

Saskatchewan
ECO-NETWORK

NETWORKNEWS

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“Our Environment, Our Jobs, Our Future”

Canadian Labour Congress Health, Safety and Environment conference

The conference was held in Vancouver Oct. 29 - 31, 2000, with nearly 200 people from across the country in attendance.

The theme of the conference was an examination of how to work for a sustainable future and the sustainable employment that will emerge with it. This was a new and high-risk venture for the CLC Standing Committee on Environment, since the conception of a sustainable society and economy lies at the frontiers of scientific knowledge and social thinking.

Further, even when advanced thinkers have explored a sustainable future, they have rarely considered the employment impacts and, even less, the role of trade unions in a sustainable economy.

Hosted by CLC Vice-President Hassan Yussaff, the officer responsible for health, safety and environment, the conference theme was to work from our unpromising predicament to a new future of sustainable employment. After the introductions and keynote speech, attendees moved to a panel on the Unsustainable Society. This was followed by workshops on how to move to sustainability and its implications for jobs.

The second day began with a presentation by CLC President Ken Georgetti, who has always advocated pressure on businesses to move to socially responsible modes of production and was therefore a strong supporter of the CLC Environment Committee’s initiative. Much of the second day was devoted to sectoral workshops on sustainable employment, enabling delegates to explore the possibilities in the industries in which they work. This was followed by a panel on Drawing the Threads Together.

The final morning of the conference was devoted to workplace, community and political strategies for action, and the workshop reports.

Recommendations from the conference:

CLC conferences are not policy-making events. Delegates make recommendations that are considered and taken up as appropriate by CLC Committees within the mandate given them by CLC Conventions and the CLC Executive Council. The concluding plenary made many recommendations, of which the following were the most prominent:

- § Develop training and awareness programs over Green Job Creation, for workers and the public;
- § Build Green Job Creation Alliances;
- § Work with and lobby governments: promote economic and fiscal incentives;
- § Research international strategies, including union strategies;
- § Get Green Job Creation into the school system, with a bilingual kit;
- § Plan for Just Transition as part of Green Job Creation;
- § Do research on green job gains and job losses in unsustainable industries;
- § Publicize and promote success stories;
- § Pick one community as a model;
- § Focus on energy efficiency as the key to sustainable employment;
- § Take leadership and follow up the conference at the next CLC convention.



Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op gives kids positive options

Youth who live around Riversdale have a safe and positive place to spend their after school and summer break hours. Kids as young as five and as old as 18 can drop into the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op (CNYC) to participate in a variety of leadership and skill-building activities developed with an environmental theme – and at the same time earn some spending money.

Edwin Nicotine, a 14-year-old from City Park, commented that coming to the CNYC was “better than doing nothing”. Edwin’s response sounds less than enthusiastic; however, his attendance attests to the success of the innovative program. Edwin has been coming to the CNYC for the last couple of months. During his time at the youth co-op he has participated in many revenue-building projects that focus on environmental responsibility. He has learned that this doesn’t have to be a throw-away society and caring about the environment is a worthwhile venture. He has gained work experience, skills, education, and a paycheque that keep him coming back for more. Edwin has built compost bins, birdhouses, doghouses and bikes – all from recycled materials that would otherwise be destined for the landfill. Youth at the CNYC learn through hands-on experience that they have a responsibility to the environment and that trying to save it can pay off.

The CNYC is a working co-operative which redistributes the profits made from the group’s many projects. From December until February this year CNYC members were paid out a total of \$1394. For youth who may have difficulty in gaining meaningful employment and who live under economically stressful conditions, the CNYC is an opportunity to earn much-needed spending money and at the same time gain a feeling of dignity and independence.

Riversdale community members who saw a need to give youth of the area an alternative to hanging around on the streets created the CNYC as a means for young people to build self-confidence and leadership. Rather than creating a strictly recreational facility, the volunteer board of directors took the concept of a youth centre a step further and created an interesting marriage of environmentalism and community economic development.

The CNYC is located in the heart of Saskatoon’s five core neighbourhoods at 414 Avenue B South. The City of Saskatoon donated the use of the A.L.Cole Building, which has proved to be an excellent facility to host the variety of CNYC activities. In addition, Social Services and Co-operative and Economic Development provide core funding to the project. In the past, the United Way has also provided much-needed funding. Core funding is used only to pay wages and basic overhead costs. The only money the youth receive comes from the sale of our eco-friendly products, including:

- Compost bins
- Organic herbs
- Birdhouses and feeders
- Doghouses
- Tree banding services
- Spring and fall yard clean-up
- Recycling pick-up
- Worm composting kits
- Dandelion removal

The CNYC also accepts donations of the following:

- Volunteer time and energy
- Recyclable bottles and cans
- Children’s books and games
- Skates
- Seeds and gardening tools
- Unused bikes and bike parts
- Wood in good condition

This summer the CNYC will extend its hours of operation from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The main project for the season will be the organic garden. Youth will learn how to garden collectively using alternatives to herbicides and pesticides. Herbs and vegetables will be farmed in recycled garbage dumpsters. The dumpsters, usually destined for the landfill, will become productive once again in the form of raised planters. CNYC members will also learn the basics of entrepreneurship and marketing, as they will then sell the organic produce locally.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the CNYC, please contact Audra Krueger at 665-3889 or stop by 414 Avenue B South. You can also check out our web page (under construction) at cnyc.dhs.org

- Audra Krueger

Poisoning the Prairies, Peter Tkalec’s report on hazardous waste management, is now available from the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES). Copies may be obtained for \$5 by contacting the SES office by e-mail at saskenv@link.ca, by phone at 665-1915, or by mail at P.O. Box 1372, Saskatoon SK S7K 3N9.

This 34-page report provides background about hazardous waste management in Saskatchewan, and analyzes the system in terms of five factors required for a sound management system.

Weaknesses identified in Saskatchewan’s approach to hazardous waste management include the apparent lack of data about the quantities and sources of various chemicals and their destiny. Incomplete, unchecked shipping documents have been accumulating in the Environment Department offices. A SERM official claimed that the Department relies on watchful citizens to report violations of dumping regulations. SES will be following up on the concerns raised in the report.

Peter Tkalec, a recent chemical engineering grad, interned with SES under the auspices of Human Resources Development Canada’s Youth International Internship Program.

PollutionWatch: A valuable new tool

By Ann Coxworth

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Have you ever wondered about the emissions being released to the environment by industrial plants in your neighbourhood? Do you worry about potential health impacts from the stuff you see emerging from smokestacks – or from the stuff you *don't* see? Are you curious about the nature of the various chemicals our industries are adding to air, land and water as they carry out their business?

Go to www.pollutionwatch.org for a great place to start satisfying your curiosity. This new website has been created by three Canadian environmental law organizations, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, and the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund.

Using data from Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), PollutionWatch enables you to type in your postal code and get a report on industrial polluters in your neighbourhood. It will tell you who is emitting what, what quantities are involved, how these emissions compare with those in other places, and what health and environmental hazards each chemical presents. You are provided with contact information for the companies involved, and information about the regulatory systems to which they are subject. This wealth of information has been brought together in a much more accessible format than was previously available, and it provides a fine new tool for the watchful citizen.

That being said, it is necessary to draw attention to a few confusing features of the website that could possibly lead to incorrect conclusions.

First, the information on what is being emitted comes from the most

recent version of NPRI, which contains 1999 data. So changes that took place in the past year and a half are not included. Thus, for example, Weyerhaeuser in Prince Albert comes out looking quite a bit dirtier than it should. This will be corrected as the NPRI updates its material.

NPRI does not capture information from small emitters. Only companies over a certain size are obliged to report, and some kinds of industries are exempted. We have a particular case here in Saskatchewan of a large-scale emitter whose data are not available. IPSCO, the Regina steel company, is challenging in court Environment Canada's right to demand the reporting of emission data. While the case is in court, the company is submitting its information to NPRI, but only on condition that it not be included in accessible documents. Because of the absence of IPSCO's data, Regina probably appears much cleaner in the PollutionWatch website than it should.


Also, the geographical breakdown for reporting is a bit confusing. Within each province, reports are given on the basis of "census sub-divisions". These are geographical areas that in some cases correspond closely to municipal boundaries, but not always. Thus one of Regina's biggest polluters, the Co-op Refinery, does not appear in the Regina census sub-division, but in Lumsden! So if you type in a Regina postal code, you will not see the refinery's emissions. And when I type in the postal code for the SES mailbox in the downtown Saskatoon post office, I get the report for the adjacent rural community of Corman Park. (I haven't yet figured out why).

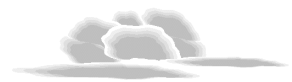
The other thing to be careful of in using the website is that the initial report it gives you is based on the total weight of reported emissions, without taking into account how hazardous they are. However, by probing a little further, it will analyze emissions on the basis of factors such as carcinogenicity, impact on the nervous system,

respiratory impact, ozone depletion etc. The information is all there – you just have to read carefully what the numbers represent.

So what does PollutionWatch tell us about Saskatchewan? Here are a few interesting tidbits:

- Saskatoon's largest emitter in terms of total weight of emissions is the POS Pilot Plant on the university campus. These emissions are mainly methanol. The city's second highest is the airport, largely due to de-icing procedures.
- By far the biggest cancer risk among Saskatchewan emitters comes from Consumers Co-op Refinery in Regina. Regina also hosts the province's greatest non-cancer health hazard emitter, Russel Metals (manganese emissions).
- Sterling Chemicals in Saskatoon is the only Saskatchewan source listed for ozone-depleting emissions. But remember that none of the small-scale sources of freons (from leaky air-conditioning systems etc.) are included. Together they would probably add up to a significant source.
- As in many other ways, Saskatchewan is neither the best nor the worst in terms of total polluting emissions. We come out looking cleaner than six other provinces, which is not surprising given our relatively low level of industrialization.

This is a fascinating website, which will only increase in usefulness as the wrinkles get worked through. Saskatchewan Environmental Society is listed on the website as the contact group for further information on the Saskatchewan content. 



Why are our shorelines worth protecting?

The natural features that attract us to shorelines are part of a natural system that supports our water quality, preserves our fish and wildlife habitat and increases the value and natural beauty of our shore. The shoreline, or 'Ribbon of Life', where land, water, and air meet, is a vital edge. Healthy shorelines of any kind, such as those along lakes, rivers, creeks and streams, play an essential role in protecting our water sources. By restoring and preserving the natural environment, such changes can result in direct personal benefits to those who live along a shoreline through time and cost savings, increased property values, and safer and healthier surroundings for families. Being a steward of our shorelines is a role all of us can take!

'Well-dressed' waterfronts are complicated places, bursting with over 50 species of different-coloured, different-sized shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, ferns, trees and water plants. Each plant has a special function; pollutants running off the land are often trapped and absorbed by the vegetation, particularly the cattails, protecting the water quality of the lake or river. Plants along the shoreline act as a buffer against wind, wave and ice erosion. Aquatic plants, insects, amphibians, fish, birds and mammals all find the shoreline a great place to live or visit. Hundreds of species depend on shorelines for breeding grounds, nurseries, food sources, shelter and hiding places.


The Living by Water Project can help you and your group!

Founded by two B.C. waterfront residents, The Living by Water Project is a national partnership initiative of conservation and stewardship groups working to raise awareness of the roles and values of Canada's shorelines, and to promote actions that help sustain their health and integrity. We can help by providing products and services and sharing tools and techniques that support you and your group in your efforts to protect shorelines. Nature Saskatchewan is the lead partner of The Living by Water Project in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Shoreline Ambassador Program is an opportunity for stewardship groups, cottage associations or youth groups to become involved in shoreline stewardship and reward the efforts of members and participants. A Shoreline Action Checklist allows you to make a personal commitment to take actions in your home, along the shoreline, and on the water to protect and restore shorelines. The Living by Water Project can help your group run a Homesite Assessment Program for shoreline residents. We will train a member of your group as a homesite assessor to visit shoreline properties and provide residents with tips for making positive changes that will benefit them, improve water quality and increase wildlife habitat.

Shoreline Celebration & Restoration Month is September 2001. This is a chance to celebrate our connection to waterways and encourage involvement in Canada's shorelines by initiating fun and informative shoreline events!

Products available for distribution: Waterfront Living brochure, Shoreline Action Checklist, Shoreline Celebration & Restoration Month brochure, Importance of Shorelands information sheet, children's Shorelines are Special Places poster & children's Quiz & Activity Sheet.

For more information on The Living by Water Project in Saskatchewan or Manitoba, phone (306) 780-9834, email shorelines@unibase.com or visit our website at www.livingbywater.ca. 



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So how IS the water?

By Cathy Holtslander

The Water Working Group/Water Watch Committee project, *How's the Water: Perspectives on Water and Rural Communities in Saskatchewan* is underway. So far, we've had three community meetings: one each in Maple Creek, Weyburn and Spiritwood. The last one will be in Preeceville on June 12.

After compiling the information from the meetings and other types of research, we will be putting together a short publication about Saskatchewan's water from an environmental perspective, for distribution across the province.

I have collected quite a bit of information so far from a wide variety of sources including CUPE, PFRA, SaskWater, Environment Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Council of Canadians, Sierra Legal Defence Fund, Safe Drinking Water Foundation, the Saskatchewan Research Council and the National Farmers Union.

The topics covered include ground water systems in Saskatchewan, contamination of surface and ground waters, conservation techniques, climate change effects, impacts of privatization on water quality and water infrastructure, agriculture and ground and surface water, implications of poor quality drinking water, biological water treatment systems. I would welcome any suggestions or leads for further research.

At the public meetings people have brought forward concerns based on personal experience and observations. A common theme is that regulations are weak, and unenforceable guidelines often take the place of regulations.

Furthermore, monitoring and enforcement is inadequate. In some cases it is because the responsible agencies are underfunded and understaffed. In other cases it seems to

be due to conflicts where short-term economic interests are given priority over long-term ecological responsibilities.

The following are some of the hot spots people have expressed concern about at the public meetings:

1. Irrigation of the golf course in Cypress Hills Provincial Park using treated effluent from the park.

Local people are concerned that the treatment plant will not be able to handle peak loads; irrigation could cause the pesticides and herbicides used on the golf course to leach into ground water and contaminate springs; and development will change the golf course from a fairly natural environment to one that is heavily input-dependent. Cypress Hills is the major recharge area for groundwater and ranchers depend on having good water for their own and their livestock's use. Past practices in managing sewage treatment have not inspired confidence and there is concern about conflict of interest since SERM is both the developer and the regulator in the park.

2. Deep well high-pressure injection in the gas fields.

The oil and gas industry uses deep wells to dispose of water extracted from gas and to increase pressure underground to increase the amount of gas recovered. There is concern that water being injected may be contaminated with bacteria and/or other chemicals that will eventually contaminate groundwater supplies. There is a lack of regulation (guidelines only), inspection (only done when an incident is reported) and enforcement.


3. Risk to ground water by hazardous drilling waste.

There is a situation near Minton where drilling mud is being dumped in an alkali slough. The concern is that oil and other toxic materials are in the mud, that monitoring is inadequate, and that the material could leak into the groundwater and contaminate it.

4. Leaching of contaminated soils from drilling operations. An old contaminated soil pit on a farm near Weyburn was fitted with drainage tiles to ensure that leachate drains away. The question is, where does it drain to, and what are the consequences for groundwater quality?

5. Deforestation of the forest fringe reducing groundwater recharge. Unregulated forest cutting and untimely spring burning on private land is reducing forest cover. In the context of climate change this could make drought situations even worse, as forests help soils retain water and slow down the flow of water through the ecosystem, keeping it available for flora and fauna to use.

6. Lack of investment in programs to protect watersheds. A lot of excellent work has been done by the PFRA and other agencies on practices and technologies to help farms and communities protect the quality of surface and ground water, but it costs time and money to install improved systems. Since good water is a benefit to all, the cost of upgrading to more environmentally friendly options should not be borne only by the individual farmer or small community.

The final report and publication will be out early in the fall. Please feel free to contact the SEN office at 652-1275 or sen@link.ca with your input if you are interested in the state of Saskatchewan's water. 

Canadian Nature Federation & Nature Saskatchewan Conference, June 7-10, 2001

Join us at the U of S for this conference being hosted by the Saskatoon Nature Society. Symposium presentations on some of Saskatchewan's special places, including the Qu'Appelle Valley, the Athabasca Sand Dunes, the Frenchman River Valley and the waters of the Elbow. Field trips to sites as the Turtle Lake Sanctuary, Grasslands National Park, Cypress Hills, Chaplin Lake Important Bird Area, Batoche, Prince Albert National Park, the Porcupine Hills and Last Mountain Lake Bird Sanctuary.

By Jan Norris

Now that the gas has settled, let's look at what was ultimately accomplished by the 34 heads of state whose presence turned Québec City into a war-zone last month. According to their post-Summit proclamation, they did two things:

First they agreed on a date to keep negotiating towards: January 1, 2005, just three and a half years away.

Secondly, they signed the "Democracy Clause" which states that only democratic states can join the club. Ironic, since the democratic credentials of at least two leaders, Jean-Bertrand Aristide and George W. Bush, are more than questionable. Nevertheless, there was lots of hoopla about the Democracy Clause, with Jean Chrétien going on about the rights of the person and the importance of democratic institutions.¹

What surprised me about the Democracy Clause is that all 34 leaders managed to sign it with a straight face. Just a few days earlier, a court had ruled that the barrier set up around the Summit was unconstitutional; that in fact it violated Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. But because of what had happened at the WTO meeting in Seattle, said the judge, the fence could stay. Some broken windows in another country, in other words, are worth more than our democratic rights in Canada, which anyway were being trampled a few blocks away from the signing ceremony.

Under Canadian law, when the police arrest someone they have to tell them what they're being charged with. One can only guess what the cooks at the Free Kitchen were charged with as they were taken off to jail and 1200 pounds of organic food was thrown into a garbage truck. The Free Kitchen was nowhere near the action. It was a place where people ate organic vegan meals provided by Food Not Bombs. The police teargassed it, then shut it down.

The police also fired teargas into the peoples' medical clinics, raided them and confiscated their supplies. This in a country that had signed the Democracy Clause!

Then there's the issue of plastic bullets. When I left Québec, the man who had been hit in the throat was still in hospital and it's feared he'll never be able to speak again. In the European Union, plastic bullets are considered lethal weapons and were banned as a means of crowd control after they killed 17 people in Northern Ireland. The United Nations' Human Rights Watch is calling for a worldwide ban. But here in the "democratic" Free Trade Area of the Americas, I fear we will see them routinely used on non-violent protesters exercising their democratic rights.

And speaking of democracy, it's been five weeks since Pierre Pettigrew, Canada's Trade Minister, promised the release of the FTAA text "in a few days, two weeks at the most". So where's the text? They must really not want us to see it. Could it be even worse than we think? And how come our media isn't clamouring for it?

And the total cost of the Summit? Heaven knows. Security alone is estimated at \$100 million. For what? So that our leaders could do what most of us could have accomplished with a few emails? Or did something more sinister take place behind closed doors?

But let's not forget the significant accomplishment not mentioned in the leaders' proclamation: the radicalization of many thousands of people. The police, rather than protecting the heads of state, were perhaps their worst enemies. Thousands of Canadians, known for their docility and deference, have a new understanding of how the system operates and how armed force is used to maintain it regardless of rights and freedoms.

And make no mistake: the police action in Québec was not an

unfortunate but necessary sidebar to the event, as many of us might like to think. Heavy-handed policing is absolutely integral and essential to the movement that puts corporations above governments, profits above people. As more people learn what's really going on, opposition to the Corporate Globalization agenda will grow. Ultimately, no matter how many ersatz Democracy Clauses are signed, it will take a police state to uphold that agenda.

Make no mistake either about what "Free Trade" is really about. The goal is simply to ensure that greed can go unchecked. The big corporations do not want governments to be able to set limits on how much lumber or oil they can extract, on how many species they can eliminate, or on how little they can pay their workers. Ironically, it was precisely through using protectionist trade policies that the industrialized countries were able to become wealthy. They regulated exports and imports and imposed tariffs and duties to encourage their own economic growth. Now, in the name of Free Trade, developing countries are being denied these same tools.

There is a short chant I like a lot. It can be used during an upbeat happy protest parade or while people are sitting in front of a police line about to fire on them: "*This Is What Democracy Looks Like, This Is What Democracy Looks Like.*"

In Québec City we saw clearly what a police state looks like, and its name is Canada. 

¹The real purpose of the "Democracy Clause" is to officially exclude Cuba. Cuba is governed by a "wicked dictatorship" which, when international aid was withdrawn from poverty-stricken Haiti due to questions about President Aristide's legitimacy, sent medicine and nurses, welcomed Haitians into Cuban universities (tuition free) and helped reopen an old fish processing plant and a factory for producing sugar for export.

Ness Creek Music Festival

The folks at the Ness Creek Music Festival are getting geared up for the 11th Annual festival near Big River, on the weekend of July 19-22, 2001. You are invited to join the 3,000 patrons, musicians, guests, volunteers and children who will be coming to enjoy great music and a real good time just west of Prince Albert National Park at the festival site which consists of three adjoining pastures nestled in the boreal forest.

In addition to the main stage musical attractions there will be an Eco-Village, children's activities and entertainment, workshop stages and the Community Sharing Circle which is a good place for informal jamming and story-telling.

At the main stage on Thursday, July 19, enjoy Johnny Howard and the Fine Options from Saskatoon, the Frequent Flyers from Big River, Sandy Lake and Prince Albert, Sturgis Trash of Norquay and Saskatoon and the Honeymans from Kimberly, B.C.

Friday, July 20 features Homebrood from Regina, the Lighthouse Penguins from Saskatoon, Old Style Millikin from Big River, The Corn Sisters out of B.C. and

the U.S., Daniel Koulack and the Knappen Street All Star Band from Winnipeg, the festival "house band" Crooked Creek from Big River and Bocephus King from B.C.

The line-up for Saturday, July 21 includes Not a Love Song from Saskatoon (recently featured on CBC radio), Los Canasteros from B.C., Valdy and Gary Fjellgard, Jerusalem Ridge from Edmonton, and Njacko Backo and Kalimba Kalimba from Toronto.

Relax on Sunday, July 22 with Upstream from Debden, Ben Schenstead of Saskatoon and The Millenium Men from Saskatoon.

Tickets are available through Select-a-Seat at (306) 938-7800. If you would like to volunteer for the Ness Creek Music Festival, call 652-NESS or show up at Lydia's for Volunteer Night on Tuesday, July 5.

For more information about the festival, contact Jen at #1, 804 Dufferin Avenue, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 2B8; phone (306) 652-6377; fax 664-6331 or email nesscrk@link.ca. The website is at <http://www.nesscreek.com>.



Prince of Wales Visits Saskatchewan Organic Farmers



While in Assiniboia, Prince Charles took time for a private meeting with four certified organic farm families. Dwayne & Jeanne Woolhouse, Ian & Debbie Miller, Kevin & Donna Beach and their families, as well as Will Oddie and his partner Elaine McNeil, had the opportunity to visit privately with the Prince over tea and fresh-baked Saskatoon pie.

The scheduled 30-minute meeting soon stretched to almost an hour as the Prince took time to visit with each person individually as well as mingling with the group as a whole. He was very interested in the crops grown here and in our production practices. As he shared stories from his own organic farm and food processing business it became evident that we share many of the same concerns and frustrations.

The Prince of Wales has been outspoken in his concern about the possible long-term consequences on the environment and on agricultural

economies worldwide if the current focus on a "high tech" approach to agriculture is maintained. He feels very strongly that the best place to start looking for sustainability is in the traditional farming systems, which have stood the test of time.

He appreciates the importance of making the best possible use of natural and regenerative processes, of local resources and of human ingenuity and teamwork. The Prince also shared our concern over GMOs, and will dispute the argument that they are needed to "feed the world".

The group presented the Prince with several gifts, including a copy of the SOD book Organic Farming on the Prairies and the SIAST video Introduction to Organic Farming (converted to PAL format so he can view it easily from his castle). He was also pleased to receive a copy of the SOD GMO Position Paper and several back issues of the SOD Newsletter.

Prince Charles expressed regret and disappointment at not being

able to actually visit our farms this time, but seemed to thoroughly enjoy his visit with us. In fact, two of his aides were overheard in conversation. One was expressing concern about the fact that we were running over-time, the other remarked: "He's been looking forward to this all day, it's the highlight for him. Let him take as long as he likes." It was also the highlight for us!

- Debbie Miller

"On this issue of human freedom, if you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, that hope is possible, then hope may be justified, and a better world may be built. That's your choice."

- Noam Chomsky

SEN Gathering and Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 16

12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve

Interpretive Centre

Redberry Lake Regional Park, SK

Come early and enjoy a nature walk at 10:30 with Mike Finley, long-time cottage owner, member of the Saskatoon Nature Society and connoisseur of wild herbal teas.

Redberry Lake is an unusual, closed watershed that terminates in a saline lake. In 1915, the waters were set aside as a federal migratory bird sanctuary. The area provides habitat for nine endangered, threatened, or rare bird species, as well as over 180 other species. For more natural history see the website at <http://members.home.net/mjfinley/home.html>

Bring a picnic or buy your lunch at the park concession and enjoy some visiting time with ecologically-minded folks from around the province over the noon hour.

The formal part of the meeting will begin at 1:00 at the interpretive centre, with introductions and updates from everyone in attendance. Peter Kingsmill and Julian Bodnar will be the featured speakers.

Peter Kingsmill has been involved with the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve project for many years. He will talk about their "Ice on/ice off monitoring project" concerning climate change and the aquatic ecosystem.

Julian Bodnar is an environmental lawyer with expertise in agricultural issues. His talk, *Water: Good Until the Last Drop*, will highlight legal aspects of environmental conflicts involving water.

Network News is published quarterly by the Saskatchewan Eco-Network.

Editor: Cathy Holtslander

Layout and design: Jacquie Moore

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Saskatchewan Eco-Network.

Submissions are welcome. For permission to reprint articles, please contact the author or SEN.

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CMPA # 1617737

SEN is an affiliate of the

Canadian Environmental Network.

After the presentations the SEN Working Groups will meet. Currently we have four of them: Biotech, Forests, Pesticides and Water. Those who are not involved in a Working Group will be able to do some networking to check out common issues, (who is working on what, how can we connect), common skill training possibilities (media, fundraising, writing) and to plan strategies around action and lobbying (joint campaigns, tools, contacts).

The business meeting, including election of the 2001-02 Steering Committee, takes place from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information about the gathering and meeting, please contact the SEN office at (306) 652-1275 or email to sen@link.ca. ☀

Directions: Redberry Lake is 11 km east of Hafford on Hwy 40. Hafford is northwest of Saskatoon, north of Radisson and southwest of Blaine Lake. The Park charges admission fees of \$5 per vehicle, or you can buy a season pass for all the regional parks for \$20. Camping is available at the park for \$8 or \$12 per night (call 306-549-2149 for more information).

Join the Network!

New members are welcome. Membership is open to non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations involved in environmental protection activities. Individuals who support the Network's objectives may also join as subscribers but may not vote or hold office.

Name/Contact Person

Organization

Title

Address

Postal Code

Phone Fax

Email

Membership fees:

Annual budget of less than \$5,000 \$30.00

Annual budget from \$5,000 to \$29,999 \$35.00

Annual budget from \$30,000 to \$99,999 \$45.00

Annual budget of \$100,000 or more \$50.00

Organization fees include \$10.00 membership in the CEN

Individual subscriber \$10.00

Please send your cheque to Saskatchewan Eco-Network,
#203-115 2nd Ave. North, Saskatoon, SK. S7K 2B1.