



Saskatchewan
ECO-NETWORK

NETWORKNEWS

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SEN'S ECO-EDUCATION WEBSITE

Many people are worried about the uncertain state of the environment these days and feel helpless about what to do about it. Well, in classrooms and schools across the province teachers and students are finding creative and inspiring ways to learn more and change their behaviour in order to become better stewards of the earth.

Last fall SEN went on a journey to find out more about how our young people are learning about environmental issues. This search turned up many visionary and hopeful examples of how our next generation is taking on issues of climate change, waste management, water conservation, biodiversity, alternative energy, and living more sustainably, head on.

SEN's website (www.econet.sk.ca/ecoed) shares stories of the innovative environmental projects taking place right here in Saskatchewan. From native prairie re-naturalization in Lumsden High School, to solar oven baked snacks in a Saskatoon elementary school; from Indigenous culture camps in the North to "urban trekking" in Regina.

The Saskatchewan Eco-Network has also combed the province to find some of the best Saskatchewan-based classroom resources and curriculum on environmental issues that are available. From climate change and alternative energy, to biodiversity or water, educators are able to access teaching resources, while students are able research issues, all with a Saskatchewan focus.

Charlie Clark coordinated the project and gathered the stories. "In order to create environmental change, we need examples of people doing hopeful things. I found it totally inspiring to find out just how many exciting projects there are happening around the province, and how serious the next generation is about being stewards of the earth.

This is the generation that is going to see this province through its next 100 years, their dedication, concern, and creativity helps provide examples for the province about how to live more gently on this planet."

If you have any ideas to share about our website, feel free to contact the SEN office at sen@link.ca, or by phone at 652-1275.

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THE LEGAL TOOLKIT: OPTIONS, STRATEGIES, & TACTICS

June 7 in Winnipeg – 9am to 4:30pm at The Exchange Community Church, 84 Albert Street

June 9 in Saskatoon – 9am to 4:30pm in Room 344B, St. Thomas More College, U of S, 1437 College Drive

These one-day training sessions will help community activists in the environmental field understand the legal tools available to protect our air, water, and land and human health. The workshop will be led by staff and friends of Sierra Legal Defence Fund.

During the first half of the day, participants will receive a nuts and bolts overview of the laws that protect our environment, such as court actions, requests or actions, petitions to the federal auditor, requests to NAFTA's Commission for Environmental Cooperation, etc. Specifically, the program will cover:

SO YOU WANT TO TAKE SOMEONE TO COURT?

Civil Actions:

- declarations, injunctions, civil suits (us versus them), mediation (let's try to work this out), judicial review of conduct of government officials

Other Issues:

- what will it cost if we win or if we lose (!)? \$\$
- can we bring this action as an organization: the concept of "legal standing"

Administrative Tribunals:

- overview of environmental tribunals

Prosecutions:

- getting the government to take action
- do-it-yourself (with a lawyer's help)

Interventions:

- stepping in to support a party in a case that was started by someone else (Hudson, Canadian Pacific, Hydro Quebec, Old Man and Canfor cases)

OTHER LEGAL OPTIONS OR REMEDIES (SOFT LAW)

Provincial

Federal

- CEPA, Auditor General Act (Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Devt)

International

- CEC, overview including application for investigation, Article 13 - softwood lumber letter, Article 14 - BC hydro dams case and/or migratory birds

Law Reform

- input for consultative processes, submissions (written or oral) to committees of federal or provincial government, Federal Standing Committee on the Environment, submissions to provincial auditor

Access to Information

- Freedom of Information Act, Access to Information Act

In the afternoon, participants will work in small workshops aimed at developing legal strategies for situations that routinely confront environmentalists. Participants (about five per group) will choose between one of eight given fact situations, and devise a course of legal action.

BIOGRAPHY OF LEAD PRESENTER

Devon Page is a staff lawyer for Sierra Legal Defence Fund's Vancouver office. Sierra Legal is a charity established in 1991 to provide free legal representation on environmental law matters. Devon joined Sierra Legal in 2001 and practices in the area of forestry and biodiversity law. His cases for Sierra Legal have included challenging logging approval in endangered spotted owl habitat, challenging mine approval in the greater Nahanni watershed and representing a coalition of labour and environmental groups challenging raw log exports. He obtained a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan, and received the award for highest standing in environmental law. Prior to joining Sierra Legal, Devon practiced in Regina, Saskatchewan.

BIOGRAPHY OF CO-PRESENTER

Marie Ann Bowden is a Professor Dean of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, teaching in the areas of property, environmental law and land-use studies. She has been a member of the Canadian Environmental Network Environmental Assessment caucus, the Regulatory Advisory Committee, the RAC's sub-committee on Crown corporations, and Chair of the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Reform Commission in 1991.



REGISTRATION:

The workshop fee is \$25 (lunch included) and admittance is restricted to leaders of environmental nonprofits based in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment must be received in advance of the workshop. If you have any special meal requirements, please let the SEN office when you register.

To register: Email Dianne Manegre/Yvonne Hanson (sen@link.ca) to reserve a spot, or call (306) 652-1275.

Please make out a cheque to the Saskatchewan Eco-Network and mail it to 203-115 2nd Ave. North, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 2B1.

2005 HIKE AND BIKE CHALLENGE



The Hike and Bike Challenge is a week long campaign (June 5 - 11) organized by the Saskatoon Health Region's *in motion* initiative and the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. The objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing individual physical activity levels. This is achieved by promoting "active transportation" such as cycling, walking and other ways of moving about using your own energy.

For 2005 there are three separate events taking place in Saskatoon: the Community Challenge, the School Challenge and the Campus Challenge. Each of the events encourages individuals and groups to compete for the greatest number of "active trips" within the week. In addition to great prizes for the winning teams, everyone who participates will be entered in a draw to win a variety of individual prizes!

As an added incentive to promote year round active transportation, three mountain bikes will be given away in the community during the following year. When registering for the Hike and Bike event, all participants will be given a "Hike and Bike Tag" which they can attach to their backpack or briefcase. At some point during the following year, the Hike and Bike Coordinator along with local media will identify a participant engaged in active transportation, and present them with a reward for their healthy lifestyle, a new mountain bike!

For more information, visit our website at www.environmentalsociety.ca/hikebike or call 665-1915.



Saskatchewan
ECO-NETWORK

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 19, 2005

**Craik Eco-Centre
Craik, SK**

1pm to 5pm

Guest speaker, business meeting, including review of financial statements and **proposed bylaw changes**, as follows:

Bylaw 5.3

Current: Each Steering Committee member shall be elected for a one-year term, and may be re-elected for up to five consecutive terms.

Proposed: Each Steering Committee member shall be elected for a two-year term, with terms overlapping so that there is continuity of Steering Committee membership.

Bylaw 7.3 (A)

Current: Annual General Meetings shall take place within two months following the end of the year.

Proposed: Annual General Meetings shall take place within two months following the end of the year.

As part of our AGM, SEN's membership will be electing next year's Steering Committee (maximum of eight people). Nominations will be accepted from the floor, on the day of the meeting. If you are interested in nominating someone to serve on SEN's Steering Committee, but aren't able to attend the meeting, please feel free to forward your nomination to the SEN office. To be eligible for election to SEN's Steering Committee, an individual must be at least 18 years of age and must be nominated by an SEN member in good standing.

If you'd like to arrive early for lunch, you may be able to visit with other SEN members at the Solar Garden Grill Restaurant located in the Eco-Centre. For more information call the SEN office at 652-1275.

LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

by Elaine Hughes, Stop the Hogs Coalition

On July 8, 1860, in describing the Palliser Triangle to his London financiers, Captain John Palliser said: "This large belt of country embraces districts, some of which are valuable for the purposes of the agriculturalist, while others will for ever be comparatively useless...The least valuable portion of the prairie country has an extent of about 80,000 square miles, and is that lying along the southern branch of the Saskatchewan and southward from thence to the boundary line."

In these modern times of climate change, rapidly disappearing glaciers, decreasing snow accumulation, and increasing evaporation, all of which will drastically affect the availability and quality of our water, prairie governments come up with schemes which seem to fly in the face of Captain Palliser's wisdom.

At the Droughtproofing the Economy meeting in Regina in November 2004, Sask Agrivision unveiled their government-funded, 50-year water scheme in which they propose the construction of 20 new dams, as well as a couple of major diversions on our rivers (part of the master plan to supply the western US with our water?). As well as, they call for the creation of reservoirs to supply water for economic development in 'clusters' of chosen communities - many in the area along the southern branch of the Saskatchewan River! Folks living there would be involved in increased industrial livestock production, increased irrigation, increased value-added processing - business as usual, only more of it! Was an independent Environmental Impact Assessment carried out to learn the long term effects of this scheme, or if the scheme is sustainable at all? See Maps of Sask Agrivision's Clusters at: www.agrivision.sk.ca/Cluster/SAC_cluster.htm.

In the article "Eastern Alta. debates proposed water project" (Western Producer, February 24, 2005), we discover that Alberta has its Special Areas, too. They touch on our western boundary and are also part of Captain Palliser's "comparatively useless" 80,000 square miles lying along the southern branch of the Saskatchewan River!

This recycled 10-year, \$192 million project would extract 76.5 billion litres of water per year from the Red Deer River, create 130 new jobs, and

increase the Area's GDP by 2% by, you guessed it, increased irrigation, increased industrial livestock production, as well as create wetlands and improve tourism. This scheme was tried 75 years ago and it failed, with folks even provided with free transportation to leave! Read more at www.specialareas.ab.ca

Wouldn't it make more sense for these governments to support agricultural practices in Palliser's prairie country which require less, not more, irrigation? Practices such as planting drought-tolerant crops, for instance? Or producing hogs outdoors instead of cramming them into factories in which millions of gallons of our drinking water is used to flush the tons of manure out of the barns?

The recent UN study "Millenium Ecosystem Assessment" (a copy of which can be found at www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx) has a message: "In many cases it is literally a matter of living on borrowed time. By using up supplies of fresh groundwater faster than they can be recharged, for example, we are depleting assets at the expense of our children."

What part of that message is difficult to understand?

SEN WELCOMES NEW MEMBER GROUPS

SEN is pleased to announce that Stop the Hogs Coalition, the Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee, and Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus have joined our network. For more information about Stop the Hogs, visit their website at www.stopthehogs.com. For more information about the SK Light Pollution Abatement Committee, you can visit their website at www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm. And, for information about the new Campus of Arts and Ecology program at Emma Lake, see the ad on page 5 for details, visit their website at www.emmalake.usask.ca, or contact Paul Trottier at 982-4747.

PROFILE OF SOS ELMS COALITION

by Judith Benson, Past President

In 1992, a group of Saskatoon citizens attended an information meeting given by the City of Saskatoon on the threat of Dutch Elm Disease to the City. A few of us discussed meeting again to plan some citizen action, and SOS Elms Coalition was born.

Eventually SOS Elms acquired non-profit charitable status, which enabled us to apply for grants and contracts from other organizations, as well as to provide tax receipts for donations and membership fees from our faithful membership. We have continued to thrive thanks to the generous support from our membership of ninety individuals and groups, The Saskatoon Foundation, SK Environment, Meewasin Valley Authority and the City of Saskatoon.

In order to achieve our goals, which are to raise public awareness of the importance of the urban forest and to provide information for citizen involvement, we plan annual initiatives. Here are some examples:

Two successful Tree Tours (2003 and 2004) with accompanying guide books, an Adopt-a-Tree Program; an Urban Forestry Conference; the creation of a free-standing display to present at Gardenscape, the International Children's Festival environment tent and at provincial meetings, etc.; a Celebration of the Urban Forest event at the Forestry Farm; the publication and free distribution of a "Home Owner's Guide to Tree Care" at both local and provincial levels (now in its third printing); an information booth at the Saturday Farmers' Market; a draw for tree pruning services; a Find the Largest American Elm contest; an interactive school program to empower students to become Elm P.I.'s (Private Investigators); two public service announcement videos; offering informational videos for free borrowing; supporting the Province's Saskatoon portion of SPLIT, which enables school children to take ownership for the urban forest by planting trees on City property adjacent to their school grounds; and doing media interviews. We hope to create another Tree Tour in celebration of Saskatoon's Centennial in 2006.

SOS Elms Coalition works in close cooperation with the Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association (SDEDA), and we have always had a representative on the SDEDA board. In 2004 SDEDA grants covered our costs of publications and other initiatives of mutual interest. For more information please check our website, www.soselms.org, or contact us at Box 1313, Saskatoon S7K 3N9. Membership is \$10 per year per household. Newsletters are sent to members by mail and also appear on our website. We



CAMPUS OF THE ARTS & ECOLOGY
2005 SUMMER PROGRAM

CAMPUS OF THE ARTS & ECOLOGY
We are pleased to announce that 2005 marks the launch of the Campus of the Arts & Ecology! **Please visit our website for more information on Arts and Ecology programming offered throughout the summer.** Also, check with us about hosting your next event or gathering, large or small. The Campus provides excellent services in a beautiful lakeside setting.

EMMA LAKE ARTIST'S WORKSHOP JULY 23–AUG. 5
With Guest Artists, **Bob Christie & Ron Shuebrook**

EMMA LAKE KENDERDINE CAMPUS RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Join Invited Artists Terry Fenton (painter), Don Foulds (sculptor), and Louise Halfe (writer) for a week or more at the Campus. Visual artists, performance artists, musicians, composers, critics, curators, arts administrators, designers and writers are invited to apply.

EMMA 5/35/55 ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND AND REUNION AUG. 6 & 7
Please join us for a weekend of celebration, nostalgia, and special events in honour of the long history of the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus, the Emma Lake Artists' Workshop, and the Province of Saskatchewan. Whether you take in an art show, savour a gourmet meal, or dance to Roy Sydiaha's live jazz, plan to make the Campus your weekend get-away.

For more information, please visit emmalake.usask.ca or call the Director, Paul Trottier at (306) 982-4747.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
EMMA LAKE KENDERDINE CAMPUS

THE GREAT SAND HILLS: WILL WE CONTINUE TO IGNORE OUR PRAIRIE ROOTS?

By Alan Appleby

The prairies are one of Canada's most modified large ecosystems, as shown by impacts on grassland biodiversity. In Saskatchewan 70% (36 of 52) of species of plants and animals that are currently listed, or under consideration for listing in provincial species at risk regulations are prairie species, even though the prairies comprise only 30% of the province by area. All 13 listed bird species at risk occur in the prairie ecozone, while 18 of 29 species of plants at risk are part of the prairie flora.

In the face of these dire facts, only a small area of Saskatchewan's prairies is designated for biodiversity and essential habitat protection. Grasslands National Park, at 90,650 ha in two unconnected blocks, is one of our smaller national parks. Saskatchewan's prairie Provincial Parks are smaller still. The largest, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, is only 40,000 ha., and all 14 prairie provincial parks total only 85,000 ha. We are also fortunate to have the Redberry Lake BioSphere Reserve, Saskatchewan's only UNESCO designated natural area. Other prairie areas are protected to lesser degrees in PFRA Community Pastures (64 pastures covering approximately 700,000 ha), 56 community pastures (covering 250,000 ha), and Wildlife Habitat Protection Act lands totalling 1.3 million hectares. Only about 40% of the wildlife lands are in parcels large enough to provide ecological representation. And none of the wildlife lands or pastures are protected from the one industrial use now threatening their native condition, oil and gas development.

Only four percent of Saskatchewan's 24 million ha of original prairie landscapes remains in native vegetation and in good ecological condition. And this remaining native prairie occurs in less than 1200 parcels, only 192 of which are larger than 1000 ha. Only one of these remaining areas is over 100,000 ha in size, the Great Sand Hills.

Recently there has been some hope that this last great Saskatchewan prairie, the largest remaining native prairie in Canada, will endure. This hope includes an increase in the protected landscape of the Great Sand Hills in 2004 from 9,454 ha (23,360



ac /36.5 sec) to 36,260 ha (89,600 ac /140 sec). That is still only a small part of the 197,099 ha (487,040 ac/ 761 sec) of native landscape in good ecological condition, never mind the whole of the Great Sand Hills ecosystem.

Another hope is the Environmental Review for the Great Sand Hills announced in January 2005. This two year study will be led by a team of academics that includes Dr. Reed Noss, one of the world's foremost conservation biologists, and Dr. David Gauthier, Executive Director of the Canadian Plains Research Center at the University of Regina. Joining them are Dr. Harry Polo Diaz, a sociologist from U of R, Dr. Bram Noble, an expert in environmental assessment from the University of Saskatchewan, and Dr. Paul James from Saskatchewan Environment.

This long term environmental study has yet to begin, and is only at the stage of developing its terms of reference. Time will tell if our society will pay homage and respect its prairie roots in this centennial year by taking an honest look at what little we have left of our natural heritage, how easy it would be to protect it, and what a tragedy it would be to lose it. What greater gift could we give to the celebrants of our bi-centennial in 2105 than a precious piece of the native prairie that is the home and heritage of so many of us in Saskatchewan. If you want to learn more, or get involved, check out the Saskatchewan Eco-Network website at: <http://econet.sk.ca/issues/gsh/index.html>.

SASKATCHEWAN ECONETWORK MEMBERS MEET WITH SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENT

In March, 2005, SEN organized a meeting between its members and Saskatchewan Environment. Twenty-two people from twenty SEN member organizations attended the meeting, along with Minister Forbes, Deputy Minister Stonehouse, and Lin Gallagher, with Sask Environment's Green Policy Division. The meeting provided an opportunity for groups to exchange ideas, as well as obtain an update on Saskatchewan Environment's Green Strategy work.

One of the areas explored in some detail was public consultation processes. Some of the major points to arise from the meeting included:

1. Ensuring that public consultation is designed as a part of new program initiatives and project development rather than an add-on or after thought. Many of the confrontational and negative issues that develop arise from the fact that adequate consultation was not a part of a program or project.
2. Making the link between public consultation processes and public decision-making processes. Too often consultation is seen as a check-box along the way, rather than as a vital component of the decision-making process. If the public does not see avenues to make input, or worse, the positive impacts of their input, it can only lead to frustration and confrontation.
3. Public consultation has a cost that must be recognized. Most of the attendees at the March 9 meeting were there on their own time and at their own cost. This is true of most of the environmental community. It behooves government, and other project proponents, to ensure that public consultation is arranged to be as accessible as possible in terms of time, travel, and cost. In some cases, this argues for funding being made available for public input, even if it is seen as "intervener funding".

4. The consensus based decision-making model is a wonderful tool if properly applied. Unfortunately, many of the important principles of consensus, even as outlined in government literature, are being ignored, and consensus is being applied as if it meant only unanimous approval. True consensus is a process of compromise and sharing, not a process where the powerful or those unwilling to change can hold all others hostage by refusing to deal fairly. We think you would agree that even when true consensus cannot be reached you would want to know the details of who prevented success and why, especially if, as in several current planning processes, the objector is a single party standing against all others at the table and refusing to deal in good faith to achieve consensus.

5. Good information and a growing body of knowledge are the basis of good decisions. In cases where the government has information it needs to be shared, as does non-sensitive material from proponents and other participants. Where good information does not exist, there is a need to build into the process a means to gather and present it so that all parties can be satisfied that all relevant aspects have been considered.



SEN/SE meeting at the Meewasin Valley boardroom

LAND USE PLANNING IS FAILING IN OUR BOREAL FOREST - By Alan Appleby

Two SEN member groups, CPAWS Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Environmental Society have been directly involved in advisory boards to two large land use planning initiatives in Saskatchewan's boreal forest over the past three to five years. Other SEN groups have been involved less directly.

The Athabasca and the North Central Land Use Plans together include about one-third of our boreal forest north of the Churchill River, and are key to ensuring the creation of protected areas and ecosystem based land use management that will maintain wilderness values we all treasure and enjoy. SEN members work closely with other NGO's, local communities and northern residents, and they have spent four years trying to develop what was promised, an ecosystem based land use plan.

But it is not working. In spite of all the travel, time and meetings, in spite of many compromises and difficult decisions, we find ourselves no closer to the promise of land use plans that respect and are guided by nature and not economics. Both of these planning studies are now stalled, advisory boards are not meeting, momentum is lost, and the opportunities for environmentally sound land use management seem just as far away as they did four years ago.

What went wrong? Why are these plans failing? And what can we do about it? The future of a large chunk of our boreal forest depends on our answers. The problems, simply put, are these:

1. These plans are not guided by the framework of a planning act, or professional planners. The North Central Land Use Plan falls under the Forest Resource Management Act, legislation designed to facilitate the development of timber resources. The Athabasca Land Use Plan also lacks the authority of legislation with a planning focus. Most of SK Environment's planning staff disappeared in the huge budget cuts of 2004, along with the Sustainable Lands Branch. Foresters are running the show.

2. The government has a development agenda and has made pre-commitments to industry. In the North Central Land Use Plan, the province signed a letter of intent before the plan began promising rights to the forest for harvesting timber. In both the North Central and Athabasca Land Use Plans the mineral resources sector control what lands are available for biodiversity and habitat protection to keep the maximum area open to mineral development.

3. The mineral and forestry industries refuse to acknowledge their prior commitments to help create

meaningful wilderness areas, and are insisting that mineral and timber values take precedence over conservation values. Both of these industries have agreed nationally, as have all governments, to create a network of protected areas. In both plans the only areas agreed to for ecosystem protection are defined by lack of timber and mineral potential, not an abundance of environmental values.

4. There is inadequate information on environmental attributes of the planning area. While the government has extensive in-depth knowledge of mineral bearing rocks, and the location of prime timber, all bought with large sums of tax dollars, they have no adequate data on caribou, wolves, eagles, fish, plants or other environmental factors. But what's worse is that when ENGOs, communities and outside experts bring new information to the planning table, it is disregarded, and the government has continually erected roadblocks to well-accepted ecosystem based planning information.

5. The public consultation process is being managed in a way that stifles new ideas and the free flow of information. When the North Central process started moving towards ecosystem based planning the Regional Advisory Board was shut down. In the Athabasca Land Use Plan, the phase 1 draft report has been under discussion for ~two years because it includes ideas and recommendations from northern communities and ENGOs that are deemed unsuitable by government and the mining industry.

So where do we go from here? SEN member groups in the planning process are continuing to work with communities and northern residents both inside and outside the process to create meaningful land use plans for Saskatchewan's boreal forest. The hallmarks of a successful land use planning process will include: meaningful public participation, addressing the need for protected wilderness areas in an honest manner that balances environmental and industrial needs, creation of necessary data to fully understand the environment, and a process and time frame that is based on other working models of planning.

We will continue to deal with the province and industry in the hope that they will see the error of their ways, and agree to bring fairness and balance back into these planning processes. Until this happens, both of these land use plans hang in the balance, unfinished. And with them hangs the future of a third of our remaining wild boreal forest.

If you want more info or to get involved, visit www.econet.sk.ca/issues/forest/issues.html

WHAT'S NEW AT THE BEYOND FACTORY FARMING COALITION

By Cathy Holtslander, project organizer

The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition is leading a national fight to stop Bill C-27, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Enforcement Act. This bill is part of the federal government's "Smart Regulation" agenda, which aims to integrate Canada's regulatory system with the United States' so as to increase "trade", to make regulations friendlier to business and less accountable to the public, and to reduce the liability of the regulator.

Our central concern with Bill C-27 is that it creates a framework to permit an un-elected bureaucracy, the CFIA, to re-structure the regulations that govern Canada's food and agriculture in a way that will put trade ahead of public safety, and will put integration with the US regulatory system ahead of legitimate Canadian democratic control over the rules that govern the food we eat.

We believe that the CFIA's dual mandate (regulation and trade promotion) compromises it to the extent that it is not possible to accept an expansion and consolidation of its powers without first addressing the mandate issue. Until the CFIA becomes completely focussed on regulation for health, safety and the integrity of Canada's agriculture, we believe it would be a mistake to consolidate and expand the CFIA's authority and powers.

We have set up a free "fax your MP" feature on our website at www.beyondfactoryfarming.org to help you let your elected representatives know how concerned we are about our food. Just click on the cow icon and follow the links.

The full Beyond Factory Farming brief on Bill C-27, which was presented to the Agriculture Committee, is also available on the website.

We are fighting Bill C-27 because we believe it would set up barriers to the survival and expansion of healthy and fair livestock production. Hand in hand with the political lobbying to stop Bill C-27, we are promoting the

development of local markets for non-factory farmed meat, dairy, eggs and poultry.

The Eat Well Guide, a web-based marketing tool developed by the GRACE Factory Farm Project and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, is a handy way to help customers find suppliers and for farmers to find buyers. The Eat Well Guide is linked to our website, right on the front page. See also the post-card enclosed with this newsletter.

Click on the icon and you will see that you just have to enter your postal code and the site will find farmers, retailers, restaurants, and organizations in your area that provide non-factory farmed products. Likewise, if you are a farmer, retailer, restaurant or organization that would like to list your products on the site, you just need to enter the information on the "Add a Listing" tab. The administrator will confirm your information and then it will be posted for people to use. Vote with your dollars, and help build food sovereignty in Canada by buying local.

The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition submitted a brief to the Water Conservation Planning process. You can find it on the Saskatchewan page of our website.

Also of note to SEN members, the Beyond Factory Farming Coalition recently expanded its Steering Committee. Elaine Hughes, of the Stop the Hogs Coalition is now the Saskatchewan representative on the Steering Committee.



NESS CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 14 TO 17, 2005

Call for Eco-Village Participants or Vendors

The Ness Creek Music Festival is celebrating its 15th (and Saskatchewan's 100th) birthday this year! From its humble beginnings, it has grown into a major Canadian Festival drawing about 3,000 people per day, over four days. The Festival site is nestled in the boreal forest a few miles from Big River and adjacent to PA National Park.

People of all ages and walks of life come to Ness Creek to enjoy music, art, culture and community, and to network and share ideas. As well as Mainstage performances, our Festival includes: Workshops Stages, Children's Area, Youth Stage, Drumming Circle, Community Sharing Circle, Community Kitchen, Handmade Crafts Village, Ness Merchandise Booth, and an Eco-Village.

Ecological awareness and promotion of alternative ideas has always been an important part of the Ness Creek Festival, which evolved from the Ecological Fairs of '89 and '90. Since 1999, we have included an Eco-Village which provides a forum for individuals and groups to display, promote, workshop, and discuss their ideas and services with Festival goers. 2004 Eco-Village participants included: solar & wind power, geothermal, alternative construction, trading fairly, growing organically, factory farming alternatives, local sustainability, and (r)evolutionary media.

Space is limited, so if you're interested in applying to be a participant/vendor, please contact us by May 15th. We'd also like confirmation by that date so all the vendors' information can be included in our *Ness Creek Journal, Festival Edition*, which will be out June 1st. The Vendor Application Form (along with more information about the Eco-Village and our entire Festival) is available on our Web site at www.nesscreek.com. Check it out!

If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact Eco-Village Co-ordinators Brenda Goldsworthy at 652-2485 (bgoldsworthy@sasktel.net) or Gary Smith at 664-2330 (smithgroenen@sasktel.net). You can also contact Dale Jack, Ness Creek Office Manager, at (306)652-6377 or by email at ness.creek@sasktel.net.

GreenNESS is Growing!

RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT: LOCAL PATHWAYS TO GLOBAL WELLBEING

You won't want to miss this landmark conference examining development initiatives around the world that have successfully integrated socially and environmentally responsible policies and practices. The conference will take place at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, from June 20-24, 2005

We've got some of the world's leading thinkers and practitioners in this field, including:

* **Ray Anderson**

Founder & CEO of Interface Inc., the world's largest company committed to complete sustainability,

* **Bunker Roy**

Founder of the Barefoot College in India - built by and for India's rural poor,

* **Ela Bhatt**

Founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association in India,

* **Dr. Marilyn Waring**

Pioneer New Zealand economist,

* **Mathis Wackernagel**

Developer of the Ecological Footprint - one of the most widely used measures of sustainability

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada and His Excellency John Ralston Saul will address the delegates from more than 20 countries. There will also be a keynote address by Jigmi Thinley, Home Minister and former Prime Minister of Bhutan, whose King declared that "Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross National Product."

Conference space is limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

For more info and the speaker line-up visit www.gpiatlantic.org/conference/conference.shtml. For inquiries, email conference@gpiatlantic.org.

AIRSHED ASSOCIATIONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Environment is currently exploring new approaches to the collection of comprehensive and up to date air quality information. The Province currently monitors urban air quality in the larger cities however, general information on overall or ambient air quality is significantly lacking.

An airshed association is intended to operate as an independent, collaborative group of industry, government and stakeholder representatives that come together for the purpose of collecting credible, continuous air quality data and to communicate data and information to member organizations, the government and the public. Participation is voluntary and decision-making is by consensus.

Initial efforts will focus on an area in southeast Saskatchewan including Estevan and surrounding area. This area is intended to serve as a pilot project to guide the development of other associations in the future.

If your organization is interested in finding out more about this initiative, or in participating in the planned pilot project in Estevan, please contact Lynda Langford with Saskatchewan Environment (by email at LLangford@serm.gov.sk.ca or by phone at 787-6868).



ATTENTION YOUTH: TIME TO CLICK ON CLIMATE!

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin has been developing a new product geared towards youth aged 8-12. It is called "Click on Climate" and is an outdoor, experiential program, similar to our signature program, 'Water Watchdog.

Click on Climate hopes to teach youth about climate change, and encourage positive behavior changes regarding non-renewable resource consumption. If you are an individual or group leader interested in trying our new product and providing feedback to make Click on Climate the best it can be, please contact Josi Hauschild at 306 665 6887 or email jhauschild@saskriverbasin.ca.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15, Maisie Shiell's 90th Birthday, Come and Go Tea Party. The BIG 9-0! A Come-and-Go Tea is being held to celebrate the 90th birthday of Maisie Shiell, 2-5pm, Pioneer Pavilion, 606 Spadina Cres., Saskatoon. Refreshments, live music and Maisie stories. Bring a little something to eat (cookies, squares, etc). No gifts please but if you'd like to do something you can make a monetary donation to the Interchurch Uranium Committee. Birthday greetings can be sent directly to Maisie at Suite #1510, Luther Tower, 1223 Temperance St., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0P2. Phone: 244-8986, email: ploughshares@sasktel.net. For more information contact Mary Walden at mwalden@yknet.ca or Josie Sapara at 306-651-1509.

Jun 3-5, Saskatchewan Outdoor Environmental Education Association Biannual Conference, Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Sessions will rejuvenate your spirit, teach you outdoor leadership skills and about the unique setting of the Cypress Hills region. All outdoor enthusiasts welcome, especially families. Adults \$80, Under 18 \$40, (Under 4 FREE) Early Bird registration by Apr. 30 makes you eligible for draw for a Provincial Park Pass. Visit: <http://www.soeea.sk.ca> for more info and to download registration form, or call Phyllis at 306-773-1938.

Jun 9, Sierra Legal Defense Fund's "Legal Toolkit Workshop", see Page 2 for details.

Jun 19, Saskatchewan Eco-Network's Annual General Meeting, Craik Eco-Centre. If you haven't already been, this is a great opportunity to visit the Craik Eco-Centre. See details on Page 3.

Summer, 2005 - Nature Education, ClubSEE Camps and Tours, UofS Extension, including "Identify Saskatoon Area Plants", "Eastern Newfoundland - An Encounter With Nature You Will Never Forget!", "Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Wilderness Park Camp", "Summer Ecology Day Camp For Kids", "Churchill Manitoba Ecology Clubsee Tour: Polar Bears." For info phone, 306-966-5484, or visit www.extension.usask.ca/go/clubsee. To register phone 306-966-5539.

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. N, Saskatoon, SK. S7K 2B1.

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