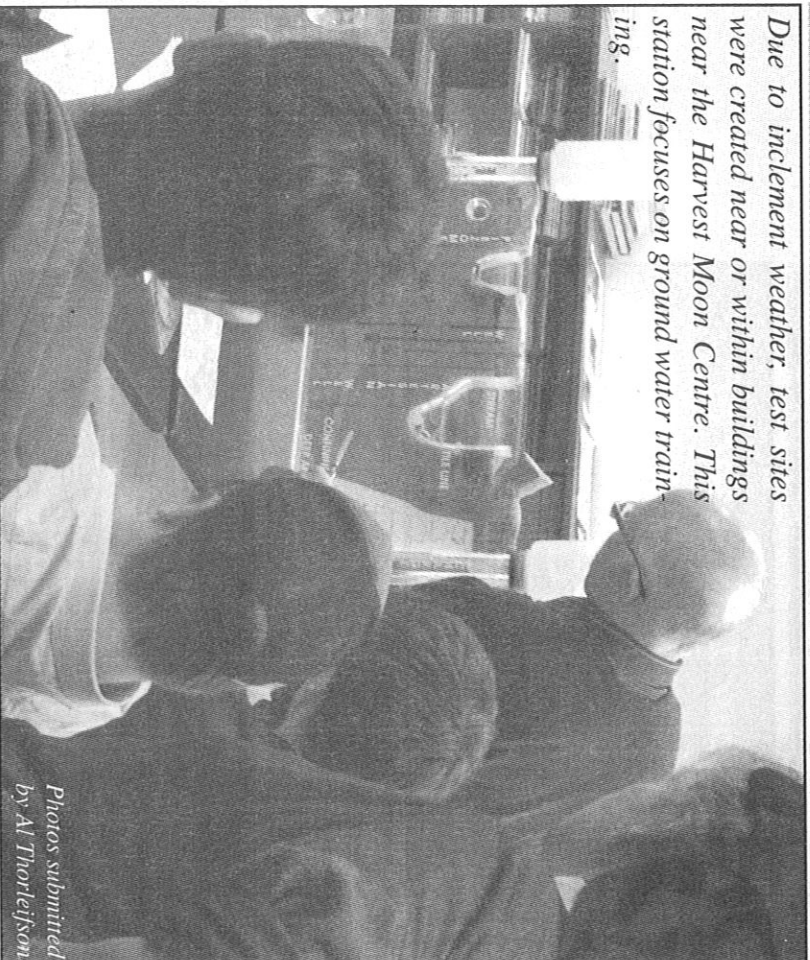


Celebrating the Regional Envirothon

Due to inclement weather, test sites were created near or within buildings near the Harvest Moon Centre. This station focuses on ground water training.



Photos submitted by Al Thorleifson

Submitted by
Al Thorleifson

The organizing committee has been working for most of a year, trainers and specialists have been invited from across the province, the trail test had been prepared to run through the valley north of Clearwater, volunteers – dozens of them – are scheduled to arrive, eleven teams from Elm River, Winnipeg, the Little Saskatchewan, Carman, and those from nearby And then we have three days and just under three inches of rain. You can tell the level of commitment by the fact that, in spite of snow and rain on the journey down, no one turned back.

Clearwater, on Wednesday, May 5, was full of running students, guides with signs and air horns, trucks, with coffeebrewing on the tail gate, on the side of the road, and people huddling against the latest squall of sleet, snow and rain (all in the passage of two minutes). There were some compromises made to Manitoba's climate. The trail in the valley had to be abandoned in favour of test sites near or within buildings and shelters around the Harvest Moon site and community hall, and a crew of test writers rewrote whole sections of the trail test to suit.

As the teams arrived, you would hear such comments as "Hi, were you here last year?", "Hi, I think you dated my cousin?" "Didn't You bring the notes with You?"
Lisa Tack (the Provin-

cial Envirothon coordinator) and Cliff Greenfield (from the Pembina Valley Conservation District), representing the organizing committee, greeted everyone and outlined the revised schedule for the day. The teams were introduced to the concept of the trail test and each of the teams' specialists was trained on use of the technology associated with forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and ground water management.

After the training session, and a good supply of snacks to counter the cold, Larry Danielson and Nic Pharoah from the Archa Centre at Pembina Valley Provincial Park made a presentation on good public speaking techniques. They emphasized a series of ideas with the acronym SSSS Eye Ear Brain – which meant keep a relaxed stance, stand tall, speak clearly, and know your spot – and you have to engage your audience's eyes, their ears, and their brains. In preparation for

the day, each team had been given the same scenario and asked to make a ten minute presentation on how they, if they were a delegation to a community council, would improve the quality of groundwater in the district. They had also been asked to create a poster to support their presentation. After Nic and Larry's presentation, the teams were given a half hour to brush up their presentations. Across the room, you would hear discussions about watersheds, flow speed, percolation of water through soil, arsenic poisoning, does it usually leech out of the slopes of the valley?, how do I relate forestry with groundwater quality?

Lunch followed – with a focus on local foods and environmentally friendly cutlery, plates, and cups. Teams, each guided by a volunteer coach, spread out across Clearwater to the different sites. They interpreted sign at local historical sites, identified birds, paw prints, fish, flowers,

and furs, calculated the height of trees, analyzed the level of carbonates in soil pits in the yard, and presented their ten minute speeches in front of a panel of judges.

Since some of these teams were new to Envirothon, and some were preparing for the Provincial Competition to be held at the end of May in Brandon, the emphasis of the day was on learning. The formal results will be tabulated over the next week and teams will be given their results. On site, the winning teams of the day were in such categories as – most efficient use of time, the youngest team registered, the most positive and supportive of their team mates. One comment made by a volunteer team coach, summarized the goals of the event: the older members of the team worked hard to encourage the younger members to try and answer some very difficult questions. They showed their respect for the younger team members by accepting their answers, and including them, even when, on occasion, experience would have shown another answer to be the better one.

The core of this program is in the concept of building team work and community, respect and mutual support.

Given the weather and the need to rethink the whole event on their feet, the sense of pride – among both the teams and the organizers – at the end of the day was well deserved.

The fish identification station.



La Riviere's "World's Largest Social"

Submitted by
Evelyn Janzen

Manitoba Homecoming is a year long provincial campaign aimed at celebrating Manitoba's 140th birthday across the province in many different ways. World's Largest Social is just one of many events giving Manitobans the opportunity to celebrate, appreciate our many cultures and our heritage, and enjoy the friendship of friends and neighbours. "Socials are unique to Manitoba and have come to represent a very distinctive part of our culture," said Kevin Walters, Manitoba Homecoming Executive Director. "The social symbolizes a meeting place where everyone is welcome so we thought, what better way to invite people home in 2010 than to hold a huge province-wide social."

Of the 63 communities participating in the World's Largest Social, La Riviere will be one of them. La Riviere Recreation Association is hosting the event at Blair Morrison Hall from 3:00pm to 8:00pm, on May 15th, 2010, the date selected for this province-wide activity.

Music will be by Mo Sound and will start with old time dance music and progress during the afternoon according to attendance. The dance floor will be indoors, and weather permitting, tables will be set up outdoors for those who love the sun and fresh air.

Birthdays include banners and balloons, so La Riviere will have them. Socials include cheese and koulbasa, and these will be there as well. The goodie bags, or profits from this event will go to South Central Cancer Resource Pembina Valley Music Festival, Pembina Valley Snow Kickers, La Riviere Fire Department and La Riviere and Community Recreation Association. There will be auction prizes and door prizes for those in attendance. Tickets are \$10,000 and are available from John Gibbs at 242-3120, Lois Creith at 242-2258 or Norm or Ev Janzen at 242-3272. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. A purchase with all other socials, minors are not allowed. The official host town for Manitoba Homecoming celebrations was bestowed on Neepawa. Other communities participating include Baldur, Brandon, Carman, Cypress River, Dauphin, Gimli, La Broquerie, Morden, Morris, Portage la Prairie, Swa Lake, Souris, Steinbach, The Pas, Thompson, and many venues in Winnipeg.

For more on Manitoba Homecoming, go to the www.manitobahomecoming2010.com website. Who have you invited home?

CHURCH SERVICES

CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS ROTATION

MAY 15-16

St. Alphonsse 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Marlapolis 9:00 a.m. Sunday
Swan Lake 11:00 a.m. Sunday

LA RIVIERE PASTORAL CHARGE
La Riviere - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at La Riviere

ANGELICAN CHURCHES
Pilot Mound 9:30 a.m.

Clearwater 11:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCHES
Crystal City 9:30 a.m.

Clearwater 11:30 a.m.

Pilot Mound 11:00 a.m.

CORNERTONE MINISTRIES
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Peter Redekopp
Office: 873-2296 (Tues.-Fri.)

Youth Pastor Scott Reimer
Youth: Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

<http://lcsionechurch.blogspot.com>

Crystal City Everyone Welcome

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (Memorial)

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Worship 10:45 a.m.

First three Sundays of the month at
Crystal City Hall. Everyone welcome.

CRYSTAL CITY MEMORIAL CHURCH
Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

TRINITY MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP (Methodist)
Worship 11:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

The Sentinel

Quarter

satellite office in

Crystal City is located at

Crystal City HEALTH

Drop off your news, subscriptions, classified ads, reports, etc.

Submissions will be picked up weekly.

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.