

## MANITOBA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

### MANITOBA ENVIROTHON

#### 1998-99 FINAL REPORT

Meetings of the Volunteer Steering Committee were held at regular intervals throughout the fall and winter, and once a week as the Provincial Envirothon approached. The Committee was responsible for all aspects of the competition, including test writing, designing and ordering of t-shirts, transportation, working with Canadian Forces Base Shilo to provide accommodation and food and as the site for the Orals, booking Spruce Woods Provincial Park for the trail testing component, and finding volunteers for the multitude of jobs to be undertaken during the event.

The volunteer involvement was outstanding, and a very big thank-you is directed to all those who worked on the steering committee/sub-committees (Test Writing and Orals, Logistics, School Coordination, Registration, Awards, Guests, Grievance and Evaluations) and all those who came out during the actual event to help on the trails, to judge the orals, to cook and clean, and to generally assist where needed. A special thank-you to Michele Kading, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretative Centre, who undertook the role of Volunteer Coordinator.

Members of the Logistics and Test Writing Teams were at Spruce Woods Provincial Park on Thursday, May 27th setting up the test trails. A large tent was put up at Kiche Manitou, which became home base for the trail testing and other activities during the day.

Registration and dinner (social style), a welcome and presentations, as well as socializing took place the evening of Thursday, May 27th at the Country Club, Canadian Forces Base Shilo. Jim Potton was Master of Ceremonies. A welcome was provided by Major J.B.M. McNair on behalf of Base Commander Wilson. Garnet Shearer, Base Environmental Officer, provided an introduction to the Base environmental program, and Gerry Oliver from the Thomas Seton Interpretative Centre offered insight into the surrounding area. Mike James, Envirothon Coordinator, provided housekeeping information. Rachel Van Caesele, Fort Whyte Centre, organized an Ice Breaker during which school team members were introduced.

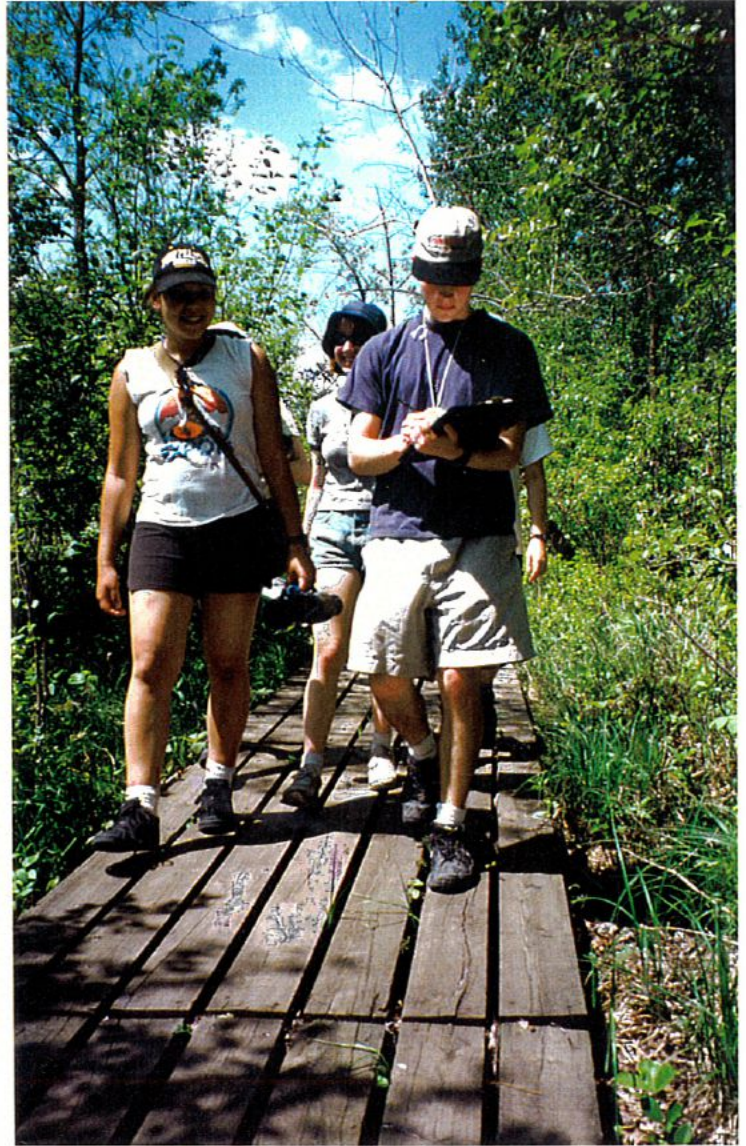
Twelve teams participated in the competition, including Arthur Meighan High School, Portage la Prairie; Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School, Brandon; Edward Schreyer School, Beausejour; Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg; Gimli High School, Gimli; Maples Collegiate, Winnipeg; W. C. Miller Collegiate, Altona; Pembina Valley Conservation District Environmental Youth Club; Powerview (Manitoba Model Forest) Shaftesbury High School, Winnipeg; Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Swan River; and Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg.

Following breakfast on the Base on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the teachers and students boarded highway buses to transport them to Spruce Woods Provincial Park, and others proceeded in cars and vans. At approximately 9:45 a.m. Dan Bulloch provided some general comments and reviewed the test procedure. At 10 a.m. students and teachers participated in training stations at Kiche Manitou during which they received information on various aspects of the Envirothon topics: forestry, soils, water, aquatics and fire management. Trail testing began at 10:30 a.m. with 14 teams, including 2 teams of alternates. Trail captains and their assistants were responsible for keeping time and





Problem solving and hands-on learning during trail testing in Spruce Woods Provincial Park.







Students must use a number of means to arrive at the correct answers during trail testing.



assisting as needed.

Teachers, and special guests from the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Manitoba Section were given a Park tour by Lori Nichol.

Cpl Dorinda Decker, a first aid volunteer from CFB Shilo, was on hand should an emergency arise. Trail testing continued after a "hay box" lunch was provided at Kiche Manitou. Following lunch, since it was a very hot day, Cpl Decker gave a short informational talk on the dangers of heat stroke, and how to prevent it.

During the afternoon teachers participated in a workshop delivered by Mike James on "EcoAction 2000 Community Action Initiatives". Several teachers described environmental projects in which they and their students were already involved. There was a good discussion and the session ended with Mike James promising to visit the individual schools in June and/or September.

Dan Bulloch met with the teachers later in the afternoon to discuss the trail testing process, and offered them the opportunity to tour one of the trails so they would be more familiar with what the students had been asked to do.

Dinner on Friday was a barbecue (courtesy of Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and Manitoba Pork) at the Base Country Club. Gerry Delorme, Rural Development, was Master of Ceremonies. The Honourable Glen Cummings, Minister of Natural Resources spoke briefly and presented the Envirothon with a cheque for \$ 500 to sponsor breakfast the following morning. Bob Buck, Fire Management, Manitoba Natural Resources, gave an informative presentation on "Fire", followed by a presentation by Allen Tychniewicz, International Institute of Sustainable Development, on "Climate Change". Students were advised that any information from these presentations could be helpful during their preparation for Oral Testing the next morning.

Some organized socializing took place, but most of the students were exhausted and preferred to gather in groups on their own.

Breakfast on Saturday, May 29th was on the Base. Instructions concerning the Oral Testing were given to the competing teams, including times they should report to prepare and present. The 12 competing teams (with alternates) were then sequestered in the Crerar Building for 3 hours to prepare their presentations.

During the morning teachers participated in a WOW Workshop provided by Michele Kading and Leanne Kress of Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretative Centre.

Judges arrived, were greeted by Rory Grewar and briefed by Karen Warren, with help from Jim Potton and Glenn Peterson.

During the afternoon teachers were invited to meet with Dan Bulloch for a debriefing session. This was informal, and teachers came and went. Dan received valuable feedback, which will be of assistance in preparing for next year's testing.





Students prepare for their Oral presentation on Wildfire Management.



Honourable Glen Cummings, Minister, Manitoba Natural Resources brings Greetings and presents cheque in Sponsorship of Saturday breakfast.



Judges for the Oral Competition included (back row) Jack Dubois, Dr. Jennifer Shay, Allen Tokaryk, Bruno Bruederlin, (second row from back) Kathy Melnyk, Margaret Donnelly, Mike Waldram, Brynes Benoit, Al Dueck, (third row from back) Bob MacKenzie, Don Alexander, Dr. Robert Roughley, Bob Mann, (front) Glenn Peterson.





VINCENT MASSEY COLLEGIATE, Winnipeg – 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE



FORT RICHMOND COLLEGIATE, Winnipeg – 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE



SWAN VALLEY REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL, Swan River – 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE



Each team had the opportunity to review their notes for 1/2 hour prior to their presentation. Three panels of judges, teachers and alternates from that team, and a small audience of MFA staff and volunteers listened as each team presented information on the special environmental topic: **Fire Management**. Teams were limited to 10 minutes, during which time all team members were required to participate in the presentation. An additional 10 minutes at the end was devoted to questions from the judges. As teams completed their presentations they were invited to use the Base gym where Susan Eros was available to help organize activities.

Once the first series of presentations was completed, the entire group moved to the Base Theatre, where at 4 p.m., the four finalists were announced. They were Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg; W. C. Miller Collegiate, Altona; Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Swan River, and Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg. The entire group of judges participated in selecting a winner. The final presentations were videotaped by Bill Baker and a copy will be provided to each team.

The oral testing was followed by dinner in the All Ranks Dining Facility. The testing committee and judges completed their final tallies, and determined the winner of the Provincial Competition. Swan Valley Regional School was awarded First Place, Fort Richmond Collegiate placed second, and Vincent Massey Collegiate came in third. Swan River will represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon in Arcata, California in mid-summer. Second and third place teams received silver and bronze medallions respectively. Many items had been donated by sponsors so all members of participating teams received a prize. The "tree trophy" was presented to the winning team, and individual team members received a smaller version.

The event was covered by the Portage la Prairie Graphic and an excellent article appeared the following Monday. Articles were also carried in the Portage la Prairie Herald Leader Press and the Swan River Star & Times. The Winnipeg Free Press listed the winning teams.

We acknowledge, with much appreciation, the sponsors of the *Manitoba Envirothon* 1998-99 program, including: **Canadian Forces Base Shilo; Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre; Canadian Waste Services Inc.; Canon U.S.A., Inc.; Louisiana-Pacific Canada; Manitoba Model Forest/Canadian Forest Service; Manitoba Go for Green !; Manitoba Hydro; Manitoba Natural Resources; Manitoba Pork; Peak of the Market; Pine Falls Paper Company; Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration; Sustainable Development Innovations Fund; Tree Canada Foundation and The Winnipeg Foundation.** Sponsors were listed on t-shirts provided to all participants.

A sincere thank you to all those who volunteered many hours to *Manitoba Envirothon*, and particularly Jim Potton, Chair of the Envirothon Steering Committee; Mike James, Envirothon Coordinator and Co-Chair with Rory Grewar of the Orals Committee; Dan Bulloch, Chair of the Test Writing Committee; John Towle, Chair of the Logistics Committee which included Gerry Delorme (Program and Food) and Rachel Van Caesele (Social Activities); Brendan Carruthers, Chair of the Registration Committee and Ron Michalishyn who took over Brendan's responsibilities at the event; Glenn Peterson, Chair of the Grievance Committee and in charge of evaluations; Herta Gudauskas, Chair of the Guest Committee and Awards Committee; and Michele Kading, Volunteer Coordinator. Our thanks, too, to all those who participated as Judges during the Orals, and those who helped assemble material for the schools on Fire Management, particularly Dan Bulloch and Glenn Peterson.

Attachments: *Manitoba Envirothon* Program  
Financial Summary  
Media Report  
Press Releases  
Newspaper clippings  
Article by PFRA  
Photos (Photo credits: K. Fosty, J. Potton)

July 2, 1999

Dianne Beaven



The *Manitoba Envirothon* is hosted by:



In Partnership with:

Canadian Forces Base Shilo  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Clean Environment Commission  
Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education  
Manitoba Conservation Districts Association  
Manitoba Environment  
Manitoba Go For Green!  
Manitoba Hydro  
Manitoba Model Forest  
Manitoba Natural Resources  
Manitoba Naturalists Society  
Manitoba Rural Development  
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre  
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration  
University of Manitoba  
University of Winnipeg

## THIRD ANNUAL MANITOBA ENVIROTHON PROVINCIAL COMPETITION



"An 'Olympic' style environmental  
competition for high school students"

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>  
Canadian Forces Base Shilo  
Shilo, Manitoba



1999 VOLUNTEERS  
STATION LEADERS/JUDGES  
PRESENTERS/OTHER ASSISTANCE

Welcome to all the visitors and participants in the *Manitoba Envirothon*! All who attend are expected to display courtesy, honesty and respect towards competition officials, other teams, guests and facilities.

*Manitoba Envirothon* participants are expected to compete in competition events with an honest effort to follow the rules and elevate the spirit of this competition. As a participant, you are learning the lifetime skills of integrity, honesty, fairness, and sportsmanship along with respect for and knowledge of our natural resources. The goal of the competition is to give one's best effort while displaying these skills. These qualities will help you become better conservationists regardless of the final score.

We hope you enjoy the competition and support all teams in a positive manner. Above all, enjoy the people and friendships formed when meeting new people and seeing old friends.

Let The Games Begin!

Don Alexander  
Mike Allen  
Bill Baker  
Dianne Beaven  
Byrnes Benoit  
Errol Bredin  
Bruno Bruderlin  
Bob Buck  
Dan Bulloch  
Brendan Carruthers  
Bernie Chrisp  
Michelle Clark  
Heather Davies  
Scott Davis  
Gerry Delorme  
Margaret Donnelly  
Jack Dubois  
Al Dueck  
Susan Eros  
Glenda Fauske  
Jim Fisher, Parks  
Jim Fisher, Delta  
Capt. John Fortoloczky  
Ken Fosty  
Cliff Greenfield  
Rory Grewar  
Herta Gudauskas  
Jamie Hewitt  
Joel Hunt  
Mike James  
Sherry Julius  
Michele Kading  
Holly Kastrukoff  
Alison Kestirke  
Rod Knowles  
Bill Koonz  
Leanne Kress  
Sandra Kurtz

George Lammers, PhD.  
Kent Lucerne  
Dan MacDonald  
Bev MacKenzie  
Bob MacKenzie  
Wilf Mack  
Bob Mann  
Terry Mansell  
J.B.M. McNair  
Darlene Meakin  
Kathy Melnyk  
Ron Michalishyn  
Gerry Oliver  
Diane Olson  
Barry Oswald  
Travis Parsons  
Glenn Peterson  
Myrna Potton  
Jim Potton  
Sherry Punak  
Glen Robertson  
Dr. Robert Roughley  
Steve Sager  
Madeleine Sarrasin  
Ken Schykowski  
Jennifer Shay  
Garnet Shearer  
John Sinclair  
Geoff Sorenchuk  
Kevin Teneycke  
John Towle  
Allen Trychniewicz  
Mark Turner  
Rachel Van Caesele  
Mike Waldram  
Karen Warren  
Phil Weiss

OUR APOLOGIES FOR ANYONE WE MAY HAVE  
MISSED!



## Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Country Club  
 5:00-7:00 pm Registration and Room Assignment  
 Distribution of name tags, t-shirts, mugs  
 Team Pictures  
 6:00-7:00 pm Dinner "Social Style"

7:00 pm

Master of Ceremonies: Jim Potton  
 Welcome by Major J.B.M. McNair  
 Presentation by Garnet Shearer  
 Presentation by Gerry Oliver  
 Housekeeping Information  
 Ice Breaker: Team Introductions  
 Socializing

## Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

7:00-8:00 am Breakfast in dining hall  
 8:15 am Load buses  
 8:30 am Leave for Spruce Woods  
 9:45 am General Comments & Review of Test Procedure  
 10:00 am Training Demonstrations (all)  
 10:30 am Trail Testing (Students/Alternates)  
 Park Tour (Teachers) by Holly Kastrukoff  
 12 Noon Lunch - "Hay Box"  
 1:00 pm Trail Testing continues (Students/Alternates)

1:30 pm

3:30 pm

4:00 pm

5:00 pm

6:00 pm

7:00 pm

Envirothon Workshop (Teachers) by Mike James  
 Tour Test Trails/Sites (Teachers) by Dan Bulloch  
 Return to Base (Students/Alternates)  
 Return to Base (Teachers)  
 Dinner at Country Club (BBQ)  
 Master of Ceremonies: Gerry Delorme  
 Remarks: Honourable Glen Cummings  
 Minister of Natural Resources  
 Presentations:  
 Bob Buck, MNR "Fire"  
 Allen Tyrchniewicz, IISD "Climate Change"  
 8:00 pm Socializing

## Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

7:00- 8:00 am Breakfast in dining hall  
 8:30-11:30 am Preparation for Orals in Crerar Bldg (Students)  
 8:30 am WOW Workshop, Larkhill Family Resource Centre  
 (Teachers/Alternates) by Oak Hammock Marsh  
 11:30 am Lunch in dining hall (Students & Teachers must eat separately)

1:00 pm

1:00 pm

1:30-3:00 pm

4:00 pm

6:00 pm

8:00 pm

Activities (students not presenting/preparing)  
 Preliminary ORALS-Crerar Bldg. (3 panels of judges)  
 Debriefing Session for Teachers by Dan Bulloch  
 ORALS - Theatre (finalists)  
 Master of Ceremonies: Phil Weiss  
 Dinner and Awards in Dining Hall  
 Departure

# **'999 MANITOBA ENVIROTHON CONTRIBUTORS**

## **Manitoba Forestry Association**

Canadian Forces Base Shilo	Manitoba Natural Resources
Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre	Manitoba Pork
Canadian Waste Services Inc.	Peak of the Market
Canon U.S.A., Inc.	Pine Falls Paper Company
Environment Canada	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Louisiana-Pacific Canada	Sustainable Development Innovations Fund
Manitoba Go For Green!	Tree Canada Foundation
Manitoba Hydro	The Winnipeg Foundation
Manitoba Model Forest	

## **AWARDS & PRIZES**

Active Living & the Environment	Manitoba Forestry Association
Canadian Wildlife Service	Manitoba Model Forest
Delta Waterfowl Foundation	Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation
Fire Management, MNR	Oak Hammock Marsh
Fisheries, MNR	Old Dutch Foods Ltd.
J.M. Harvester Company	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
George Lammers, Ph. D	Tree Canada Foundation
Louisiana-Pacific Canada	Wardop Engineering Inc.
Manitoba Conservation Districts Association	Water Resources, MNR
Manitoba Cooperator	Winnipeg Free Press
Manitoba Environment	Woodlot Association of MB

## **COMPETING TEAMS**

Arthur Meighan High School, Portage la Prairie  
Crocus Plains Reg. Sec. School, Brandon  
Edward Schreyer School, Beausejour  
Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg  
Gimli High School, Gimli  
Maples Collegiate, Winnipeg  
W.C. Miller Collegiate, Altona  
Pembina Valley Conservation District  
Environmental Youth Club, Manitou  
Powerview School, Powerview  
Shaftesbury High School, Winnipeg  
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Swan River

**Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg**



**1998 Manitoba  
Champions**



## MANITOBA ENVIROTHON

Financial Statement to July 9, 1999

### Income

EcoAction	4,674.20
Louisiana-Pacific Canada	2,000.00
Manitoba Go For Green!	1,000.00
Manitoba Hydro	4,000.00
Manitoba Model Forest/Pine Falls Paper	4,800.00
The Winnipeg Foundation (folders)	1,225.00
Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre	500.00
Canadian Waste Services Inc.	100.00
Canadian Wildlife Service	52.64
Canon USA	750.00
Manitoba Natural Resources	500.00
PFRA	200.00
School registration	<u>1,450.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 21,251.84

### Expenses

Coordinator	4,674.20
School information packages	525.00
Envirothon folders	1,225.00
Travel to National Competition (Swan Valley School)	2,000.00
Registration for National Competition	1,152.37
Accommodation & Food, CFB Shilo	4,105.71
Food	1,980.55
Supplies for Provincial Competition	174.67
T-shirts for Provincial Competition	1,828.31
Awards for Provincial winners	279.39
2 Buses (Shilo to Spruce Woods and return)	1,284.00
Mileage	1,115.58
Meals	126.53
Banner	269.04
Printing	223.52
Photos	234.00
Rural Forum	622.18
Postage/Courier	60.83
Miscellaneous	<u>31.44</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 21,912.32
Balance	\$ (660.48)

## ***MANITOBA ENVIROTHON***

### **Media Report**

Bill Baker prepared a news release prior to and following the Manitoba Envirothon Provincial Competition. These were faxed to the following media outlets:

Portage la Prairie Graphic  
CHMI Radio, Portage la Prairie  
CFRY Radio, Portage la Prairie  
Herald Leader Press, Portage la Prairie  
Star & Times, Swan River  
Western Canadian, Manitou  
Pilot Mound Sentinel Courier  
CKLQ Radio, Brandon  
CKX-TV, Brandon  
Brandon Sun  
CFAM Radio, Altona  
Red River Valley Echo, Altona

In addition, releases were sent to the following individuals:

Terry McLeod, CBC Radio, Winnipeg  
Laurie Mustard, The Winnipeg Sun  
Susan Krepert, Editor, Uptown Magazine, Winnipeg  
Joanna Zuk, Publisher, Perimeter, Winnipeg  
Gord Smeby, Assignment Editor, CKY-TV, Winnipeg  
Pam Tennant, Producer, "What's On", CBC-TV, Winnipeg  
Lisa Best, Entertainment Editor, Global TV, Winnipeg  
Darcy Modine, News Director, MTN-TV, Winnipeg  
Ron Robinson, Host, Weekend Morning Show, CBC Radio, Winnipeg  
Troy Scott, Producer, 1290 Morning Show, Q-94 FM Radio, Winnipeg  
Jennifer Kibsey, Promotions Coordinator, CJOB Radio, Winnipeg  
Lynne MacPhail-Millar, Promotions Director, 92 CITI FM Radio, Winnipeg  
Dick Reeves, Host, Morning Show, Magic 99.9 FM Radio, Winnipeg  
David Gerow, CBC-TV, Brandon

A reporter from the Portage la Prairie Graphic spent most of Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at Spruce Woods Provincial Park focusing on Arthur Meighan High School, but asking questions about all aspects of the program. An article appeared in the paper on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Bill Baker appeared on CKX-TV, Brandon to discuss Envirothon and other MFA activities, including National Forest Week. David Gerow, CBC-TV, Brandon and CKLQ, Brandon called for additional information. The Herald Leader Press, Portage la Prairie and the Swan River Star & Times carried articles. The Winnipeg Free Press listed the names of the winning teams.

Rod Desnomie, Information Services Officer, Communications Division, PFRA, Regina, working with Steve Sager and Dianne Beaven, prepared a news release which was distributed from their office.

July 2, 1999



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**1999 Manitoba Envirothon Competition**

Twelve Manitoba High Schools will be competing at the third annual Manitoba Envirothon taking place May 27, 28, & 29, 1999 at Canadian Forces Base Shilo and Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Envirothon is the newest program offered by the Manitoba Forestry Association and targets high school students by offering a positive environmental education learning experience through competition with other high schools.

Envirothon team members prepare for the competition during the school year using study and reference materials, field trips, and resource speakers on forests, soils, wildlife, aquatics, and a current environmental topic which changes each year. At the Manitoba Envirothon competition, the teams are tested on their knowledge of the issues and topics using real life hands-on situations.

Field testing will be taking place Friday May 28 at various sites in Spruce Woods Provincial Park and oral presentations will be held on Saturday May 29 in the afternoon at Canadian Forces Base Shilo. The winner will be the team with the highest overall score and will be announced at the awards dinner Saturday evening. As Manitoba champion, that team wins the right to represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon which will be held in Arcata, California this summer.

For further information on Envirothon, please contact:

Bill Baker, Program Director  
Manitoba Forestry Association  
900 Corydon Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 0Y4  
Tel: (204) 453-3182

Cellular (during the Provincial competition): (204) 867-7409

The Manitoba Forestry Association is a charitable, non-profit organization providing environmental and conservation education programs throughout Manitoba and is the oldest such organization in the province, celebrating 80 years in 1999.

June 2, 1999

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SWAN VALLEY REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**WINS 1999 MANITOBA ENVIROTHON COMPETITION**

Swan Valley Regional Secondary School has won the 1999 Manitoba Envirothon competition held May 27, 28, & 29, 1999 at Canadian Forces Base Shilo and Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Team members Crystal Barker, Kari Goodman, Chris Hunt, Kristin McCrea, Gayle Russell, and Vera Telford (alternate) along with their teacher advisors Serge Richer and Rick Wowchuk will travel to Humbolt State University in Arcata, California from July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999 to represent Manitoba at the North American championship, the **Canon Envirothon**. Fort Richmond Collegiate of Winnipeg placed second and Vincent Massey High School of Winnipeg placed third. A total of twelve teams took part.

Envirothon is the newest environmental education program offered by the Manitoba Forestry Association and targets high school students by offering a positive learning experience through competition with other high schools. Envirothon team members prepared for the competition during the school year using study and reference materials, field trips, and resource speakers on forests, soils, wildlife, and aquatics and a current environmental topic which changes each year. At the Manitoba Envirothon competition, the teams were tested on their knowledge of the issues and topics using real life hands-on situations.

For further information on Envirothon, please contact:

Bill Baker, Program Director  
Manitoba Forestry Association  
900 Corydon Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 0Y4  
Tel: (204) 453-3182

The Manitoba Forestry Association is a charitable, non-profit organization providing environmental and conservation education programs throughout Manitoba and is the oldest such organization in the province, celebrating 80 years in 1999.



# Housing project named after McLeod opens

A \$3.6-MILLION student housing project at Southport Aerospace Centre, named after a First World War flying ace from Manitoba, was officially opened yesterday.

The building is named after Lt. Alan McLeod, who at 19 became the youngest Canadian to win the Victoria Cross.

The student centre features 96 rooms to house students training at the Canadian Aviation Training Centre, which is based at Southport, a former Armed Forces base just outside of Portage la Prairie.

## Justices to be thanked

Six community justices will be honoured for half-a-century's service at a special dinner in Brandon next week.

## Around Manitoba

The justices will receive a plaque from associate chief Justice Brian Giesbrecht Monday as an expression of appreciation for their work as part of the provincial court system.

## Swan Valley wins

Students from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School will be representing Manitoba at the North American Envirothon in California this summer after winning the Manitoba

Forestry Association's provincial competition last week.

The environmental competition gauges high school students' environmental knowledge. Winnipeg high schools Fort Richmond Collegiate and Vincent Massey placed second and third of twelve competitors at the provincial finals.

## Thieves steal dolls

Even Barbie couldn't escape thieves who ransacked a home in Bowsman recently.

Swan River RCMP said the culprits made off with the popular dolls from the children's bedroom last weekend and also swiped a sewing machine, women's jackets and, most seriously,

hunting rifles and shotguns.

Anyone with information about the break-in is asked to call Manitoba Crime Stoppers at 1-800-782-8477.

## Homes need numbers

Brandon police and fire departments are asking for the public's assistance in complying with the city's new bylaw on street addresses.

Effective immediately, all homes, businesses and properties in the city must have a clearly marked address number on the front of their properties as well as at the rear if it faces a back lane.

The owner is responsible to provide the numbers, otherwise the city can do so at the owner's expense.

**For immediate release**

### **Competition gets students thinking about the environment**

Eleven Manitoba high schools and one conservation club are getting ready to flex their environmental muscles this month at a provincial competition. Manitoba Envirothon 1999, which runs from May 27 to 29, will be held at Spruce Woods Provincial Park, 160 kilometers west of Winnipeg.

The competition pits students' knowledge of the environment against peers from across the province, some as far north as Swan River and Grand Rapids, in a natural setting -- the outdoors. Twelve teams, made up of five students and an alternate from grades 9 through 12, will go head-to-head on topics such as soil, wildlife, forestry, aquatics and fire management, with the top team advancing to a national competition in California later this summer.

The Manitoba Forestry Association began the program in 1997 as a way of getting more students involved and aware of environmental issues. As an added benefit, new partnerships were formed with other environmental agencies.

"What really attracted us was that this is a program for high school students and at that time we weren't offering much for them," said Dianne Beaven, Executive Director of the Manitoba Forestry Association and secretary of the Envirothon. "So from an MFA point of view, it was an excellent opportunity to work with older students."

Beaven is impressed by how willing and enthusiastic the kids become about the team-oriented event.

"When the students become involved, quite often they really push the (learning) process even more than the teachers," she said in an excited voice. "Most of what we encourage is very hands-on, so (the students) are down getting their hands dirty in soil samples. It is very interactive."

The winning team is selected on the basis of its problem solving capabilities and an oral presentation. Along with testing, the competition is designed to increase students' knowledge of different ecosystems and the environment surrounding them.

Students begin training for the envirothon at the start of the school year. The learning process is then spread throughout the year with various classes, activities and guest speakers.

While the competition is still very new, its popularity is exploding with help from organizations like the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). Since the Manitoba Envirothon began in 1997, PFRA has played a supporting role in schools and in the field.

"We understand the importance of educating young people on the sustainable use of soil and water resources, and this is a good program to promote and get them involved," said Steve





Sager, Soil Conservationist with PFRA in Beausejour.

Sager believes the future of the land is in the hands of the next generation and jumped at the chance to help as much as possible.

"We've been active right from the start in the steering and planning committee, as well as the test-writing committee."

Sager is impressed by the amount of interest the competition is receiving. In total, there are 12 teams competing for this year's trip to California, a large jump from the four teams that competed two years ago.

And that suits last year's defending champs, Vincent Massey Collegiate from Winnipeg, just fine. The kids in this Winnipeg school have built a reputation as the province's most environmentally astute students by winning the Manitoba Envirothon two years running. And with the 1999 edition coming up at the end of this month, their hopes of a three-peat appear realistic.

"I know the high schools that have competed with us before have really geared up to take this away from us," Michael Collins, a teacher at the school, said with a chuckle. "We've gotten wind of some of the things they've been up to and they're along the same lines as what we're doing."

This year, Collins says the school is using a different approach to building the team by having their own 'in-school' competition. And while the challenge is fun, in the end, he says, the real reward is the experience.

"The students who go on these competitions are going to have first-hand information from experts in various fields, and they are gleaning a lot more information than they would just in my ecology class."

Plans to expand the event are in the works and Beaven would like to see a regional level added to the provincial and national levels. She says that as the number of teams continue to grow, the chances of that happening are very likely.

*For more information, contact Steve Sager, PFRA, at (204) 268-3233, or Dianne Beaven, MFA, at (204) 453-3182.*

Monday, May 31, 1999

# CITY/PROVINCE

## Environment a challenging *Envirothon provides students with tough tests*

BY MARIA CALABRESE

The Daily Graphic

**SPRUCE WOODS** — It's called an Olympic style environmental competition, and five Arthur Meighen High School students spent the past six months conditioning their minds to prepare for the challenge.

Grade 10 students Carolyn Staples and Mandy Costley, their Grade 11 schoolmates Jessica Boyachek and Lisa Therrien along with Tamara Faurschou from Grade 12 formed one of 14 teams competing at the third annual Manitoba Envirothon Provincial Competition held at Spruce Woods Provincial Park.

It's the first time a Portage la Prairie school has participated in the competition that tests the participants in the areas of forests, soils, water, wildlife and wildfires — this year's chosen environmental issue.

Although the team didn't place in the top four, AMHS geography teacher Ryan Muirhead is already thinking ahead to next year's competition. Muirhead would like to involve a biology teacher because the test questions were more technical than he thought they would be.

He also said he'd start earlier in the year to prepare his team for the event. He selected his team and began meeting with them once each week beginning in December, and he hopes to extend the invitation to the whole school next year.

"I take a real environmental approach to my course, so when this came about I jumped at the chance to get a group of kids together," Muirhead said on Friday.

The three-day event began on Thursday when the participants settled into their accommoda-

tions at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, and the work began the next day with a 90-minute trek through three trails in the park to answer a set of multiple choice and short answer questions.

On Saturday, they had three hours in the morning to prepare for an oral presentation that afternoon answering a question about wildfires using a selection of resources provided.

The Envirothon is a challenge even for the teachers who gathered under a tent at Spruce Woods on Friday to take a run through the questions their students were attempting to answer.

Muirhead's team members said nobody could attempt the competition without being prepared, and everyone applauded the event's method of learning and problem solving.

"I find it's easier to learn hands-on than through a textbook," Therrien said.

"The more you know about nature and your surroundings, the more you can appreciate it and help keep it clean."

"Educationally, I think the students get a lot more involved because it is a hands-on approach," Muirhead agreed.

He took the students to field trips at Delta Marsh and Spruce Woods to prepare as best they could, but nobody knows which trails the students will go on for the actual competition or what questions they'll be asked.

"On the trail we went on (Friday) morning, there were eight different stations, and for each station there were different questions about different subjects," Therrien said.

Prior to the students' 10:30 a.m. start Friday, organizers held workshop training sessions to demonstrate some different techniques these intellectual



From left, Arthur Meighen's Jessica Boyachek, Lisa Therrien to the test in the three-day Manitoba Envirothon Provincial Park.

athletes needed to know to answer some of the questions on their test sheets.

Dan Bulloch works with the Forestry Branch of Manitoba Natural Resources and helped prepare this year's test. He said students are given a bag of tools including such things as an indicator plant species book.

They're asked, for example, to determine what wildlife could be found in an area, how old a tree is and even predict how an area might look 15 or even 100 years in the future if current conditions persist.

# teacher

## Envirothon gaining southern exposure

BY MARIA CALABRESE

The Daily Graphic

**SPRUCE WOODS** — Although it's still in its infancy, the annual Manitoba Envirothon Provincial Competition is already a model for how one American state would like to proceed with its own event.

Diane Olson is one of two representatives from North Dakota who volunteered at the competition to get some pointers about how to plan and execute her state's first Envirothon next year.

"We feel that we need to get it going in North Dakota because we're losing our contact with our young people," Olson said. "We're losing our (Future Farmers of America) chapters, and so what contact do we have with the youth? The youth are going to be our leaders of tomorrow, and if they don't have an understanding of our natural resources and our environment, then where are we going to be at?"

Bill Baker, program director of the Manitoba Forestry Association in Winnipeg, said the Envirothon began in the United States about 10 years ago. Nova Scotia was the first province to get involved followed by Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Prince Edward Island.

Manitoba's first competition included four schools that gathered at Birds Hill Provincial Park northeast of Winnipeg in 1997.

Spruce Woods Provincial Park hosted eight teams last year and a dozen schools from across southern Manitoba this year. Some of those schools brought alternates with them, so there were enough students to form 14 teams. Canadian Forces Base Shilo accommodated almost 70 students and between 60 and 100 volunteers.

The team with the highest overall marks will travel to California this summer for the national competition.

"What we're looking at is perhaps holding regional competitions, having elimination rounds, then having a smaller provincial finals with maybe eight to ten teams," Baker said.

There isn't much consistency with how different areas conduct the competition. In the U.S., for example, a number of states might have hundreds of schools competing, so there is only enough time for judges to mark multiple choice questions.

Manitoba's competition is designed to ask more thought-provoking questions.

"Only one team is going to go on to the nationals (in California), so we feel the groups that don't go in should really feel like they've got something out of it," said Dan Bulloch of the Manitoba Natural Resources Forestry Branch who helped write the tests.

"We don't always have the right answers," said Envirothon chairman Jim Potton. "Last year we found that some of the student answers made a little more sense than some of the answers we developed. For a lot of these questions, there's no absolute right or wrong answer."

This year's topic is wildfires, so the competition included the study of the Epinette Trail Loop which burned about two years ago.

Previous topics included watershed management and pest management, and next year's current issue will be wetlands.

Spruce Woods has a diversity that lends itself to each of the categories, and Baker said there's a possibility of the competition being held in Delta Marsh as early as next year.

The students and their trail leaders battled sweltering 30-degree heat on Friday to walk the Epinette, the Isputinaw and the Kichi Manitou trails to reach various stations where they answered several questions.

Bulloch said one of the differences during this competition is the 15-minute oral presentation on Saturday afternoon used to be restricted to the panel of judges and the teachers. This year, organizers asked teams with the top four scores to give a repeat performance so every student and teacher could benefit.



Staff photo by Maria Calabrese

Andy Costley, Carolyn Staples, and Tamara Faurschou were put on the Manitoba Envirothon held at Spruce Woods Provincial Park.

Just for a bit of fun, at one station the students have to don hip waders or rubber boots and make their way to a spot in a swamp.

One of the questions they're asked is whether there's a beaver dam in the area. Little do some of them realize they're standing on it.

Swan River Regional Secondary School earned top marks to win the Manitoba Envirothon ensuring it an automatic berth at the Canon National Envirothon Competition in Arcata, Calif.