

# 2009 Manitoba Envirothon Final Report



2009 Manitoba Envirothon Winning Team  
Northwest Soil Management Association  
(Swan Valley Regional Secondary School)

## Executive Summary

For the past thirteen years the Manitoba Forestry Association, along with its partners and funders, has been the proud host of the Manitoba Envirothon. In 2009 thirty-five teams competed in the International Peace Garden for the chance to represent Manitoba at the 2009 Canon Envirothon in Asheville, North Carolina.

The theme for 2009 of *biodiversity in a changing world* gave the students an opportunity to explore how our activities affect the biodiversity of natural environments. To help the students explore this issue we held two spring workshops – one at Oak Hammock Marsh north of Winnipeg and one at University College of the North in The Pas. In addition to the hands-on equipment training in soils & land-use, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife, teams heard presentations about biodiversity. Students also learned about GPS and GIS-a topic that was introduced last year at the Envirothon Workshop.

The Manitoba Envirothon took place in the International Peace Garden from May 21-23, 2009. The teams were housed and fed at the Music Camp. After an evening of creative, ice-breaking team introductions the students went to sleep in preparation for a full-day of challenging questions on the field test. The field test took place in two locations in the Peace Garden: one trail was set-up near the formal garden and the second trail was set-up near a hiking trail. Given the large number of teams participating again this year we decided to try having less stops on each trail but two teams per stop. This format was the same as last year but there were still a few concerns about overhearing answers and seeing the test papers of the other team.

Following the field test teams were given an opportunity to hear a presentation from Chuck Lura who can be considered an expert of the Turtle Mountain area. After the presentation, teams held an energetic trading session before heading to bed for another night's sleep. The following day teams prepared and delivered their oral presentations which focused on developing a biodiversity strategy for the International Peace Garden. This year, students summarized the top five points of their biodiversity strategy. These points were summarized and given to Doug Hevenor (CEO of the Garden).

After the scores from the field test and oral competition were tallied the winning team was Northwest Soil Management Association from Swan Valley. This is also the second year that the Steering Committee has conducted an additional training session for the winning team to help them prepare for the Canon Envirothon. This winning team mentorship focused on in-depth hands-on training and a mock oral presentation.

The weather was sunny and warm throughout the event which further enhanced the warm hospitality we received from the staff at the International Peace Garden.

The 2010 Envirothon theme is "protection of ground water". The Steering Committee has chosen Brandon as the location for the 2010 event. The Manitoba Envirothon has been to Brandon three times in the past so we look forward to returning to this beautiful and scenic location.

We have said it before and we will say it again- the success of the Envirothon program is largely due to the commitment, passion, and endless energy of our numerous volunteers, partner organizations, and funders. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationships with these partners in environmental education.

## Table of Contents

1.	2009 Summary of Winning Teams .....	5
1.1.	Team Placement .....	5
2.	New for 2009.....	7
2.1.1.	Northern Workshop .....	7
2.1.2.	Manitoba Conservation Districts Association .....	7
2.1.3.	Pre-Harvest Survey .....	7
3.	Steering Committee - update .....	8
4.	Thank you to Sponsors .....	9
5.	Competing Schools .....	11
6.	Envirothon Workshop.....	13
6.1.	Workshop Schedule .....	13
6.2.	Thank you to our presenters .....	13
6.3.	Thank you to workshop volunteers.....	14
6.4.	Evaluations .....	14
7.	2009 Manitoba Envirothon Competition .....	14
7.1.	Event Schedule .....	16
7.2.	Thank you to Volunteers .....	17
7.2.1.	Volunteer Evaluations .....	20
7.3.	Student and Advisor Evaluations .....	20
7.4.	Media Coverage .....	20
8.	Recommendations and plans for 2010 .....	21
8.1.	Recommendations .....	21
9.	Financial Statement.....	22

# 1. 2009 Summary of Winning Teams

## 1.1. Team Placement

In addition to awarding the top four teams we also award “runner-up” prizes to teams who have demonstrated excellence in a particular discipline. These teams did not necessarily have the highest score but they likely had the second or third highest score. This system for awarding prizes lets us recognize more teams than just the top four teams, who in many cases had the highest scores in the disciplines. By recognizing the “excellence in” categories we can give recognition to teams that had high scores but not necessarily the *highest* score in each category. These teams are:

Excellence in Forestry, Lord Selkirk School – Team 2  
Excellence in Soils & Land Use, Fort Richmond Collegiate  
Excellence in Aquatic Ecology, Ecole Secondaire Kelvin High School  
Excellence in Wildlife, J.H. Bruns – Team 2  
Excellence in Theme, Grant Park High School – Team 2  
Excellence in Orals, Swan Valley Regional Secondary School



Team Introductions are always creative and often hilarious! Teams tell us that socializing and meeting other students from across the province is one of their favourite things about Envirothon.





## 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team

The team from Northwest Soil Management Association in Swan Valley, Manitoba won this year's Manitoba Envirothon held in the International Peace Garden.

Team members Eddie Shao, Breanna Anderson, Matthew Forbes, Nyla Burnside, and Teagan Markin. were assisted in their efforts by advisors Alex Verbo and Shawn Stankewich.



## 2nd Place Team

The second place team was a novice team from J.H. Bruns Collegiate in Winnipeg. Jennifer Sloan and Tim Beyak advised Ingrid Baragar, Danielle Unetti, Quin Richert, Kevin Leonard and Kevin Naughten.



## 3rd Place Team

Third place went to the team from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Winnipeg. Barbara Fuller coached this team marking her and Vincent Massey's third consecutive top three finish. The team members are Kieran Hendrickson-Gracie, Kevin Bairos-Novak, Jemma Harrison, Kate Cawker and Spencer Nelson.



## 4<sup>th</sup> - Top Orals

Fourth place (Top Orals) went to another team from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School. Team members include Marissa Kalynuk, Kendal Hart, Erika Brandson, Kirsten Larson and Matt Johnston. Advisors: Rick Wowchuk and Kathleen Peden.

## 2. New for 2009

Based on student, advisor and volunteer evaluations and the initiatives of the steering committee and staff at the Manitoba Forestry Association, we make changes to the Envirothon each year. Our focus is to create a program that helps students excel in their understanding of the natural world and its connections to our economy, our health, and our culture. We also want to offer an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone involved. In 2009 we had a number of new initiatives.

### 2.1.1. Northern Workshop

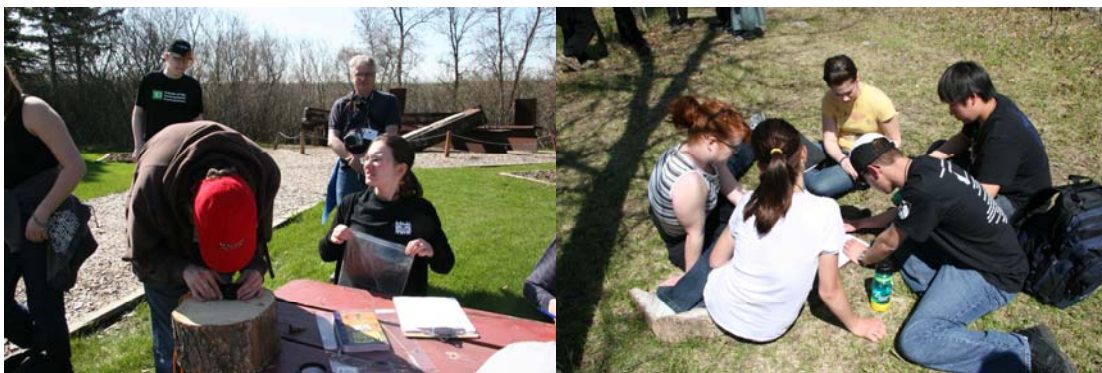
To complement the Manitoba Northern Outreach Initiative, a northern workshop was held in The Pas on May 1, 2009. Seven teams from six different schools were in attendance: Cormorant Lake, The Pas, OCN, Swan River, Thompson, and Norway House). The day began with a welcome, introductions and a traditional drum ceremony. Students were then placed into small groups and participated in training sessions led by the volunteer instructors from UCN. A traditional lunch (bannock and stew) was served and then students participated in a mock field test which demonstrated to them what it would be like to participate in the Manitoba Envirothon. At the end of the day, volunteers were presented with shields as thank you gifts.

### 2.1.2. Manitoba Conservation Districts Association

In June, 2009, Manitoba Envirothon received support from the Manitoba Conservation District Association (MCDA) to pursue a partnership with the conservation districts and develop a regional format for Envirothon. A pilot regional format is planned for the 2010 Manitoba Envirothon.

### 2.1.3. Pre-Harvest Survey

In 2009, the Test Writing Committee decided to incorporate a pre-harvest survey question into the field test. While this question came with some logistical challenges, the students enjoyed it because it was a real life, hands-on, multi-discipline question. During the teacher debriefing, the test writing committee received some constructive feedback as to how this question could be improved for future years.



### 3. Steering Committee - update

Much of the success of the Manitoba Envirothon is attributed to the high level of commitment and enthusiasm that our Steering Committee volunteers give to the program each year. A number of our volunteers have been with the program since its inception in 1996. Each of our committee members takes the lead of a sub-committee or participates on one of the sub-committees. The Steering Committee met monthly from September 2008 to May 2009. A wrap-up meeting was held in late June to debrief the event and to begin planning for 2010.

#### 2009 Steering Committee Members:

Jim Potton	Retired	Co-Chair
Glenn Peterson	Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch	Co-Chair
Brenda Robinson	Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch	Volunteer Committee
Avery Ascher	Atikameg Forest Centre	Northern Outreach
Michael Cavers	Resident of Pinawa	Logistics
Gil Godard	Manitoba Hydro	Logistics Co-Chair
Brendan Carruthers	Manitoba Hydro	Logistics Co-Chair
Rebecca McKay	Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch	Test Writing Co-Chair
Laureen Janusz	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Test Writing Committee
David Hay	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Test Writing Committee
Christine Tymchak	Manitoba Conservation-Wildlife Branch	Test Writing Committee
Jennifer Lidgett	Tembec	GIS/GPS Activities
Cathy Shaluk	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Workshop Committee, Test Writing Committee
John Sinclair	University of Manitoba	Orals Committee Co-Chair
Bob Austman	Manitoba Model Forest	Orals Committee Co-Chair
Shauna Santos	Manitoba Water Stewardship	Test Writing Co-Chair
Michele Kading	Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre	Mini-Envirothon Liaison Member-at-large
Nathalie Bays	Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre	Workshop Committee
Allen Tyrchniewicz	Tyrchniewicz Consulting	GIS/GPS Activities
Byrnes Benoit	Spectra Productions	Media & Communications

In addition to the steering committee there are many other volunteers who write the field test and oral scenario. These activities require a number of site visits each fall and spring to ensure the questions are site specific. They work closely together to write the questions, deliver the field and oral tests at the competition, and mark the test. These volunteers also bring the hands-on equipment and samples used by the teams on the field test.



## 4. Thank you to Sponsors

Each year the Manitoba Envirothon begins the challenge of securing funding for the program. In addition to approaching long time private industry funders we also approach new organizations who may relate to the current theme or because we are holding the event in their community.

In early 2008, we learned that we were successful in securing a three-year treasury board agreement with six provincial government departments. This funding will go a long way to assisting us in our plans for developing new initiatives that will increase the number of students participating in the program.

In 2008, the Steering Committee developed a sponsor recognition program. This recognition program will provide us with more a uniform approach. Based on our new recognition program, we awarded our first "Legacy Partner" tree of appreciation to Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba Hydro has supported the Envirothon program both through funding and in-kind support from their exceptional staff, Brendan Carruthers and Gil Godard, who are active members of our steering committee.

Sponsors were recognized in the event program, on the event t-shirts, and were mentioned at the event itself.

*The following organizations provided funding for the 2009 Manitoba Envirothon:*

### **Envirothon Host**

Manitoba Forestry Association

### **Legacy Partners**

Manitoba Hydro

Fisheries Enhancement Fund

### **Sustaining Partners**

Manitoba Water Stewardship

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

Manitoba Conservation

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Mackenzie Seeds

Jiffy Canada Incorporated

Manitoba Model Forest

### **Friends of the Envirothon**

Jim and Myrna Potton

*The following organizations provided in-kind support for the 2009 Manitoba Envirothon:*

Addictions Foundation of Manitoba  
Agriculture Canada  
Assiniboine Community College  
Border Services Agency  
Byers Environmental Studies  
Canadian Forestry Association  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Flax Council of Canada  
Green Manitoba  
IBM  
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives  
Manitoba Conservation Districts  
Manitoba Conservation - Forestry Branch  
Manitoba Conservation - Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch  
Manitoba Hydro  
Manitoba Lung Association  
Manitoba Model Forest  
Manitoba Naturalist Society  
Manitoba Tourism Educating Council  
Manitoba Water Stewardship  
McKenzie Seeds/Jiffy  
Natural Resource Institute - University of Manitoba  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service  
Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre  
Parks Canada  
Plus4 Consulting Inc.  
Precision Drilling Oilfields Services  
Red River Community College  
Spectra-Productions Ltd.  
TetrES  
Tyrchniewicz Consulting  
University College of the North

*The following organizations provided prizes for the 2009 Manitoba Envirothon:*

Assiniboine Community College  
Ducks Unlimited  
Louisiana-Pacific Canada Limited  
Manitoba Water Stewardship - Fisheries Branch  
Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch  
Marantz and Sons Ltd.  
Manitoba Conservation Districts Association  
North Dakota Forest Services  
The Manitoba Museum  
TNM Productions

## **5. Competing Schools**

During the 2008/2009 we attended numerous conferences and events to promote Envirothon. The largest conference was SAG which was held in the fall. In addition to setting up a display, we had 23 teachers attend a workshop where they learned about the Manitoba Forestry Association's programs, including Envirothon.

This additional promotion seems to have paid off as we had 35 teams register for Envirothon. This is 2 more teams than we have had in any previous year.

The following teams competed in this year's event:

Baker School, MacGregor  
College Jeanne -Sauve- Team #1, Winnipeg  
College Jeanne -Sauve- Team #2, Winnipeg  
Cormorant Lake School, Cormorant  
Ecole Secondaire Kelvin High School, Winnipeg  
Fairholme Colony School, Portage La Prairie  
Fort Richmond Collegiate Team, Winnipeg  
Gimli High School - Team #1 (East Interlake), Gimli  
Gimli High School-Team #2, Gimli  
Grant Park High School- Team #1, Winnipeg  
Grant Park High School- Team #2, Winnipeg  
Grant Park High School- Team #3, Winnipeg  
Helen Betty Osborne, Norway House  
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #1, Winnipeg  
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #2, Winnipeg  
Lord Selkirk School- Team #1, Selkirk  
Lord Selkirk School- Team #2, Selkirk  
Maple Grove Colony School-Team #1, Lauder

Maple Grove Colony School – Team #2 - Sprucedale Team, Lauder  
Morden Collegiate, Morden  
Nellie McClung Collegiate, Manitou  
North West Soil Management Association -Team #1, Swan River  
Pembina Valley Conservation District - Team #1, Manitou  
Pinawa Secondary School, Pinawa  
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Junior Team, Thompson  
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Senior Team, Thompson  
Shaftesbury High School-Team #1, Winnipeg  
Shaftesbury High School-Team #2, Winnipeg  
Springfield Collegiate Institute, Oakbank  
St. Boniface Diocesan High School, Winnipeg  
Steinbach Regional Secondary School, Steinbach  
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School-Team #2, Swan River  
Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District- Team #3, Swan River  
Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg  
Westwood Collegiate, Winnipeg



Our "Mystery Teams" of advisors had a great time and were very good sports as we sprung it on them the morning of the field test.



## **6. Envirothon Workshop**

The 2009 Manitoba Envirothon Workshop was held at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. Thirty-one teams attended the workshop. The weather cooperated and we had a calm and sunny day for the workshop. After a warm welcome from Oak Hammock Marsh, the teams were divided into groups so that we could have small groups of students at each training station.

### ***6.1. Workshop Schedule***

9:30	Teams arrive at Oak Hammock Marsh
9:30-10:00	Team Registration & Snacks
10:00-10:15	Welcome
10:15-12:15	Group A: Topic Training: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, recreational impacts (GIS/GPS) Group B: Biodiversity Presentations, Mini-field Test
12:20-1:10	Lunch (students, volunteers, presenters)
1:15-3:15	Group B: Topic Training: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, recreational impacts (GIS/GPS) Group A: Biodiversity Presentations, Mini-field Test
3:15-3:30	Closing Remarks and snacks to go
3:30	Teams leave

### ***6.2. Thank you to our presenters***

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our presenters who took the time to travel to Oak Hammock Marsh, deliver presentations, and provide supplementary material to the students.

#### Theme :

Cathy Shaluk, Nature Conservancy  
Nathalie Bays, Oak Hammock Marsh  
Bob Austman, Model Forest

#### Forestry:

Glenn Peterson, Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch  
Andrea Kraayeveld, Manitoba Forestry Association

#### Soils & Land Use:

David Hay, Manitoba Water Stewardship  
Michele Erb, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Elaine Gauer, MAFRI  
James Hood, MAFRI

#### Wildlife:

Christian Artuso, Bird Studies Canada  
Dean Berezanski, Manitoba Conservation- Ecosystem Protection and Wildlife Branch

William Watkins, Manitoba Conservation- Ecosystem Protection and Wildlife Branch

Aquatics:

Shaunna Da Costa, Manitoba Water Stewardship  
Laureen Janusz, Manitoba Water Stewardship  
John Shearer, Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Jennifer Havelock, Manitoba Water Stewardship

GIS/GPS:

Steven Hills, Assiniboine Community College  
Jennifer Lidgett, Tembec-Pine Falls  
Dusty Molinski, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

### ***6.3. Thank you to workshop volunteers***

An event such as the workshop would not be possible without the help of many other organizations. We would especially like to thank the following:

- Oak Hammock Marsh staff for preparing the site in time for our arrival.
- Nathalie Bays for helping us organize the workshop.
- Fairholme Colony for the great food.
- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre for the use of the GPS units and for assisting with the training.
- Myrna Potton for assistance with team registration.
- Gil Godard, Brendan Carruthers, Shauna Da Costa, Cathy Shaluk for logistics and assistance in planning the workshop.

### ***6.4. Evaluations***

Forty-nine people completed a workshop evaluation. Recommendations are included in section 8 of this report.

## **7. 2009 Manitoba Envirothon Competition**

Thirty-five teams competed in the 2009 Manitoba Envirothon that was held at the International Peace Garden. The theme for 2009 was "biodiversity in a changing world". The teams and volunteers were housed and fed at the music camp. We had a great experience working with Peace Garden staff and at the end of the event we presented them with a framed print donated by the Fisheries Enhancement Fund of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

On Thursday evening teams used their imaginations and creative spirit to introduce themselves. Teams performed skits, songs, and even interpretive dance to express their personalities and tell us a little about where they came from. Despite risk of embarrassing his two daughters who were participating in the Envirothon this year, Glenn Peterson was our Emcee for the evening. His endless stream of jokes were a hit with the audience!

On Friday, the weather was perfect for the field test which was held in two locations. The Field Test Committee had set-up a trail at the Formal Gardens and at the Hiking Trail; both located in the Peace Garden. Throughout the planning of the event we had tremendous support from the Peace Garden. For example, the staff delivered tables to the trails, set up the buildings with tables and chairs, and prepared the dormitories.

We continued a 'tradition' from 2008 by providing veteran teachers with an opportunity to participate in the field test as if they were a team of students. These "Mystery Teams" jumped at the chance to take the test and were very good sports about the whole thing. The feedback from the teachers was positive. They said it gave them a better understanding of the pressures, time crunches, and fatigue that their students face.

After a gruelling field test, the students and advisors were treated to a slide show and presentation from Chuck Lura who is a resident expert of the Turtle Mountains area and professor at NDSU-Bottineau. After the presentation, teams went outside to do a trading session. The trading session is always a hit with teams as it is a great way to get to know each other.

On Saturday, teams were given the Orals Scenario and they had two and a half hours to prepare their response. While the students were preparing for the orals, the teachers participated in a debriefing with members of the field test committee. Members of the committee reported that teachers were generally very positive about the test and the event in general.

The results of the competition were:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | Northwest Soil Management Association (Swan Valley)          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | J.H. Bruns Collegiate – Team 1 (Winnipeg)                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Vincent Massey Collegiate (Winnipeg)                         |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Place | Swan Valley Regional Secondary School – Team 2 (Swan Valley) |

The team from Northwest Soil Management Association in Swan Valley, Manitoba will attend the 2009 Canon Envirothon in Asheville, North Carolina from August 2-8, 2009. The team is excited about their trip and we are very proud that they will be representing our province at the North American competition.

Prior to leaving the winning team participated in a mentorship training session as discussed earlier in this report.

## **7.1. Event Schedule**

### Thursday, May 22

4:00 - 5:30 pm	Team Registration (Burdick Center)
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Supper (Peterson Hall)
7:30 pm	Welcome and Team Introductions (Masonic Hall)
11:00 pm	Lights Out

### Friday, May 23 (Field Test)

8:00 - 8:45 am	Breakfast (Peterson Hall)
8:45 am	Team and Trail Guide [Advisor] Briefing and Match-up (Centre Court)
9:30 am	Teams take bus to trails (Centre Court)
10:00 - 12:30	Trail Test (Secret Location)
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Lunch (Peterson Hall)
1:30 - 2:00 pm	Teams take bus to trails (Centre Court)
2:00 - 4:30 pm	Trail Test (Secret Location)
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Supper (Peterson Hall)
7:30 pm	Team Workshop and Socializing (Masonic Hall)
11:00 pm	Lights Out!

### Saturday, May 24 (Oral Competition)

7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast (Peterson Hall)
8:00 am	Orientation to Oral Presentations (Masonic Hall)
8:30 - 11:00 am	Oral Preparation (Masonic Hall)
9:00 am	Test De-briefing with Advisors (Peterson Hall)
11:00 - 11:45 am	Lunch (Peterson Hall)
NOON - 1:45pm	Preliminary Oral Presentations (Assigned Huts)
2:00 - 4:30 pm	Final Oral Presentations, Awards (Burdick Center)
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Supper (Peterson Hall)
5:45 pm	Departure - see you next year!



## 7.2. Thank you to Volunteers

Each year many volunteers commit time and energy to help us make this event a huge success. In the past volunteers have told us that participating in Envirothon is the highlight of their year!





Our youngest volunteers.  
←

Harald	Asu
Vicki	Asu
Bob	Austman
Edna	Aytona- Austman
Rick	Baker
Nathalie	Bays
Russell	Bell
Byrnes	Benoit
Dean	Berezanski
Chadwick	Bergen
Lorne	Peltier
Robert	Brudy
Tim	Byers
Leanne	Canty
Brendan	Carruthers
Jenefer	Cavers
Michael	Cavers
Jim	Christensen
Luanne	Christensen
Linda	Christianson
Lindsay	Cook
Jeff	Cottes
Marnie	Couchman
Nancy	Dyck
John	Dyck
Susan	Eros
Glenda	Fauske
Dave	Gaden
Ashley	Gaden
Elaine	Gauer
Daniel	Gladu
Gil	Godard
Donald	Harron
Jennifer	Havelock
David	Hay
Steven	Hills
Lindsay	Irwin
Laureen	Janusz
Amanda	Kowalchuk
Andrea	Kraayeveld
Bill	Kraayeveld
Irene	Kraayeveld

Britt	Lawson
Denise	Levesque
Jennifer	Lidgett
David	Long
Bev	MacKenzie
Bob	MacKenzie
Kyla	Maslaniec
Grant	Matchullis
Lynda	Matchullis
Keith	McGregor
Rebecca	McKay
Linda	McPherson
Kali	Meadows
Meghan	Miller
Kayla	Moore
Dianne	Olson
John	Perry
Glenn	Peterson
Patricia	Pohrebniuk
Terry	Powell
Ian	Ripley
Brenda	Robinson
Madelyn	Robinson
Shauna	Santos
Kaitlin	Sanders
Dean	Scheepmaker
John	Shearer
Owen	Shiloff
Janna	Shymko
Randall	Shymko
John	Sinclair
Murray	Smith
Kevan	Sumner
Tim	Swanson
Lisa	Tack
Andrea	Thibault
Christine	Tymchak
Allen	Tyrchniewicz
Rudy	Wall
Kristen	Williamson
Neil	Zalluski

### **7.2.1. Volunteer Evaluations**

Forty-three volunteers completed an evaluation survey. Recommendations from these evaluations are included in section 9 of this report.

### **7.3. Student and Advisor Evaluations**

Seventy-four students and advisors completed an evaluation form. A summary of the Envirothon survey can be found in Appendix A.

### **7.4. Media Coverage**

Byrnes Benoit of Spectra Productions provided High Road Communications with pictures and a news release. Prior to the event, the Manitoba Envirothon was featured in the Winnipeg Free Press and the Opasquia Times. Please see Appendix B.

## 8. Recommendations and plans for 2010

The 2010 Envirothon theme is "protection of ground water". The Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee has recommended that we return to Brandon. The Manitoba Envirothon will take place from May 27-29, 2010 and we look forward to increasing the number of students and schools participating in the event.

### ***8.1. Recommendations***

From the Workshop Evaluations:

- But if you could integrate teacher workshop material with the student workshop material that would be the best of both worlds. It was boring after a short while just shadowing students. Teachers are in it for the fun hands on experiences, as well as the students.
- As a first time teacher advisor, I would have liked a session on how to use the various pieces of equipment. Obviously, it would be great to somehow "rent" or borrow equipment for a certain period of time to have students also practice technique.
- Was good to see the students get a chance to work hands on with some of the equipment that they will be required to use during the event. Would have liked to see a follow-up handout labeling all the nets and some of the more common invertebrates found.
- The hands-on portion was most useful. Could more of the day be devoted to that and then provide a series of school visits or videotaped online lectures by some of the specialists? A streaming video of the lectures would be useful to everyone in the province ... or perhaps some sort of live video lesson where participants could also ask questions ... and the final video would be posted online for kids/schools who couldn't participate.
- I'm just curious to how possible it would be to have more than one student attend each session? I do understand the reasoning behind the present format, but with a new team, lets say. There is a ton of information to learn, and if a new student sees it all for the first time they tend to forget it. As teacher it's impossible to attend all 5 sessions, too. So if the one student misses out on something or neglects to take notes, it hurts the whole team.

## From the Volunteer Evaluations

- More time to fill out the judging forms between competing groups. Another 5 minutes would have been great.
- identifying long-standing volunteers to act as mentors for new volunteers would be helpful, but this also seems to be occurring somewhat organically.
- clearer marking guidelines within the subject (theme) categories. Opinion: For an environmental competition I think there is too much weight (in marking) placed on the teams presentation.
- One thing that concerned me was the marking that we used as judges. Without a benchmark as to what mark was expected for average/exceptional presentations, I was nervous that myself and my fellow judges might be marking higher/lower on average than our counterparts judging other groups of students.
- The training provided was very thorough and clear. Several volunteers missed the training sessions provided by the Steering Committee, therefore requiring "on-the-spot" training to other volunteers who attended the training sessions. Recommend making these training sessions "compulsory". The training was short and concise, and did not require a tremendous time commitment.
- I believe a mock session (of an orals presentation), either video tape or live would have been better preparation. The video shown to the judges was informative, but had very little relevance to the task. The group discussion was far more informative.
- As a facilitator I needed to communicate with the team marshalling area. We had a few issues with judges. I know we were short of volunteers but next time at Peace Gardens it would be good to have someone walking around the "Hut" area with radio access to the team marshalling area. Having walkie talkies on Funky Fungus trail was a good idea for the Monitors as well as the Trail Captains.
- The judges should have had a base number. Like say if a presentation was good it should have been 80% and then if it was excellent it should be higher than 80% if it was not so good it should be less than 80% I just feel like there is too much variability in the orals component.!
- I am a bit concerned about travel to and from Envirothon. It seems that a lot of vehicles are traveling back and forth. I wonder if it would be possible to have a more coordinated travel schedule, perhaps with more coordinated use of car pooling and even buses, particularly for Winnipeggers.

## 9. Financial Statement

Please see Appendix C for the financial statement.