all that you do to make this possible"
- "I came to this competition excited, with a small idea of what this is about-I am leaving even more excited and pumped to start an Envirothon program at my new school next year!"
- "Every year, you people amaze me with how well the program and event are run. I truly know of nothing that compares to Envirothon. It has made me a better teacher and educated me in so many ways applicable to how I and my family live our lives. I'm so proud of my students for how much they value this experience. I know that it is life-changing for most, if not all of them."
- "Very great event! One of the better ones I've attended. Good job. I also appreciate how helpful volunteers are in supply/recommendations of equipment and other study stuff."
- "Keep making changes as the program grows. Keep us informed of the changes as they happen-I love the newsletter Andrea."

Appendix C Media Coverage of 2008 Manitoba Envirothon

10 June 2, 2008

Local students participate in 2008 Envirothon

Compiled by Bill Smyth

The 12th annual Manitoba Envirothon, a program of the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA), took place in Pinawa recently with thirty-four Manitoba high schools participating.

Each participating school entered a team made up of five grade 9 to 12 students. Teams studied material on five key thematic areas: soil and land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife and a current environmental theme that changes yearly. This year the theme was "recreational impacts on natural resources."

Prior to the competition, a workshop was held for teams to prepare for the field test. The competition consists of both a field test and an oral presentation.

Throughout the competition students acquire environmental education and

have the chance to develop teamwork, problem-solving and public speaking skills.

This year's trail testing took place on two trails along the Winnipeg River System in Pinawa. Trail testing pits all teams against the real world environmental and scientific challenges. Teams have 12 minutes at each station to conduct research, solve problems and identify ecosystems and their interactions.

The trail testing score is combined with the oral presentation score to determine the overall 2008 Envirothon Winner.

The Manitoba winner goes on to represent the province at the 2008 Canon Envirothon in Flagstaff, Arizona in July. The Canon event is North America's Largest High School Environmental Education Com-

petition.

Schools from North Eastman involved in this year's Envirothon were: Springfield Collegiate, Pinawa Secondary School, Powerview High School.

The team from Baker School in south central Manitoba won this year's Manitoba Envirothon. The team members delivered a very solid, well-reasoned oral presentation that capped off a top ten Trails Test Finish.

They were assisted in their efforts by advisors Ernie and Johannes Waldner.

Congratulations and good luck in Arizona.



Pinawa School teammates work to find answers at one of the trail testing stations during this year's Envirothon event held in Pinawa.

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Wing Nite 40¢/wing.....	Wednesday.....	7:00 pm
Bingo.....	Thursday.....	7:00 pm
Supper.....	Friday.....	6:00 pm
Jam Session.....	Friday.....	7:30 pm
Meat Draw & Cribbage.....	Saturday.....	1:00 pm

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

RCL #132 Dine & Dance Club.....Third Tuesday 1:00 pm

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HANDOUT PHOTO

Baker School students (from left) Jennifer Waldner, Susan Waldner, Joseph Waldner, Jeremy Waldner and Melanie Waldner will represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon, July 28 to Aug. 3 in Flagstaff, Ariz. Also in the picture are advisers Ernest Waldner and Johannes Waldner.

CANON ENVIROTHON

Hutterite students up for the challenge

By Lindsey Wiebe

STUDENTS from a local Hutterite colony school who won top honours in a province-wide environmental contest will head south this summer to compete against the rest of North America's best.

A team from the Baker Hutterite colony near MacGregor beat out 33 groups from around Manitoba at the regional Canon Envirothon last weekend.

The Baker School team will represent Manitoba at this year's Canon Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition, July 28 to Aug. 3 in Flagstaff, Ariz.

"It's pretty unbelievable feeling," said 18-year-old Jennifer Waldner, one of five Baker School students who took part in the contest.

"It was a lot of fun just to participate," said Joseph Waldner, 18. "Obviously it's a lot of work to study and prepare, but once you're there it's a fun experience."

The team includes Jennifer, Joseph, Susan, Jeremy and Melanie Waldner, who share a surname but are not all siblings.

A team from Vincent Massey Collegiate placed second in Manitoba's compe-

tion, while Swan Valley Regional Secondary School's team took third.

Jennifer said the contest saw each student assigned an area of focus, like wildlife, soil or aquatics, with the group coming together to test trails in the Pinawa area late last week and over the weekend, checking pH levels in the water and identifying wildlife.

The contest culminated with a presentation on a topic that would challenge the most experienced politicians: Developing an ecological reserve on a section of boreal forest while weighing the concerns of the aboriginal community living on the land.

"We had to kind of balance the economic gain that would come from this ecological reserve, and still sustain the environment, and basically have minimal impact," said Jennifer.

Envirothon had more than 500,000 participants last year, and 52 teams competed in the New York finals.

The Baker School team is nervously anticipating the sweltering heat of Arizona in summer, and eager for their chance to try for roughly \$75,000 in total scholarships and awards.

"The whole community is behind us in this," said Joseph. "It's a great feeling to have everyone supporting us."

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