

*Saskatchewan*  
**ECO-NETWORK**

# NETWORKNEWS

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## Plan To Clean Up The IPCO Site

A few months ago SES reported on the need to clean up the contaminated site of the derelict IPCO herbicide plant on the riverbank just north of Saskatoon. The abandoned building sits in a fenced-off area between the two active chemical plants belonging to Sterling Pulp Chemicals and Akzo Nobel. IPCO, a subsidiary of Federated Cooperatives Ltd., manufactured herbicides in this building in the 1960s. Its asbestos-covered walls are contaminated with phenoxy-herbicides, which have also penetrated the cement floor into the soil below. Over the decades since herbicide production ended, the hazardous building and associated wastes have sat there while long arguments have gone on about who should pay for the remediation.

At an Open House on January 18, the long-awaited plan for demolition of the building and disposal of the contaminated material was presented for public review. An earlier proposal had called for burial of the wastes on a municipal site elsewhere in Corman Park. Local residents objected, so the new plan instead requires construction of a secure burial pit right beside the existing building. The pit will be built on a deep bed of clay, and will be lined and covered with compacted soil to prevent (or minimize) leaching. The surface will be mounded to divert rainfall. The water table is about 20 metres below the surface here.

Into the pit will go the building materials including the herbicide-contaminated asbestos and a whole mess of pigeon dung and contaminated junk which had been stored in the building, the cement rubble from the flooring, and soil excavated to a depth of one metre from below the building. This will all be covered with compacted soil, then topsoil which will eventually be planted with some kind of ground cover. The entire building and the pit area will be covered by a temporary "Coverall-type" building while the dismantling and burial takes place. A negative air pressure will be maintained within this cover building to minimize the escape of contaminants to the atmosphere during the work.


The remediation costs for this plan will be covered jointly by IPCO and the provincial government. Most of us believe that IPCO should be paying for all of it, even though at the time the contamination occurred, there were no relevant environmental regulations in place. In addition to the provincial contribution towards the demolition and burial costs, Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management will have an on-going role in monitoring the disposal pit to ensure that it is not leaching at an unacceptable rate. The proposal, incidentally, is not expected to trigger the Environmental Assessment Act, so it will probably be quickly approved after screening without further environmental assessment.

This is not a perfect solution to the problem, but perfect solutions don't often exist when one is dealing with the results of past bad environmental practices. Personally, I can support the approach being planned, and will look forward to seeing the work undertaken over the coming spring and summer. This project will get the hazardous building down and much of the contaminated material contained. That's a very good start. A separate plan is being developed to deal with the herbicide and salt-contaminated water that is emerging from springs on the river bank below the plant. That will be another story.

- Ann Coxworth

### Amisk-Atik Forest Plan Public Review Begins

The Public Review period for the Amisk-Atik Forest Draft Land Use Plan will be from Feb. 1 to April 1, 2001. The Amisk-Atik plan covers a large part of northeastern Saskatchewan, both north and south of the Churchill River, from just north of Cumberland House to about halfway between Southend and Wollaston. The forest management agreement being developed is for the partnership between the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd.

The document is available at the SEN office, at the public libraries in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Melfort, Nipawin and Flin Flon, as well as in school libraries, band offices, town offices and SERM local and regional offices in the planning area. The whole document is only about 2.5 inches thick, so it's not too intimidating to read! People are welcome to drop by and look at it during SEN office hours. 

## World Council of Churches Speaks Out on Climate Change

In May 2000, delegates from around the world gathered in Saskatoon for ten days of focussed discussion on the justice issues surrounding climate change and the Kyoto agreement. The World Council of Churches statement came out of these deliberations. The opening section of the document is printed below.

*The Earth's Atmosphere: Responsible Caring And Equitable Sharing For A Global Commons, A Justice Statement regarding Climate Change from The World Council of Churches (WCC).* Prepared in anticipation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in The Hague, The Netherlands, November 2000.

### *Overview:*

The atmosphere is a global commons. It envelops the Earth, nurturing and protecting life. It is part of God's creation. It is to be shared by everyone, today and in the future. Economic and political powers can not be allowed to impair the health of the atmosphere nor claim possession of it.

Human societies are changing the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the excessive use of fossil fuels. Humans and other members of the life community are already suffering from climatic changes and scientific projections point to an increase in the number of those affected and the severity of such suffering adversely affecting health, food security and habitation.

The wealthier countries with high per capita emissions levels have precipitated the climate change crisis. They have the moral responsibility to substantially reduce their own emissions.

Wealthy polluting countries should not be allowed to buy their way out of the problem through paying for projects in other countries.

Over the years since the adoption of the Climate Change Convention at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, attention has shifted away from a priority on emissions reduction actions in the richer polluting countries and toward strategies for those countries to purchase low-cost reduction credits in other countries.

Emissions trading under the Kyoto Protocol would violate the criterion of ecological effectiveness because it would not ensure a reduction in actual emissions.

Trading mechanisms such as proposed under the Clean Development Mechanism would pose major issues of equity and justice. Establishing the system based on historical emissions patterns reinforces a history of inequity between rich and poor in terms of resource exploitation and use of ecological space in the global atmospheric commons.

The Clean Development Mechanism risks exacerbating inequities between rich and poor. The richer countries, in order to meet their reduction targets, would be able to mop up the cheap reduction options from developing countries. This would leave only more expensive reduction strategies for the poorer countries when it is time for them to take on commitments in the future.

The Clean Development Mechanism could further lock the poorer countries into the carbon path. Also, poorer nations in Africa would be severely disadvantaged through the Clean Development Mechanism. Because of their poverty and low per capita emissions, they would not attract investments from industrialised countries.

The threat of climate change forces us to seek alternate paths in order to stabilise the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. A non-carbon energy future is both a necessity and a realisable possibility.

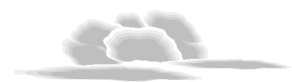
An alternate approach which would be more sustainable and equitable could be a Global Atmospheric Commons Model which would be based on an equitable allocation of emissions rights such as the per capita convergence (i.e. long term sustainable) level. Countries which use the global atmospheric commons in excess of the convergence level would have to pay a user penalty into a Global Atmospheric Commons Fund. The fund would assist impoverished countries and those with economies in transition to move towards a non-carbon economy focusing on renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, wind and small scale hydroelectric.

All humankind is made in the image and likeness of God and all of nature bears the marks of God. This demands (requires) of us to adopt the guiding principle of equity. God's inheritance is for the communal body, a concept that includes all of nature.

The destruction of the global atmosphere is a sin against God. True forgiveness is available from God but only after true repentance by the sinner. True repentance requires a conversion of the heart and a transformation of behaviour. Only then can true forgiveness be experienced. Countries with high emissions need a conversion of the heart and demonstrably new behaviour before they seek forgiveness.

*For the full document, please contact Dr. David G. Hallman, World Council of Churches Climate Change Programme Coordinator, c/o The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor St.W., Toronto, Canada M8X 2Y4*

*tel. 416-231-5931 fax. 416-232-6005 e-mail: dhallman@uccan.org)*



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## An Ethic of Survival: Blue Mountain Center

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“In November 2000 we convened thoughtful people, philosophers, scientists, and environmentalists at Blue Mountain Center in the Adirondacks to discuss what role ethics plays in the precautionary principle. The challenge before the Blue Mountain group was to articulate the ethic that lies behind the precautionary principle. Their answer was that it was an ethic of survival.

Here is the Blue Mountain Lake Statement, which says that “emotional” values such as compassion, sympathy, gratitude, and even humor are based on sound instinct. They are not just nice things that nice people do so they don’t displease Miss Manners. They are essential if we are to survive.”

- Carolyn Raffensperger and Nancy Myers, of the Science and Environmental Health Network ([www.sehn.org](http://www.sehn.org))

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### **BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE STATEMENT OF VALUES:**

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Values become actions. Too many of our actions are killing our planet, our communities, and our spirit. Our actions are killing our loved ones. We are diminishing the future for everyone and everything.

Particular values form the basis of our survival. When practiced, they help us live in reciprocity with nature and with each other. We are the relationships we share, and we are permeable—physically, emotionally, spiritually—to our surroundings. Therefore, we hold these values as essential:

GRATITUDE, because our lives depend on air, water, soil, plants, humans, and other animals;

EMPATHY, because we are connected with all of creation;

SYMPATHY, because we all experience suffering and death, both necessarily in the course of life and unnecessarily when these values are not practiced;

COMPASSION, because it moves us to attend to suffering and injustice; and

HUMILITY, because we cannot know all of the consequences of our actions.

We belong to the community of the Earth. It is the source of our own life, and our actions affect its well-being. Therefore, we practice:

RESPECT, because it is fundamental to good relationships;

RESTRAINT, because the Earth is finite, and we must honor its limits;

SIMPLICITY, because we are only one species sharing Earth with many others;

HUMOR, because life is good, and humor disrobes tyranny and absurdity.

Human beings need sustaining social and natural environments. No one by law or habit is entitled to rob others or future generations of a diverse world vibrant with hope and possibilities. We have an obligation to restore social and ecological fabrics that have been torn by violence or exploitation.

We affirm that all being is sacred and has intrinsic value that is not monetary.

People who hold these values outnumber those who do not. We draw strength from each other. As we abandon harmful activities, we take nature as our guide. We explicitly consider the effects of actions on individuals, families, communities, species, landscapes, regions, and future generations.

It is through love for the particular – a child, a neighborhood, a family of otters, a meandering river –that we find our way to a sustaining relationship with the Earth and our communities.

- Blue Mountain Center,  
Blue Mountain Lake, NY, November 12, 2000

*“I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up. Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... We are now faced with the fact that TOMORROW is TODAY. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of NOW. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. THIS IS A TIME FOR VIGOROUS AND POSITIVE ACTION.”*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

## How's the Water?

### *Perspectives on Water and Rural Communities in Saskatchewan*

SEN has taken on a major project to look at water issues in rural Saskatchewan from mid-January to the end of September. The SEN coordinator and the SEN Water Working Group/WaterWatch Committee will collect information about water issues, hold four community meetings, and produce a pamphlet that will provide an overview of the situation and a checklist with contact information for citizens concerned about water.


The idea for this project came out of a Water Working Group/WaterWatch Committee meeting held about a year ago. We realized that there is a lot of information about water that different NGOs, agencies and government departments have collected over the years. The trouble is, nobody has pulled it all together and made it easily accessible to citizens. The Water Working Group tried to collect information through voluntary efforts, but soon realized the job was too big. We decided to go after some funding so that staff time could be dedicated to the effort. The CUPE Environment Committee has generously put forward funds, as has Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Saskatchewan (CARDS) and the Eco-System Health

Monitoring Fund.

The four community meetings will be held in different parts of the province in March, April and May so that we get a well-rounded picture of the concerns that Saskatchewan citizens have. People will be invited to attend these meetings to express their concerns and to offer information and insights that they, as local residents, have.

We will also be calling upon technical expertise from the PFRA, Sask Water, the Community-University Institute for Social Research, the National Hydrology Research Lab, the Safe Drinking Water Foundation, Sask. Ag and Food, the Saskatchewan Wetlands Conservation Corporation, and others too, as we do our research.

We are collecting samples of pamphlets, brochures, videos etc. that NGOs and agencies have produced. These will provide a base for our background research, and will also help us identify gaps in the knowledge about water issues.

If your organization has information about water quality or supply issues, or if your members have concerns that they would like to see discussed under this project, please contact the SEN office. 

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### Walking the Ecological Talk with PIHE

Would you like to live your environmental convictions? The Prairie Institute for Human Ecology has been holding a series of consultative meetings to explore the possibilities of designing and building one or more small demonstration communities.

We currently envision these to be small groups of individuals or families that are committed to a lifestyle that is based on the principles of ecological sustainability, social justice and economic viability.

Possibilities include the following: alternative, energy efficient housing; self-sufficiency in energy and food production; obtaining production from the land without destroying long-term ecological capabilities; and more.

Anyone interested in learning more about this project, please contact Lynn Oliphant with the Prairie Institute for Human Ecology at 374-1068; or email [oliphantl@sask.usask.ca](mailto:oliphantl@sask.usask.ca).

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## *Cameco Wants To "Recycle" Uranium Wastes In Saskatchewan*

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Cameco's uranium refining and conversion operations in Ontario have for years been generating uranium-bearing by-products (waste products?) from which it is possible to extract further uranium by feeding them back into the milling process used for production of yellowcake at mine sites.

Let's just recall the steps involved in the processing of uranium: Ore taken out of the ground in northern Saskatchewan is first treated at a nearby mill to produce yellowcake. Most of the unwanted components of the ore (including most of the radium) are left behind in the mill tailings and effluent in Saskatchewan. The yellowcake is trucked to a refinery at Blind River, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Huron. There it is converted to uranium trioxide, a process that leaves behind a waste, or by-product, which still contains 2 to 4% uranium. The refined uranium trioxide is then shipped south to Port Hope, near Toronto. There, about 20% of it is converted to the uranium dioxide used in Canadian reactors. The rest is treated with hydrofluoric acid and fluorine to make uranium hexafluoride for export for use in light-water reactors. The waste or

by-product from the fluoride process contains a small amount of uranium, up to 1%.

Both the by-product from Blind River and that from the fluoride process at Port Hope contain enough uranium that it is economically worthwhile to recover it. Besides which, if it were just regarded as a waste, there would be a disposal problem to deal with.

While there were still operating uranium mines in northern Ontario, these by-products were shipped from the Blind River refinery and the Port Hope conversion plant up to the mill at Elliot Lake. After the Elliot Lake mines and mill closed down, Cameco started shipping the material to a mill operation in Utah for recovery of the residual uranium. Now, instead, they would like to keep it in the family and bring it to the mill at Key Lake, Saskatchewan for "recycling". (This process would more accurately be defined as recovery, rather than recycling. Recycling is most commonly understood to imply reprocessing of a product after it has already served the purpose for which it was made. Recovery involves extraction of something of value from a waste material.) Cameco has conducted preliminary tests to forecast how the introduction of these materials into the mill, along with the ore, would affect the mill tailings and liquid effluent. They will soon be

seeking regulatory approval to conduct a full-scale test in the mill.

Issues that we will need to watch include the fact that fluoride would now be present in the mill effluent and tailings, and the impact of this on the environment is unclear. There will be other changes in the chemical composition of the mill wastes, which may or may not be of concern. The transportation of the by-product across Canada also raises some issues. The hazards would probably be similar to those involved in the original shipping of yellowcake east from Saskatchewan. The same containers and vehicles would be used, and the same regulatory conditions would presumably apply. An additional wrinkle is the fact that, while much of the uranium which is processed at Blind River and Port Hope originally comes from Saskatchewan's mines, some comes from other countries. So this recovery process would result in us importing into Saskatchewan uranium-bearing materials which did not originate here. The question has been raised as to whether this would set some kind of precedent which could open an unwanted door to other radioactive waste imports. These questions will be among those which will have to be addressed in a regulatory approval process.

- Ann Coxworth

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

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### **Saskatoon Seed Exchange and Spring Celebration**

Here's something REAL exciting... On March 17, CHEP Community Gardening is hosting Saskatoon's 3rd annual *Seedy Saturday*. This event is not only a community-based seed exchange with information on heirloom varieties and seed saving techniques, but also a spring celebration featuring speakers on indigenous seed saving projects, local Saskatchewan growers, food security projects and more.

There will be native and local seeds to purchase and trade, a fabulous book table, booths from a wealth of Saskatchewan conservation organizations as well as refreshments and childcare provided by CHEP.

Seedy Saturday will be held at St. Johns' Anglican Church Hall, 816 Spadina Cres. East in Saskatoon, between 1 and 5 PM. Cost is \$1 at the door. All are welcome.

Phone Jodi at 655-5379 for more information or email [jodi@chep.org](mailto:jodi@chep.org).

## Old-Growth Boreal Forest Ecology

*The following is an excerpt and summarization of a paper by Rick Schneider, who was one of the presenters at a seminar co-sponsored by CPAWS Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Environmental Society and SERM on December 6, 2000. For the complete text of Rick's paper, Old-Growth Forests in Alberta: Ecology and Management, see [http://www.borealcentre.ca/reports/old\\_grow/old\\_grow.html](http://www.borealcentre.ca/reports/old_grow/old_grow.html)*

Old-growth boreal forest has characteristics typical of forests in the later stages of ecological succession. The canopy breaks up as mature trees die off, releasing understory plants, accumulating snags and downed logs, and allowing the emergence of secondary canopy species. Structural diversity is highest in old stands. This is reflected in unique plant and animal communities as well as high overall species richness.

Old-growth stands help maintain forest biodiversity in several ways. Plant species that require a long time for colonization and growth, such as lichens, need old trees, and are often only found in abundance in old-growth stands. Cone-eating birds are dependent on old-growth because older trees produce many more and larger cones. Species such as the pileated woodpecker seek out the large old trees found in old-growth stands for foraging and roosting. The accumulation of large dead wood, characteristic of old-growth stands, supports unique assemblages of wood-decomposing species, and provides foraging opportunities and shelter for many other species.

The complex structure of old-growth stands provides a large variety of habitat types for species with specialized requirements. Thus, old-growth stands have the highest overall diversity of species, including many rare species. Furthermore, many species are most abundant in old-growth. One study showed that

21 of 33 bird species in the boreal mixedwood forest had their highest abundance in old-growth stands, and nine of those species were more than four times as abundant in old stands as in other ages. A number of bird species are generally restricted to old-growth stands. Similar patterns of diversity and abundance have been observed for mammal species, mosses and ferns, and wood-decomposing insects.

Dynamics refers to the origin and loss of old-growth stands over time. In the boreal forest, usually fires, and sometimes insect damage gets new stands started. Because fires are relatively common, most patches of regenerating forest are re-burned before they reach old-growth status. In stands that do reach the old-growth stage, the sporadic death of big old trees produces gaps where new trees grow, enabling the stand to persist indefinitely.

Upland sites in the boreal forest (where most logging is done) have even more complex stand dynamics. White spruce and aspen usually regenerate together on these sites after fire, producing a mixedwood stand. Once the aspen reach maturity at about 85 years, they begin to die and the stand starts to acquire old-growth characteristics. If white spruce growth is vigorous it will suppress the regeneration of new aspen, and the stand will become progressively dominated by white spruce.

In many cases, white spruce comes back slowly after fire because of a variety of factors. Then it takes longer, in some cases several generations, for the spruce to become dominant. Thus the age of the trees in white spruce stands is often much less than the true age of the stand itself.


To get to white spruce stands by the extended mixedwood pathway requires that stands escape burning for very long periods. This might be uncommon if all stand types had an equal chance of burning. However, recent research has shown that the probability of burning in aspen

stands is extremely low until the stand is more than half spruce trees. Where the old-growth occurs depends on a stand's probability of burning, factors that affect regeneration, and chance. Probability of burning is affected by local topography, moisture regime, climate, and stand type. The type of stand regenerated is influenced by soil type, moisture regime, and the available seed source. These factors produce patterns in the distribution of old-growth.

At the stand scale the basic pattern is set by the large but uncommon fires responsible for most burning. These fires rejuvenate large areas, producing a relatively even-aged forest, within which are islands of old-growth, representing trees that escaped burning, and islands of young forest, arising from the many small fires that occur each year. The islands of old-growth are often downwind from water bodies and other firebreaks, and so are generally not random in their distribution. Generally, the frequency of fire goes up the greater the distance from a water body. In the boreal forest the rate of burning is high enough that it is rare for the larger forest area itself to reach old-growth status before being reburned.

At the regional scale, there is a clear association between old-growth and large river corridors. The larger the watercourse, the more likely that this pattern will be observed. Another pattern clearly apparent at the regional scale is the preferential targeting of old-growth stands for harvesting.

A comprehensive strategy for old-growth management is needed if old-growth forest and its biodiversity is to be retained. This strategy must include appropriate targets for the quantity of old-growth to be retained; targets for the spatial distribution of old-growth, including the distribution of patch sizes; and a dynamic planning framework designed to ensure that the targets will be achieved continuously. All targets must be defined by stand type.

The old-growth forest management strategy should include a transition to mixedwood management wherever applicable. Mixedwood management involves regeneration of white spruce through a natural mixedwood phase, instead of current plantation management techniques designed to produce monocultures. Mixedwood stands are a prominent component of boreal old-growth and need to be maintained. With mixedwood management it will also be possible to define and achieve a more realistic target age structure for white spruce, in place of the artificial age structure generated through monoculture regeneration. 

**T**he Weyerhaeuser Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for logging in the Prince Albert Forest Management Agreement area (FMA) received ministerial approval with terms and conditions on December 20, 2000. Conditional approval of Weyerhaeuser's 20-Year Management Plan is expected soon. The EIA approval sets the broad framework for the company's activities, while the Plan approval deals with more specific details of harvesting operations.

Several of the issues people raised during the public review period were dealt with in the conditions attached to the approval, though there are some big ones that were left out too.

On the positive side, maximum road widths have been reduced, and roads will have to be decommissioned more quickly. A major improvement is that by June 2002 the company will have to have phased out landings. Landings are large, bare clear-cut areas where logs are stored before transport. The new process will require stumps to be left in the ground at these sites, which will reduce soil compaction and make it possible for the area to re-grow eventually.

The EIA approval conditions also set out criteria for logging in riparian areas based on the type and size of water body and the slope of the land. In addition there are measures to address issues of erosion, soil compaction and water quality. Tree planting in riparian areas must be done within two years, and site preparation by shear blading and disc trenching will not be allowed. The riparian conditions are fairly complex and if you want the details

## Ness Creek's Greening Committee

**T**he Ness Creek Festival now has a Greening Committee. The people involved will help the festival put "green" standards into practice during the festival. For example, by purchasing toilet paper manufactured from recycled paper stock; cooking with as much locally grown and organic product as possible and feasible in our food area; inviting organic concessions to set up in the Ness Creek Food Court; and purchasing organic, sweatshop-free T-shirts for promotions.

The Eco-village concept, with displays and demonstrations by environmental groups, will be expanded again this year, perhaps by integrating more activities with the children's tent. All input and ideas for ways to increase the effectiveness of the Eco-village concept are welcome!

For more information or to get involved, contact Gary Smith at (306) 664-2330.

## Weyerhaeuser Environmental Assessment Approved

you should take a look at the full document, and also check the Plan approval for additional conditions when it comes out.

The overall theme of this EIA approval is "adaptive management". The plan is being approved recognizing uncertainty, but requires the company to do monitoring and participate in developing an ecologically based inventory of the FMA, all with a public involvement process. If monitoring results show that the integrity of the ecosystem is not being maintained, the Minister can make the company change its plans and procedures.

The success of the adaptive management approach, and the effectiveness of the conditions depend on how diligent the monitoring and enforcement is. Since the interests of the company and of the government are wrapped up with economic and political considerations, public involvement will continue to be crucial to protecting forest values. For environmentalists to be effective watchdogs, we will need to have the money to support our work.

On the down side, the EIA approval fails to recognize the importance of old growth forest for biodiversity, and the fact that old growth is found close to lakes and rivers. The conflict between protecting old growth and harvesting in riparian areas does not seem to have been recognized.

One of the biggest uncertainties for the forest is the impact of climate change. The EIA approval does not mention climate

change as a context in which the forest must be managed. Also, the overall maximum level of harvest set out in Weyerhaeuser's plan was accepted as ecologically sustainable even though it is based on 100% regeneration success. The Minister can change the annual allowable cut if monitoring shows it to be unsustainable, but the approval does not prevent increasing the cut either.

The EIA approval is also weak on the issue of harvesting wood from private land, an issue that was raised by environmentalists. The Minister claims that land is cleared for agricultural purposes and then the otherwise wasted wood sold to Weyerhaeuser. This is hard to take seriously when grain prices are as low as they are. A shift to agro-forestry instead of Crown forests to supply the mills, as his reasons for approval suggests, should not be done without a clear plan for sustainable woodlot management that would protect the biodiversity of the forest fringe.

The EIA does provide minimum standards within which Weyerhaeuser must work which can be revised if the Minister sees fit. The Plan, which we have yet to see, will provide more details. The potential of reaching higher through the eco-forestry certification route is yet to be explored.

*-Cathy Holtlander*

*Note: the ministerial approval decision documents are available at the SEN office.*

## Nisbet Provincial Forest

If you are interested in the long term sustainability of the Nisbet Provincial Forest, you will want to know that an integrated forest land use planning process for the forest has started.

You are encouraged to attend one of the scheduled public meetings to learn about the planning process and provide Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management with information about your current interest in the forest, issues related to forest use, and your view of the forest in the future. A public advisory committee consisting of representatives of various interests in the forest will be formed shortly after the public meetings. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

<i>Tues., January 30, 3 p.m.</i>	Wahpeton Reserve, Band Hall
<i>Thurs., February 1, 7:30 p.m.</i>	Wild Rose School, 5 miles n. of Holbein
<i>Mon., February 5, 7:30 p.m.</i>	Duck Lake, Legion Hall
<i>Wed., February 7, 7:30 p.m.</i>	MacDowall, Seniors Hall - Willoughby Centre
<i>Tues., February 13, 7:30 p.m.</i>	Prince Albert, John M. Cuelenaere Library, Auditorium
<i>Thurs., February 15, 7:30 p.m.</i>	Saskatoon, Cliff Wright Public Library 1635 McKercher Drive

Copies of a draft background information document are available by contacting Brenda Parenteau of Forest Ecosystems Branch, Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management, Prince Albert. Phone 953-2930, or e-mail [parentea@derm.gov.sk.ca](mailto:parentea@derm.gov.sk.ca). 

## Prairie to Pine: Winds of Change in the Land of the Living Skies

What could be better for a national gathering of nature enthusiasts than spring in Saskatchewan? Come and help us celebrate our rich and diverse natural heritage at the 2001 Canadian Nature Federation and Nature Saskatchewan joint conference.

The Saskatoon Nature Society will host the joint annual meetings of Nature Saskatchewan and the Canadian Nature Federation from June 7 to 10, 2001, in Saskatoon. Participants will gather at the University of Saskatchewan, in its beautiful setting on the South Saskatchewan River. Symposium presentations will highlight 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.

Pre- and post- conference field trips will take in such 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.

For more information, write to Conference 2001, Saskatoon Nature Society, Box 448, RPO University, Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8, visit the conference web site at [http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/cnf\\_ns](http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/cnf_ns) or call Hilda or Bruce at 306-374-0674. Watch for more details in the next issues of Nature Views and the spring issue of Nature Canada.



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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.

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### Membership fees:

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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

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