



FINAL REPORT 2003 - 2004



Envirothon "In the Snow"

**Envirothon, a program of the Manitoba Forestry Association
is delivered in partnership with many other agencies and organizations**

**Manitoba Forestry Association, 900 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 0Y4
Phone: (204) 453-3182 Email: mfainc@mts.net Website: www.mbforestryassoc.ca**

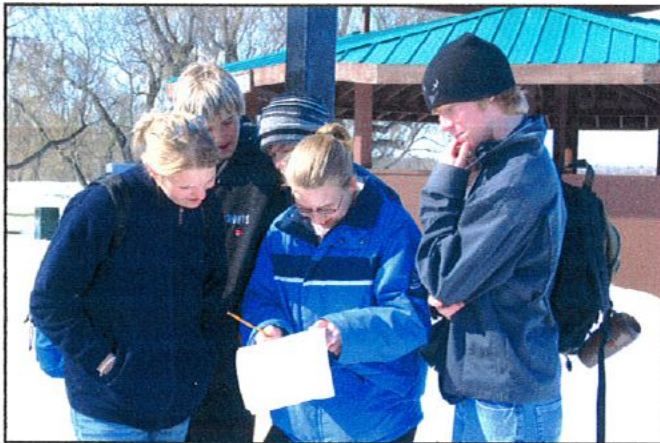


FINAL REPORT 2003-2004

The first step in the Envirothon process is always to prepare binders of information and supplementary materials to be distributed to those schools registered for the program. Mike James was contracted to prepare the current topic binder on "Natural Resource Management in an Urban Environment" and compiled an overwhelming amount of information. Under the direction of Glenn Peterson, volunteers from the Test Writing Committee partnered with Envirothon teachers to revise the four annual binders, i.e. forestry, soil, aquatics and wildlife.

Meetings of the Manitoba volunteer steering committee were scheduled at regular intervals throughout the fall and winter, increasing in number as the provincial competition approached. In total, eight meetings were held. The steering committee and several sub-committees were responsible for all aspects of the competition.

The co-operation of many individuals was invaluable in making possible this undertaking. Included in this list are our partners and sponsors, contributors of services and prizes, the teachers and students who enthusiastically participated, and the volunteers which numbered over 70.



Trail Testing Begins

Twenty-seven Manitoba teams registered for the program and all 27 teams participated in the competition. The teams involved were:

Arthur Meighen High School, Portage la Prairie;
Baker School, McGregor;
College Jeanne Sauve, Winnipeg;
Decker School, Decker;
Fairholme School, Portage la Prairie;
Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg;
Gimli High School, Gimli;
Glenway School, Dominion City;
Lord Selkirk Regional Secondary School, Selkirk;

Maple Grove School, Lauder;
Morris High School Teams 1 and 2, Morris;
Neepawa & Area Collegiate Institute, Neepawa;
Nellie McClung Collegiate, Manitou;
Northwest Soil Management Team, Swan River;
Pembina Valley Conservation District, Manitou;
Riverbend School, Carberry;
Selkirk Manitoba Rolling Mills, Selkirk;



Shaftesbury High School Teams 1 and 2,
Winnipeg;
Silverwinds School, Sperling;
Swan Valley Reg. Secondary School, Swan
River;

Tiger Hills Conservation District Team, Baldur;
Vincent Massey Collegiate Green and Black,
Winnipeg;
Vincent Massey High School, Brandon;
Windsor Park Collegiate, Winnipeg

Pre-Competition Workshop

Mike James and Eric Uhmman planned and facilitated a full day of activities at the Freshwater Institute, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg on Friday, March 19th. A copy of the agenda forms part of this report. The presentations by experts on the various fields were designed to help the Envirothon students prepare for the competition in May. In addition, a mini field test was undertaken by the students through a greenhouse and several of the labs at the University. Representatives from all twenty-seven teams participated in the day of activities.

Provincial Competition

A draft handbook that addressed various Manitoba Envirothon policies, guidelines and practices was prepared, and although utilized for the 2004 competition, comments were requested from committee members, volunteers and participants. This will be modified based upon the comments provided and will be used as a guide for all future competitions.

Thursday, May 13th

There were several false starts due to a fairly major snowstorm that hit southern Manitoba. Members of the Steering Committee traveling from Winnipeg tried alternate routes to reach Brandon, with some waiting until the TransCanada Highway re-opened at 10:30 a.m. Thursday morning.

Registration for the teams took place beginning about 4 p.m. at Brandon University. Because of the delay caused by the storm, registration boxes had to be pre-packaged by volunteers for the teams once everyone was able to reach the University. T-shirts, name tags and mugs (donated by Manitoba Hydro) were distributed to the teachers, students and volunteers.

The trail test committee, after a late start due to the snow, set up the test trails. Two trails with 14 test stops on each trail were established. With the support of the City of Brandon Parks Staff, the trails were cleared of snow to assure ready and dry access for the students and volunteers.

Teams and volunteers gathered in the Brandon University main diningroom for dinner and the evening program. A welcome was extended by Brandon University representatives, and there was acknowledgment of the role volunteers play in making the event possible. Teams introduced themselves through song or a skit, and participated in a trading session.

An orientation session for those working on the trails the next day, i.e. captains, guides and station attendants was provided at 8 p.m.



*Limited time allowed for trail test questions
so teams rush to the next stop!*

Friday, May 14th

After breakfast at the University everyone boarded buses for the short drive to the Riverbank Discovery Centre. Each team was linked with a volunteer trail guide, and a brief training session took place for the students and teachers. There were two designated trails (Assiniboine and Brandon) at the Discovery Centre, and despite the cold, snow and wet conditions, the students persevered and completed their trail test.

Through contact with the Wheat City Golf Course, two golf carts were donated for the day. One was used to carry a handicapped student around the test trails and the other was utilized to ferry equipment and supplies and was made available to the media for quick access.

During the morning the teachers were taken on a tour of the Brandon generating station. Everyone returned to the Discovery Centre for a bag lunch prepared and delivered by the University. Teachers were given the opportunity to tour one of the trails during the noon break.



Five heads are better than one

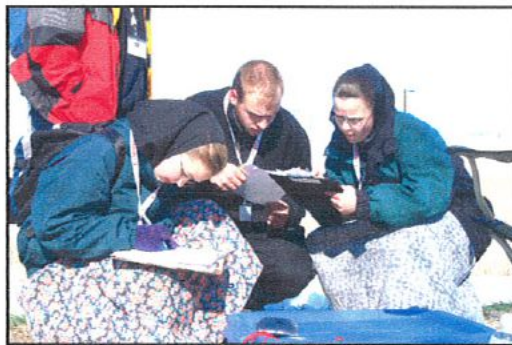


Trail testing continued after lunch. Mike James organized a workshop for teachers to discuss the theme for 2005 which is Preserving Cultural Landscapes. Following a short introduction, there was a general discussion and a question and answer period.

Teachers were given the opportunity to tour the second trail as soon as the students had finished their test.

Everyone then boarded buses to travel to the Vincent Massey High School where they enjoyed a wonderful dinner prepared by the Fairholme Colony. Originally planned to take place at the Discovery Centre this was another change necessitated by the snow.

The evening program, with Dennis Windsor as emcee, included a presentation by Beth Sanders and David Kattenburg on *Resource Management in an Urban Environment*, the 2004 theme. This was followed by Karaoke for those students who wished to participate.



Team Work is Essential for Success

Saturday, May 15th

Following breakfast at the university, teams received instruction from Mike James about the Orals preparation and presentation and were assigned individual rooms where they could prepare.

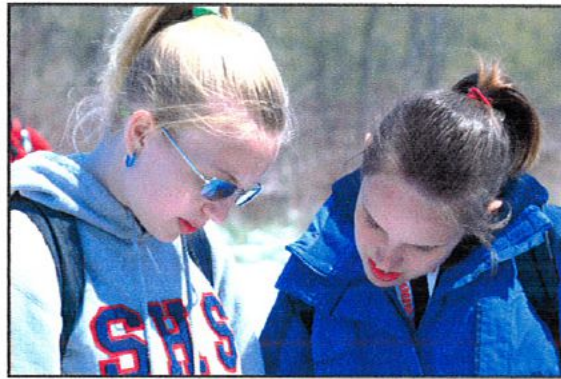
Teachers gathered with Laureen Janusz, David Hay, Glenn Peterson and Barry Oswald to review the trail tests. As always, very worthwhile suggestions came out of this session.

Judges were greeted and addressed by Dennis Windsor and Michele Kading. Beth Sanders and Dave Kattenburg presented a shortened version of the Friday presentation on the topic *Resource Management in an Urban Environment*.

Following lunch at the university, the first round of Oral Presentations began at 1 p.m. with 7 teams presenting at a time. Presentations continued until 3 p.m. Presentations were 10 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions from the judges. Teachers were allowed to observe only their own team.



Once the preliminary judging was completed everyone moved to Theatre A for 3:30 p.m. John Sinclair facilitated the final oral presentations. The teams who had placed in the top four positions (Fairholme Colony School, Fort Richmond Collegiate, Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg, and Swan Valley Regional Secondary School) were announced. While the first of the four teams prepared to present their Orals, team prizes were distributed.



Team Members Put Their Heads Together to Problem Solve

The four finalists presented their final orals to a panel of 7 judges. The Swan Valley Regional Secondary School team will represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon in West Virginia in July. "Tree trophies" were presented to the Manitoba winning team. Second and third place teams received medallions. Other prizes were given to recognize teams for excellence in trail testing, and other categories including climate change.

Provincial Winners



Swan Valley Regional Secondary School Team from Swan River



Winners of the 2004 Manitoba Envirothon



Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg placed 2nd



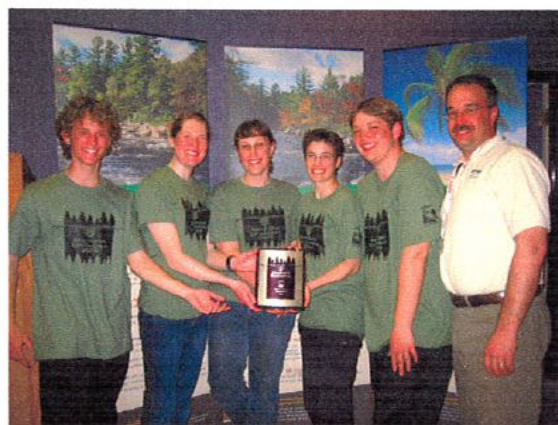
Fairholme Colony School Placed 3rd



Fort Richmond Collegiate Placed 4th



*Anne Adkins presents Wildlife Award
(Birds of Manitoba donated by Manitoba
Naturalists Society) to Vincent Massey High
School, Brandon*



*Allen Tyrczniewicz presents Climate Change Award
to Vincent Massey Collegiate Team B Winnipeg*



The distribution of awards was coordinated by Andrea Swain and Jim Potton who called on specific individuals to present the awards. Dinner was provided in the university diningroom and teams departed for home.

Publicity

Byrnes Benoit co-coordinated the publicity for this year. New releases were prepared prior to and following the competition. A television crew from CKX-TV, Brandon, and a newspaper photographer and reporter from the Brandon Sun covered the trail testing on Friday. Interviews were done with both Brandon Radio stations, as well as the Yorkton station that reaches Swan River. An article appeared in Forests West, a magazine produced in Cranbrook, BC. Spectra Productions will be producing a video on the competition.

Partners & Sponsors

We acknowledge, with much appreciation, supporters of the 2003-2004 Manitoba Envirothon

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA

Canadian Forestry Association

Canadian Wildlife Service

Canon USA

Canon Canada

Climate Change Connection

Covering New Ground Manitoba
Agricultural Sustainability Initiative

DFS Consulting

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Emerge

Environment Canada EcoAction

Faculty of Agriculture, University of
Manitoba

Fairholme Colony

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries Enhancement Initiatives Fund

Louisiana-Pacific Canada Limited

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural
Initiatives

Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund

Manitoba Conservation

Manitoba Conservation Districts

Manitoba Education, Youth & Citizenship

Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology
Community Connections

Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Model Forest

Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation

Manitoba Pork Council

Manitoba Water Stewardship

Myrna and Jim Potton

Nature Conservancy of Canada

North-South Consultants Inc.

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Pembina Valley Conservation District

Spectra Productions

Spruce Products Limited

Sustainable Development Innovations Fund

Tembec – Pine Falls Operation

Tiger Hills Conservation District

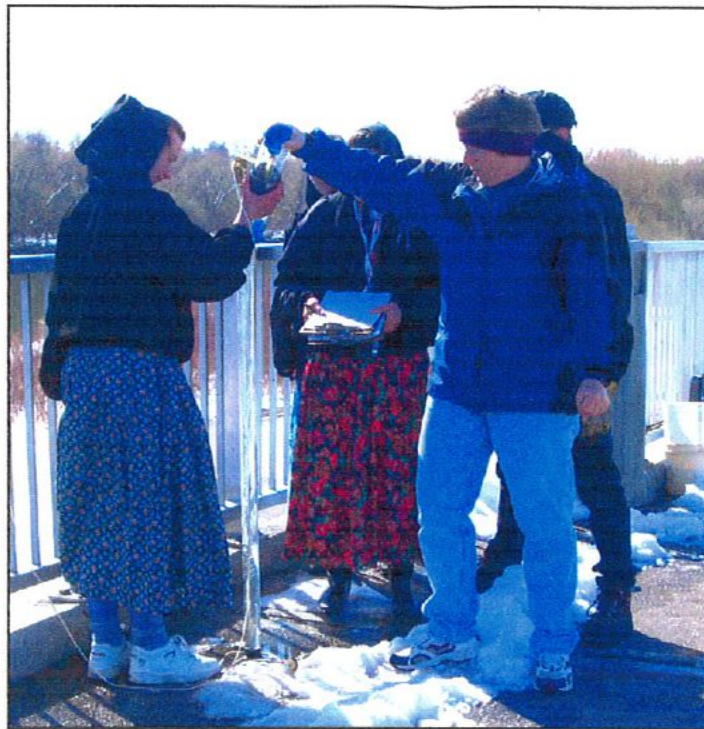
Tolko Industries Ltd.

Tyrchniewicz Consulting

University of Manitoba

University of Winnipeg

Viburnum Tree Experts



Competitors at a test station on the Bridge

Contributors

Assiniboine Downs Jockey Club
 Awards and More
 Blue Cross Manitoba
 Brandon University
 CBC Manitoba
 Canadian Forestry Association
 Clark's Septic Service
 Clean Environment Commission
 Coalition to Save the Elms
 Delta Waterfowl Foundation
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Prairies Area
 Fort Whyte Centre
 Grapes on Ellice
 Husky Oil/Mohawk
 Inland Aggregate
 Investors Limited
 Lafarge Canada
 Louisiana-Pacific Canada, Forest Resources
 Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural
 Initiatives
 Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund
 Manitoba Conservation - Fire Program
 Manitoba Conservation - Forestry
 Manitoba Conservation - Parks and Natural
 Areas

Manitoba Conservation - Pollution
 Prevention
 Manitoba Conservation - Wildlife
 Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism
 Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
 Manitoba Hydro
 Manitoba Model Forest
 Manitoba Naturalists Society
 Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation
 Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation
 Manitoba Water Stewardship - Fisheries
 Marantz and Sons Ltd.
 North South Consultants
 Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
 Prairie Theatre Exchange
 Pembina Valley Conservation District
 Tembec - Pine Falls Operation
 Tolko Industries Limited
 Turtle Mountain Conservation District
 Spruce Products Limited
 UMA Engineering
 Wendy's
 Western Canada Aviation Museum
 Wheat City Golf Course
 Whitemud Conservation District



Thanks to everyone who supported Envirothon !

Volunteers

A sincere thank you to all those who volunteered many, many hours to Manitoba Envirothon – over 70 people from Brandon, Winnipeg, and other parts of the Province. A special thanks to the Discovery Center Staff who went the extra mile to accommodate our evolving needs.

We acknowledge the hard work from the Steering Community: Jim Potton, Chair; Laureen Janusz and David Hay, Co-Chairs of the Test Writing Committee; Glenn Peterson, Chair of the Grievance Committee and responsible for evaluations; Michele Kading and Dennis Windsor, Co-Chairs of the Orals Committee; Brendan Carruthers and Gil Godard, Co-Chairs of the Logistics Committee; Byrnes Benoit and Bill Baker, Publicity; Dianne Beaven, Volunteer Coordinator; and Mike James.

Our thanks to all those who helped with registration and setting up of the test trails, participated as Trail Captains, Trail Guides and Trail Attendants, marked trail tests, packaged prizes and judged the Orals. Thank you to those who helped assemble material for the schools, and assisted with the many other details necessary to host a successful Envirothon.



Lots of Hard Work, but Volunteers Keep on Smiling
Special thanks to all volunteers. The total in-kind commitment was \$97,690 !





Attachments:

Evaluation

Financial Summary

March Workshop Schedule

Newspaper clipping/Magazine article

Manitoba Envirothon program/schedule

Report prepared by Dianne Beaven

Report edited by : Jim Potton

Photos by: Bill Baker, Elaine Gauer and David Hay

June 17, 2004