



It is only a little planet. But how beautiful it is. Robinson Jeffers



BETWEEN THE ISSUES ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

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Ecology Action Centre, Halifax

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How It Is With Us

by Ginny Point

Things are really looking up these days!

The office is humming, thanks to an incredible burst of interest and commitment for environmental protection all across the province, particularly on the uranium and the forestry issues. It is an exciting time to be part of the environmental movement.

The other good news is that EAC's financial picture looks relatively encouraging as well! A lot has happened since March when we contemplated closing the office due to lack of funds.

So first I want to say "thank-you" to all of you who responded so generously in our financial crisis. Your support--both financial and personal--helped the Centre survive a very tough time. Thank you so much.

Although EAC is a bit more stable now, I must say that we did suffer one major loss as a result of the funding crisis. Elizabeth Greenhovens, our Office Manager, was "laid off" in mid March. Without financial resources at home to carry her through each fiscal crunch, she couldn't afford to work without pay--a distinct possibility that faced us all at that time. We certainly miss her in the office.

A temporary reshuffling of responsibilities now has Steve Young doing the banking and bill paying. Long-time EAC member, Tom Waters, is doing the formal bookkeeping accounts for next to no cost to EAC. We owe him many thanks. I have taken over a variety of Elizabeth's other responsibilities, and so has Susan Holtz. We seem to be managing somehow.

Of course, it helped enormously when Paul Tyndall joined EAC staff two weeks ago under a sixteen week summer student internship program funded by Employ-

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ment and Immigration Canada. He will be helping out on a variety of EAC activities.

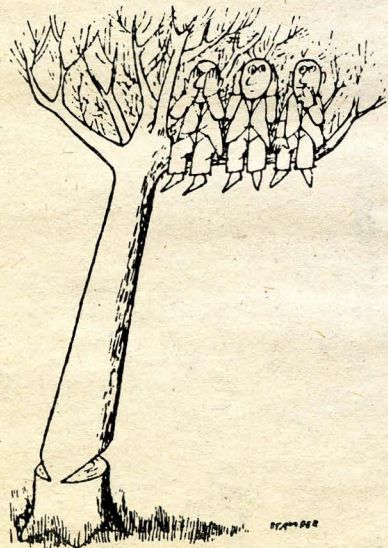
I want to go back to the point I made earlier about a recent upsurge in environmental awareness and activity across the province. Truly it is inspiring. Susan Hower and Hester Lessard are two people in particular worth mentioning. Founding members of the Queens County branch of the South Shore Environmental Protection Association, they are the driving force behind a newly revived informal "environmental network" of people across the province who are particularly involved with forestry related issues. They are unstoppable! (I'm glad they are on our side!)

Luckily for EAC, Hester still finds time to be an active member of Ecology Action Centre's Forestry Committee as well. Susan, bless her, is busily recruiting new EAC members from her area, as well as SSEPA members. It is this kind of regional support system that makes the movement so strong now.

There is also a new group in the province: People for Environmental Protection (PEP). Located in the Middleton area, two of its active members are Valerie Wilson and Rhonda Ryan. Those of you from Queens County or Middleton area might want to get in touch with either SSEPA (677-2542) or PEP (825-4232).

Another very visible new group in the Province is the Coalition against Nuclear War, of which EAC is a member, along with about twenty-five other local groups. Having sponsored bi-weekly public information sessions and weekly vigils on the Halifax Grand Parade this spring, the group's efforts culminated in a huge rally of 3,000-4,000 people on the Halifax Commons on Sunday, May 30.

The March for Survival at Point Lepreau the preceding weekend was small in comparison (300-400) but still a strengthening experience for all those who went including the three high school students from Chester and the seven students from Halifax West High School.



BETWEEN THE ISSUES

Not only are people voicing their concerns more persistently, and in greater numbers than ever before on various issues, but they are also demonstrating with a remarkably creative flair as well. I'm thinking specifically of the "Say No to Uranium Show" which was in Halifax on May 30. A medley of performances from musicians, poets, and actors, largely from the Wolfville area, it was one of the best shows I have seen in years. It may be going to other parts of the province. If you are interested in arranging for a performance in your area, you should contact Susan Shillingford (678-2507).

As you can readily see, this is an exciting time. Want to catch up on more of the details? Come to the EAC picnic on McNab's Island planned for Saturday, June 26. Details are on the following page.

See you there.



Forest Management Committee Update

by Hester Lessard

On May 19th, the House defeated a motion to allow public access to information about applications for aerial herbicide spray permits. Besides being a resounding defeat for the democratic process in general, this decision thwarts any effort to make the forest industries accountable to the public with regard to its use and misuse of chemicals. I cannot stress enough how important it is to protest loudly and strongly and immediately to Kerr, Buchanan, and your M.L.A., and also to get out and collect signatures on the Cape Breton Landowners' petition. The petition asks that the government be required to give public notice to areas potentially affected by any chemical spray program a minimum of one month before the permit is issued.

Of course, the basic position of the Forest Management Committee is that there should be a moratorium on all herbicide spray programs, pending completion of recommendations from the recently announced Royal Commission of Inquiry into Forestry. That is a point that should be made to Buchanan, Kerr, and your M.L.A. as well.

On the subject of the petition again, the petitions will be presented to Hon. Greg Kerr, N.S. Minister of the Environment on June 14. In view of this recent House decision, the event will be very significant and crucial. Thanks to all of you who helped collect signatures. To date there are a total of 2,500 signatures. Also, it would be great if you could help publicize the success of the petition in your local news media.



On May 18th, EAC's Forest Management Committee had a meeting. The main topics were the Royal Commission brief and summer strategy plans. It was decided to mail a complete list of applications for spray permits and suggestions for local strategies to everyone who attended the April 20th meeting. Obviously, the complete list of permits will not be available; however, tips on strategies will be forthcoming. Please write or call Ginny Point at EAC for more information, or to get involved.

In case you haven't heard, the Royal Commission now has three commissioners: John Connor, economist at Acadia University; Father Gregory Mackinnon, President of St. F. X., and Judge Nathan Green. Not much is known about them. If you can shed any light on their backgrounds, please let us know.

Lastly, I want to say that EAC's April lecture on "You and Me and 2,4-D" was terrific. By writing the EAC office, you can get a copy of Murray Prest's excellent paper on hardwood control without chemicals, or a copy of a report prepared by Laurence Tummon which provides a very good summary of points made by all three key speakers.



*What if I cannot write
of birds
in words
of silk and silver?*

*It is enough
That wings exist.*

by Betty MacNeil



PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA
DEPARTMENT OF
LANDS AND FORESTS

**PUBLIC INQUIRY
RESPECTING ALL FORESTRY
AND RELATED RESOURCES
OF NOVA SCOTIA**

TAKE NOTICE the Royal Commission constituted by an Order-in-Council on May 6, 1982 will hold public hearings, at times and places to be named and publicized, within the near future.

The terms of Reference set out in the Order-in-Council in part read as follows:

- (a) The present and projected forest inventory, its quantity, quality, distribution, value and availability, and the sustainable harvest levels for products of the forests in relation to present and future industrial and other demands;
- (b) The most appropriate forest management procedures, including protection, and the utilization of the forest resources of Nova Scotia, to ensure maximum future benefits;
- (c) The impact of land ownership and tenure, competing uses and forest management practices on the future supply of forest products, fish and wildlife populations and recreational opportunities in Nova Scotia;
- (d) The role of Government, at all levels, in relation to all aspects of the use and management of the resources of the forests of Nova Scotia including taxation, and the most appropriate regulatory framework for the Province.

Briefs and representations are invited on the above and on other matters of concern relative to this inquiry.

To assist in organizing these hearings the Commission would be grateful if those persons, organizations or corporations interested, would give notice of their intent to make a submission and when they might be prepared to be heard. Complete copies of the Order-in-Council are available upon request.

All inquiries and replies may be addressed to the Commission office.

P.O. Box 698
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T9

C. Alan Steel
Coordinator of the Commission

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POTLUCK PICNIC

Here is your official invitation to
EAC's annual potluck picnic!

Day: Saturday, June 26, 1982

Time: 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Hangman's Beach
McNab's Island

*Transportation: Captain John Jenkins

*Captain John's Ferry Boat, which carries up to fifty people at a time, leaves from the foot of Sackville Street at 8:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 4:30, and returns from McNab's at 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Round trip fare is \$6.00 per adult, \$5.00 for teenagers, \$3.00 for children between 5 and 12 years old, with no charge for children under 5. A special group trip could be arranged, leaving from Sackville Street at 12:30 if we reserve the space. Special group rates are \$4 for the first ten people, \$3 for each person thereafter. Please call EAC to reserve space on the group trip.

In case of rain, the event will take place at the Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis Street in Halifax during the same time period.



'No, he didn't have a gun. The note he slipped me said he was carrying a bottle of toxic wastes under his coat.'

Fund-raising--A New Growth for E.A.C.

by Stephen Young

In the past few months E.A.C. has been experiencing a new and very exciting period in its growth. Due to the effort of many individuals, including volunteers, members, staff and board, finance and fund-raising is on the increase. Much effort has been put into these two areas to insure that E.A.C. will never have to close its doors. Fund-raising almost always brings new life into any organization; this is especially true for the Centre.

In the short term we are financially secure. Due to such things as the spring fund-raising concert, selling of the harpsichord, obtaining new members, and a substantial sum of remaining monies allocated to us by MOVE, we are now able to operate at a level which the Centre has long deserved.

At present we have set up a display booth and raffle (a ten-speed bike) at Sunnyside Mall in Bedford. Also, the near future will see us pre-

miering a movie at one of the Odeon theatres. There are also other events such as another concert, sales of varying types, and an auction, all of which are either at present in the works or in the process of thought.

Now for a short note concerning our long term plans. Corporate fund-raising in the future will be given high priority, allowing us to become more financially stabilized. If our new co-ordinator of the membership committee (Bill Coffey) attains his goal to increase our membership base, revenue from this source will not only increase but so will the predictability of incoming monies. Peter Hebb from Maritime Tel & Tel is assisting us in the possibility of setting up our very own foundation. If this effort is realized, the Centre will be able to serve both its members and the community on a permanent basis.

In closing, I would like to deeply thank those many people who have assisted us with fund-raising over the past few months, for it is those people to whom we owe very much



BTI--URANIUM UPDATE

No date has been set for presentation of EAC's brief to the McCleave Inquiry, but it now looks unlikely before September. The cost of participating in Phase II of the Inquiry may be high (legal fees, travel for expert witnesses, research, etc.) and a fund-raising campaign is being organized. Send your donations to EAC marked "Uranium Fund" and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Plan to attend our Uranium Workshop (a people's conference with information, speakers and entertainment) to be held September 18th at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Stephanie Amos is the contact person for the EAC Uranium Committee over the summer months; contact her at 1540 Edward Street, Halifax, N. S., B3H 3H7, phone 423-5569--or through EAC.

Based on Proceedings from
2nd Annual Tatamagouche Workshop
on Sustainable Agriculture

Catherine McCarthy

In March a group of about 30 people gathered together in Tatamagouche to discuss a 'New Agriculture.' The term 'sustainable agriculture' was used by many at the workshop to describe the concept of farming as an ongoing renewable resource capable of attaining some degree of self-sufficiency within the rural community and on the farm itself. The current trend towards dwindling rural communities is not sustainable nor is it a sign of a healthy agriculture.

Many of these views are held by those looking for change in our agriculture, which is what the Tatamagouche workshop was all about.

The audience was very much encouraged by the talk given by Dr. Phil Warman, a soil scientist teaching at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Professor Warman introduced his topic of soil stewardship by explaining the properties of the four main soil components, which are: mineral clays and sands, air, water, and organic matter.

Of the four components, only organic matter can be altered and improved. This, in turn, has an effect on the other three components. Our maritime soils particularly need improvement since they only contain about 2 to 5% organic matter. Some improvements are the addition of animal and green manures, sewage sludge, bonemeal, bloodmeal, compost, seaweed, and processing wastes. Cultural practices, such as crop rotation, strip cropping, and intercropping, can be adopted to conserve organic matter and prevent soil erosion. Professor Warman suggested that Nova Scotia could follow the example of other provinces and use sewage sludge for crop fertilizers.

The next speaker at the workshop, Reginal Acton from Sackville, N.B., drew upon his experiences with draft horses. By Mr. Acton's account the versatility of work horses is especially noteworthy in the woods. This past winter, when snow was particularly deep, tractors and tree farmers sat idle while Mr. Acton was able to haul pulp with his team of horses.

Horse enthusiasts in the audience reacted warmly to Mr. Acton's presentation. Bob Williams, who is the draft horse instructor at the Agricultural College, told the audience of the success of the Draft Horse short course offered at the



I HATE TO CRITICIZE, ERNIE, BUT YOU'RE COMING AWFULLY CLOSE TO BEING A REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE.

THAMES 3-5

A.C. Discussion afterwards centered around the scarcity of horse equipment. Some horse gear could be obtained from New Holland in Pennsylvania's Amish country or from European dealers.

The afternoon session took the form of a panel discussion on the latest agricultural policy developments and their effect on Nova Scotia. Presentations from Ag. Rep. George MacKenzie, mixed farmer, Kathy MacKay, cream producer, David Butlin, and Fed. of Agriculture representative, Lester Settle, all represented varying viewpoints of the stability of our agriculture.

George MacKenzie gave a brief history of the provincial assistance farmers have received over the years. Lime and land improvement subsidies are good examples of successful government programs.

We don't have to act like sheep, you know!



Kathy MacKay described the frustration of not being able to get enough information on alternatives to chemical agriculture. Ms. MacKay stressed that farmers have little time for their own research. Perhaps if a sustainable agriculture specialist was appointed within the Department of Agriculture, the information scarcity would be alleviated.

David Butlin suggested that it was important to assess the farmer's attitude to the soil and to understand how farming has evolved to the point where our greatest natural resource is plundered. The introduction of large machinery, which would cultivate vast sections of the prairie, led to the adaptation of agricultural practices to suit the machinery. Row cropping became commonplace but also contributed to soil erosion.

Today, machinery and the fuel to run it is expensive. Many agricultural practices must be developed to cut down on costs and save our soils. In the agricultural forecast for the year 2000, entitled 'Agri Food Strategy,' Agricultural Minister Eugene Whalen has emphasized that more research is needed in such innovative areas as soil conservation, biological pest management, and development of crops for northern regions.

Mr. Butlin pointed out that there is a lot of change happening on the agricultural policy level and that now is the time to make ourselves heard.

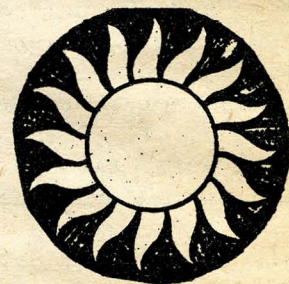
Lester Settle illustrated how large the food industry is in Nova Scotia. All food sectors combined bring in \$750 million annually. There are 1200 to 1800 full-time farmers in Nova Scotia, represented by the Federation of Agriculture. These farmers produce 80% of the food grown. Government and educational supports are in response to the needs of the established agricultural industry. Mr. Settle pointed out that the Federation of Agriculture supports farming as a business, not as a life style.

SUMMARY

Where do we go from here?

In April 1981, the sustainable agriculture workshop formulated a list of needs and concerns of the "new" agricultural movement. The main need then and now is for a sustainable agriculture specialist. The Federation of Agriculture supported the notion of having "ag reps" more sensitive to the needs of farmers interested in sustainable agriculture. Unfortunately however, the resolution it passed last year merely called for all "ag reps" to be more familiar with the topic, rather than asking that one highly qualified specialist be appointed.

(continued on page 5)



NON CIRC.

One suggestion was that since the established agriculture sector is represented by commodity groups, perhaps a small-scale mixed farming commodity group could be organized. This group could have an effective voice within the established Federation of Agriculture.

The need for consumer education also seemed to be a predominant suggestion arising from the Tatamagouche workshop. If consumers were aware of the problems facing agriculture they would be better able to understand why their food must cost more.

The Tatamagouche workshop came to a close with the decision to focus next spring's workshop on a weekend-long 'Sustainable Agriculture Conference' to be held in Truro or Tatamagouche. A small committee was organized to begin preliminary plans for the conference.

It is hoped that individuals or groups who are concerned about our agriculture will offer their ideas and support to the planning committee members. For further information, any of the following committee members can be contacted:

5 Gary Bogard, R.R.#2, Judique,
N.S. - 787-2771

Cathy McCarthy, 16 Major St.,
Dartmouth - 434-2254

or
c/o Ecology Action Centre,
Forrest Building, Dalhousie
University, Halifax -
422-4311

Don MacDougall, c/o Atlantic
Christian Training Centre,
Tatamagouche - 657-2231

David Slabotsky, R.R.#1, Port
Williams, Kings Co. -
542-5981

Friends of McNabs Island

On Tuesday, June 15, EAC's Urban Committee will sponsor the inaugural meeting of friends of McNabs Island. The idea behind the group is to develop an organized constituency for McNabs before any final decision is made regarding development on the island - be it a Dome shipyard, a park, or anything else as yet unplanned. Contact person: Alan Ruffman, 422-6482.

BTI Editor: Ginny Point



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