

*This issue is dedicated to Margaret Mead, born December 16, 1901, died November 15, 1978. As a distinguished anthropologist and writer, she lived all her life on the edge of a new frontier, helping change social patterns and exploring new concepts in cultural evolution.*

## HOW IT IS WITH US

By S. Mayo and S. Holtz

### Current Situation

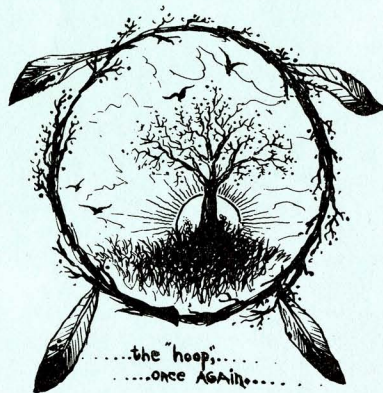
As fall leaves fly in spirals outside our windows of the Forrest Building, it is time to prepare for winter: the planning of our sixth general meeting in early February, research for yet another electric rate hearing, work on a three month membership drive, committee meetings, corporate fundraising and as well, attendance at the conference in Ottawa of environmental groups from across Canada.

A brief review of our organizational structure might be in order. The Board of Directors is elected annually at the General Annual Meeting in the early part of each calendar year. This Board is responsible for overseeing all policy and for keeping the Centre financially intact. Anne Martell is now President of the Board.

At present there are three staff people here. Susan Mayo, the full-time coordinator, looks after the Centre's day to day activities as well as working on major projects initiated by members and active committees; and Susan Holtz, our energy coordinator, specializes in energy issues. Somehow, though, we both do a lot more than what it seems: answering phones, setting up meetings, acting as conference resource people, speaking to school and university classes, and generally working in all the various interest areas of the Centre. Susan Holtz receives a small salary plus expenses from the Halifax Friends Quaker Meeting (Quakers). Her funding will continue until June at which time it will be reconsidered, as it has been for the past three years. Additionally, there now is another staff

person, Ginny Point, the energy library assistant. The Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) provided a one-year grant to EAC to hire a part-time library worker. Basically, Ginny is responsible for making sure that the resource library, and particularly the energy material, is maintained in good order. We also have a small capital grant from CFSC which has enabled us to add some important journals to our library and to buy some key books.

The library is open to the members of the Ecology Action Centre and to the public. While it is a non-lending library, people continue to use it as a resource, especially for alternate energy information, but also for research purposes (for example, nuclear energy, the spruce budworm controversy, and energy policies).



### Funding

Since the Ecology Action Centre exists without any government support, keeping us together and financially whole is a major and difficult responsibility. Late last fall a major funding crisis was overcome largely through membership donations and the Board was able to rehire its coordinator.

Our "bare bones" dollar budget of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) has not increased over the past three years despite

constant pressure from inflation, while our level of activity has, if anything, increased and become more sophisticated.

At this point we are taking a three-pronged approach to funding. We're continuing to rely heavily on regular membership donations. Peggy Hope-Simpson and Joan Mayo have undertaken the coordination of a three-month drive to bring memberships up to one thousand. As well, we are encouraging people to consider taking out a sustaining membership of ten dollars per month pledged for a year. If we can count on 100 Nova Scotians as sustaining members, this will essentially cover our core funding needs.

Members of the Board of Directors have also been more vigorously than ever pursuing corporate donations. In addition, the Centre's bake sales and book sales make some contribution as do donations in kind such as journal subscriptions, library books, file holders, and macrame plant hangings. Right now we could use some new or almost new legal size file holders (about 50 or so) as we are continually revising and resorting information and literature as it comes.

### Office Move

In June, as the second Nova Scotia rate hearing was underway, the Centre moved its offices from the northwest corner in the basement of the Forrest Building down the hall into the middle of the basement under the big tower. We were fortunate enough to obtain some scrap indoor/outdoor carpet from Dalhousie's Biology Department which makes good underlay. We are still hoping for a used piece of green carpet to cover the administrative room and the general library/kitchen space (green is a good healing, peaceful, tension easing color). There is a fine carpet donated from the Dalhousie Medical Library office in our energy room. Our telephone wire spool tea table fits over the rug's worn spot!

The plants seem to like it here. There's more light, especially natural light. And thanks to the welders for their steam pipe fitting work, the quarters are warm for the

(continued on page 2)



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winter. Dalhousie University provides the Centre with "free space" and while nothing is free, we take care of the area and make our library material and personnel expertise available to many university students, especially those in law, health education, and environmental studies.

#### Library / Resource Centre

With the office move we have reorganized our library areas, our administrative areas and our people-group meeting space—all for the better. There still needs to be tighter organization of all the major file material. If anyone wanted to contribute a few hours a week, or half a day here and there, to reorganize some of the general information related to urban, pollution and recycling issues, you would be most welcome to drop by and assist.

In general, the pollution section of the library is rather thin. This is of course a direct reflection of the Centre's lack of activity in pollution issues. It is terribly important to have up to date information on any issue on which we choose to focus. We could use additional newspaper clippings, articles and book titles in the subject areas of air and water pollution, pesticides and herbicides, biological agriculture, even food additives, for use by students or possibly EAC interest committees.

If professors, students, housewives/husbands find key articles in the subject areas in which we are already—or should be—involved, for example, chemical pollution, recycling, urban development, transportation, agriculture, forest management, please send us a cross reference note for our files. If you plan to photocopy environmentally-oriented material for your own use, you might make a second copy for the Centre. We would be grateful for it. It is important to realize how extremely valuable this random reference service is. Many people contribute in this way to our files without necessarily feeling a regular commitment to it, and that's how the files get built up.

#### Electric Rate Hearing

In June the Ecology Action Centre legally intervened at the second Nova Scotia electric rate hearing. Our participation in this matter is a good indicator of the Centre's changing role. We see ourselves as having developed greater expertise in key issues. Along with this, we have become more concerned about preventing environmental problems rather than reacting after the problem occurs.

This particular rate hearing was more limited in scope than the last (see Jusun Vol.

5, No. 3) and what this meant for us was less commitment of time and resources, but a more precise focus of our areas of concern. Before the hearing started we talked informally with the Nova Scotia Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities about how rate hearings should be organized and conducted. After much research, Susan Holtz wrote a paper on "Rate Hearing Procedures" and this was passed on to the Board. Our suggestions zeroed in on how hearing procedures could be improved without in any way sacrificing public input. Among other things, we were in favour of not being required to have a lawyer in order to be a recognized participant in a hearing, and we also favoured public funding for intervenors.

The Centre had a team of about fifteen people who undertook the power rate intervention. We took an early decision not to tackle the Nova Scotia Power Corporation on rate design, as we had done in the original hearing (again see Jusun Vol. 5, No. 3). The Corporation had not completed the relevant studies so there was no new data to deal with. The Centre, however, still remains concerned about issues of rate design. The areas on which we cross-examined witnesses of the Power Corporation included advertising, system planning, forecasting and the Maritime Energy Corporation.

The efforts of the Centre's lawyer, William Biggs, were especially appreciated. Thanks Bill! You did a fine job.



#### Committees / Teams

The Centre has always relied heavily on the skills, resourcefulness and experience of people in the community who gather together on single or multi-dimensional issues. At present there are four active or semi-active groups: the Urban Committee, the Energy Options Committee, the Recycling Committee and the newly formed Agriculture Committee. Each team operates independently while keeping the Board of Directors informed of their interests and endeavours. Any member of the Centre can join one or more interest committees at any time.

The Urban Transportation and Development Committee meets every second Tuesday at noon hour at the Centre's offices. There are about ten to fifteen active members and usually at least six people attend a meeting to discuss current concerns, points researched over the fortnight preceding, and what to do next. We conduct research on such things as rights of way, transportation and parking, heritage resources, urban and regional parks and urban design. The overall goal of the group is to ensure that the city is an aesthetically pleasing, healthy and efficiently designed place in which to live.

The Energy Options Committee started itself in 1975. It is committed in general to what Amory Lovins calls the "Soft Energy Path". Essentially soft paths refers to the use of energy sources which are environmentally

benign, diverse, less centralized, appropriate to the region, matched in quality to "end use" needs, matched in scale to "end use" needs and renewable.

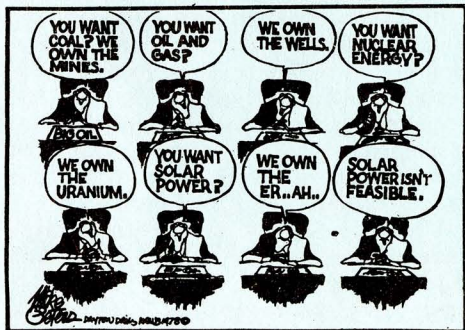
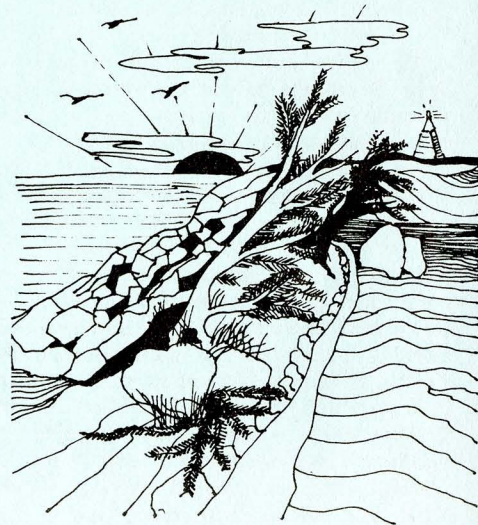
In pursuing this goal some very detailed work in particular aspects of energy policy has been undertaken in the areas of utility rate design and energy policy planning for Nova Scotia. A recent meeting of the Energy Options Committee was organized around updating the members on this work and also it included a very pleasant social and general discussion time over a pot luck supper.

Recycling has always been a fundamental element of ecology, and it seems appropriate that the Centre started with a recycling project. For three years, from 1972 to 1975, we operated a volunteer paper depot and clearly demonstrated that Halifax Citizens are concerned about recycling. More recently we have started to seriously consider setting up a financially viable large scale paper recycling program. As well we need to do further research in the entire field of recycling, reuse and appropriate design.

Self-sufficiency in food for Nova Scotia is a new but important area of concern within EAC. We see our role as facilitating information exchange in the area of ecological agriculture among farmers and city folk here in the province and between those here and farmers who have had first hand practical experience elsewhere. Our first public event on ecological agriculture was held in Halifax in May, 1978 and we are currently planning a larger conference-type event to occur in about six months.

Well, that is how it is with us. The first snow has come to Halifax, the leaves and ground have become frozen and our one big hope is to make it financially through to spring. Perhaps we undertake too much but then again diversity is the most likely pattern to insure survival, and we do want to be around to effect change in favour of sound environmental planning and design for the coming five, ten, twenty, forty years and beyond.

If you happen to be in Halifax, please drop by and visit with us. We always enjoy meeting people and our teapot is always full. Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting slated tentatively for February 3.





## ENERGY FROM THE FOREST

by Chris Wing

Every well-informed rural Nova Scotian knows that the wood-fired heating stove has changed from being a decorative antique to becoming again an economical and efficient way of heating a home. Scandinavian craftsmanship in air-tight cast-iron stoves has stimulated stove manufacturers in Canada and the USA to update stove design and increase efficiency. However, efficiency figures quoted by the manufacturers must be understood to be figures for stoves running under optimum conditions which the stove-stoker can only achieve if he/she burns dry well-seasoned wood, cut and split to the right size, in a "bright" fire. (A slow smoldering fire loses a lot of its heat up the chimney in unburned gases which hurt the home-owner twice over since they represent lost heat, being unburned, and can be the cause of chimney fires when they condense as creosote.)

Safety aspects of wood stove installation deserve careful attention. A leaflet published by a group of Vermont insurance companies recommends that stoves stand on a large "stoveboard" of asbestos covered with sheet metal which must be spaced away from a wooden floor to allow ventilation. Using brick, stone or asbestos directly over wood is not considered satisfactory since heat is transferred through these substances and can build up to dangerous levels in the wood if no ventilation is provided. Similarly, combustible walls within three feet of a stove should be covered with sheet metal and/or asbestos, spaced one inch away from the wall surface. Stove pipes and chimneys must be kept clean.

If the stove owner has the stove properly installed and has good clean pipes and chimney he needs only well-seasoned wood to burn. Wood is a clean and safe fuel if used properly.

The heating value of "oven dried" wood is about 8600 British thermal units (BTU) per pound regardless of species. Burned under good conditions a pound of such wood will yield about 7250 usable BTU. "Air-dried" wood, which is about the best any of us can expect to use, can be expected to yield about 5800 BTU (67% efficiency). With green wood this figure drops as low as 4100 BTU, a lot of heat being used to evaporate the high moisture content.

Heating value per cord (air dried) of some species of Nova Scotia wood are as follows:

Red (or Swamp) Maple	- 24 million BTU
Yellow Birch	- 26.2
Sugar Maple	- 29
White Birch	- 23.4
Balsam Poplar	- 17.7
White Spruce	- 16.2
Balsam Fir	- 15.5
Beech	- 27.8

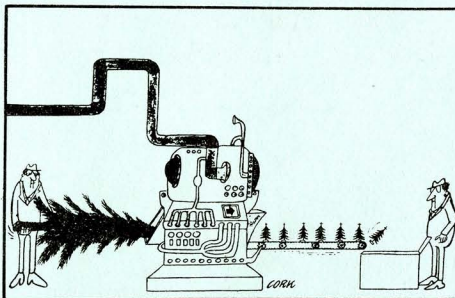
Remember, however, that a cord of air dried balsam fir will weigh only about half what a cord of sugar maple will weigh so that it may not be such a poor firewood buy in some areas. In seasoning wood it is recommended to cut in the fall or winter when the sap is down in the trees and to leave it for nine months or a year before using. Ideally, firewood should be stacked under a roof, with

sticks over eight inches split once and those over twelve inches quartered. Apparently the length of a stick makes little difference in how fast it dries. Splitting does make a lot of difference.

In Nova Scotia it is still possible to obtain a firewood license to cut on crown land. The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests has advertised firewood for sale at \$20. per cord roadside (freshly cut in eight foot lengths). This price is uneconomically low and you are a lucky stove-stoker if you can obtain such wood.

Prices for fuelwood cut, split and delivered are quite variable, as is the size of some of these "cords". "Cut, split and delivered" in Ottawa can cost as much as \$120. per cord. In Fredericton the "cut, split and delivered" price is about \$65. and in New Hampshire \$70. where stompages may be as high as \$12. per cord near centres of population.

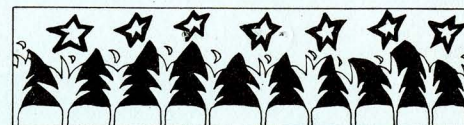
Larry Bogan (an energy consultant in Wolfville, N.S.) suggests that at the present price of oil (May, 1977) "a cord of average air-dried hardwood would have to cost \$82. to be as expensive as oil". Probably the figure will have to be readjusted to \$90. for the coming winter (1978-79).



In 1978, with a long and dubious record behind us of cutting the best trees first, Nova Scotia is offered the opportunity under the new Federal-Provincial program to start upgrading its forests. Incentives encourage private woodlot owners, either individually or in groups, to improve their woodlands by such silviculture practices as spacing dense young stands; removing overmature or badly formed "wolf trees"; and generally by cutting less healthy and wellformed trees to encourage the more vigorous growth left behind. The fuelwood/biomass market could be valuable in this effort if cutting is done selectively with rubbish going to a degenerating station or district heating plant. But whole tree utilization on a large scale could create major problems of regeneration. The forest is a renewable resource only if we treat it properly.

Nova Scotia could see significant improvement in its forestry resource, however. Sweden introduced legislation similar to our Forest Improvement Act in 1905 and in seventy years that country has nearly doubled its volume of standing timber and similarly doubled its annual allowable cut of timber. Further, an improvement in quality is to be expected when proper silviculture practices are implemented.

With the increases in the importance of wood as a fuel, we as environmentalists need to make sure that appropriate long-term policies are developed and carried out.



## ARTISTS

Looking for a way to contribute to our newsletter? How about a sketch or cartoon with an environmental slant? We could also use graphic designs (such as those shown here) to set off our news items. Doodle with a purpose: send us your patterns and drawings to liven up JUSUN.

## WE CAN USE BOOKS

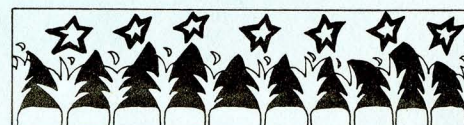
If you are sorting out your home library before winter sets in, your unwanted books could bring in money for us. Drop them into the offices of Ecology Action Centre or if you want us to pick them up call 422-4311.

## BAKESALE '78

A tremendous thank you to the contributors to the September 30 bake sale. We made \$170. selling fine homemade cookies, cakes, breads and preserves. There were numerous compliments especially about the bread; one person said it was the best bread she had ever tasted! Perhaps next time we could have a "Bread and Sweet Breads Bake Sale". Apologies need to be made to people for the short notice prior to the sale and to those people who delivered their goods to the Halifax Shopping Centre. Last minute arrangements made it necessary for us to hold the sale at the Dartmouth Shopping Centre and when sales slowed down there we moved to the MicMac Mall where we sold out!

## Aluminum Foil Recycled?

If anyone knows which company has expressed an interest in the recycling of aluminum foil from cigarette wrappers please contact the Ecology Action Centre. Several people have called in asking if we knew of a contact person willing to purchase these foil wrappers and we are still unable to advise them.





### Gift Membership/Renewal Form

Memberships in the Ecology Action Centre make good gifts. By introducing new people to the Centre you will be helping us to maintain and expand our efforts to protect the environment. All contributions are tax deductible. Use the form below to renew your membership, and to order gift memberships for your friends. Attach a separate sheet for additional names.

Check a box if renewing now:

- an individual member, \$5.
- a contributing member, \$25.
- a professional member, \$50.
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- a sustaining member, \$10/month.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a gift membership to:

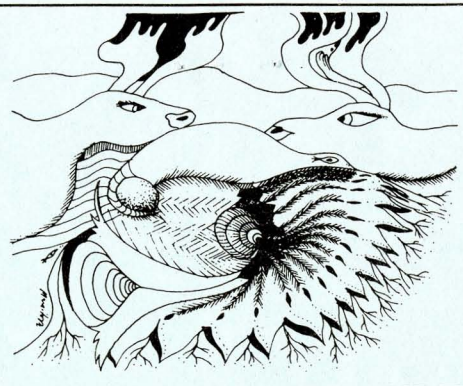
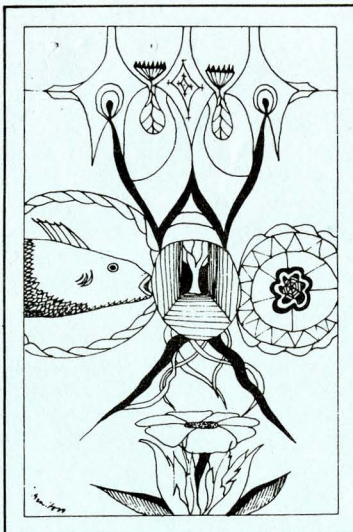
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for memberships  
 also \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution  
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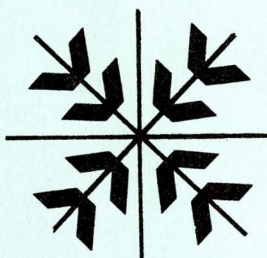
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JUSUN is the MicMac word for "wind". It also contains our English word "sun". As wind is the active agent of solar energy it is hoped that the JUSUN will serve as a medium for voicing environmental concerns throughout the Maritimes.

#### JUSUN STAFF

Editors .....Susan Holtz  
 and Susan Mayo  
 Layout assistant ..... Jerry Zenchuk

### PLEASE NOTE

For the purpose of updating our committee membership and mailing lists, would people, who are either already active on committee or wishing to become active, please fill out the following form:

- I am interested in:
- Urban Development and Transportation Committee
  - Recycling Committee
  - Energy Options Committee
  - Ecological Agriculture Committee
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: home \_\_\_\_\_  
 work \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail this to Ecology Action Centre,  
 Forrest Building, Dalhousie University,  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

