



# Enviro Web

Newsletter of the Manitoba Envirothon

Mark your calendar!!  
May 22nd to 24th, 2008

## Coordinator's Corner by Andrea Swain

The workshop is quickly approaching on Friday, April 18th. There are details about the workshop in this newsletter. If your team is planning to attend please let me know by filling out the form on page 5. Remember that Camp Morton is situated on the banks of Lake Winnipeg so it may be a cool day if there is wind blowing across the ice on the lake. Please dress warmly-we will be outside for parts of the day and we don't want you thinking about how cold you are instead of concentrating on learning how to use a GPS unit or a clinometer!

This newsletter also contains an article that Avery Ascher wrote about our trip to The Pas and Cormorant Lake. We had a great meeting at University College of the North and we are looking forward to doing a workshop in The Pas next spring. There was even talk about hosting Envirothon at UCN in the near future! We will see how things evolve with these discussions!

We have hired a researcher/writer to develop the 2009 theme binder. The theme for 2009 is Biodiversity in a Changing World. A draft of the theme guide will be available for a preview at

the 2008 Envirothon in May. Our volunteers are in the process of deciding on a location for 2009. If you know of a location that is particularly suited to the theme of biodiversity (and can sleep 300 people!) please let me know.

We are working on the sleeping arrangements for 2008 at Wilderness Edge and I will be sending further details about the May competition in the next newsletter.

## Meet your competition

Baker School  
College Jeanne -Sauve  
College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate  
Cormorant Lake  
**Ecole Secondaire Kelvin High School**  
Edward Schreyer School  
Fairholme Colony School-Team #1 & #2  
Fort Richmond Collegiate Team  
Gimli High School -Team #1 & #2  
**Grant Park High School**  
Helen Betty Osborne  
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #1 & #2  
Lord Selkirk School Team #1 & #2  
Maple Grove Colony School  
**Morden Collegiate**  
Oak River Colony School  
Pembina Valley Conservation District  
**Pinawa Secondary School**  
**Powerview School**  
Nellie McClung Collegiate

Shaftesbury High School Team  
Springfield Collegiate  
**St. James Collegiate**  
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Team #1 & #2  
Vincent Massey Collegiate Team #1 & #2  
**Wanipigow School**  
Westwood Collegiate - Team #1 & #2  
North West Soil Management Assoc. - Team #1  
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School- Team #2

We have 36 teams registered for the 2008 Envirothon!

This is our largest event to date!

The future depends on what we do in the present.  
**Mahatma Gandhi**

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## Envirothon Gaining Momentum in Northern Manitoba by Avery Ascher

Envirothon doesn't have a large presence in northern Manitoba right now, but that's about to change!

Just 5 teams from all of northern Manitoba representing the communities of Lynn Lake, Thompson (2 teams), Norway House and Cormorant participated in the 2007 Manitoba Envirothon. The Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee wants to see those numbers go up, way up.

So Manitoba Forestry Association staff and Envirothon volunteers, educators and representatives of University College of the North (UCN), Manitoba Northern and Aboriginal Affairs, Manitoba Conservation and Kelsey Conservation District met at UCN in The Pas on February 22, 2008 to look at what's currently holding northern students back, and what can be done to turn that around.

In tackling this issue, the Envirothon team has a great resource in Jacqueline Monteith, a teacher at the school in Cormorant, a small community about an hour's drive north of The Pas. Monteith led the Cormorant Envirothon team last year, and also wrote and has been co-piloting with a fellow teacher a credit course on the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon special theme, "Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources."

At the February 22<sup>nd</sup> planning session, Monteith succinctly summed up the key barriers currently preventing more northern students from participating in Envirothon. These include schools that do not go up to Grade 12 (students often have to leave their home communities to complete their high school), geographic isolation of northern communities, language, and social and cultural differences such as shyness.

So what can be done? After some discussion, it was decided one key way to build northern students' comfort level would be to have peers that have participated in Envirothon visit them in their communities, and show them what it's all about. For Monteith and her students that means a few road trips in the coming months, a task she's more than eager to take on.

It was also decided to hold an Envirothon training workshop for northern students in the fall of 2008. Similar to (but not replacing) the province-wide workshop that's currently held every spring for all registered Manitoba Envirothon teams, the northern workshop would provide training in soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and the special theme. It would also address the northern-specific issues that have been identified.

Following the planning session at UCN, participants drove out to Cormorant Lake School to meet with Monteith's class and to hold a Mini-Envirothon in the afternoon. First, Manitoba Envirothon Coordinator Andrea Swain chatted with the students a little, to help break the ice and introduce the activity.

Then in teams of two, students circulated through 14 stations testing them on their knowledge of animal tracks and scats, twig ID, bird calls, wetland benefits and more. After a debrief to review their answers, Monteith and her students headed outside to wrap up their day with some sliding outdoors in the crisp, bright sunshine.

For Swain and the Envirothon steering members from "down south" the trip north was extremely worthwhile, and they felt honoured to have experienced a taste of Manitoba's north and its people.



Visiting the grade 9 and 10 class at Cormorant Lake School.



Working on the Mini-Envirothon activity



Sliding on Cormorant Lake

## 2008 Envirothon Workshop

Here is the latest news about the 2008 Envirothon Workshop. If you plan to attend please fill out the registration form and send it to me by April 7th.

Date: Friday, April 18, 2008

Time: 9:30-3:30

Location: Camp Morton, 8 km North of Gimli on Hwy 17

([www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/popular\\_parks/camp\\_morton/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/popular_parks/camp_morton/index.html))

Registration Fee: \$15/person

Lunch and snacks are included. The draft schedule and registration form follow on the next pages. We have a number of great speakers lined up on the theme and the focus will be hands-on training in the disciplines.



You can pay your registration fee in advance or at the workshop. Please make your cheque payable to "Manitoba Envirothon".



## Workshop FAQ

### 1. Can we bring an alternate team member to the workshop?

No. This year only 5 team members and 2 advisors can attend the workshop. This will reduce the number of students in each session and allow everyone to use the equipment provided.

### 2. Will all team members attend all five discipline training sessions?

No. Once again, based on feedback from last year's workshop, we are trying to reduce the number of students per session so that it is possible for everyone to use the equipment. Each team member will attend one of the discipline training sessions. All team members will attend a session on the theme of recreational impacts on ecosystems.

### 3. What is a "theme expert"?

In order to reduce confusion on the day of the workshop we are asking each team to decide who will attend which training session. There are 5 disciplines and 5 team members therefore your team needs to decide who will attend which session and become the "expert" in that discipline.

### 4. Will our team benefit from attending the workshop?

YES! We do not have any equipment demonstrations at the provincial competition therefore the workshop is your only chance to practice using the equipment for the field test. You will also have a chance to learn more about the theme topic, ask questions about the field test and oral presentation, and meet your competition!

If you have other questions about the workshop please email Andrea Swain at [envirocoordinator@mts.net](mailto:envirocoordinator@mts.net). We will answer the questions in the next newsletter.

## Draft Agenda for the Workshop on April 18th

	9:30	Teams Arrive at Camp Morton in Gimli	
9:30	10:00	Team Registration & Snacks (Hall at Camp Morton)	
10:00	10:30	Welcome (Hall at Camp Morton) -this also gives time for teams to move to topic training locations	
10:30	12:30	Topic Training: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, recreational impacts (GIS/GPS)  Group A  (18 teams=90 students divided between the 5 themes. Each team sends 1 student to each topic. So each topic will have 18	Recreational Impacts on Ecosystems Presentations Jackie Advent, Morgan Hallett, Paul Chief  Group B (18 teams=90 students in one big group)
12:40	1:10	Lunch (students, volunteers, presenters)	
1:10	3:10	Topic Training: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, recreational impacts (GIS/GPS)  Group B  (18 teams=90 students divided between the 5 themes. Each team sends 1 student to each topic. So each topic will have 18	Recreational Impacts on Ecosystems Presentations Jackie Advent, Morgan Hallett, Paul Chief  Group A (18 teams=90 students in one big group)
3:10	3:30	Closing Remarks & Snacks to go	
	3:30	Teams Leave	

## What to bring to the 2008 Workshop?

**NEW** We are asking that all team members and advisors bring a portable camping chair (or a lawn chair). The facility we are using does not have enough chairs for all of us. To ensure you have a chair please bring your own seat!

As always please bring a water bottle and/or coffee mug.

Camp Morton is on Lake Winnipeg and there is a good chance that it will be a cool day. Please dress for the weather but keep the wind from the Lake in mind so dress even warmer than would be needed if you were in the City for the day!

# 2008 Manitoba Envirothon Workshop Registration

School/Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher/Advisor (s):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Members:**

**Theme Expertise**

(wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics, renewable & alternative energy)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lunch & Snacks**

To help us prepare the appropriate food for your team please provide the following information:

# of Vegetarians: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Vegans: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please be specific): \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Disabilities**

Please let us know if there are any team members or advisors who have a physical disability:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please fax the completed form to Manitoba Forestry Association  
at (204) 477-5765 by April 8th.**

## Resources and Activities

### Resources

North American Environmental Atlas

[www.cec.org/naatlas/](http://www.cec.org/naatlas/)

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation has partnered with key mapping agencies in Canada, the US and Mexico to create an online information tool called the North American Environmental Atlas. This tool is designed to promote understanding of significant continental scale environmental issues in North America.

### Websites

The Canon Envirothon has launched a new website. See their new site at [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, Education for Sustainable Development has a declaration for sustainable living that you might find interesting <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/index.html>

## RUSTLE THE LEAF™

BY PONCÉ & WRIGHT



For further information on Manitoba Envirothon, contact:



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