



FINAL REPORT 2005-2006



Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre Team, Norway House

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

MANITOBA ENVIROTHON WORKSHOP

Friday, April 21st, 2006

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

- 8:30 - 9 a.m. Registration
- 9 - 9:15 a.m. Welcome and house keeping announcements
(In Theatre broadcast to Seminar Room)
- 9:20 – 9:50 a.m. Concurrent sessions:
Presentation in Theatre – Dale Wrubleski on wetland management
Orals Question in Seminar Room – John Sinclair and Andrea Swain
- 10 – 10:30 a.m. As above, but speakers reverse: Dale Wrubleski in Seminar room and
John Sinclair/Andrea Swain in Theatre
- 10 – 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. Teams divide to participate in sessions on **Forests, Aquatics, Soils,
Wildlife**
- 11:35 - 12:20 a.m. Teams that participated in Forests and Aquatics participate in Soils and
Wildlife, etc.
- 12:25 - 1:10 p.m. ½ of group participates in Mini trail test (3 stops); other half has lunch
- 1:15 - 2 p.m. Groups reverse
- 2:05 – 2:50 p.m. Continuation of sessions on forests, aquatics, soils and wildlife
- 2:55 – 3:40 p.m. Continuation of sessions on forests, aquatics, soils and wildlife
- 3:45 p.m. Closing remarks, evaluations and snacks
- 4 p.m. Departure



ENVIROTHON COMPETITION

International Peace Garden

May 25th, 26th and 27th, 2006

Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 25th

4:00-6:00 p.m	Registration
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions Master of Ceremonies: Jim Potton Welcome to Peace Garden: Doug Hevenor Team Introductions Socializing/Trading Session



Team Introductions

Friday, May 26th

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Briefing for Trail Guides (teachers), Trail Captains, Trail Stop Attendants, Trail Monitors
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Teams and volunteers walk to test site
9:00 a.m.	Teams are assigned to their Trail Guides
9:15 a.m.	Trail testing begins
12:20 p.m.	Lunch on site
1:30 p.m.	Trail testing resumes
4:30 p.m.	Teams return to Music Camp
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Teachers' Workshop on wind energy – Ian Witherspoon, Sequoia Energy
7:30 p.m.	Games and trading session for teams
8:30 – 11:00 p.m.	Recreation/Socializing



TRAIL TEST REQUIRES TEAMWORK!



Saturday, May 27th

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Orientation for judges, facilitators and cabin monitors
8:30 a.m.	Instructions for students re: Orals
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Team preparation for Orals
9:00 a.m.	Test review and debriefing for teachers
10:20 a.m.	Oral presentations begin
11:50 a.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Oral presentations continue
3:30 p.m.	Final Orals
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner and Awards



Youngest Envirothon Participant!



Windsor Park Collegiate
4th Overall



Vincent Massey Collegiate
Climate Change Award



Oak River Colony School
Top Rookie Team



Competing Teams

- Balmoral Hall, Winnipeg**
- Baker School, MacGregor**
- College Jeanne-Sauve, Winnipeg**
- College Silver Heights Collegiate, Winnipeg**
- Edward Schreyer School, Beausejour**
- Fairholme School, Portage la Prairie**
- Fort Richmond Collegiate Teams 1 & 2, Winnipeg**
- Gimli High School Teams 1 & 2, Gimli**
- Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, Norway House**
- LaSalle-Redboine Conservation District, Portage la Prairie**
- Lord Selkirk Regional School Teams 1 & 2, Selkirk**
- Maple Grove School, Lauder**
- Morris School, Morris**
- Neepawa & Area Collegiate Institute, Neepawa**
- Northwest Soil Management Association, Swan River**
- Oak River Colony School, Oak River**
- Pembina Valley Conservation District – Nellie McClung Collegiate, Manitou**
- R. D. Parker Collegiate Teams 1 & 2, Thompson**
- Sequoia Energy Inc. Team, Manitou**
- Shaftesbury High School, Winnipeg**
- Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Swan River**
- Vincent Massey Collegiate Teams 1 & 2, Winnipeg**
- Westwood Collegiate, Winnipeg**
- Windsor Park Collegiate Teams 1 & 2, Winnipeg**



Manitoba Envirothon would not happen without our volunteers!



Myrna Potton, Andrea Swain, Patricia Pohrebniuk



Murray Smith and Glenn Peterson



**“Mr. & Mrs. Envirothon”
Myrna & Jim Potton**



Barry Oswald



Lyn Dunford



Lise Boiteau



Andrea Kraayeveld



Byrnes Benoit, Laureen Janusz, Adrian Hofer



Amanda Tetrault



**Sherry Dangerfield &
Jennifer Lidgett**



David Hay



**Brendan Carruthers
& Gil Godard**

2006 Volunteers

Colleen Andreychuk
 Bob Austman
 Edna Aytona
 Bill Baker
 Dianne Beaven
 Russell Bell
 Gene Bender
 Barbara Benoit
 Byrnes Benoit
 Lise Boiteau
 Katrina Broughton
 Tim Byers
 Brendan Carruthers
 Sarah Colquhoun
 Clair Cook
 Sherry Dangerfield
 Lyn Dunford
 John Dyck
 Susan Eros
 Melanie Gamache
 Gil Godard
 Loraine Gowanlock
 Ron Gowanlock
 Carol Graham
 Peggy Hamilton
 Donald Harron
 David Hay
 Doug Hevenor
 Steven Hills
 David Huck
 Laureen Janusz
 Cathi Johnson
 Alexis Knispel
 Lacy Kontzie

Andrea Kraayeveld
 Phil Langford
 Nic LaPorte
 Jennifer Lidgett
 Ryan Lowe
 Bev MacKenzie
 Bob MacKenzie
 Kyla Maslaniec
 Mona Maxwell
 Keith McGregor
 Rebecca McKay
 Jennifer Nelson
 Barry Oswald
 Glenn Peterson
 Patricia Pohrebniuk
 Myrna Potton
 Jim Potton
 Ian Ripley
 Brenda Robinson
 Cathy Shaluk
 John Sinclair
 Bernadette Slager
 Murray Smith
 Roy Sondershausen
 Karin Statkewich
 Larry Strachan
 Andrea Swain
 Amanda Tetrault
 Christine Tymchak
 Jenna Walker
 Christine Webb
 Ian Witherspoon
 Rick Wishart



Partners & Sponsors

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
 Canadian Forest Service
 Canadian Forestry Association
 Canadian Institute of Forestry -
 Manitoba Section
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 Canon USA
 Canon Canada
 Covering New Ground Manitoba -
 Agricultural Sustainability Initiative
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 Environment Canada EcoAction
 Fairholme Colony
 Fisheries Enhancement Initiatives Fund
 International Peace Garden
 Louisiana-Pacific Canada Limited
 Manitoba Agriculture, Food and
 Rural Initiatives

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
 Manitoba Conservation
 Manitoba Conservation Districts
 Manitoba Education, Youth & Citizenship
 Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology
 Manitoba Hydro
 Manitoba Model Forest
 Manitoba Water Stewardship
 Myrna and Jim Potton
 Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
 Pembina Valley Conservation District
 Sequoia Energy Inc.
 Spectra Productions
 Spruce Products Limited
 Tembec – Pine Falls Operation
 Tyrchniewicz Consulting
 University of Manitoba





Contributors

Agrium Inc.
 Assiniboia Downs
 Canon Canada
 Department of Fisheries and Oceans
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 EMA Properties (MB) Ltd.
 Inland Aggregate Limited
 Louisiana-Pacific Canada Limited
 Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch
 Manitoba Conservation – Parks Branch
 Manitoba Conservation – Pollution
 Prevention Branch
 Manitoba Conservation – Wildlife &
 Ecosystem Protection Branch
 Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Citizenship
 Manitoba Hydro
 Manitoba Lotteries Corporation

Manitoba Model Forest
 Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation
 Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation
 Manitoba Water Stewardship – Fisheries Br.
 Manitoba Wildlife Federation
 Marantz & Son Limited
 Robert McLeod
 Mohawk – Husky Oil
 Prairie Theatre Exchange
 Spruce Products Limited
 Tolko Industries Limited
 Turtle Mountain Conservation District
 Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District
 Whitemud Conservation District

We apologize for any contributors who may have been unintentionally overlooked.



2006 WINNING TEAMS



**Northwest Soil Management Association Team, Swan River
1st Place**



**Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg
2nd Place**



**Fairholme Colony School, Portage la Prairie
3rd Place**



Evaluation

Each year, following the completion of the Manitoba Envirothon competition, the organizing committee undertakes an evaluation of the program. This evaluation is based primarily on issues raised by volunteers, advisors and students, taking into account ongoing goals and objectives such as the integration of diverse cultures into the program.

During 2006 the committee decided to release the Orals Question at the spring workshop, one month ahead of the competition, and this created some interesting commentary among the teams. This method of introducing the Question is not a new concept since other jurisdictions have followed this practice, sometimes on a yearly basis. However, it was new to Manitoba schools and many have questioned the validity. The committee felt that giving the Question to the teams early might lead to new and improved Oral presentations, but the advisors saw it as creating even more pressure for students at a time when they are involved in many other activities and preparing for final exams. The students felt that it allowed for too much involvement by the advisors and became a research project rather than a spontaneous preparation and delivery at the competition. This area will definitely be revisited by the organizing committee as they prepare for the 2007 Envirothon.

Other changes that were made to the 2006 program in order to accommodate the increasing number of teams included starting the judging in the morning (this was only possible because the Question was given out ahead of time), and reducing the finalists from 4 teams to 3 teams. Also, with 30 teams it is no longer feasible to obtain the number of prizes required to distribute something to every team. Instead of prizes, it was suggested a certificate recognizing their participation would be appropriate.

In an effort to encourage additional schools to participate and to attract into the mix more First Nations schools (Norway House has competed for the past 2 years), several avenues have been explored, including regional competitions, a northern competition, and financial assistance to teams to help cover the cost of travel and registration. This year Manitoba Envirothon applied for and received a Diversity Grant of \$ 5,000 from Canon USA to assist First Nation's teams. Criteria for applying will be established this fall in the hope that at least 5 teams can participate in the 2007 program.

As Manitoba Envirothon continues to grow there are valid concerns about *volunteer burnout* (many of the volunteers have been with the program since it began in 1997); *financial resources* (the program now costs approximately \$ 50,000 and this must be raised annually, over and above the operating budget of the Manitoba Forestry Association, the organization that sponsors the program); and *logistics* of having up to 36 teams competing at the provincial

competition (locations capable of housing this number of teams are becoming limited to Universities or the Peace Garden and costs continue to increase).

These issues are being addressed. First of all, it is essential that the program recruit additional volunteers to ensure Envirothon will continue and grow. Finding a major corporate sponsor to host the Envirothon with an annual grant over a period of 3 to 5 years would relieve much of the pressure of annual fund raising, helping to ensure financial continuity and providing an opportunity to concentrate on growth and innovation. Decisions will have to be made over the next few years as to whether the program has reached capacity at 36 teams and if so, whether registration will have to be limited to one team per school (currently several schools register two teams, though registering three teams from the same school was disallowed in 2006).

Several advisors commented on their 2006 evaluation forms that they are finding the resource materials provided through Envirothon to be compatible with the courses they are teaching. The ultimate goal of the program was to have teachers use the materials in their classes, and this appears to be happening more as time goes on. One student suggested a credit might be offered for participating in Envirothon, and this is something that might be pursued as a validation of the program and further encouragement to students to participate.

In addition to the current program, which works with high school students from grades 9 to 12, there have been suggestions that a junior program would be very worthwhile. This might take the form of a mini Envirothon for grades 6 to 8, and/or working with students from grade 1 in introducing the concept of Envirothon and thereby encouraging participation as they reach their senior grades. The Manitoba Forestry Association examined these possibilities at a facilitated planning session held in June, following which the organization will investigate all options pertaining to the future success of Envirothon in Manitoba.

Nearly every evaluation form that was completed by 2006 participants, both advisors and students, included mention of the value of hands-on activities, including the use of equipment, and encouraged this at both the spring workshop and the competition. The organizing committee believes strongly in the concept of “learning by doing”. Unfortunately there are restrictions on how much can be achieved, with limiting factors being time available (it has been suggested both the workshop and the competition be lengthened though this increases the cost and the work involved); numbers of volunteers available to create activities and tests that facilitate this process; and size of groups (with 150 students taking part, it is difficult to ensure each has the opportunity to experience use of equipment, for example).

Several students were impressed by the value of the program to them personally in increasing their knowledge, developing skills in teamwork and public speaking, and in helping them make career decisions. We want to ensure that all these very worthwhile aspects of the program continue, while also including students who may not be as academically inclined but can still benefit tremendously from the experience of an Envirothon.

This year, for the first time, a student in a wheelchair competed. Although not able to participate directly on the test trails, a system was put in place whereby the student communicated with her team by walkie/talkie. It was very gratifying to have this enthusiastic

young person able to take part, but it also raises questions for the organizing committee, since to make Envirothon a wheelchair friendly event would no doubt create some major changes in the trail tests, for example, and in so doing perhaps diminish the excitement now enjoyed by physically able competitors.

There are obviously many issues to address as the Manitoba Envirothon organizers begin plans for 2007. However, with the help of many dedicated volunteers (annually the equivalent of \$ 100,000 in donated time) and the financial support of many sponsors, there is no doubt that Envirothon will flourish in the years to come. It should be noted that in the ten years since Jim Potton introduced the program to Manitoba, many of the same people have remained associated, and this includes volunteers and teacher/advisors. It seems obvious that Envirothon instills a deep sense of dedication in those who believe in the program and the many benefits it provides to Manitoba youth.

Prepared by:

Dianne Beaven
Chair
Manitoba 2006 Organizing Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS TO 2007 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

1. Seriously consider hiring a full-time Envirothon coordinator
2. Continue to seek a financial “sponsor” for the program
3. Continue to recruit volunteers
4. Develop criteria for the Diversity Grant, and continue to encourage participation by First Nations’ schools
5. Revisit when the Orals Question should be distributed
6. Assess feasibility of different locations for competition, i.e. camps, going North
7. Work with MFA to develop an Envirothon-like program for younger students
8. Encourage the idea of a credit for students participating in Envirothon
9. Discuss the feasibility of participation by handicapped students or those who are not academically inclined, but can benefit from the program.
10. REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN !

Quote from a teacher who has participated for 10 years: “We are adjusting to necessary changes, so keep reading these evaluations and let these evaluations guide”.



Financial Statement

September 2005 to June 2006

Income

Canon USA (\$1250 US)	1,600.00
Canon Canada	500.00
Canadian Forest Service	5,000.00
Canadian Institute of Forestry – Manitoba Section	200.00
Fisheries Enhancement Initiative	19,280.00
Louisiana-Pacific Canada	1,000.00
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs	3,000.00
Manitoba Conservation	3,000.00
Manitoba Hydro	5,000.00
Manitoba Model Forest	4,000.00
Tembec	500.00
Pre-Competition Workshop	1,500.00
School Registrations (23 x \$500)	11,500.00
School Registrations (7 x \$750)	5,250.00
Saskatchewan Delegation (5 x \$ 50)	<u>250.00</u>
 TOTAL INCOME:	 \$ 61,580.00

Expenses

Canon Membership/Registration	300.00
International Competition Fees	903.36
Travel Assistance to 1 st Place Team	2,000.00
Coordinator contract	21,000.00
Binder costs	4,179.49
Workshop lunch/snacks	4,232.25
Peace Garden Café	300.00
Competition Food Services (Fairholme Colony)	14,125.00
Accommodations/Facilities/vehicle entry fees	5,067.00
Peace Garden Music Camp cabins	56.46
Team and volunteer t-shirts	2,747.40
Medals & engraving	103.04
Wildlife Museum, Peace Garden - donation	500.00
St. John's Ambulance - donation	300.00
Materials/supplies/postage (not including binders)	3,000.00
Portable toilets	670.00
Water	96.00
Administration	<u>2,000.00</u>
 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	 \$ 61,580.00

Balance:	0
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In-Kind

Personnel Costs	80,010.00
Materials/Awards/Supplies & Shirts	5,000.00
Oak Hammock Marsh – facility for workshop	1,000.00
Peace Garden – facilities for competition	8,000.00
Equipment Rental & Miscellaneous	1,500.00
Office Costs (10 x \$200)	2,000.00
Personal Mileage	<u>6,475.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 103,985.00

Photo credits: Sherry Dangerfield; Andrea Kraayeveld; Christopher Pike, High Road/CP



For further information on Envirothon:

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