



# 2014 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

Book of Reports Presented at the 2015 Annual General Meeting

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## Our Mission

Our mission is to promote through public education and outreach the vital role of trees in sustainable resource development and management of our natural and urban environments.

# 2014 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

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## Our Organization

The **Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA)**, established in 1919, is the oldest forest education group operating in the province. We are a non-profit, registered charity governed by a board of voluntary directors.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to promote through public education and outreach the vital role of trees in sustainable resource development and management of our natural and urban environments.

## Our Objectives

To provide goods and services to enhance forestry/resource knowledge and understanding through collaboration, current practices and use of technology.

To encourage the planting and maintenance of trees through afforestation and reforestation activities in Manitoba.

To provide technical services to support sustainable forest management, which encourages economic viability/opportunities and long term forest health on private land.

To ensure MFA's long-term financial stability through prudent financial management, marketing, revenue generation and partnerships with key stakeholders.

To create a work environment that promotes team work, respect, innovation for the MFA, its clients and stakeholders.

## Our History

The Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) was created in the early 1970's, but our roots reach back to the early 1900's. That is when the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) was established by a group of foresters, business leaders, legislators, and private citizens who felt Canadians needed to understand the important role forests played in our country's environment and economy. It was a ground-breaking move, as the concept of natural resource conservation was barely understood in those days. However, these forward-thinkers forged ahead, kicking off their programming with a focus on forest fire prevention.

As the initiative expanded to encompass education around the entire forest ecosystem, so too did the CFA, and in 1945 the Canadian Forestry Division – Prairie Provinces Division was created. This evolved into the Prairie Provinces Forestry Association and finally, the three prairie province's established separate associations, and the Manitoba Forestry Association was born.

This successful legacy has since been nurtured by a dedicated and growing group of volunteers, funders, and MFA members who believe strongly in the importance of forest education.

## Our Staff

### Executive Director

Patricia Pohrebniuk

### Education / Envirothon Coordinator

Glenn Peterson

### Extension Officers

Andrea Kraayeveld (January – April)

Kevin Barman (January – May)

Tatiana Moroz (June – December)

Kristen Malec (July – December)

## Our Executive

### President

Dr. Christina McDonald

### Vice-President

Jim Potton (January – March)

### Vice-President

Trevor Stanley

### Treasurer

Barry Waito

### Directors At Large

Al Mackling

Greg Carlson

## Our Directors

Wayne Arseny  
Rick Bobby  
Wade Cable  
Paul Chapman  
John Dojack  
Brad Epp  
John Hreno

Doug Hunt  
Dr. Brian Kotak  
Paul Kasper  
Keith McGregor  
Rebecca McKay  
Ward Perchuk  
Dave Wotton

## Our Reports

### President's Report

**DR. CHRISTINA McDONALD**

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you with the Manitoba Forestry Association's Book of Reports for 2014. This year marks the 96th anniversary of the MFA, the oldest forest education organization in Manitoba. We look forward to many more years ahead.

I am also pleased to announce that we have had another successful year in delivery of forest education programming across Manitoba and once again have met our targets under the mandate of our mission statement which is: To promote through public education and outreach the vital role of trees in sustainable resource development and management of our natural and urban environments.

I invite you to read through each section of the 2014 Book of Reports and learn more about the diversity of programs and the variety of people we have both served and partnered with in order to share our passion for the natural environment with both young and senior Manitobans. We have been fortunate to continue to enjoy partnerships with organizations like the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Pembina Valley Conservation District, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, the Nature Conservancy and many others. These



relationships further enhance our capability to deliver programs and open the door to an array of interested parties while we experience new opportunities and strengthen our knowledge on the natural environment.

Sadly one of the association's most dedicated members, James Edward Potton, passed away on March 29, 2014. Jim was a true visionary and provided over 25 years of dedicated service as a Director of the MFA. He will be well remembered for his passion for life outdoors which was demonstrated by a high-school environmental program called Envirothon. Jim founded the Manitoba Envirothon in 1997 and served as its Chair from its inception. Jim touched the hearts of all he met and his cherished memory will always be with us at the MFA.

The MFA's accomplishments are in large part due to its professional, dedicated, creative and enthusiastic staff, volunteers, members, partners, stakeholders and the valued oversight of its volunteer Advisory Board. We appreciate their important contributions and look forward to another year of moving forward!

## Executive Director's Report

PATRICIA POHREBNIUK

Focus. Focus. Focus. At a time when resources are tight, organizations alike are looking inward assessing their priorities, determining their needs and focusing their efforts to ensure their sustainability.

With a long history behind us and a bright future ahead, the MFA kicked off 2014 with a strategic planning session aimed at setting our course for the next three years. This session involved directors, staff, members, partners, and supporters who were tasked with reviewing and updating the mission and objectives of the organization (please see Our Mission/Our Objectives, as well as, establishing priorities for this next three year time frame. This collaborative approach helped to establish the foundation, the focus of our efforts for 2014.

Priorities for the organization included continuing our efforts of integrating forest education into the current provincial curriculum, supporting private land forest management, re-branding the

## Our Focus

Focus. Focus. Focus. At a time when resources are tight, organizations alike are looking inward assessing their priorities, determining their needs and focusing their efforts to ensure their sustainability.

organization and increasing our marketing/fundraising potential for the programs and services we offer.

Please find below is a summary of the activities undertaken to support the objectives and priorities established.

**A. To provide goods and services to enhance forestry/resource knowledge and understanding through collaboration, current practices and use of technology.**

*Teacher Training* - The MFA continues to provide assistance to educators in the province by providing resources, lesson plans and training opportunities. In 2014, both our “Forest in the Classroom” and “I Know a Tree” program and curriculum materials were enhanced and made available to teachers on the MFA’s website – [www.thinktrees.org](http://www.thinktrees.org).

*Outdoor Education* – Hands-on opportunities are key to promote knowledge and understanding. Both self-guided and instructor lead programming was made available at all three of our Forest Centres in 2014, with each centre providing its own unique first-hand forest experience.

*Manitoba Envirothon* – **The Manitoba Envirothon celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> year of delivery and this year, our the program was dedicated to our founder and visionary leader – Jim Potton – who passed away in March 2014.** Without the dedication of over 150 volunteers, 50 organizations offering in-kind support and our sponsors and regional hosts, this program would not be possible. Our thanks to all those involved, we very much appreciate your support!

*Heritage Trees* – A key partnership between Trees Winnipeg and the Manitoba Forestry Association was established in 2014. Our organizations will join efforts to support the newly established Manitoba Heritage Tree Program and to raise awareness of the special trees we have here in the province and the important role they play in our everyday lives.

**B. To encourage the planting and maintenance of trees through afforestation and reforestation activities in Manitoba.**

*Setting Down New Roots* – The MFA continues to build on its partnerships with local nurseries to offer a diverse species selection and array of stock type options to assist landowners with their planting needs.

*Corporate Tree Plantings* – Coordinating tree planting initiatives, both large and small, is a service offered through the MFA. In 2014, Qualico Homes celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> year of their “Planting for the Future Program”. To date, the MFA has helped facilitate the planting of 85,000 seedlings throughout central and south-east Manitoba for Qualico Homes.

- C. To provide technical services to support sustainable forest management, which encourages economic viability/opportunities and long term forest health on private land.**

*Private Land Resource Planning (PLRP)*— The MFA welcomed two new staff to our PLRP Program in 2014. Tatiana Moroz and Kristen Malec, graduates of the University of Winnipeg, joined the MFA in May and June respectfully. The knowledge and expertise of these two individuals brought strength to our planning program.

- D. To ensure MFA's long-term financial stability through prudent financial management, marketing, revenue generation and partnerships with key stakeholders.**

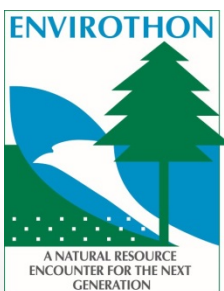
*RE-Branding*—With the goal of increasing our marketing potential, the MFA entered into a contract for the development of a new brand for the organization, as well as, increased our social media presence.

Of course, all of this would not be possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff, our board of directors and our many volunteers. To you, I offer my sincerest thanks! To our partners, sponsors and members – Thank You! Contributions like yours provide the financial resources we need to continue our efforts of delivering high quality conservation education programs within our province.

Please find highlighted, in the following pages, additional information on the programs and services delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association in 2014. We thank you for your support as we continue to strive to be your “go-to” forestry organization!

## Our Funders

A special thank you to our funders.





## Our Programs

### Education and Outreach

GLENN PETERSON

### Teacher Training

#### a) Heritage Trees – I Know A Tree Program

In 2014, we continued our focus on teacher training and on our re-launched Heritage Trees Program. Although the Heritage Trees Program is not an education program directed solely at teachers and students, we have developed a curriculum connected interdisciplinary program called I Know a Tree that encourages students and teachers to get outside and get to know the special trees in their communities. The core components of this grade 5-8 curriculum are all about going outside to find, identify, and measure a tree that the students have deemed to be special to them. Based on the information they gather about their special tree students have the option to do various curriculum-based activities that challenge them to investigate trees from historical, science or art-based perspectives.

Step 1: Core Activities	Step 2: Curriculum Modules	Step 3: Celebration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose your tree</li> <li>ID your tree</li> <li>Measure your tree</li> <li>Nominate your tree</li> </ul>	Grade 5: Tree Journal Grade 6: Treemendous Community Grade 7: Trees are Habitat Grade 8: Tree Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Showcase of student projects</li> <li>Community or school activities</li> </ul>

In the fall of 2014, the grade 7 and 8 I Know a Tree activities were enhanced and the curriculum links for all four grade levels were updated.

#### b) Forest ED

The ForestEd program is delivered through a Workshop format designed to provide an opportunity for teachers to learn first-hand while out in the working forest.

Teachers who attend our Forest ED workshops, are provided with a “Forest in a Box” kit. This kit contains resources, activities, and hands-on materials that they can use in their classroom. These forest based resources were further enhanced in 2014, please see Layer #2 – Forest in a Box resource kits (next page) for a description.

**Limited activity for 2014** – Although an attempt was initiated no ForestEd Workshops were delivered in 2014. This was partially the result of timing and a transition in staffing. However,

funding for this project was used for the creation of a number of forest education videos available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ThinkTreesMFA>.

## Forest in the Classroom

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### a) LAYER #1 – Lesson plans that can be downloaded from our website

In keeping with our proposal of 2014, we are transitioning our Forest in the Classroom program by making our resources, lesson plans, training and presentations available to teachers on our website at [www.thinktrees.org](http://www.thinktrees.org). In addition we modified our existing Kindergarten to Grade Four program as well as the “I Know a Tree Curriculum” for grades 5-8 and made them available on our website. The proposed plan is to have all the K-grade eight lesson plans available to any teacher who is interested in teaching about trees and forests. When requested the MFA responds to each request for support by the teachers on an individual basis. It is anticipated that future layers may developed to offer additional assistance to teachers who choose to use the lesson plans.

### b) LAYER #2 – Forest-in-a- Box resource kits

In 2014, we distributed approximately 12 Forest-in-a-box kits to teachers who visited our Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre or received an in-class presentation. Each kit contains reference materials and hands-on resource items such as cones, tree seeds, preserved leaves, magnifying glasses, tree cookies, insect specimens, etc. We are continuing to refine lesson plans to include in the kits. In 2014 we added diameter tapes and a clinometer to the other equipment which included: measuring tapes, identification keys and guides, etc. Additional equipment and instructional guidelines will be added as we receive feedback from both teachers and students.

Additional equipment and materials has also been supported by the Winnipeg Foundation Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) Program. In 2014 we received funding from St. Mary’s Academy.

### c) LAYER #3- Training for teachers

Training opportunities for how to use the MFA I Know a Tree curriculum and our Forest-in-a-Box materials are offered to teachers throughout the year, however in 2014/15 none were requested or delivered.

### d) LAYER #4 – YouTube

YouTube style videos based on various topics from our lesson plans and Envirothon training were produced and posted on-line in keeping with the 2014/15 plan. The educational videos are available for teachers, students or the public to view or download at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ThinkTreesMFA>.

The videos are a progressive component of our planning process which are to be continued with the objective of providing teachers the opportunity to take their students on a virtual “video fieldtrip” to a forest setting and have an expert speak to the class, while minimizing expenses. It

is anticipated that after viewing the videos the teacher would then lead the students through a variety of hands on activities found in the online lesson plans. A future “Ask-the-Expert” section will complement the online resource, giving students and teachers the opportunity to email questions and comments to an expert in the fields of forestry, ecology and sustainable development once additional funding is secured.

Training session videos are also planned for teachers who cannot attend the Forest in the Classroom or Forest-in-a-Box training sessions in-person.

#### e) LAYER #5 – Continue offering Forest in the Classroom presentations

Two in-school classroom presentations were delivered in 2014. Both of these presentations were delivered by Jessica Foss, former Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre interpreter.

The first presentation was delivered on September 18, 2014 to 60 grade 5 and 6 students from Machray School. The focus of the presentation was on the benefits of tree planting. The purpose of the presentation was to discuss the important role trees play in helping to establish shelter and provide riverbank stabilization. This was a very timely topic, as these students were scheduled to plant trees in the community of Ste. Agathe the very next week as part of Qualico’s Planting for the Future program.

The second presentation was delivered on October 1, 2014 in partnership with Forests Ontario through their Focus on Forests program. The Focus on Forests program is an initiative where forest professionals are invited into local classrooms to discuss forest health, ecology, management and forestry based careers. This 45 minute presentation included both a power-point presentation and an activity focused on leaves which was delivered to 70 grade 2 and 3 students from Elmdale school. In addition, each student received a white spruce seedling to take home and plant in their own backyard.

The Manitoba Forestry Association was only able to conduct a limited number of in classroom presentations in 2014/15 due to a transition in staffing and a reduction of other funding. However, the organization is exploring options to strengthen the delivery of this program in 2015/16. Additional support from our Board of Directors in both volunteer commitments and additional funding opportunities are being explored.

## Outdoor Education

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#### a) Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre – Eric Melvin - Interpreter

Eric Melvin was selected as Interpreter for the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre commencing May 12, 2014. The position was for a 9 week term and followed the 2014 work plan for both the enhancement of visitor experience and the maintenance of the site. The wind storm that damaged the forest in late 2012 still required considerable work during Eric’s timeframe when visitors were not on site as well as other maintenance duties. Storm damage clean-up was

generally in the main activity area from north of the museum to south of the train car. In addition, Eric was able to plant 1,800 seedlings, 8 memorial trees, reconstruct the quad cart, as well as other general activities on the site in preparation for school groups and in cleaning-up after visitors.



Glenn Peterson, Director Education MFA, spent considerable time travelling and working at the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre to oversee the work of Eric as well as provide leadership in interpretation for visitors. Glenn also developed interpretive material for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) including a revision of the ecological material for the Pine Ridge Trail. The objective being to showcase sustainable forestry concepts, discuss the processes of forest ecosystems and introduce the potential impact of climate change on the forest. In addition, he did considerable work on the Sagimay Trail to enhance its use by visitors.

Following Eric's term in mid-July the Centre was serviced until October by MFA staff, local volunteers, and the support of Board of Director members with their families.

***The SFI/Pine Ridge Trail re-write was a project which was funded in part through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program.***

***The objective of the Pine Ridge Trail is to create an opportunity to build on the Biology 40S Ecology unit and introduce climate change impacts on Manitoba's forests, as well as, introducing concepts of Forest Sustainability, Silviculture and Best Management Practices.***

***Westwood Collegiate has been participating in the Manitoba Envirothon since 2005***

### *School Groups-*

This year the Centre had 6 schools come out, 14 class grades varying from Kindergarten to high school aged, for a total of 293 students and 37 teachers. Programs delivered where hikes and interpretation services on the Sagimay trail and other areas of the forest, building tours, scavenger hunts, train car demonstrations and forest based games. The general response from the students was tons of excitement and smiling faces.

Some days there were upwards of 80 students, the highest being 110 on site. In addition a trial run day was provided to students from Carman for a new program developed by Eric called "A Day in the Life of an Envirothon Student". The program was designed to give potential Envirothon students a chance to test their skills, while learning new ones and give adults or other students a taste of what Envirothon students experience during a competition.

***Twelve grade 9 and 10 students from Carman Collegiate participated in the "A Day in the Life of an Envirothon Student" pilot.***

***Carman Collegiate has been participating in the Manitoba Envirothon Program since 2010.***

### *Guests and Events at the Centre-*

Through the season there were a number of guests that payed a visit to the Centre and in many cases assisted with the maintenance. The Mackling's visited for a week to help supervise Eric while he was working. As well, Eric had friends and family out on a weekend to visit him at work. At the beginning of June we had University of Winnipeg students studying bats stay at the Centre for 2 weeks. We also had approximately 15 visitors from the neighboring campground stop by to visit and walk on the trails after hours. After opening June 26th, a total of 20 visitors had stopped by the Centre during the 10 days it was open to the public. On 5 of the 10 days Eric was around to open, the weather was cold and raining yet we still had visitors show up which is was a positive sign.

On June 21st, the Centre hosted a memorial for Jim Potton, MFA Vice-President and long-time Chair of the Manitoba Envirothon, where approximately 100 people visited the Centre to remember Jim. A number of trees were planted in his honor and there was food served in celebration of Jim's dedicated commitment to promoting forest education throughout his life.

### *School Programming-*

This year the Centre hosted ten school field trips in May and June. The most popular activities included: General Boreal Forest hike, tours of the Museum, Tree Planting Car, Dawson Cabin, Tree Identification Hut and Fire Tower as well as, forest games, scavenger hunts and the experience of a bannock bake.

A new Survivor program developed by interpreters in 2013/14 was popular with the older school groups. The Survivor program consisted of a forest shelter building workshop, water filtration



activity, a talk about wild edibles, a fire building workshop and ending the session with a bannock bake.



In addition, Dr. Jacques Tardiff from the University of Winnipeg had forestry students conducting a field course at the Centre in August. In September, Westwood Collegiate students visited the Centre and conducted a trial-run of the SFI sponsored re-write and re-interpretation brochure and material for the Pine Ridge Trail. This activity was conducted by Glenn from June to September.

It was noted that the Fire Tower and its direction finding instrument provided considerable interest to visitors. As a result it has been proposed to develop a Navigation Workshop for 2015/16. This would include a tutorial on navigation through the use of different types of maps including aerial, topographic, hiking and others. This could be followed by compass and GPS activities. Students will have a chance to identify different directions in the forest using traditional methods and have a chance to create their own sundial. In addition opportunities may exist to teach students how to recognize and understand celestial bodies and the ability to use them in direction finding.

#### *Visitors and Special Groups-*

In 2014/15 there were approximately 300 public visitors to the Centre and a number of special groups hosted by staff which included the following:

- McDonalds Youth Service Day trips were held August 6 and 14, 2014
- Jim Potton Memorial Service, June 21, 2014
- Opie family visit of memorial trees, August 28, 2014
- SFDC Volunteer Appreciation luncheon, October 15, 2014

Unfortunately full use of all facilities was not possible throughout the 2014 season due to spring flooding. A restriction of public and school access to the swinging bridge and the Suspension Bridge was required for insurance purposes until an engineering assessment is conducted to ensure safe conditions for visitors. The MFA is actively pursuing this assessment.

### *Public Programming-*

The majority of visitors from the public were interested on exploring the site independently following a site orientation with the staff. The development of enhanced signage for trails and interpretation facilities is required to meet this preference of the public. In addition the Centre is in need of increased signage in both the Aboriginal and French language. In particular, aboriginal interpretation of forest ecological features and individual species is required to attract and enhance the visitation of First Nation people.

The new carvings created in the workshops conducted over the past 2 years have generated considerable public interest. This is also the experience generated by the Art in the Forest Workshop in 2013. The Centre requires the development of pamphlets and posters to advertise these new initiatives for the public and to encourage the interest of other similar specialty groups to use the site.

### *Volunteers-*

Once again this season the Centre was most fortunate to have so many different volunteers to assist in the operation and maintenance of the Centre. The Manitoba Forestry Association acknowledges and offers a special thank you to; all the Pineland Forest Nursery staff, the Stanleys's, the Melvin's, the Wotton's, the Mackling's, the Epp's, the Potton's, the Peterson's and the dedicated commitment of the MFA staff.

### *Infrastructure Upgrades-*

This year the Centre got some much needed upgrades.

- New Cabin water heater
- New Cabin air conditioner
- New Museum water heater
- New Bunkhouse shower stall
- New museum cabin wiring
- New cabin water pumps and plumbing repairs

***Many thanks to Manitoba Community Places Program – Eastman Region for their generous funding support!***

In addition, Travel Manitoba graciously donated the Look Out Tower that was on display at the Information Centre at The Forks. This tower was actually one of the original displays featured on-site. The plan is to erect this tower at the Centre and have it accessible for ongoing programming and to those visiting the site. What an opportunity to save a bit of Manitoba's history!

### *Advertising-*

The Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre was advertised in the 2014 edition of the Eastman Tourism Guide (eastmantourism.ca), as well as, in the 2015 May edition

### ***SFDC Highlights:***

- Work commenced on SFI\PineRidge Trail project with successful funding approval.
- Developed new Trail GPS and Envirothon materials and Scavenger Hunts for Centre.

of the Canadian Geographic Magazine! The 2015 ad was a partnership between Eastman Tourism, Trails Manitoba and the Crow Wing Trail to highlight the local culture and outdoor experiences the eastern region of Manitoba had to offer. We would like to thank Eastman Tourism for the opportunity to participate.

#### b) Duck Mountain Forest Centre – Rick Bobby - Chairman

The following is a summary of activities undertaken at the Duck Mountain Forest Centre in 2014.

- Our hydro installation project was inspected and approved by Manitoba Hydro. The power was turned on in June. Thanks to Spruce Products Limited for the equipment to dig the trench and put the site back in shape.
- Project Webfoot was held on June 11th and 12th. 165 students participated from 9 grade 3 and 4 classes.
- The Centre did not qualify for any Manitoba Green Team Youth Employment funds so we were only able to hire one student for the summer.
- The summer was spent welcoming visitors, keeping the picnic area and surrounding grounds trimmed and clean.
- Trail C is still the only trail that remains open at this time following the windstorm of 2012.
- The lookout tower on Trail C was finally completed in October. The tower will be named the “Walker Tower” in memory of Richard “Dick” Walker. It was Dick’s idea to have a lookout tower built at this location.
- The Duck Mountain Trappers Association held their annual meeting at the center on Oct. 5th.
- Visitor numbers were down considerably in July. It seems every weekend in July was cold and wet. August saw many more visitors due to the improvement in weather. The Centre had close to 170 visitors during the summer.





### c) Interlake Forest Centre – Lynn Huff - Volunteer

2014 was another quiet year for the Interlake Forest Centre. Local community members utilized both the site and trails for birding and snowshoeing.

Clean-up and maintenance of the trails continued with the small volunteer workforce in place, as well as, help from the local Green Team.



## Manitoba Envirothon

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For the past 18 years the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA), along with its partners and funders, has been the proud host organization of the Manitoba Envirothon. This program has provided Manitoba's high school students a unique and fun way to learn about the environment and current issues. In 2014, 43 teams competed at the Regional level, with 20 teams advancing to the Provincial level. The topic theme for 2014, **Sustainable Agriculture \ Locally Grown**, allowed the students and advisors to explore the roles and responsibilities needed to successfully manage food supplies, particularly local ones, and best management practices that hopefully ensure their operations are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

In 2014 there were five Regional Envirothon competitions that were held throughout the province during the week of April 21 to 25, 2014. The MFA partnered with the following Regional Host organizations: **Frontier School Division** (Thompson - April 24), **Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch** (Rennie – April 24), **The La Salle Redboine Conservation District** (Pinkerton Lakes – April 23) and **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre** (April 25) to stage events – all with less than ideal weather! Continuing the structure fully implemented in 2012, all teams were required to qualify at the Regional level in order to advance to the Provincial Envirothon.

The Provincial Envirothon took place at **Brandon University** (BU) from May 22-24, 2014. The teams were again housed and fed at this fine facility, delicious meals were again provided by members of the Brandon University culinary team. The field test took place on the hills, fields and forested ravine of **Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada's Brandon Research Centre**. It consisted of 15 stops with normally two teams per stop and took place under hot, sunny conditions – much better than Regionals! After the field test, and the Friday evening dinner, students and advisors moved to the BU Theatre for a multi-media presentation on "Environmental Education and Career Options" with a particular focus on "Learn by Doing", by Steven Hills & Richard Baker, Environmental Technology Instructors at **Assiniboine Community College** in Brandon MB. Thanks gentlemen!

The orals competition was held in the classrooms and Theatre of the **John R. Brodie Science Centre** at BU. Presentations on the orals challenge were presented to them that morning –

## The 2014 Manitoba Envirothon was dedicated to the memory of our visionary leader: JIM POTTON

JAMES EDWARD POTTON. It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of James (Jim) Potton on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at the age of 75. Our Papa' will be missed by wife Myrna, children Michael (partner Rochel), Traci (Randy), and Nanci, grandchildren Garrett, Dylan, Emma, Samantha and Elijah, along with numerous relatives, friends and colleagues. His passion for the outdoors drove his desire for becoming part of the forestry / parks sector.

After receiving a Master's Degree in Recreational Management from the University of Minnesota, he spent six years as a Park Ranger for the US National Parks Service in Hawaii, Wyoming, and Montana, before coming north to Canada, in 1968, to work for the Alberta Provincial Government as Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks, and then to Manitoba as Director of Parks. He was the Director of the Manitoba Forestry Association for over 25 years but his passion was fueled by a high-school environmental program called Envirothon in which he served as Chair since its inception in the province in 1997. He also represented Manitoba on the North American Envirothon Committee and served as a Director for three years. Jim will be remembered for his passion, vision, dedication and his ability to forge strong relationships. As he touched the hearts of all he worked with and was a truly inspiring leader. He was most recently recognized for his efforts in 2011, when he was inducted into the Envirothon Hall of Fame and in 2013, when he received The Order of the Buffalo Hunt, one of the Province's highest honours. Cremation has already taken place and a celebration of his life will be held at a later date with a memorial tree planting. The family would like to thank the staff at Health Sciences Centre GH3 as well as Jim's many health care providers over the years. Flowers gratefully declined. If desired, donations can be made in the name of the Potton-Booth Family of Winnipeg to the Envirothon Program of the Manitoba Forestry Association. **"Oh what a Beautiful Morning, Oh what a Beautiful Day!"**. Thank you Papa, you have left an amazing legacy. [www.seasonsfunerals.ca](http://www.seasonsfunerals.ca)

*As published in the Winnipeg Free Press on April 05, 2014*

having a "role playing" conversation on one of three theme scenarios (Appendix D) on managing changing local farming and food production needs and practices. Once the scores from the field test and the oral competition were tallied the winning team was the Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District from Swan River, Manitoba. The team was provided a cash prize (to support ongoing education) in lieu of attending the Georgia North American Envirothon!

There will again be the ongoing reviews of the program - incorporating feedback we get from the event participants and partners, to ensure that the MFA is providing the best Envirothon program for participants to experience hands-on learning opportunities and possibly begin careers as resource managers or scientists or empowered citizens and future leaders!



# Find Jim!



There he is.....where he loved to be –  
surrounded by students!

Pinawa 2008



### ***Participating Schools 2014***

There were 47 teams that originally registered for the regional events, however due to a variety of issues, 43 teams representing 23 schools were actually able to compete.

#### **REGISTERED TEAMS (43)**

##### **Northern Regional (5)**

Cormorant Lake School (1)  
Frontier Collegiate (1)  
Helen Betty Osborne Innuw Resource Centre (2)  
R. D. Parker Collegiate (1)

##### **SouthWest Regional (19)**

Baldur School (4)  
Carmen Collegiate (3)  
Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School (2)  
Fairholme School (1)  
Glenboro School (1)  
Nellie McClung Collegiate (4)  
Shevchenko School (1)  
Prairie Mountain High School (2)  
Virden Collegiate Institute (1)

##### **Eastern Regional (3)**

Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Resource Centre (1)  
Pinawa Secondary School (1)  
Wanipigow School (1)

##### **Winnipeg & West Regionals (16)**

Gimli High School (3)  
Shaftesbury High School (1)  
St. Boniface Diocesan High School (3)  
St. James Collegiate Institute (1)  
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School (3)  
Vincent Massey Collegiate (2)  
Westwood Collegiate (3)

### ***Final Standings***

**First Place:** The Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District Team from Swan River Regional Secondary School won this year's Manitoba Envirothon. The team, Braden Barker, Tayler Fleming, Jayden Wlasichuk, Chloe Lagace and Victoria Verhoek put in a stellar trail test performance on Friday in unseasonably hot conditions. The Trail Test was hosted on Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada's research farm, just off 18th Street in Brandon. 15 stops challenged the 19 teams competing. The Swan Lake team, advised by Alex Verbo and Shawn Stankewich, delivered a very comprehensive and entertaining Orals Presentation to take first place overall.



**Second Place:** The team from St. Boniface Diocesan High School placed second. Griffin Swanson, Natalia Wicislak, Hannah Payumo, Kyunghyem Kim and Breanne Beaubien were advised by Paul Grossman and Michael Villanaueva. This team performed very well in the heat of the Trail Test, but excelled at the Orals Presentation with a compelling and well-informed presentation on Sustainable Agriculture and Locally Grown Food, this year's theme topic.



**Third Place:** Winnipeg's Vincent Massey Collegiate Team #1, Alex Bairos-Novak, Alicia Zelensky-Hill, Lauren Beauchamp, Yesha Subotinic-West and Laura Alsip, advised by Bronwen Davies placed third overall.



**And to all the teams that competed, congratulations on a job well done! We hope you had fun too!**

### ***Manitoba representation at North American Envirothon***

Unfortunately due to unfavourable logistical and budgetary situations, the 2014 North American Envirothon scheduled for the University of Georgia in July was cancelled.

The Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee has always helped subsidize the travel cost of our winning team to represent us at the North American championship. So, as we had budgeted for the trip, and disappointingly, the team did not get to travel to the southeastern United States, the Committee decided to award each student of the winning team one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, hopefully to be used for their future education needs.

Congratulations folks, we are sure you would have done us proud! Like always!

## **Heritage Trees**

In April 2013, the province announced the introduction of a "first-of its-kind in Canada" legislation which would create a provincial heritage tree program in partnership with the Manitoba Forestry Association and Trees Winnipeg to recognize and protect trees that have environmental, cultural, social and historic importance to all Manitobans.

In 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Trees Winnipeg and the Manitoba Forestry Association formalizing the partnership between the two organizations on

the delivery of the Manitoba Heritage Trees Program. Throughout 2014, Trees Winnipeg, MFA and the Province worked closely to refine the details of this new program.

In 2014, the Amazing Tree Quest (ATQ) was held for its fourth year along the Red River corridor in partnership with Rivers West. Typically, winners of this contest are announced during National Forest Week, but unfortunately, no nominations were received in 2014. The Manitoba Forestry Association continues to support Rivers West with this initiative.

## Private Land Resource Planning

**KRISTEN MALEC AND TATIANA MOROZ – RESOURCE EXTENSION OFFICERS**

The Private Land Resource Planning (PLRP) Program continues to promote the wise management of private lands while meeting the needs of the landowners. The program focuses on preserving and/or enhancing natural biodiversity while assisting landowners by promoting multi-land use benefits including harvesting, water quality, wildlife enhancement, tree planting (reforestation and afforestation), climate change (carbon sinks), and economic development, such as non-timber forest products, recreation and tourism.

Private Land Resource Planning is the provincial delivery mechanism ensuring that Manitoba's private land forest resource is sustainably managed. The MFA is changing private landowner attitudes towards the need for active forest management, as ownership alone will not ensure long term forest ecosystem health.

Private Land Resource Planning is nationally leading the way for private woodlot services by offering management plans, training and extension, and forestry services to private landowners across Manitoba. The new management plan and delivery process has resulted in an increased number of actively managed woodlots as well as created a resource inventory on private land. This in turn has resulted in both increased education and awareness among woodlot owners regarding the importance of sustainable resource management. In conjunction with the delivery of management plans, PLRP also focuses on delivery of extension services.

### Current Developments

- hired two new Resource Extension Officers
- developed new partnerships and MOU's with other resource delivery programs (Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC), Conservation Districts, Invasive Species Council of Manitoba, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives,) while continuing to work with current partners (Manitoba Model Forest, Woodlot Association of Manitoba, Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association, and Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship).



- developed an annual work plan for PLRP
- completed ArcGIS training

### *PLRP Deliverables for 2014/2015*

PLRP will deliver private land forest activities in three main areas (Resource Planning, Training and Extension, and Forestry Services) in combination with professional development through staff training and workshop/conference attendance.

From April 1st 2014 to March 31st 2015 PLRP is reporting the following deliverables:

- Resource Planning
  - 3 Resource Management Plans
  - 1 Timber Assessment
- Training and Extension
  - Workshops
    - 1 Tree Planting Workshop (RM of Piney, to coincide with Annual Seedling Sales)
    - 1 Forestry Training Workshop (students at Harvest Moon Eco-Challenge)
    - 1 Tree I.D. Workshop (Manitoba Environmental Industries Association Career Expo)
  - Presentations
    - 1 Presentation (Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association AGM about Social Media Marketing & Website Development)
    - 1 Presentation CIF E-Lecture about PLRP
    - 1 Presentation (CIF Manitoba Chapter Fall Meeting)
    - 1 Presentation (Woodlot Association of Manitoba AGM)
- Forestry Services
  - 1 Forestry service activity
    - 1 Timber Assessment (Manitoba Hydro)
- Other
  - Professional Development
    - 8 Conferences/Workshops Attended
    - Ongoing GIS Training



### *PLRP Highlights:*

A partnership was formed between the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), Pembina Valley Conservation District and the MFA for the submission of a grant application under EcoAction. This partnership was successful in receiving funding through the EcoAction application, and with that the Sustainable Slopes project is being delivered between 2013 and 2016. Under this initiative the MFA is providing resource management plans to every landowner who enters into a conservation easement agreement with MHHC.



## Setting Down New Roots

Setting Down New Roots, a primary fundraiser for the organization, is multifaceted program offering an array of products and services to a wide variety of audiences. The funds generated through this program help to support the Manitoba Forestry Association and our educational programming.

### *Annual Seedling Distribution*

The 'trunk' of our program is our Annual Seedling Distribution. The primary focus of this program is the sale of seedlings and potted stock to landowners at an annual distribution held each May. Seedlings are purchased for the purposes of establishing shelter and wildlife enhancement, afforestation and reforestation efforts, general aesthetic values, landscaping stock or for Christmas trees.

Through these efforts, over 110,000 seedlings were distributed to landowners across the prairie provinces and east into Ontario in 2014. In addition, close to 600 potted trees were purchased by landowners here in Manitoba. This increase in sales can be attributed to two factors:

- 1) the introduction of new species and stock sizes made available through this program, and
- 2) the funding for the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Shelterbelt Program coming to an end after providing trees and shrubs to prairie landowners for over 100 years.





### *Wedding and Special Event Seedlings*

Tree seedlings make a unique and memorable gift for a variety of special occasions. The MFA offers pre-packaged, DIY seedling packages and seedlings to those wishing to provide a green and renewable gift. Just under 7,000 seedlings were marketed through this program in 2014.

### *“Planting for the Future”*

The National Forest Week activities were highlighted by an event supporting the “Planting for the Future” Program. Qualico Homes sponsors this program and is committed to the planting of approximately 100,000 seedlings over a 10 year period as part of their comprehensive environmental stewardship strategy. Qualico is committed to being environmentally friendly and by partnering with the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA); Qualico is demonstrating this commitment through this tree planting initiative. In the eighth year of the program, 10,000 seedlings were planted as a reforestation project on the outskirts of Vassar, Manitoba in the RM of Piney.

In addition to the 10,000 seedling which were planted in the RM of Piney, Qualico and the MFA partnered with the town of Ste. Agathe and 100 one gallon potted white spruce trees were planted within their community.

Two schools participated in this planting:

- September 25, 2014 – Sixty grade 5 and 6 students from Machray School planted 20 trees along a newly established trail bordering the Red River, to help with riverbank stabilization, and 40 trees were planted within the town park to help establish shelter.
- October 21, 2014 – Thirty-five grade 5 and 6 students from Ste. Agathe School planted 40 white spruce trees along a trail connecting a new housing development to the rest of the community. These trees will provide shelter, wildlife enhancement and aesthetics to the community.

On September 22 – As part of National Forest Week, potted White Spruce seedlings were delivered to the Members of the Manitoba Legislature and the Grand Gallery.

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