

MANITOBA ENVIROTHON

FINAL REPORT

1999 – 2000

Prepared: August 26, 2000

MANITOBA ENVIROTHON

Final Report 1999-2000

Preparation for the 1999-2000 Envirothon began with a review of the binders of information provided to the schools registered for the program. This necessitated a re-write of some of the material in the binders pertaining to the four basic subjects, i.e. forests, soil, aquatics and wildlife, and the preparation of the binder on wetlands management. Several members of the steering committee undertook these responsibilities, and a very comprehensive box of materials, including supplementary information, was shipped to the registered schools during the fall and early winter.

The volunteer steering committee met through the fall and winter, and more frequently as the Provincial Envirothon approached. This committee and several sub-committees were responsible for all aspects of the competition, including test writing, ordering t-shirts and golf shirts, working with Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg to arrange accommodation and food and the site for the Orals, working with Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre to host the trail testing component and special Friday night presentations, and finding volunteers for the many jobs to be undertaken during the event.

As usual the volunteer component was outstanding, with close to 100 people taking part in some aspect of the event. Many participated in several activities. A sincere thank-you to all those who helped make the program a success, including the teachers and students who comprised the teams. A special thank-you to all those people at both Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre and CFB Winnipeg 17 Wing who worked with us on logistics.

We were especially pleased to have Christine Foley, Executive Director, Canon Envirothon with us all the way from Texas. Ms. Foley was especially interested in observing the eco-system trail testing which was pioneered here in Manitoba. In addition, we welcomed a team from Saskatchewan through the co-operation of Barb Riley, Saskatchewan Forestry Association and Heather Dawes, Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin.

Sixteen teams participated in the competition, including Arthur Meighen High School, Portage la Prairie; Baker School, MacGregor; College Jeannne-Sauve, Winnipeg; Crocus Plains School Environmental Studies Class, Brandon; Fairholme School, Portage la Prairie; Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg; Gimli High School, Gimli; Kelvin High School, Winnipeg; Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute, The Pas; Morris School, Morris; Pembina Valley Conservation District (PVCD) Environmental Club, Manitou; Powerview School, Powerview; Saskatchewan Composite Team; Shaftesbury High School, Winnipeg; Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Swan River; and Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg.

A special component of the 1999-2000 Envirothon was the EcoAction 2000 community action projects undertaken by several Envirothon schools. This activity was designed to enhance Envirothon by adding a new dimension within the community. A complete report prepared by Mike James, Envirothon Co-ordinator forms part of this report.

Prior to the Provincial Competition, Dr. Gordon Goldsborough planned a full day of presentations at Delta Marsh Field Station. Many students and teachers were able to participate in this very informative activity.

Thursday, May 25th

Registration for the Provincial Competition took place on Thursday, May 25th at CFB Winnipeg 17 Wing between 6 and 7 p.m. T-shirts and mugs (donated by Manitoba Hydro) were given out. Light refreshments were provided. Dale Stewart as Master of Ceremonies introduced Lieutenant-Colonel D. McCoubrey, Deputy Wing Commander who welcomed the teams on behalf of the Base. Andrea Swain of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation distributed baby blue boxes so the teams could recycle during the event. Teams were introduced, a walking tour of the Base was provided, and a game of Pictionary, organized by Michele Kading, completed the evening's planned activities.

Friday, May 26th

Following breakfast on the Base on Friday May 26th, the teachers and students boarded military buses to Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre. Team members participated in training stations during which they were provided with information, including an introduction to equipment they would be using during the trail testing. Trail Captains Ken Fosty, Patricia Pohrebniuk and Doug Kirkpatrick were responsible for making sure everything went smoothly along their designated trail.

While the trail testing was underway, teachers participated in an Information Sharing Workshop organized by Mike James and including presentations by Christine Foley, Rick Wishart, Lynda Matchullis, and Rick Wowchuk.

Everyone assembled for a bag lunch which had been prepared by CFB Winnipeg and was presented in recyclable bags provided by the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation.

Trail testing continued after the lunch break, while teachers attended a workshop on *Climate Change* presented by Allen Tyrchniewicz, International Institute of Sustainable Development.

Following completion of the trail testing, teachers were invited to tour the trails so they would know what their students had experienced.

A barbecue was held at Oak Hammock Marsh with members of the Kiwanis Club of South Winnipeg and Bev MacKenzie making certain everyone was well fed. Manitoba Pork donated pork loins. Murray Smith and Susan Kernatz from Manitoba Agriculture barbecued chicken provided by the Manitoba Chicken Producers Board.

Michele Kading was emcee for the evening, which included presentations by Duane Hudd, Ducks Unlimited on *Wetlands Management*, and Brian Hagglund on *Wetlands Management at Oak Hammock Marsh*.

Buses returned to CFB Winnipeg where the majority of the teams were being housed.

Saturday, May 27th

Following breakfast on the Base, teams gathered in the theatre for instructions concerning the Oral testing, and then began their preparation in the adjoining gym.

Teachers gathered with Barry Oswald and Dan Bulloch to review the trail tests and for a discussion on all aspects of the program. Some very worthwhile suggestions were made during this meeting.

Judges arrived for 10 a.m. and were greeted and oriented by Rory Grewar and Karen Warren. Brian Hagglund was available to provide information on wetlands management.

Following lunch the first four teams of students arrived to begin their final preparation for their Oral presentation. Preliminary judging took place between 1 and 3 p.m. with four panels of judges. The question pertained to Wetlands Management at Oak Hammock Marsh. Presentations were 10 minutes with an additional 10 minutes for questions from the judges. Since the judging rooms were quite small, only the team teachers were allowed to observe.

Once the preliminary judging was completed everyone moved to the Theatre where, at 4 p.m., the four finals were announced. They were Fort Richmond Collegiate, Pembina Valley Conservation District Environmental Club, Shaftesbury High School, and Vincent Massey Collegiate. Seven judges participated in the finals.

Brendan Carruthers emceed the awards dinner. Many door prizes were given out as the group waited for dinner to be served. Immediately following dinner the winners were announced as follows: Vincent Massey Collegiate 1st place, Shaftesbury High School 2nd place, and Fort Richmond Collegiate 3rd place. Vincent Massey Collegiate will represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Second and third place teams received silver and bronze medallions respectively. The "tree trophy" was presented to the winning team, and individual team members received a smaller version.

Certificates of Participation were prepared for all teachers and students who took part in the Envirothon Competition. In addition, t-shirts were sent to the three schools who had registered, but were not able to participate. These included Balmoral Hall, Beausejour School and Maples Collegiate.

Publicity included a media release; two segments on A Channel's Big Breakfast; delivery of trees to all Winnipeg TV stations; an article in The Lance; and an article in CFB Winnipeg 17 Wing.

We acknowledge, with much appreciation, the sponsors of the 1999-2000 *Manitoba Envirothon*, including **Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg 17 Wing, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canon U.S.A., Inc., City of Winnipeg, Clean Environment Commission, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada, Forest Industry Association of Manitoba, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Louisiana-Pacific Canada, Manitoba Agriculture, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs Conservation Districts, Manitoba Model Forest, Manitoba Naturalists Society, Manitoba Pork, Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), Riding Mountain National Park, Special Conservation Fund, TraKiNa Promotion & Consulting, University of Manitoba, University of Manitoba Field Station Delta Marsh, Vincent Massey Collegiate Youth & Philanthropy Program, and The Winnipeg Foundation.**

A sincere thank you to all those who volunteered many hours to *Manitoba Envirothon*, and especially Jim Potton, Chair of the Envirothon Steering Committee; Mike James, Envirothon Co-ordinator; Barry Oswald, Chair of the Testing Writing Committee; Dale Stewart, Chair of the Orals Committee; Glenn Peterson, Chair of the Grievance Committee and in charge of evaluations; Herta Gudauskas, Chair of the Awards Committee; Bill Baker, Chair of Publicity; and Dianne Beaven, Volunteer Co-ordinator. Our thanks to all those who participated as Trail Stop Guides and Judges, and those who helped assemble material for the schools on Wetlands Management, particularly Michele Kading, Barry Oswald and Mike James.

Attachments: *Manitoba Envirothon* Program
 EcoACTION report
 Financial Summary
 Press Release
 Newspaper clippings
 Photos (Photo credits: Barb Riley and Patricia Pohrebniuk)

June 27, 2000

Prepared by: Dianne Beaven

MANITOBA ENVIROTHON

Teams Participating in 2000 Provincial Competition

1. Arthur Meighen High School, 201 River Road, Portage la Prairie, Mb. R1N 3W2
Contact: Ryan Muirhead – (204) 857-6808 – ryanmuirhead@hotmail.com
2. Baker School, Box 490, MacGregor, Mb. R0H 0R0
Contact: Frances Maendel – (204) 252-2178 – fax (204) 252-2178
3. College Jeanne-Sauve, 1128 rue Dakota, Winnipeg, Mb. R2N 3T8
Contact: Martial Lesage – (204) 257-0124 – fax (204) 256-0867
Martial_Lesage@stvital.org
4. Crocus Plains School Environmental Studies Class, 1930 First Street, Brandon, Mb. R7A 6Y6
Contact: Arnold Hildebrand – (204) 729-3935 – fax (204) 727-2162
hila@Brandonsd.mb.ca
5. Fairholme School, Box 550, Portage la Prairie, Mb. R1N 3B9
Contact: Anna Maendel – (204) 252-2289 – fax (204) 252-2313
amaendel@escape.ca
6. Fort Richmond Collegiate, 99 Killarney Avenue, Winnipeg, Mb. R3T 3B3
Contact: Bob Adamson – (204) 275-7520 – fax (204) 261-7624
badamson@mbnet.mb.ca
7. Gimli High School, Box 1260, Gimli, Mb. R0C 1B0
Contact: Cheryl Bailey – (204) 642-8546 – fax (204) 642-5063
8. Kelvin High School, 155 Kingsway Avenue, Winnipeg, Mb. R3M 0G3
Contact: Andy Young – (204) 474-1492
9. Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute, Box 1169, The Pas, Mb. R9A 1P9
Contact: Richard Hiebert – (204) 623-3485 – fax (204) 623-3139
10. Morris School, Box 548, Morris, Mb. R0G 1K0
Contact: Linda McPherson – (204) 746-2612 – fax (204) 746-2126
11. Pembina Valley Conservation District (PVCD) Environmental Club, Box 659, Manitou, Mb. R0G 1G0
Contacts:
Cliff Greenfield – (204) 242-3267 – fax (204) 242-3281 pvcd@cici.mb.ca
Lynda Matchullis/Al Thorleifson/Kent Lewarne, c/o Nellie McClung Collegiate, Box 339, Manitou, Mb. R0G 1G0 – (204) 242-2640 – fax (204) 242-2981

12. Powerview School, Box 157, Powerview, Mb. R0E 1P0
Contact: Penny Blatz – (204) 367-2296 – fax (204) 367-2773
13. Shaftesbury High School, 2240 Grant Avenue, Winnipeg, Mb. R3P 0P7
Contact: Kim Stovel – (204) 888-5898 – fax (204) 896-5492
14. Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Box 5000, Swan River, Mb. R0L 1Z0
Contact: Rick Wowchuk – (204) 734-4511 – fax (204) 734-3855
15. Vincent Massey Collegiate, 975 Dowker Avenue, Winnipeg, Mb. R3T 1R7
Contacts: Barbara Fuller/Michael Collins – (204) 453-8023 – fax (204) 284-0448
bfuller@mbnet.mb.ca

In addition, a Saskatchewan Composite Team competed in the Manitoba Competition in order to qualify for participation in the National Envirothon.

FOURTH ANNUAL *MANITOBA ENVIROTHON* PROVINCIAL COMPETITION

The *Manitoba Envirothon* Is Hosted By:



*We would like to recognize the support of all those
who helped make this event possible.*

Thank you.



May 25th, 26th, & 27th, 2000

Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg
17 Wing

&



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

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 meeting new people and seeing old friends.

Let The Games Begin!



2000 Volunteers (continued)

Kathy Melnick	Madeleine Sarrasin
Ron Michalyshyn	Jennifer Shay
Julie Nightingale	Kent Simmons
Barry Oswald	John Sinclair
Kirby Papineau	Amanda Skrumeda
Glenn Peterson	Murray Smith
Patricia Pohrebniuk	Dale Stewart
Jeff Porth	Laurie Streich
Jim Potton	Andrea Swain
Myrna Potton	John Towle
Jarrett Powers	Allen Tyrchniewicz
Sherry Punak	Lisa Van Anerdonk
Judy Rannard	Mike Waldram
Dave Rannard	Karen Warren
Barb Riley	Captain L. Wingert
Alyssa Rosznagel	Rick Wishart
Dr. Robert Roughly	Rick Wowchuk
Steve Sager	

These are the people who assisted with the 2000 *Manitoba Envirothon* Competition. We hope we have not missed anyone!

We extend our special thanks to Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg 17 Wing and Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre for allowing us to use their facilities.



Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 27th (continued)

9:00-11:15 a.m.	Preparation for Orals in (theatre) gym - Building 90
10:00 a.m.	Briefing for Judges in Building 87
11:15 a.m.	Lunch for Teachers – Building 61
11:30 a.m.	Lunch for Judges – Building 61 (orientation continues after lunch in Building 84)
11:15 a.m.	Collection of study materials from teams
11:30-12:30	Lunch for Students – Building 61
NOTE:	Students and teachers are not to eat lunch together
12:30-1:00 p.m.	First 4 teams prepare for presentations (rest of teams arrive at ½ hour intervals) – Building 84
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Oral Presentations in Building 84
4:00 p.m.	Announcement of finalists in Theatre – Bldg. 90
4:30 p.m.	Final Orals (4 teams)
6:15 p.m.	Awards Banquet - Building 66 Master of Ceremonies: Brendan Carruthers
7:30 p.m.	Departure

2000 Manitoba Envirothon

Partners & Sponsors

**Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg
17 Wing**

Canadian Wildlife Service

Canon U.S.A., Inc.

City of Winnipeg

Clean Environment Commission

Delta Waterfowl Foundation

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Environment Canada

Forest Industry Association of Manitoba

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Louisiana-Pacific Canada

Manitoba Agriculture

Manitoba Conservation

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

Partners & Sponsors (continued)

Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
Conservation Districts

Manitoba Model Forest

Manitoba Naturalists Society

Manitoba Pork

Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation

Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)

Riding Mountain National Park

Special Conservation Fund

TraKiNa Promotion & Consulting

University of Manitoba

University of Manitoba Field Station
Delta Marsh

Vincent Massey Collegiate
Youth & Philanthropy Program

The Winnipeg Foundation

Schedule Of Events

1:30 p.m.	Trail Testing Continues
2:00-4:00 p.m.	Climate Change Workshop for teachers – OHM Theatre
5:00 p.m.	Teachers' Tour of Trails (opt.)
5:30 p.m.	Barbecue at OHM
7:30 p.m.	Master of Ceremonies: Michele Kading Presentations: Wetlands Management (An Uplands Perspective) – Duane Hudd, Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Management at OHM – Brian Hagglund, Oak Hammock Marsh
8:45 p.m.	Tour to "drawdown"
9:30-10:00p.m.	Return to Base

Saturday, May 27th

7:00 a.m. & 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Junior Ranks Mess/ Instructions for the day (1 st and 2 nd sittings)
7:45-8:15 a.m.	Packing up
8:30 a.m.	Instructions for Orals in (theatre) gym Building 90
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Test review & debriefing for teachers - Building 87

Schedule Of Events

Thursday, May 25th

6:00-7:00 p.m.	Arrival and Registration at Building 61
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions Master of Ceremonies: Dale Stewart Welcome to Base: Lieutenant-Colonel D. McCoubrey, Deputy Wing Commander
8:00-9:00 p.m.	Walking tour of Base
9:00-10:00 p.m.	Socializing/Trading Session

Friday, May 26th

7:00 a.m. & 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Junior Ranks Mess/ Instructions for the day (1 st and 2 nd sittings - sittings will be assigned)
8:30 a.m.	Depart for Oak Hammock Marsh
9:15 a.m.	Training Stations at Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre
10:00-12 noon	Information Sharing Workshop for teachers - OHM Theatre
10:30 a.m.	Trail Testing begins
12:00 noon	Bag Lunch

2000 Manitoba Envirothon

Contributors

Athletes Wear
Canon Envirothon
Conservation Districts Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Dunn-Rite Products Ltd.
Fairholme, Baker, Cascade & Netley Communities
Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education
J. M. Harvester Company
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Louisiana-Pacific Canada
Manitoba All Charities Campaign (ACC)
Manitoba Chicken Producer Board
Manitoba Conservation, Fisheries Branch
Manitoba Conservation, Pollution Prevention
Manitoba Fire Program
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC)
Manitoba Hydro
Manitoba Model Forest
Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation
Mohawk Canada Ltd.
Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)
Tetra Pak Canada Inc.
Tire Stewardship Board
Winnipeg Folk Festival
Winnipeg Free Press

The Manitoba Envirothon 1999/2000

This year's Envirothon was held May 25, 26, 27 at the 17th Wing CFB Winnipeg and Oak Hammock Marsh and had as it's theme "Wetlands Management". A wetlands workshop under the direction of Gordon Goldsborough, Station Director, had been held at the University of Manitoba Delta Field Station a few weeks earlier to allow teachers and students to become more familiar with the topic. Six presenters represented a number of agencies including Ducks Unlimited, The University of Manitoba, Oak Hammock Conservation Centre and the Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

Although 19 schools (including Saskatchewan) registered for the 1999/2000 Envirothon, 16 schools participated in the competition. The schools arrived Thursday evening. After team introductions, there was a tour of the base and socializing highlighted by an environmental "Pictionary" game. Each competing team is comprised of 5 students ranging from grades 9 to 12.

Friday morning saw the teams off to Oak Hammock Marsh to compete in a day long "hands on" trail test that examined the teams' knowledge of forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and wetlands. While the students were on the trails, the teachers were given the opportunity to discuss their school's EcoACTION project as well as to describe how they prepared for this year's Envirothon. Information and advice were shared between new schools and those that had competed before.

A barbecue for teams and volunteers followed the trail testing. Wetlands presentations in the evening set the stage for the Saturday oral competition.

Saturday was spent on the base where the 16 teams were given the morning

to prepare a solution to a Wetlands management problem. Each team made a presentation of its solution to a panel of judges and then entertained questions. The top four "Orals" teams gave their presentation a second time before a second set of judges and a large audience in order that a final winner could be chosen.

Scores from the trails and orals were tallied to determine the Provincial champion. Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg received the honor this year and will travel to Nova Scotia this summer to compete in the week long international challenge that will see 50 jurisdictions competing. Awards were also provided for the best oral competition, as well as forestry, wildlife, wetlands, soils, aquatics and for the best "ecoteam".

Throughout the Envirothon competition, teachers and supervisors attended workshops that would facilitate their participation and knowledge in future years.

Over 100 volunteers were involved in the 3-day event.

Schools participating in the competition included:

- Arthur Meighen High School – Portage la Prairie
- Baker School – MacGregor
- College Jeanne Sauvé – Winnipeg
- Crocus Plains Secondary School – Brandon
- Fairholme School – Portage la Prairie
- Fort Richmond Collegiate – Winnipeg
- Gimli High School – Gimli
- Kelvin High School - Winnipeg
- Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute – The Pas
- Morris School – Morris
- Pembina Valley Conservation District (PVCD) - Manitou
- Powerview School – Powerview
- Shaftesbury High School - Winnipeg
- Swan Valley Regional Secondary School – Swan River
- Vincent Massey Collegiate – Winnipeg
- Saskatchewan (composite team)

Feedback from Participating Schools

Response by schools to their Envirothon experience and to their EcoACTION involvement was overwhelmingly positive. Not all schools ordered trees this year because of other commitments, time constraints of students and teachers or because they were overwhelmed by being first year participants, but those that didn't indicated a desire to do so for the next school year, if the trees are still available. The majority of the schools are interested in using the trees in a meaningful, long-term project rather than just strip planting them. Projects include the formation of ecosystems, nurseries, arboretums, nature trails, habitat enhancement, site restoration, etc.

It is important to note that these EcoACTION projects have become synonymous with the Envirothon and schools are beginning to talk about them as part of their Envirothon experience. A number of schools that did not compete did become involved in community EcoACTION projects.

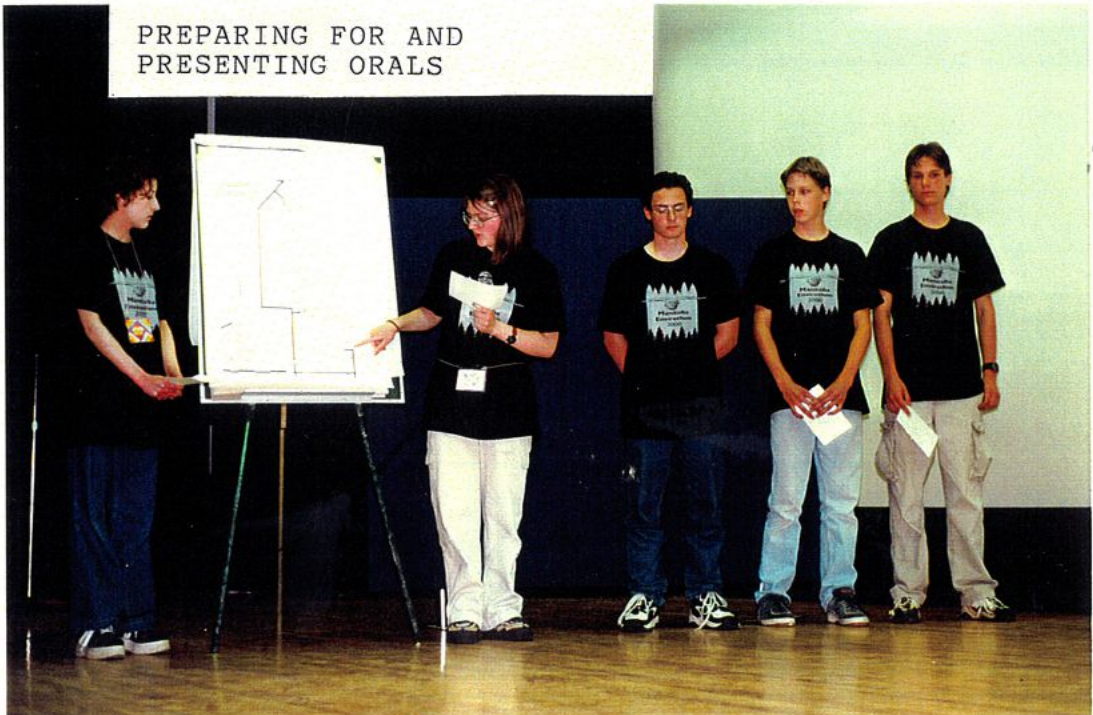
It is also worth mentioning that the Envirothon not only attracts students that are outstanding in their school and/or community but also gives students personal growth and confidence as well as directs them to further pursuits in the environmental field.

Swan Valley Regional Secondary School

The teacher/supervisor of the Swan River team was amazed at how the Envirothon experience gave one of the boys on the team confidence to speak in public, something he that had never been able to do well before at school. Over the



PREPARING FOR AND
PRESENTING ORALS





Training Stations

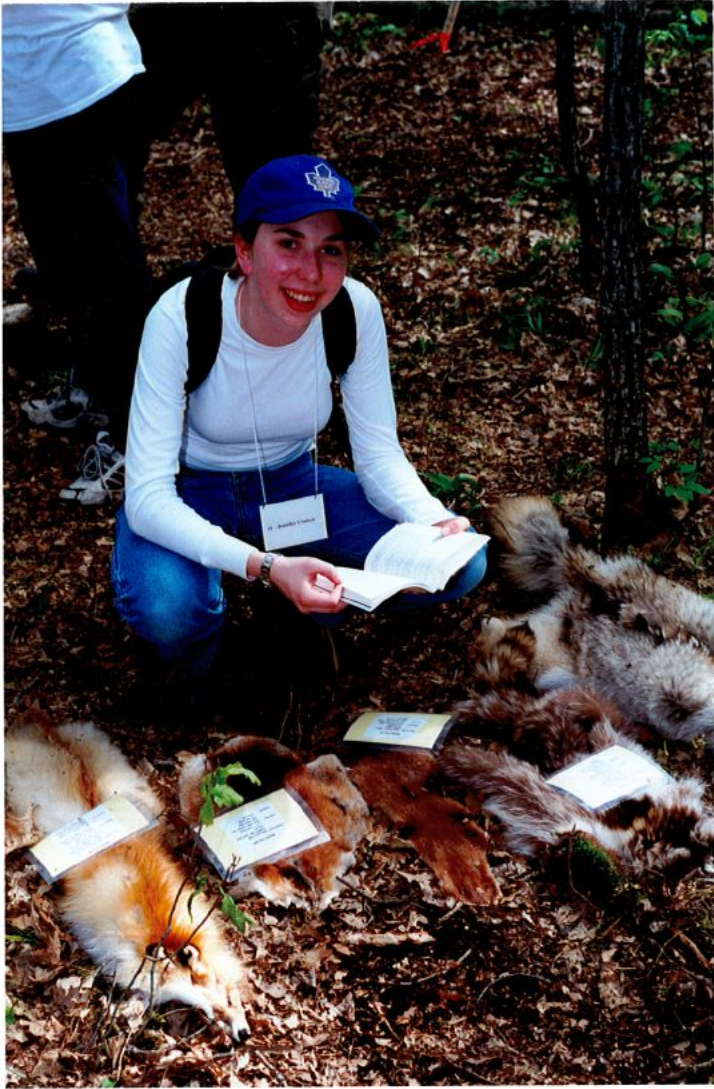


Marking Tests

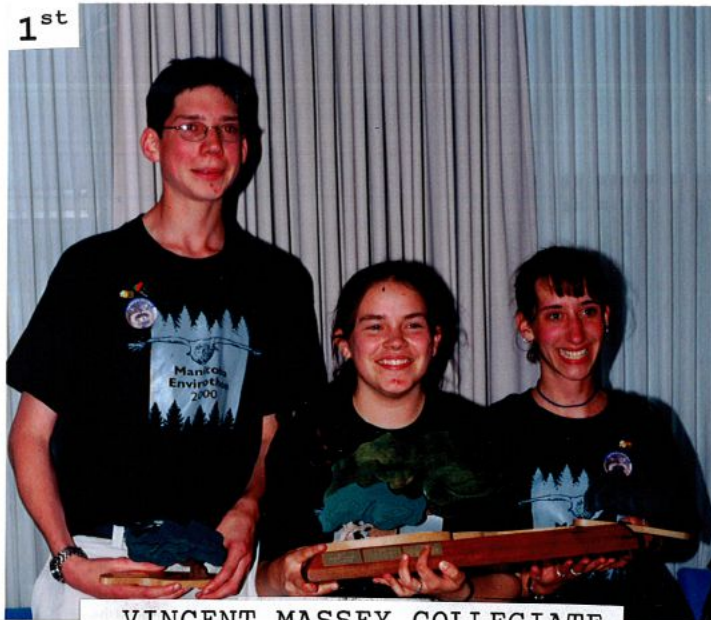


Judges' Orientation

Trail Testing at Oak Hammock Marsh

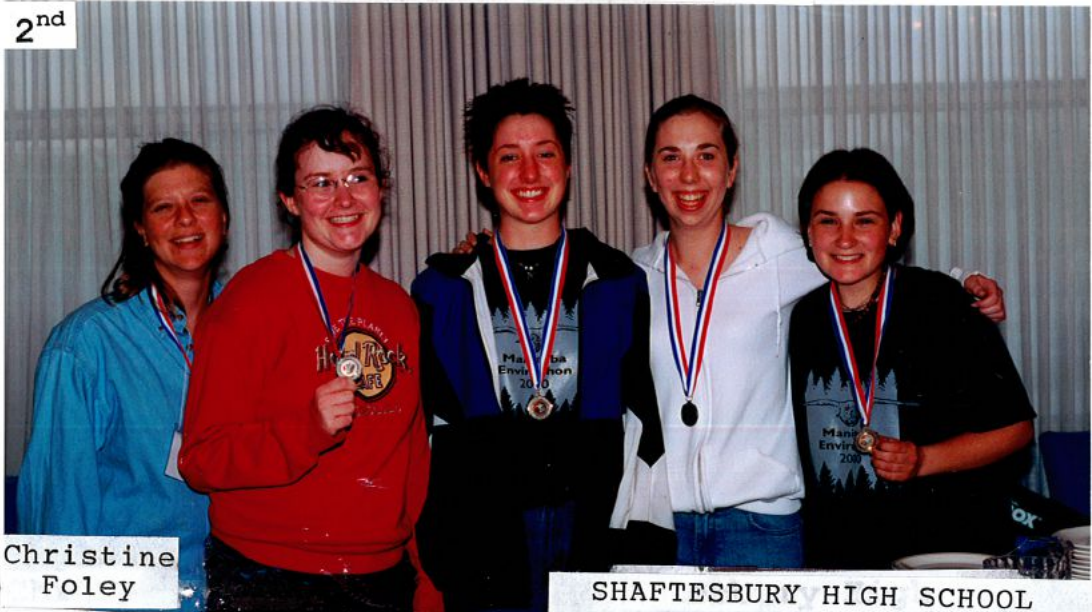


1st



VINCENT MASSEY COLLEGIATE

2nd



Christine
Foley

SHAFTESBURY HIGH SCHOOL

3rd



Forty

Prizes and awards



past 4 years that the Manitoba Envirothon has been held, Swan River has been a driving force in supporting the competition. The Swan River teams have been involved in many projects such as nesting boxes, watershed model, fish census, school displays, shelter belt planting, interpretive center, educational pamphlets, and arboretum. Swan River now has an on going role and involvement in the Forest Legacy in the Duck Mountains, just south of Minniconas.

This large section of forest in the Duck Mountains is used for on going study and for planting and management activities. Dedicated during the 1999 Forest Capital of Canada initiative the area now supports an MFA building with displays and designated locations where forestry demonstrations can occur.

Last year Swan River won the competition and went on to place eighth in the Nationals. This year Mr. Wowchuk started the rebuilding process with a young Grade 9 team, yet still had a positive result. Swan River's enthusiasm for the event has been infectious to other teams.

Nelly McClung Collegiate

The project that Nelly McClung Collegiate in Manitou has undertaken at Binney Corner (just out of town) is an example of how a school with an interest in and a concern for the environment can partner with such groups as the local Conservation district, EcoACTION 2000 and the community. An extensive management plan has been produced for the project through input of the Woodlot Program of MFA and various supporting groups. The site of approximately 15 acres supports a native prairie, an aspen forest and a marsh/wetlands ecosystem and is used as a study area for various school groups. Envirothon students are involved in

the restoration of this preserve and have used EcoACTION trees to supplement what is already there. The team had an outstanding experience at this year's Envirothon, placing among the top teams.

College Jeanne Sauvé

This was the first year for this school. Plantings took place on the school ground and in the green space behind the school.

The Envirothon experience caused a member of the College Jeanne Sauvé team to realize how little she knew of the environment and this has spurred her on to taking Environmental Studies at University.

Baker and Fairholme Schools

This year for the first time two Hutterite teams joined the competition. Their teacher/supervisor/principal was ecstatic about the event. Her students confided to her that this was the first off colony experience that they had had where everyone treated them with respect and as equals. The students' parents even remarked that they noticed a positive change in their children's attitude toward colony life and how the students had matured and grown. One of these teams took top honors in the orals competition. They plan to enter 4 teams in next year's competition.

Crocus Plains Secondary School

Crocus Plains Secondary School in Brandon has teamed up with the Simplot fertilizer company to clean up polluted groundwater. Members of Mr. Hildebrand's environmental class of which the school's Envirothon team is part, spent two days,

May 30 & 31, planting 7,600 fast growing hybrid poplars that should soak up excess nitrates from the underground water that flows to the river. The event attracted quite the Media attention as students were interviewed and photographed along with the organizers. Future Envirothon teams will monitor this "phytoremediation" project as to its effectiveness. The Envirothon team's enthusiasm and concern for the environment have made them willing participants.

Shaftesbury High School

The location of Shaftesbury High School is ideal for its students having access to an Envirothon study area and a potential EcoACTION planting site. Assiniboine Forest is virtually down the street from the school and with the help of Cheryl Henning city naturalist, Kim Stovel and her teams have undertaken some improvements and done some detailed studies of the ecosystems there. Kim has taken the "Ecoscope" document and tailored it to her own needs, having designed wetlands and forestry components that she uses on one day field trips. The students take large amounts of data back to the classroom where they try to get a handle on the complexities of the ecosystems.

The Charleswood Rotary has been involved in the funding of boardwalk and signage projects within the Assiniboine Forest and Kim sees some potential for her school with the organization in future years.

This year the Shaftesbury Envirothon team finished in second place and is enthusiastic about being back next year to try to capture the title.

Kelvin High School

Kelvin did not undertake a community initiative this first year into the program, but is considering a site for future activities. One of Kelvin's team members has just won first place in the University of Manitoba's Mathematical Contests. He also ranked in the top five in Canada in the 2000 Euclid Mathematics Contest and received a gold medal.

Fort Richmond Collegiate

Fort Richmond Collegiate was also a finalist this year and its teacher Bob Adamson suggests that this Envirothon activity is one of the best school experiences the students have had.

The Biology students and Envirothon team have constructed what they call the "Genesis" pond south on Highway 75 near St. Norbert. It is here that they do their studies and collect data. This year their trees were planted at this Wetland site, some to be left permanently and some to grow on and be replanted in the school ground.

Teachers from all 16 participating teams have nothing but praise for their Envirothon involvement and all intend to return next year. The message is clear that the experience, the knowledge gained and the social contact are invaluable, in the students' overall development. We must not lose sight that the Envirothon is more than a competition. It is an event that as many of our school youth should be exposed to as possible.

Schools involved in EcoACTION projects to date 1999/2000

- Arthur Meighen High School – Portage la Prairie
-Planted on school grounds.
- Balmoral School – Winnipeg
-Planted on school grounds, along the river.
- College Jeanne Sauvé – Winnipeg
-Planted on school grounds and in green space behind school. Looking at another green space for future planting.
- Crocus Plains Secondary School – Brandon
-Planted on school grounds.
- Fort Richmond Collegiate – Winnipeg
-Planted on school ground and at Genesis Pond Study area.
- Gimli High School – Gimli
-Planted on school ground. Looking at parks in Gimli for next year.
- Maples Collegiate – Winnipeg
-Planted on school ground. Looking at Little mountain Park area for next year.
- Morris School – Morris
-Planted as ecosystems on school grounds.
- Nelly McClung Collegiate – Manitou
-Planted in conjunction with Binney Corner Project.
- Powerview School – Powerview
-Planted on school grounds.
- Swan Valley Regional Secondary School – Swan River
-Planted on school grounds and legacy site in Duck Mountains.
- Vincent Massey Collegiate – Winnipeg
-Planted on school ground at a Biology study area and along the Seine River.

It is estimated that between 18,000 and 19,000 trees and shrubs have been planted at the various sites as a result of the activities of this program. That includes the 10,000 to 12,000 trees and shrubs provided through the MFA and the material that was sourced through other agencies and organizations.

Coordinators Role and Responsibilities for 1999/2000

Besides helping to organize and carryout the actual event, the coordinator:

- Contacted and encouraged schools to participate.
- Worked on updating resource binders.
- Delivered binders and other materials to participating schools.
- Attended all organizational meetings.
- Solicited volunteers
- Organized an April workshop at Delta for school teams.
- Spoke to schools about the Envirothon.
- Contacted and encouraged schools to become part of the EcoACTION project.
- Published two newsletters.
- Reviewed trail and orals tests.

The Value of a Coordinator to the Envirothon/EcoACTION Project

The Envirothon competition has grown to the point where a direct liaison is needed between participating schools and the sponsoring organization(s). A coordinator is able to visit schools, meet teachers/supervisors/students; answer questions and relay concerns back to the office where they can be addressed.

With a coordinator, the EcoACTION initiative can be more effective. Past projects can be monitored and added to or improved, as well as new Envirothon schools can be brought on board.

The organization of a workshop for school teams prior to the main event would be the coordinator's responsibility.

A possible approach for subsequent years would be the availability of mini training sessions (trail and oral) for new schools, at a designated location. The Sandilands Forest Centre is one of the sites that was examined and is now being considered as a location where students could not only practice Envirothon activities,

but also could contribute to the health of the forest through tree planting, monitoring and other site improvement activities. The coordinator could play a role in this endeavor. Oak Hammock Conservation Centre is also gearing up to provide such a function.

As a mechanism to provide additional financial support to the schools as well as a formal linkage for advice and technical support, the Envirothon steering Committee and participating schools are looking at requiring school sponsorships. The coordinator could facilitate such actions.

If Aboriginal schools involvement in an Envirothon type program is to be addressed, a coordinator is required to meet with Aboriginal leaders and discuss how this could best be achieved and how traditional uses and ways could be factored in as a major thrust of this initiative. A separate northern initiative is under consideration. It is also valuable to have a coordinator who can attend and participate in activities indirectly related to the Envirothon and to work directly with the Department of Education. From these activities one can get a sense for what else is happening environmentally and who would be a good contact or volunteer for the program. Such initiatives as Youth Stewardship in Environmental Sciences Showcase, Forest Ed Workshops, Hollow Water First Nations Development of Eastern Lake Winnipeg Conference and the EECOM 2000 Conference at Riding Mountain are a few examples of events that a coordinator could attend, make presentations at, and establish contacts with.

The Envirothon has just completed its 4th year of competition. For the first two years all organization and production of the event was carried out solely with volunteers. EcoACTION funding has allowed the hiring of a part time coordinator, who is definitely needed as the competition encompasses more schools across the

province. Although the competition is an exciting component of Envirothon, the ongoing linkage and relationship with the community will have major and long-term benefits for students, and their schools. Hopefully funding will be available for the future growth of the Envirothon.

Mike James

MANITOBA ENVIROTHON
Financial Statement
August 1999 to August 2000

Income

EcoAction	19,430.00
Manitoba Conservation	2,000.00
Manitoba Hydro	5,000.00
Manitoba Model Forest/Pine Falls Paper Co.	5,767.07
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	1,000.00
Ducks Unlimited	500.00
The Winnipeg Foundation	500.00
Pottons	250.00
Canon USA	729.55
PFRA (brochure)	989.52
School Registrations, including Delta Workshop	3,322.00
Raffles	50.00
Airfare refund	1,437.98
Shirt sales	341.52
Miscellaneous	62.02

TOTAL INCOME	\$39,379.66
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Expenses

Co-ordinator	16,143.59
School information packages	3,747.76
Registration & travel - Canon Envirothon	8,224.06
Accommodation, food & buses - 17 th Wing	9,622.37
Room dividers	427.60
Food	891.73
Supplies, incl. portable toilets	910.40
Awards and presentation items	132.57
Brochure	989.52
Shirts	3,204.38
Delta Workshop	520.00
EcoACTION (shipping of trees)	56.94
Miscellaneous, incl. copies, courier, photos	468.37

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,339.29
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BALANCE (DEFICIT)	(3,959.63)
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