

THINK TREES - Manitoba Forestry Association

Manitoba Envirothon

2011-2012 Summary of Activities

The Manitoba Envirothon is a program of THINK TREES – Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA). In 1996, MFA explored the idea of Envirothon. Four teams participated in the first Manitoba Envirothon in 1997 at Birds Hill Provincial Park. In 2006, the MFA hosted the North American Canon Envirothon and made Envirothon one of its core programs. Due to the popularity of the Manitoba Envirothon evolved into a regional and provincial format in 2010. In 2011 Manitoba won the Canon Envirothon—the first Canadian team ever to do so. Today, the Manitoba Envirothon is still going strong with over 2000 students participating to date.

OVERVIEW

For the past 16 years the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA), along with its partners and funders, has been the proud host organization of the Manitoba Envirothon. This program has provided Manitoba's high school students a unique and fun way to learn about the environment and current issues. In 2012, 33 teams competed at the regional level, with 19 teams advancing to the provincial level. The topic theme for 2012, Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development, allowed the students to explore the role and influence that design plays on the natural landscape.

In 2012 there were seven Regional Envirothon competitions that were held throughout the province from April 25 – May 4, 2012. The MFA partnered with the following regional host organizations: University College of the North, Duck Mountain Forest Centre, Manitoba Model Forest, Assiniboine Hills Conservation District, Assiniboine Community College, Scouts Canada and Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. Another first, teams were required to qualify at the regional level in order to advance to the provincial Envirothon.

The provincial Envirothon took place in Pinawa, Manitoba from May 24-26, 2012. The teams were housed and fed at the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre. The field test took place along the Ironwood Trail; it consisted of 15 stops with two teams per stop. Following the field test the students received a presentation on Low Impact Development from Crystal Bornais, Sustainable Buildings Coordinator with Prairie Architects. The orals competition day was held at the Pinawa Secondary School where teams delivered 10 minute presentations on the orals scenario presented to them that morning. Once the scores from the field test and the oral competition were tallied the winning team was the Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District from Swan River, Manitoba. The team then advanced to compete at the North American Canon Envirothon.

The Manitoba team was awarded a Travel Scholarship for advancing to the Canon Envirothon in the name of Michael Pineau, a former Ontario Envirothon participant. At the event Rick Wowchuk, one of the team's advisors was the first teacher in the 25 year history of the North American Envirothon to be inducted to the Canon Envirothon Hall of Fame.

The 2013 Envirothon theme is Sustainable Rangeland Management. The Steering Committee is considering returning to the International Peace Gardens as the location would lend itself nicely to this topic. There will also be changes made to the regional structure to ensure that the MFA is providing the best Envirothon program for participants to experience hands-on learning opportunities.

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REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

Advancement Structure

In 2012 the Manitoba Forestry Association and the Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee launched a full regional format for the program, where teams were required to qualify at the regional level in order to advance to the provincial level. In order to be eligible to advance to the Provincial Competition teams were required to register and participate at a Regional Competition. The advancing structure was set up as follows:

- The teams with the two highest scores, based on the combined field test, regional questions and orals in the proportions described under regional scoring, were to advance to the Provincial Competition. This ensures representation from every region.
- The remaining teams were selected from across the province will be offered a spot at the competition based on their Field Test Core Question score (not including regional questions or oral question) in descending order from highest to lowest. This is to ensure that there is an equal playing field from which the remaining teams can advance.

Students were asked to provide feedback regarding the requirements to advance to the provincial competition. They were primarily positive; many of the students indicated that having to compete in order to advance “made the regional event more fun and it felt way more special to be at the provincial competition”.



PICTURE1: STUDENT PARTICIPANTS AT THE SOUTH REGIONAL EVENT

Regional Events

For the first time, seven regional events were held throughout the province from April 25 – May 4, with seven different host organizations coordinating these unique events. Regional partners for the 2012 competitions include:

North Region: Northern Coordinator (Jacqueline Monteith), with support from University College of the North

North-West Region: Duck Mountain Forest Centre

East Region: Manitoba Model Forest

South Region: Assiniboine Hills Conservation District

West Region: Assiniboine Community College

Winnipeg-North Region: Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Winnipeg-South Region: Scouts Canada

One of the advantages to the regional program is that the host organizations are able to educate the students on the local environment and issues in a local setting. The Test Writing Committee prepared a standard test that was made up of core questions that are consistent throughout the regions. Regional hosts are able to add local questions if they choose, subject to approval from the Test Writing Committee. Another opportunity to highlight the local area and provide a local perspective is through the orals question that regional hosts have the option to design. Three host organizations elected to write their own question, the remaining four elected to use the regional oral question that was developed by the Orals Committee. Throughout the day host organizations had the ability to showcase their own programs and facilities.

For further details on the specific regional events please refer to the summary chart in Appendix 1.

Training

Training was conducted at each regional event for the five main areas: soils and land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and the current theme; Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development. Training was held concurrently and lasted about one hour. As the regional competitions are designed to be smaller in nature it creates a smaller group of participants, as such the students are able to have more one on one time with the trainers and greater opportunities for hands-on experiences. Trainers were typically local educators or resource experts who were recruited by the regional hosts to conduct the training session. The discipline heads for each topic area communicated with the trainers ahead of time in order to ensure that the correct materials was focused on and that students were taught the subject, and not simply the information they would need to successfully complete the regional field test.

Some of the issues for the regional training component include the fact that they were inconsistent between the seven regions, resulting in the concern that this creates an uneven playing field for teams advancing to the provincial competition. In addition, as the teams are receiving this training a few hours before they take the trail test the reality is that there is not much time for the students to absorb the information that they are being told which doesn't end in sustainable learning practices. There is a real need for consistent and professional training on the subject materials and hands-on equipment.

Participating Schools

There were 47 teams that registered for the regional events, however only 33 were able to compete.

SOUTH REGION:

- Carman Collegiate - 3 teams
- Nellie McClung School - 4 teams

WINNIPEG-SOUTH REGION:

- Oak Park High School
- Cavalier High School (non-competing visiting team from North Dakota)
- St. James Collegiate Institute
- Vincent Massey Collegiate
- St. Boniface Diocesan High School - 2 teams
- Westwood Collegiate

WINNIPEG-NORTH REGION:

- Shaftesbury High School
- Gimli High School – 2 teams

WEST REGION:

- Grant Park High School
- Neelin High School – 2 teams

NORTH REGION:

- Cormorant Lake School – 2 teams
- R.D. Parker Collegiate
- Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
- Oscar Lathlin – 4 teams



PICTURE 2: TEAM TRAINING AT THE REGIONAL SOUTH REGION COMPETITION

EAST REGION:

- Powerview School – 3 teams
- Edward Schreyer School – 2 teams
- Lac du Bonnet
- Whitemouth High School – 2 teams
- Pinawa Secondary School
- Sagkeeng School – 2 teams
- Falcon Beach School
- Selkirk Regional Secondary Comprehensive School – 2 teams

NORTH-WEST REGION:

- Swan Valley Regional Secondary School - 5 teams

PROVINCIAL ENVIROTHON

The Provincial Competition was hosted in Pinawa, Manitoba from May 24-26, 2012 at the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre. 2012 marked the first year that teams were required to qualify at the regional level in order to advance to the provincial level. Once it was determined that teams were eligible to advance they were then sent an invitation to compete at the provincial competition. 19 teams accepted the invitation to the provincial competition.

Throughout the planning of the event the Manitoba Envirothon had tremendous support from the Local Government District (LGD) of Pinawa. A LGD Community Member sat on the Steering Committee providing local information and support, the LGD made tables available for use on the trail test, space was provided in the community gymnasium for Friday evening activities and the orals competition on Saturday, and the school provided classrooms to use for the preliminary orals competition.

Participating Schools

The following schools participated at the provincial competition:

- Carman Collegiate
- Gimli High School
- Grant Park High School
- Lord Selkirk High School – 2 teams
- Nellie McClung Collegiate
- Oak Park High School
- Pinawa High School
- R.D. Parker Collegiate
- Shaftesbury High School
- St. Boniface Diocesan High School – 2 teams
- St. James Collegiate Institute
- Swan Valley Regional Secondary School – 3 teams
- Vincent Massey Collegiate
- Westwood Collegiate

Accommodation

Students, volunteers, MFA staff and the Steering Committee were housed at the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre in Pinawa. This allowed the competition to be held on one site, with everything within walking distance, versus having people and equipment transported between various locations. Teams were able to walk to the field test (on the Ironwood trail), and to Pinawa High School for Friday night activities and the Orals Competition day. All meals were served at the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre. The WERCC sponsored the Manitoba Envirothon in the category of a Legacy Sponsor. This sponsorship was integral to hosting the provincial event in Pinawa. The facility provided much assistance in staying at their venue.



PICTURE 3: A VOLUNTEER WELCOMES PARTICIPANTS AT THE WILDERNESS EDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Evening Activities

Thursday

Once teams had arrived on Thursday evening they gathered in the central courtyard at the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre for introductions to the event. Co-chair of the Steering Committee, and Manitoba Forestry Association Directors of Education, Glenn Peterson served as Emcee for the evening. Each team was given the opportunity to get up in front of the group to use their imagination and creative spirit to introduce themselves. Teams performed skits, songs and everything in-between, to tell the group a little bit about who they are, and where they are from. These introductions also serve to remind everyone of the other talents these students possess.

Friday

After the Friday evening dinner students and advisors walked over to the Pinawa High School to hear a presentation from Crystal Bornais, Sustainable Buildings Coordinator from Prairie Architects Inc. She gave an overview of the type of work the firm does, and in particular their focus on LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. This was done from mainly an urban perspective in order for the students to use the information to inform their presentation but weren't able to regurgitate it as their scenario dealt with a rural setting.

Field Test

The field test took place on the Ironwood Trail in Pinawa, with a few stops beside the Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre. Having the trail straddle a trail set within aspects of the Boreal Forest and an urban setting suited the current theme for 2012, Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development. 2012 marked the second year that a single trail was used for field test, advantages included being able to offer topic training opportunities in the morning, and a shorter marking session for the Test Writing Committee. There were 15 stops along the trail, and teams had 12 minutes at each stop. Please refer to appendix # to view a map of the 2012 Field Test. As in the past there were two teams per stop, where they were required to share the equipment. At the end of the test teams were allowed an additional 12 minutes to finish up any questions from the field test. There was a downpour at the beginning of the test, and despite grey skies for the rest of the afternoon teams managed to stay dry.

Mystery Team

Once again the opportunity to participate in a "Mystery Team" was offered to advisors to participate in the field test as if they were a team of students. This opportunity allowed the teachers to experience first-hand what their students are working with; the pressures, time crunches and fatigue that the students face. These advisors had an excellent time, all were enthusiastic throughout the three hours and remarked that they were surprised by how much they actually knew. The team members from the winning provincial and Canon Envirothon team from 2011 returned this past year to mentor new teams from their school, and were given the opportunity to participate as one of the Mystery Teams – scoring the highest of all participating teams. Of course, we wouldn't have expected any less from them!



PICTURE 4: TWO TEACHER-ADVISORS PARTICIPATED IN THE FIELD TEST AS A 'MYSTERY TEAM'

Orals Competition

On Saturday morning teams were presented the Orals Scenario, at which point they were sequestered into individual rooms for 2 ½ hours to prepare a ten minute presentation/response. Please refer to Appendix # to see the orals scenario. Once the sequestration time was over teams and judges ate lunch quickly and then reported to the Pinawa High School for the Preliminary Orals Presentations. This year there were 5 panels of judges of 5 judges each, each panel seeing 3-4 teams. Once the scores of the preliminary orals and field test scores were combined and tallied three teams were announced as the top-ranking: Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District, Grant Park High School and Lord Selkirk Regional Senior. These teams then re-presented in front of an audience and a panel of 7 judges. At this point scores were re-calculated, taking into account these final scores, and the places they scored were announced.

Results of the Provincial Competition

The team from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, sponsored by the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District won the 2012 Manitoba Envirotho. Team members Emily Kletke, Torrie Eggie, Kirsten Eggie, John Hart and Victoria Bertram delivered a solid Orals Presentation that capped off a top ten Trails Test Finish. They received the highest score in Wildlife, Soils and Land Use, in the Theme (Non-Point Source Pollution and Low Impact Development) and the highest score in the final orals competition. They were assisted in their efforts by advisors Shawn Stankewich and Rick Wowchuk. The Swan Valley Conservation District team won the right to represent Manitoba at this year's Canon Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition. This year's event –the 25th anniversary, was held July 22 - July 27 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Second place went to the senior team from Grant Park High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba and they also had the highest score in Aquatic Ecology and in the Preliminary Orals. Michael Patenaude coached this team that included team members Geneva Cloutis, Max Kliman, Ara Dungca, Alannah Watkins, and Andrew McLarty.

Selkirk's Lord Selkirk Regional Secondary Comprehensive School is home to the third place team. Angela Bajt and Jamie Shuhyta advised, and the team members included Rachel Burke, Kayla Weselowski, Kayla Matheson, Maddison Wolf, and Rachel Berger.

The Team from Pinawa Secondary School achieved the highest test score in Forestry.

Summary of Winning Teams

Award	Team	School
First Place	Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School
Second Place	Grant Park Senior Envirothon Team	Grant Park High School
Third Place	Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School Team B	Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School
Top Mark in Forestry	Pinawa High School	Pinawa High School

Top Mark in Wildlife	Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School
Top Mark in Aquatic Ecology	Grant Park Senior Envirothon Team	Grant Park High School
Top Mark in Soils and Land Use	Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School
Top Mark in Theme	Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School
Top Mark Preliminary Orals Competition	Grant Park Senior Envirothon Team	Grant Park High School
Top Mark in Final Orals Competition	Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School

VOLUNTEERS

Every year the Manitoba Envirothon is fortunate to have many volunteers commit time, energy and resources to make the Manitoba Envirothon program a success. In the past volunteers have told us that participating in the Manitoba Envirothon program is the highlight of their year!

Regional Volunteers

Each regional organization was able to draw on a large number of volunteers from local organizations and surrounding community. In addition, many long-time volunteers with the Manitoba Envirothon provincial competition also volunteered at the regional events. The following individuals and volunteered their time and resources to help plan and deliver the regional events:

Aaron Goethe	Erin Thorleifson	Mike James
Abby Simms	Gerald Shelemy	Mike Papst
Al Thorleifson	Gil Godard	Mitch Timmerman
Al Tymko	Dordon Hornbeck	Myrna Potton
Andrea Kraayeveld	Heather Perchaluk	Nathalie Bays
Andrea McLean	Irene Kraayeveld	Neil Zalluski
Andy Maxwell	Jack Heard	Nick Pharoh
April North	Jeanette Coote	Nova Cassan
Audrey Boitson	Jim Potton	Patricia Malcom
Avery Ascher	Jodie Goerzen	Paul LeBlanc
Baret Miller	John Heard	Paula Grief
Bill Kraayeveld	Jonathan Wiens	Peter Miller
Bob Austman	Judy Mayer	Randy Dow
Brenda Mutcher	Justin Reid	Rita Bazin
Brenda Robinson	Kate Dykman	Robert Nichol
Brent Fuchs	Kathi Furness	Scott Hainsworth
Brain Kotak	Kathrin McNaughton	Shawn McMahon
Brigette Demarchuk	Kathy Penner	Shawn Sexsmith
Cheryl Orr-Hood	Kelly Lewis	Shawn Williams
Chris Hunt	Kerry He	Sheri Mangin
Cliff Greenfield	Kim Robertson	Skye Thorleifson
Colby Desender	Kyla Maslaniec	Stephen Howatt
Craig Bailey	Lacy Kontzie	Steven Hills
Dana Austman	Larry Danielsen	Susan Kasian
Daniel Dupont	Laura Greenfield	Susan Pharoh
Danielle Tichit	Leanne LaBrash	Tabitha Martens
Daryl Wright	Lexine Leblanc	Teresa Visser
David Raitt	Linda Christianson	Terry Galloway
Denise Levesque	Linda Morin	Terry Powell
Devon Baete	Lynda Matchullis	Tim Chotka
Don Bergen	Madelyn Robinson	Trevor Kotyk
Don MacDonald	Margaret Friesen	Valerie Cobb-Friesen
Don Mazur	Marilyn Meyer	Vince Keenan
Donna Kopecky	Marla Riekman	Wade Cable
Dusty Molinski	Marriane Schultz	Walter Tokar
Dylan Bart	Marriane Tokar	Will Trowell
Edna Aytona-Austman	Michael Cavers	Yasemin Wruth

Provincial Volunteers

A number of volunteers commit time and energy to help make the provincial event a huge success. These volunteers come from many areas: local area, government, industry, different interest groups etc. They perform many duties, big and small, but all contribute to the overall success of the event.

We would like to thank the following individuals for donating their time to the Envirothon program in 2012:

Al Thorleifson	Irene Friesen	Michael Cavers
Anne MacDiarmid	Irene Kraayeveld	Mike Attas
Arlene Davidson	Jacqueline Monteith	Myrna Potton
Barbara Fuller	Jenefer Cavers	Nick Pharoh
Barret Miller	Jennifer Lidgett	Peter Miller
Bill Carrette	Jerry Kozak	Rebecca McKay
Bill Kraayeveld	Jim Potton	Rod Bollman
Bob Austman	John Shearer	Sloan Cathcart
Brenda Robinson	John Sinclair	Stan McFarlane
Brock Houndle	Justin Reid	Steve Sheppard
David Hay	Kate Dykman	Susan Kasian
David Syzek	Katrina Froese	Susan Pharoh
Denise Levesque	Keith McGregor	Terri Willard
Dennies Brannen	Laureen Janusz	Tim Byers
Derrick Finch	Linda Christianson	Vicki Asu
Edna Aytona-Austman	Lindsey Andronak	Vince Kennan
Gil Godard	Lyn Dunford	Walter Tokar
Glenn Peterson	Madelyn Robinson	Wendy Creed
Helen Sinclair	Marissa Borgford	

Steering Committee

Much of the success of the Manitoba Envirothon is attributed to the high level of commitment and enthusiasm that the Steering Committee volunteers give to the program every year, many of which have been with the program since its inception in 1996. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the Manitoba Envirothon program providing a long-term vision for the program; in addition they also oversee the organization of the provincial event. Each committee member takes the lead on a sub-committee or is a participant on one of the sub-committees. These sub-committees are the volunteers who write the field test and oral scenario. These activities require a number of site visits throughout the fall and spring to ensure that questions are site specific and that logistical details are taken care of. The test writing committee and orals committee work closely together in order to deliver the field test and orals competition at the competition, and to mark the test. These volunteers also contribute much of the equipment and samples used by the teams on the field test. This past year the Steering Committee met monthly from October 2011 to May 2012. A wrap up meeting was held in late June to debrief the event and to begin planning for the 2013 Envirothon season.

2012 Steering Committee Members:

Name	Steering Committee Position	Representative Organization
Jim Potton	Co-Chair	
Glenn Peterson	Co-Chair, Test Writing Committee Co-Chair	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: Forestry Branch
Laureen Janusz	Test Writing Committee Co-Chair	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: Fisheries Branch
John Sinclair	Orals Committee Co-Chair	University of Manitoba: Natural Resource Institute
Bob Austman	Orals Committee Co-Chair	Manitoba Model Forest
Gil Godard	Logistics Co-Chair, Strategic Planning and Fundraising Co- Chair	Manitoba Hydro
Byrnes Benoit	Media and Communications	Spectra Productions
Andy Swain	Education Committee, Middle Years Committee, Orals Committee	Ex Envirothon coordinator
Barbara Fuller	Education Committee	Teacher retired
Brenda Robinson	Volunteer Recruitment and Training	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: Forestry Branch
Brendan Carruthers	Strategic Planning and Fundraising Committee Co-Chair	Manitoba Hydro retired
Michael Cavers	Logistics Committee Co-Chair, Orals Committee	Manitoba Model Forest, Pinawa LGD
Al Tyrchniewicz	Test Writing Committee	Tyrchniewicz Consulting
Susan Kasian	Test Writing Committee	DFO retired
David Hay	Regional Test Writing Committee Co-Chair	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: Water Science and Management
Avery Ascher	Regional Host Organization Representative	University College of the North
Cathy Shaluk	Middle Years Committee	Nature Conservancy of Canada

Christine Tymchak	Test Writing Committee	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection
Paula Grief	Regional Host Organization Representative	Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Nathalie Bays	Regional Host Organization Representative	Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Alec Stuart	Strategic Planning and Fundraising Committee	Manitoba Hydro
Rebecca McKay	Regional Test Writing Committee Co-Chair	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Funders

Thank you to our 2012 Manitoba Envirothon funders whose sponsorship supports the

We would like to thank the 2012 Manitoba Envirothon sponsors whose generosity helped us make this youth environmental education program a success!

Legacy Sponsors

Manitoba Hydro
Government of Manitoba
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Manitoba Education
Manitoba Innovations, Energy and Mines
Wilderness Edge Conference and Retreat Center

Team Sponsors

East Interlake Conservation District
LaSalle Redboine Conservation District
North-West Soil Management Association
Pembina Valley Conservation District
Prairie Rose School Division
Sexton Building Group
Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District

Supporters

Of course, the success of the Manitoba Envirothon depends greatly upon our supporters. These organizations dedicate a vast amount of time, energy and resources on various committees - be it at the provincial and/or regional levels, team sponsorship, in-kind support or the donation of prizes to the final provincial competition.

Regional Partners

Assiniboine Community College
Assiniboine Conservation District
Duck Mountain Forest Centre
Manitoba Model Forest Inc.
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Scouts Canada
University College of the North

In-Kind Support and Prize Donations

Many organizations provided in-kind donations to the Manitoba Envirothon in the form of staff time for the events or prizes for the awards ceremony. Students went home with some great prizes, and we had an outstanding group of volunteers. Thank you to the following organizations for their in-kind contributions:

A Rocha Prairie Canada
AECL Labs
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Byers Environmental Studies
ECOMatters Inc.
Environment Canada
Fort Whyte Alive
Inland Audio Visual
Kelsey Conservation District
LaSalle Redboine Conservation District
Local Government District of Pinawa
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
(Fisheries , Forestry, Parks, Water and Science
Management, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection,
Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs)
Swan Valley Watershed Conservation District
Manitoba Education

Manitoba Hydro
Manitoba Model Forest
Manitoba Museum
Maskwa Ecological Consulting Inc.
Natural Resource Institute - University of Manitoba
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Parks Canada
PemBrand Corporate Promotions
Pinawa Secondary School
Pineland Nursery
Prairie Architects Inc.
SLMcLeod Consulting
Spectra-Productions Ltd.
TNM Promotions
Tyrchniewicz Consulting
University of Winnipeg
Wolfstone Pottery

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Feedback to the Envirothon program is integral to its growth and strength. Every year all participants (teams, volunteers, students, etc.) are asked to provide evaluations for various aspects of the program. This would include the field test (organization, complexity), future direction etc. This feedback is essential as it is taken into account as the program grows and evolves.

Location for Provincial Event

The current theme for 2013 will be Sustainable Rangeland Management. Due to the theme the Provincial event will most likely be held at the International Peace Gardens in order to take advantage to a landscape that best suits this topic.

2013 Theme Guide

In order to provide students with the greatest understanding of the current theme topic for 2013, Sustainable Rangeland Management, the Manitoba Envirothon will develop a theme resource document that is specific to Manitoba and the Prairie Region. Advantages of doing so include:

- Creating a document that is Manitoba specific
- Offering the document earlier to participants as the Manitoba Envirothon will not have to wait to contract with another Envirothon agency to offer the study materials
- Provides an opportunity to reach out to other groups who deal with this topic within the province that have not previous been involved with Envirothon
- Provides an opportunity to possibly partner with other prairie provinces offering Envirothon in developing the guide

Training

The Manitoba Envirothon has always prided itself for the hands-on training experiences that it has provided to participants. With the move towards a regional format there was the elimination in the full-day training workshop that was typically held in the spring. Training has then taken place on the morning of the regional events. However, this does not promote sustainable learning as the students are often working with the equipment for the first time which results in them “cramming” the information. As such, there is a need for students to access information and training earlier in the year. This allows them the opportunity to study the resource materials and have a greater context for the information, which would result in greater absorption of the materials.

There are two different opportunities to provide the participants with more training opportunities:

1. Fall Training Session

One of the strengths of the Envirothon program is the hands-on learning opportunities it provides to participants. By offering a fall training session it would provide for a kick-off to the Envirothon year. It could be structured where part of the day is spent giving students a training experience, and from there they could be provided with a mini trail test experience. This would allow students to come and get an overview of the topics in Envirothon and perhaps aid in helping students determine what “specialty” they would like to focus on throughout the year in preparation/anticipation of the regional and provincial competitions.

Offering a fall training session would also be an important promotional and recruitment tool as teachers would be able to bring any number of students to the session in order to give them a sense of what is involved with Envirothon.

2. Online Videos

By embracing technology and creating online training videos we will have an online presence that can be used by teams to get ready and review for Envirothon competitions. Advantages include equal access among teams and the opportunity to use this as a promotional tool. This would also be economically efficient as after the initial cost, there would be no further resources needed, as opposed to setting up different training sessions across the province.

Regional Committee

There is a need for a direct line of support and reference for the regional host committees to the Manitoba Forestry Association and the Manitoba Envirothon. By having a regional committee in place it would allow for that group to oversee the development and work of the committees and provide guidance to the local committees. This committee would then report back to the Envirothon Steering Committee and receive guidance from it.

Regional Orals Format

There was a lot of diversity with the orals component of the regional competitions this past year; however this resulted in a lack of consistency throughout the events which made it difficult to offer a similar Envirothon experience at the regional level. It is recommended that a format that is the same throughout the regional events would allow for a more even playing field as students compete in order to advance to the provincial event.

Format of the Provincial Field Test

In 2012 the Provincial field test was printed double-sided due to an oversight during the printing process. Typically the test has been printed single-sided, and it will return to this form in 2013. Advisors recommended that the test be set up so that the pages are separated by stop number in order for the students to keep them better organized as they work on the test.

Methods of Communication: Use of Social Media

Participants of the Manitoba Envirothon have identified the need for the use of social media to enhance existing communication tools that are already utilized. This use would ideally result in:

- Establishing a web presence for the Manitoba Envirothon
- Consolidating existing, unofficial social networks
- Outreach to participants on both a personal and professional level
- Strengthening relationships between participants who already know each other
- Provide opportunities for increased open communication

MANITOBA REPRESENTATION AT CANON ENVIROTHON

The winner of the Manitoba Envirothon advances to the North American level – the Canon Envirothon, a week-long competition sponsored by Canon U.S.A. 2012 is a special year as it is the 25th anniversary of the Envirothon program. The competition will be held in Pennsylvania where it all began—in 1979, the Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Districts created an “Environmental Olympics” as a way to encourage high school students to become interested in natural resource conservation and environmental issues and careers. The host site for the event will be Susquehanna University, in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania

The five-member team of high school students from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, in Swan River, Manitoba, placed 14 out of 53 other teams at the 2012 Canon Envirothon. The winning team was announced on Thursday, July 26th, during closing ceremonies at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Team members Emily Kletke, Torrie Eggie, Kirsten Eggie, John Hart and Victoria Bertram did particularly well during the Oral Presentation, scoring 2nd overall during the preliminary round. They were assisted in their efforts by advisors Shawn Stankewich and Rick Wowchuk.

Michael Pineau Manitoba Envirothon Travel Assistance

Teams that win the Manitoba Envirothon and advance to the Canon Envirothon are faced with additional costs for traveling to the competition. The Manitoba Forestry Association, as part of the Manitoba Envirothon Budget, provides \$5,000 to assist with these travel costs.

In 2012 travel assistance was given in the name of Michael Pineau, a former Envirothon participant from Mattawa, Ontario. Michael participated in the program throughout his four years of high school representing F.J. McElligott High School. In 2011, Michael passed away. Throughout his time in the program he became quite passionate about Envirothon. Discussions are now underway across Canada initiated by the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) to consider a future scholarship fund in his name.

To quote a line from his memorial service “Michael was a bright, talented, generous and special young man who touched many lives positively”. His favourite quote was “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible” (Dalai Lama). It is hoped that team members participating in the 2012 Envirothon kept this thought in mind throughout the competition.



PICTURE 5: TEAM MANITOBA ACCEPTING MICHAEL PINEAU MANITOBA TEAM TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FROM PATRICIA POHREBNIUK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MFA

Manitoba Envirothon Advisor Inducted into Canon Envirothon Hall of Fame

Rick Wowchuk, a Manitoba teacher from Swan River, was inducted to the Canon Envirothon Hall of Fame on Thursday, July 26th during the 25th Canon Envirothon held during the closing ceremonies at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Canon Envirothon is a weeklong environmental education competition sponsored by Canon U.S.A., Inc., a leader in digital imaging solutions. This is the first time in the history of this program that an advisor has received this prestigious Hall of Fame award.

As an instructor at Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Rick is passionate about resource education and the Envirothon program and the opportunities it provides to participating students. In five member teams, he coaches students on the five main areas of study for the competition – soils and land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and a current theme that changes each year. He is able to inspire and encourage students to develop important life skills such as team-work, problem-solving, critical thinking and study skills and involves them in many community and local activities. These students are then able to go on to have successful academic and working careers because of their experiences in the Envirothon program.

It is because of his passion and dedication that in the past 16 years, teams from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School have won the Manitoba Envirothon on 12 occasions and then go on to compete at the Canon Envirothon with the other teams from across North America. Rick's 2011 team won the entire North American competition (the first time a Canadian team had ever achieved such a feat!). Each team member received a significant university scholarship for their efforts. Throughout the years Rick has worked with as many as five teams a year in addition to assisting winning teams from other Manitoba Schools as they prepare for the Canon Envirothon Competition.

Rick truly embraces the Envirothon spirit and ethic and the Manitoba Forestry Association, host of the Manitoba Envirothon is very proud of Rick and what Swan Valley Regional Secondary School students have accomplished!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2012 MANITOBA ENVIROTHON Statement of Income and Expense

*as of September 1, 2012

	Provincial Envirothon	Regional Envirothon Events	Total
INCOME			
<i>Province of Manitoba</i>			
Manitoba Agriculture, Rural and Food Initiatives	\$5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth	\$5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Manitoba Water Stewardship	\$5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Manitoba Conservation	\$5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Manitoba Aboriginal & Northern Affairs	\$5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
<i>Corporate & Non-Government Sources</i>			
Manitoba Hydro	\$5,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Canon Canada T-Shirt Assistance		\$750.00	\$ 750.00
<i>Other Corporate & Non-Government Sources</i>			
<i>Friends of the Envirothon</i>	\$311.25		\$ 311.25
<i>STAM SAGE Science Achievement Award</i>	\$500.00		\$ 500.00
<i>Other Revenue</i>			
Admissions/Reg./Program Fees	\$10,904.79	\$1,723.84	\$ 12,628.63
Miscellaneous Revenue (SC Jackets)	\$424.00		\$ 424.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,140.04	\$32,473.84	\$ 74,613.88
EXPENSES			
<i>Administration Costs</i>			
Advertising & Promotion, Legal Costs, Meeting Expenses,	\$898.88	\$686.94	\$ 1,585.82
<i>Professional Development</i>			
	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$ 100.00
<i>Salaries & Professional Services</i>			
Professional Services		\$3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Theme Document from Ontario	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$ 1,500.00
<i>Program Delivery Costs</i>			
Accommodations & Meals	\$27,375.00		\$ 27,375.00
Awards & Recognitions	\$188.16		\$ 188.16
Clothing Purchase (Team and Volunteer Shirts)	\$2,955.96	\$4,919.46	\$ 7,875.42

Equipment Rental	\$865.49		\$ 865.49
Meals & Catering	\$235.80		\$ 235.80
Postage/Shipping	\$121.84	\$119.50	\$ 241.34
Program Travel	\$722.28	\$615.13	\$ 1,337.41
Program Supplies	\$286.06	\$1,731.12	\$ 2,017.18
Registration Costs-Seminars/Conferences		\$225.00	\$ 225.00
Regional Support Payments		\$12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
<i>Canon Envirothon Expenses</i>	\$8,505.43		\$8,505.43
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$42,954.90</u>	<u>\$24,597.15</u>	<u>\$ 67,552.05</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$42,140.04</u>	<u>\$32,473.84</u>	<u>\$ 74,613.88</u>
BALANCE	<u>-\$814.86</u>	<u>\$7,876.69</u>	<u>\$ 7,061.83</u>

NOTE: The balance of \$7876.69 are funds in support of the Regional program, materials needed are in the process of being purchased. These funds SHOULD NOT be considered surplus funds as they are allocated to a specific funding agreement.

APPENDIX 2

Provincial Field Test Map – Pinawa, Manitoba



APPENDIX 3

Provincial Orals Question – Pinawa, Manitoba

Theme: Non-Point Source Pollution and Low Impact Development

Welcome to Pinawa! As you know by now Pinawa sits on the shores of the Winnipeg River, on the edge of Whiteshell Provincial Park and is just 110 kilometers from Winnipeg. Pinawa derives its name from the First Nations people who lived in the area prior to the explorer La Vérendrye's arrival. This particular part of the landscape was referred to as "pinnowok" or "calm waters." The town has many amenities, some of which you have been able to experience during your day of field-testing. The geography of the area is typical of the Boreal Forest and the Canadian Shield. Thin soils overlay deep granite deposits. Granite outcrops are common. Bogs and swamps are home to Black Spruce and Tamarac forests, while Trembling Aspen, Ash, Birch and other hardwood trees and shrubs inhabit sites that are well drained on clay soils. Jack Pine can be found on rocky outcrops with their thin, acidic soils.

Wildlife species include whitetailed deer, which have become very abundant over the last decade. Wolves have become abundant as well, preying on the growing deer herd. Black bears also come into close contact with the townsite. The local moose population has all but disappeared in the last decade, due to the presence of the brainworm parasite and a growing predator population of wolves and bears. Bird surveys noted the presence of songbirds, migratory waterfowl, raptors such as Bald Eagles, hawks, and owls, as well as upland game birds such as Ruffed Grouse. Ground nesting birds, such as grouse and waterfowl, support healthy populations of coyotes and Red Fox.

The Winnipeg River supports a diverse assemblage of large and small bodied fish species (~53 species), including recreationally fished species like walleye, northern pike and bass, and the only freshwater Manitoba fish species with a shark like tail and rows of large bony plates, the long lived, slow growing lake sturgeon. Recently the spiny waterflea, an aquatic invasive species, was found in the Winnipeg River increasing the number of aquatic invasive species in the river to three. Since the 1880s the flows on the Winnipeg River have been regulated by hydro-electric generating stations. There are a total of six hydroelectric generating stations on the river. The Winnipeg River drainage basin is the most significant Lake Winnipeg sub basin with the Winnipeg River alone contributing 49% of discharge flows and, 25% of the nitrogen and 15% of the phosphorous loadings to Lake Winnipeg.

The town of Pinawa has taken advantage of its location, the mixed forests, granite outcrops and surrounding water typical of the Canadian Shield provide ample opportunity for recreation such as sailing, canoeing, fishing, hiking, swimming, snowmobiling and cross country ski trail to mention but a few activities. The town is home to one of Manitoba's great golf courses, has a very active and growing marina, many hiking and cross-county ski trails that include the opportunity to walk over a suspension bridge, a public beach, a public swimming pool, a campground and is located on the trans-Canada trail. The town also has services to offer both townfolk and visitors including things such as a hospital, primary sewage treatment system (although the two campgrounds have septic systems), a landfill, a recycling system, parking, shopping, hotels, etc. The town council has an aggressive mandate to double the town's current population of 1,500 by attracting a new generation of family-centered entrepreneurs. As such, new areas for development have been identified and some new residential developments are already under development, such as The Pinawa Landing development and the Trillium Ridge Development.

Town council is keen to get the input of your team on a number of issues that confront this growing community. Please address each of the following questions:

1. Using the map and air photo provided, identify existing and potential rural and urban non-point source pollution sources.
2. Explain, using examples from the list you have created above, how you think these non-point source pollutants will affect the local watershed's soil, water (surface and ground water) wildlife, forests and people (economics and health).
3. Outline the activities that the town council should require of developers working in the community to combat the effects of non-point source pollution through the use of low impact development in the new residential development areas of Pinawa Landing and Trillium Ridge.
4. Identify other low impact development initiatives that town council could implement throughout the town to reduce problems with non-point source pollution.