



Western Environment Centre

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Newsletter Winter 2012

From the Editor's Desk

There is something very beautiful about winter in Western Newfoundland. Nature seems to be asleep, and yet one sees it still in all its grandeur and complexity. In this issue, we highlight the Blow Me Down Ski Park, which has partnered successfully with WEC on the community garden. The Park offers individuals of all stripes a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature while getting winter exercise.



Much of this issue explores climate change and broader concepts of humanity's connection with the biosphere. Read Danielle Fequet's thought-provoking review of an important research article, "Reconnecting to the Biosphere." Likewise, Simon Jansen has contributed an incisive piece on the need for Canada to play its role in fighting climate change. Indeed, Canada needs to do its part, and that also should take the form of developing an environmental ethic among the broader population.

This issue continues the investigation into religion, spirituality, and the environment. Dr. Michael Newton, Professor of Religious Studies, offers some powerful insights on aboriginal spirituality.

In the spirit of moving forward and seeking new directions and projects, WEC's Board of Directors held a retreat last autumn. Out of this emerged a number of new initiatives such as Green Drinks, described on page two. You might also wish to avail yourself of some of the tips and environmental action suggestions noted in the following pages. Above all, try to get out and appreciate the natural beauty of winter, whether that takes the form of skiing, snowshoeing, walking, or just breathing in the fresh winter air and admiring a February sunset.

Edwin Bezzina



Blow Me Down Ski Trails
(located just outside Corner Brook)

A Harvest Party at the Blow Me Down Lodge wraps up a very successful season for the Community Garden

On World Food Day of this year (Sunday, October 16th, 2011), community gardeners and friends gathered at the Blow Me Down Ski Park to celebrate a successful year of growing and harvesting. The event was the first ever Harvest Party for the Blow Me Down Community Garden, and activities included contests, music and great food! We enjoyed delicious moose soup and vegetarian chili made by Linda Leamon of the Ski Club and live music by Margaret McKeon on her tin whistle.



Gardeners were asked to use ingredients from their own gardens and make submissions using three different contest categories: Funniest Looking Vegetable, Kids Food Art, and Best Prepared Food. Entries included a two legged carrot, an ugly purple kohlrabi, battered onion rings, kale chips, pumpkin pie, and two works of art: Nature and the Sunflower Face.

The winners were Stephanie Buckle for her kale chips in Best Prepared Food; Jamie Lee Cormier's two legged carrot in Funniest Looking Vegetable; and Mira Buckle for Sunflower Face in Kids Food Art. All entries were also eligible to win their garden plot for free next year. The winners were Brad and Jamie Lee. Congratulations to all the winners; we look forward to growing even bigger next year!

Special thanks to supporters of the Blow Me Down Community Garden. They include the Western Regional Wellness Coalition who sponsored our event, as well as the City of Corner Brook, Asplundh Tree Services, Department of Health & Community Services, Western Health, and the Evergreen Fund.

Katie Temple

Photo K. Temple

Have you heard? Corner Brook now has its own Green Drinks chapter

The concept of Green Drinks emerged as a way for environmentally-minded people from a multitude of backgrounds to mingle, network, and connect over a few drinks. Since its inception in 1989 by a group of friends in London, UK, Green Drinks has gathered momentum and now boasts over 800 chapters worldwide. These informal gatherings are agenda-free and offer a congenial social atmosphere.

As a very new addition to the international Green Drinks network, Corner Brook held an inaugural Green Drinks event, on December 15, 2011 at King Henry's Pub. This kickoff event was, as anticipated, a great success, drawing a diverse crowd eager to share insights, debate, and meet new people. Future Green Drinks will be held on the first Thursday of every month at King Henry's Pub in the Glynmill Inn—so mark your calendar! Upcoming Green Drinks in 2012 will be held on **February 2nd, March 1st, and April 5th (7:00-9:30p.m.)** and all are welcome to attend.

For further information visit: www.greendrinks.org/cornerbrook



Article by Danielle Fequet; logo design by Laura Simms and Daniel Payne

WEC welcomes comments and questions!

Feel free to write to the editorial board (outreach@wecnl.ca). We'd love to hear from you.



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Danielle Fequet.....Assistant Editor
Erin Kelly.....Assistant Editor
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Reflection and Mobilization - WEC holds Strategic Planning Retreat

With the Farmers' Market and the Community Garden wrapping up for the season, WEC's Board of Directors turned their energy towards strategic planning within the organization. A strategic planning retreat thus was undertaken in order to chart WEC's course for the upcoming year and beyond.

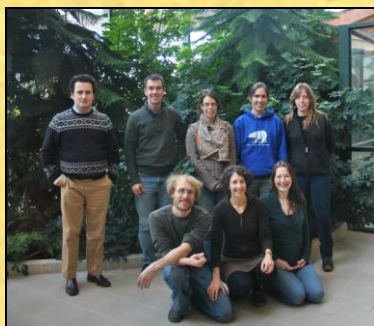
The retreat was held on November 5th, at the Grenfell Campus (Memorial University of Newfoundland), in a perfectly suitable boardroom complete with executive-style high-backed chairs. In attendance were WEC Board members, former staff, and our facilitator Marion McCahon. Marion proved to be an invaluable asset to the process, being a Regional Partnership Planner with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and a former Board member herself. Offering insightful input, she kept the meeting flowing at a good pace.

Since the main theme of the day involved the future direction of WEC as an organization, we assessed how well the organization is functioning in order to determine the best path forward. Specifically, we examined the overall structure of the organization and the role of the Board of Directors. We also discussed the possibility of inviting key community members to act in advisory roles and we worked on refining our Mission Statement.

Being resourceful and innovative folks, Board members brainstormed numerous potential projects to pursue, by participating in an exercise that really got the neurons firing. It was a challenging task because we had to find projects that would not overextend the volunteer commitment of the Board members or the resources of our non-profit organization. Some excellent and entirely feasible ideas were proposed, such as meeting with local and regional politicians to discuss WEC activities, starting an environmental book club, establishing a Green Drinks chapter here in Corner Brook (which has since become a reality; see p. two of this newsletter) and spearheading a panel discussion on climate change.

Then, after a hard day of work and brainstorming, we all went outside to enjoy the beautiful autumn setting and admire the new community garden at the Grenfell Campus.

Danielle Fequet



Five great ways to get involved in WEC

1. Join one of the subcommittees (Outreach and Communications, Community Garden)
2. Join the Facebook group and invite others to do the same
3. Attend WEC events
4. Become a WEC volunteer
5. Participate in the WEC community garden

Volunteer Meeting

Come see what volunteer opportunities are available at the annual volunteer meeting at the WEC Office (86 West St. , suite 5) **Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 8:00p.m.**

Here are some of the activities that we need volunteers for:

- help with the newsletter
- photography
- graphics
- the website
- the community garden

How to become a WEC member (and how to encourage a friend to become a member):

Please fill out the membership form on p. 12 and then send it by post to our surface address or by scanned copy to our e-mail address. Becoming a member is a fabulous first step to becoming environmentally involved in your local community!



Community groups in Stephenville promote health and sustainability through several innovative projects

WEC received an update from our friends in Stephenville, where the Bay St. George Sustainability Network partnered with the Stephenville Lions Club last year to create a community garden and community market. The community garden, on Woodland Street, grew from 20 plots last summer to 34 this summer. The Stephenville Community Market, located at the Lions building, sold agricultural produce as well as arts and crafts.

Also, the Stephenville trail system, which is maintained by the Walk-A-Ways Trail Development Committee, is getting its own website. Check out <http://www.wix.com/jeffy73/walkaways#!> for maps, community events, and lots of pictures. See also <http://rootcellarsrock.ca/2011/08/community-garden-and-market-flourishing-in-stephenville/>.

For more information about the community garden or the market, contact Erle Barrett, Stephenville Lions President and Chair of Community Garden Committee, at 709-643-2961, or Bob Diamond, media relations for the community garden, at 709-643-6362.

Information and photo provided by Bob Diamond

Bountiful Harvest, Farmers' Market Success!

There is nothing like the feeling you get when you come upon a farmers market hosting a corn boil and boasting fall colours with a bright assortment of fresh local produce!

That was the scene at the West Coast Farmers Market this past October. In recognition of World Food Day (October 15/11), Susan Pottle, a member of the Farmers Market Committee organized a corn boil using fresh, local corn from Lomond Farm. The turn-out for the event was great, all of the corn was consumed and the proceeds donated to the Western Environment Centre.



The remaining two markets in October shared the same abundance of vegetables and pumpkins (until they sold out). Besides produce, people came to the market to stock up on unpasteurized honey from the Newfoundland Bee Company. The 3 kilogram tubs were in great demand. Wrights Apiary, a new honey producer from Pasadena provided fresh honey as well as a selection of honey butters including, cinnamon and cranberry varieties. The jams, jellies and preserves were bought up by market goers who knew that their time to purchase these delicious items would soon conclude.

The final market, held on October 29th, wrapped up a very popular new initiative by the Greenhouse to bring pre-ordered vegetable baskets to the market as a convenient pick up point for their clients in Corner Brook. Owner and operator Kim Thistle, was pleased with the outcome.

Thanks to all of the vendors, crafts people and producers alike, to the market volunteers and to the community for contributing to the successful completion of the West Coast Farmers Market!

Carolyn Wheeler

WEC's History

The Western Environment Centre was founded in 1998 to supplement other environmental groups in western Newfoundland that played advocate and activist roles. The initial members of WEC were a small group of dedicated environmentalists who lived in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

WEC reformed in 2001 as an educational organization, with the intention of working collaboratively with people, including industry and government groups, to accomplish environmental goals. WEC members recognized the need for an environmental resource centre and a meeting place for concerned residents to discuss environmental issues. In December 2001, WEC moved to a large office that met these needs.

During this time, much of the effort of WEC volunteers was focused on fundraising and attaining charitable status; the group formalized its constitution and became incorporated in September 2003, and in June 2006, WEC was granted charitable status. WEC continued its educational role within the community, hosting movies and composting workshops. One of its biggest early projects was a watershed workshop that included speakers from across the country and contributed to the city development of a watershed plan.

In 2006, WEC moved to its current location on West Street in Corner Brook. In 2008, WEC started working toward building community capacity around issues of sustainability. To this end, WEC began a farmer's market in Corner Brook, and established a thriving community garden with a second location planned for the near future. WEC also continued involvement in environmental outreach and education, and continues to host and support a number of public environmental events, including workshops and annual Earth Day events.

Erin Kelly

Helping WEC as you recycle



Here is a creative way to donate to WEC financially. WEC now has an account at Scotia Recycling on 55 Maple Valley Rd ([709] 634-2025). When dropping off your recyclables, donate by telling the people at the desk that you wish to give the proceeds to the Western Environment Centre. Visit their website:

<http://scotiarecyclinggroup.com/services-by-location>. For information on recycling on Corner Brook, visit <http://www.cornerbrook.com/default.asp?mn=1.24.100> or phone their recycling line at (709) 637-1630

Green Tips for the Office Environment: Printing and Paper



1. Encourage your employer or school to switch to 100% recycled photocopying and printing paper; it is even better to use post-consumer recycled (PCR), chlorine-free paper (try to choose paper that has not been bleached, because such an industrial process is highly toxic and releases persistent dioxins).
2. Photocopy and print on both sides as much as possible, and encourage the tech people in your work environment to change the default settings to double-sided printing.
3. Email documents instead of printing and mailing them.
4. Try to avoid printing out a whole 60-page report (skim it over first and decide which sections really need to be printed).
5. Use print preview before printing to avoid reprints and even to determine if a document will fit on fewer sheets of paper.
6. Reuse paper that was printed on one side to take notes (you can even take Adria Vasil's advice and make paper airplanes from this paper to throw at people who don't recycle ☺).



Source: Adria Vasil, *Ecoholic: Your Guide to the Most Environmentally Friendly Information, Products, and Services* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2009), p. 293-294.



Review of “Reconnecting to the Biosphere”

Authors: Carl Folke, Åsa Jansson, Johan Rockström, et al.

Source: AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment, 40(7):719-738. 2011. Published By: Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

URL: <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.1007/s13280-011-0184-y> BioOne

This article is a collaborative review written by researchers from the Stockholm Resilience Centre, a branch of Stockholm University that focuses on understanding complex social-ecological systems and investigating management and governance practices for maintaining global sustainability.

The article’s central concept stems from the recognition that human societies are an integrated part of the biosphere. The authors explain that since human societies exist within the biosphere, social and ecological dynamics are, by their nature, intricately intertwined. However, many people within many societies fail to see themselves as part of this larger framework. As the title implies, the authors propose the need for humanity to recognize these symbiotic relationships and to reconnect with their place in the biosphere. These researchers argue that the social-ecological resilience of the Earth System is challenged by human impact and that a fundamental paradigm shift is required whereby human activity is better understood as both a driver of ecological change and as being directly affected by the resulting changes.

The authors explain how problematic is the mistaken belief that humanity exists in isolation from the biosphere. Specifically, the limits of the biosphere to sustain the impact of human society is not well understood and there are tipping points and thresholds that, if exceeded, can cause gradual or even abrupt changes to social-ecological systems. Furthermore, globalization and the high degree of interconnectedness in world commerce create complex linkages that often yield unexpected outcomes. The inherent complexities of a globalized world mean that there is a risk of overlooking social-ecological vulnerabilities across regions. They give an example where global demand for palm oil has resulted in drastic changes to the Bornean rainforest. The rainforest becomes fragmented by monoculture plantations; thus weather events such as El Nino (that normally increase regeneration and biodiversity in the intact rainforest) become destructive forces with devastating impacts on the landscape and consequently rural livelihoods. To avoid the emergence of an inhospitable “Earth System State,” ecosystem-based management within a global context is proposed.

The authors argue that human development and progress must correspond to the capacity of the biosphere to adapt its ecosystems accordingly. Hence, the authors emphasize the importance of adopting accounting systems that allow for the formal valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services. For example in Canada the Canadian Boreal Initiative in collaboration with the Pembina Institute has made progress in this area with their report “Counting Canada’s Natural Capital: Assessing the real value of Canada’s boreal ecosystems.”

The authors further propose that effective governance systems that would enable proper valuation of natural capital on a global scale need to be established in order to strengthen the resilience of social-ecological systems. They acknowledge the challenging nature of effective governance on this scale involving participation by diverse interest groups with complex roles. Adaptive governance can take many forms and the authors give some examples of effective governance that enables the transformation of social-ecological systems towards more sustainable regimes.



(continued on the next page)

Photo Courtesy Ducks Unlimited

Admittedly, the article is written primarily for an academic audience. Terms such as social-ecological systems, natural capital, and adaptive governance may not be familiar to many people. Additionally, the authors address fairly abstract concepts that may be difficult for global societies to apply in meaningful ways. Yet modern Western society typically extols humanity's presumed ability to conquer and subdue nature, rather than understanding that humanity is part and parcel of nature. To resolve this misperception, tremendous and novel effort is required. In that sense, this article is thus relevant to a wider array of people and worth the effort to understand it.

The complexity of the issues surrounding global governance is apparent in the article and, although some avenues for facilitating global governance are offered, much groundwork is needed in order to put the article's recommendations into practice. Difficulties arise when attempting to implement different governance and management approaches. Furthermore, tensions can emerge when such changes are suggested or implemented without the appropriate support amongst leaders and the general public. Such shifts require open dialogue between sectors as well as a great deal of time and energy devoted to removing conceptual and institutional barriers. Also, in the face of economic uncertainty and social unrest in some parts of the world, concerns over immediate survival needs may overshadow larger philosophical discussions on global sustainability. Amongst those who already have an understanding of the social-ecological implications of human actions, the "sell" is likely much easier. The importance of social organization for helping groups and individuals cooperate and coordinate initiatives must not be overlooked; however, this is not emphasized in the article.

"Reconnecting to the Biosphere" is a thought-provoking and timely call to action for society to acknowledge and work within the social-ecological boundaries of the earth system in order to maintain the complex connections required for humanity to flourish. How we can actually do this, though, does require further input from multiple stakeholders within the context of geographic and political place. On the large and small scale, there is a need to understand how to facilitate this conceptual integration into mainstream society and to identify the key drivers of change towards the author's proposed "New Global Sustainability Agenda for Humanity".

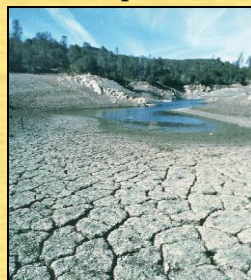
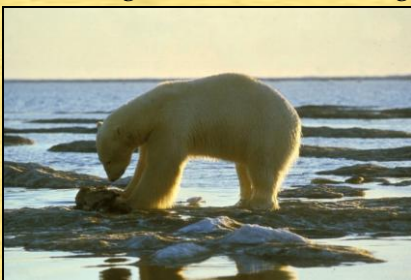
Danielle Fequet

Climate Change – The Aftermath of the Durban Conference

In December 2012, the federal government pulled Canada out of the Kyoto Protocol, the only international agreement in existence to avert catastrophic climate change. What we all must realize, however, is that our society's future is at stake, but also that we have before an opportunity to become leaders of the green economy of the future.

It is often difficult for many to understand how minor changes in the global average temperature would affect current living standards. Yet look at it this way: if the global temperatures were 2-4 degrees colder, thick sheets of glacial ice would cover large parts of North America.

What is worse is the spiral effect of climate change. Right now, massive amounts of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are naturally stored in the permafrost of the northern latitudes. The white surface of the Arctic also reflects large amounts of the sun's energy back into space. And, the cold ocean waters near the poles store large quantities of carbon dioxide. Yet human activities are sending enough GHGs into the atmosphere to melt the permafrost, to decrease the Arctic ice, and to warm the oceans. That will unlock the greenhouse gas reserves, which could lead to an unstoppable spiral effect. In fact, many island states and African nations are starting to feel the effects of climate change right now. Rising sea levels and changing weather patterns are endangering the survival of many of these nations.



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Canada and the U.S. (among other rich nations) refuse to commit to any legally binding agreements unless China and India do the same as equal partners in this effort. Yet one must remember that the problem of climate change is one that the Western nations such as Canada and the United States created, through almost 200 years of industrialization. Poorer, developing countries argue correctly that wealthy nations in North America and Europe are responsible for 75% of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and thus it is incumbent upon them to take the lead in solving the problem.

The great advantage of the Kyoto Protocol is that it contains targets and deadlines for reducing GHGs; the Protocol also recognized that the bulk of the responsibility for meeting such goals fell on Western nations. The disadvantages of the Protocol is that it lacks penalties for those countries who do not meet their targets and deadlines; also, the United States, the second largest emitter of CO₂, did not ratify the agreement. The Protocol expires in 2012 and thus a new, stronger agreement is absolutely critical.

Canada signed on to the Kyoto Protocol and ratified it through Parliament in 2002. Our Kyoto target was a 6% total *reduction* by 2012 compared to 1990 levels. By 2008 our GHS emissions had *increased* by around 24.1%. Not only did Canada pull out of the Protocol, but representatives from our government actively obstructed the negotiations for a new agreement that took place last December in Durban, South Africa.

We must recognize the need to embrace a green energy future. Presently, few revenues from the tar sands are being invested in renewable energies, even though the oil industry receives millions of dollars in subsidies. Doing something more constructive will help defuse the mounting criticism from the European Union, which is far ahead of us in meeting the climate change challenge.

We are missing the train to be a forerunner in the green energy future. We have such vast potential to develop clean energy solutions in the form of hydro and wind power primarily, and, to a lesser extent, solar power. As the impacts of climate change become increasingly apparent, markets will shift towards clean energy solutions. Economies historically go through transitions; the transition to a green economy is the right way forward. Green energy also has the potential to move our central focus away from large-scale industry. We have here an opportunity to build local small-scale energy projects that will help communities and families.

The world is watching. As climate change becomes an increasingly important issue around the world, Canada's inaction will not bode well for our international trade relations. Major news agencies from Germany, to China to India, to Africa to Japan are already condemning Canada's withdrawal from Kyoto.

The recent climate change conference in Durban, South Africa did move the process forward in some ways: implementing a Green Climate Fund that will provide developing nations with green energy technology; developing policies, programs, and committees to help poorer nations to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Yet while the Durban talks extended the commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol for at least another five years, *there are still no penalties for non-compliance. The commitments and their enforcement are as weak as they were before.*

What you can do

- i) Call or write your Member of Parliament and tell him/her to press the government to adopt a clean renewable energy vision;
- ii) Since energy policy is governed provincially, call or write to your provincial MHA to encourage the provincial government to invest in the green energy future (the oil revenues of Newfoundland and Labrador should spark our transition to a clean energy future, helping us add wind to our energy platform so that we can even become prosperous as an exporter of clean energy); and
- iii) Tell your friends and family about this issue.

Simon Jansen

Blow-Me-Down Ski Park

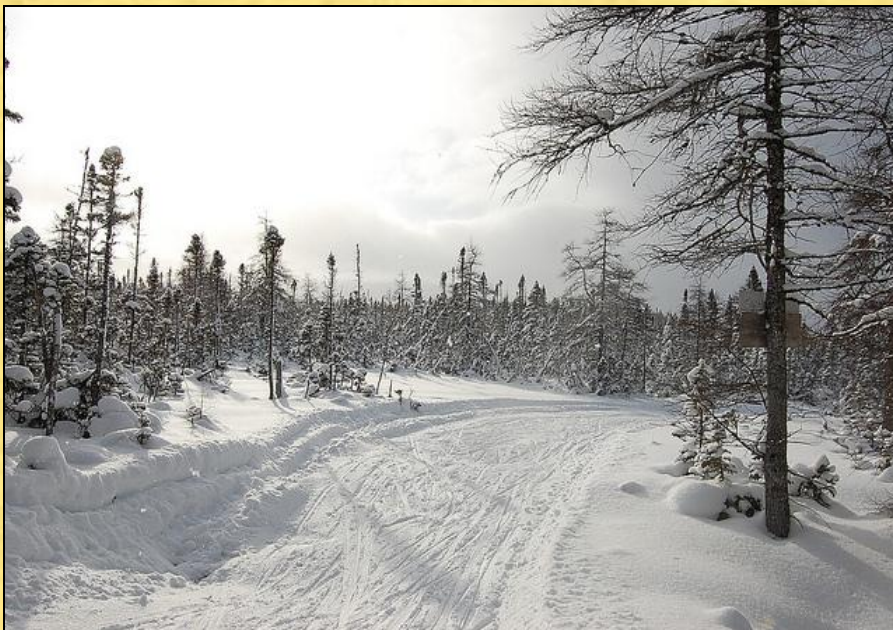
Winter is here and it is a wonderful time to go outside and enjoy Newfoundland's beautiful natural environment! WEC has a very fruitful partnership with the Blow-Me-Down Ski Trails Park, namely a very active community garden (with a greenhouse) in the summer. Environmentally sustainable living can also be incorporated into one's recreational pursuits and the kinds of activities that the BMD park offers fit perfectly into that goal.

The BMD park is a gem right on the edge of Corner Brook, with 40 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails, complete with a gazebo in the forest where one can enjoy a hearty Newfoundland touton breakfast on Saturdays. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are ideal leisure activities for appreciating the beauty of our natural environment. The park also has a number of inexpensive after-school programs where children can receive outdoor exercise while learning about the area's different species of fauna and flora, seeing the intricate connections between organisms, and listening carefully to the intriguing sounds of the forest. Children, and adults too, thus learn the value of preserving the environment and becoming the responsible environmental citizens of the future.

Shawn Leamon, Area Manager for the Park, noted how accessible the sport really is. There are over 650 members, ranging in age from 3 to 83. There is even paranordic skiing for those with cognitive or physical challenges. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing appeal to a broad range of people, in age, ability, and medical condition, giving them a safe and secure setting to enjoy these winter sports. Moreover, they do not require lengthy training or expensive equipment (rentals are available).

Not only does the BMD Park inculcate strong connections between people and the natural environment, but the facility also follows sound environmental practices. The materials from which the lodge was constructed were recycled twice; trees that winds have blown down are used for firewood; and the compost from the kitchen is used in the nearby community garden in the summer. Bravo! For more information, call (709)-639-2SKI (2754).

Erin Kelly, Edwin Bezzina



Aboriginal Spirituality and the Environment: An Interview with Dr. Michael Newton

Dr. Michael Newton teaches Religious Studies at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He has written a number of books and is currently conducting research on the “sacred geography” of the Incas of Peru. In an ongoing piece devoted to spirituality, religion, and the environment, Edwin Bezzina interviewed Dr. Newton on aboriginal attitudes towards the environment.



Can it be said that aboriginal spirituality accentuates the interdependence between human beings and the environment? Could you provide some specific examples from First Nations peoples in North America about what this specifically means?

The idea of environmental interdependence seems to be commonly held by aboriginal groups around the world. Native groups of course had territorial divisions dividing them, but historically they did not see the land that they lived on as something that they could sell, no more than they could sell the air that they breathe. They felt that the land was a part of them.

There was also a kind of symbiotic relationship conceived between human beings and all other living things, in the sense that they were all part of the same macro-organism in some way. All living things were in a sense the “cousins” of human beings. Plains Indians, for example, refer to horses as their “four-legged relatives.” Such an attitude encourages a greater awareness of interconnectivity and interdependence, and in the end a respect for the environment. Western Civilization is only starting to arrive at this conclusion and Westerners have done so through science, which demonstrates the common DNA shared by all living things. We know it scientifically; but aboriginal peoples know it intuitively.

How are aboriginal ideas about the environment different and perhaps similar to those held in other belief systems?

The idea of such symbiotic relationships is not too strong in the Hebrew or Christian traditions. The enormously influential Genesis story of Creation arguably tends to accentuate human overlordship and dominion (and stewardship) over all other living things. Perhaps that emphasis can be explained by the fact that the ancient Israelites were nomadic sheep and goat grazers, rather than farmers (by contrast, the religion of the Canaanites was closer to the idea of environmental interdependence because they practiced a fertility religion). It is true that the Christian medieval saint Francis of Assisi did emphasize the necessity of sharing creation with animals (the concept of Brother/Sun/Sister/Moon). By way of analogy, the Buddhist religion situates the place of humanity within the concept of a kind of spider web, called Indra’s Web, where all living organisms, where harm committed by one against another affects all other living things.

Can the idea of environmental interdependence provide additional support for the concept of environmental stewardship?

Environmental stewardship depends on the goodwill of people, on altruism. Environmental interdependence gives such a concept greater strength because interdependence conveys the idea that one’s survival depends on the survival of others. It provides a greater and more immediate imperative for build-critical mass to support meaningful environmental initiatives.

Can you provide concrete examples of how aboriginal ideas about the environment have translated into concrete action?

Certainly, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and Greenpeace have drawn upon aboriginal ideas of interdependence to develop their respective mandates and outlooks. Aboriginal and environmental groups often work together on particular environmental campaigns, such as the successful move to save the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia.

Stay tuned for an interview with a Canadian aboriginal elder on the same topic.

Photo courtesy Evie Newton

The Western Environment Centre wishes to thank one highly committed project coordinator, **Carolyn Wheeler**. Carolyn was instrumental in the Farmers' Market and the community garden, in making excellent contributions to our newsletter, and to keeping the office running effectively. She went far and beyond the call of duty in her role as project coordinator. Merci!



Photo courtesy Geraldine Brophy, The Western Star

We're on Facebook!

facebook

You can find us by searching
"Western
Environment Centre"

We're also on Twitter

twitter

(twitter.com/wecnl)

Citizen Science provides insight into the Newfoundland Marten

The Newfoundland population of American marten (commonly known as pine marten, marten cats and Newfoundland marten) is a genetically and geographically distinct population of the subspecies *Martes Americana atrata*. This population is listed as threatened under both provincial and federal legislation. A marten is about the size of a small cat, with a long slender body, short limbs, broad furred feet, a long bushy tail, and semi-retractable claws used for climbing. Marten are most identifiable by their creamy to orange-coloured throat patch.

The true distribution and size of Newfoundland's marten population is currently unknown and a better understanding of this will help in the effective management of this species and will be used for future status assessments. Since 2010, the provincial Wildlife Division has partnered with forest resource users across Newfoundland in the Marten Hair Snag Project. The project is partially funded by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program and is being carried out jointly with the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. The goal is to collect current information on the distribution and abundance of marten and to involve forest resource users in an activity that will contribute to the recovery of the marten population. Specifically, hair snags are being used to non-invasively collect marten hair samples; genetic analysis of these samples will provide information on the sex and distribution of individual marten. Currently, 56 groups (78 volunteers) are participating, and they have collected over 42 samples. Given the success of this program and the enthusiasm of the volunteers, the Wildlife Division hopes to continue this initiative in the future. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 709-637-2026.



Glenda Bateman

Photo courtesy Emily Herdman



Western Environment Centre

Annual Membership Form

Type of Membership: New ☐ Renewal ☐ Lapsed ☐

annual membership fee: \$10.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number (with area code): (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Would you like to be added to our e-mail list? Yes ☐ No ☐

What environmental issues interest you the most?

Coastal habitat ☐ Wildlife ☐ Energy ☐

Urban Planning ☐ Community Garden ☐ Forestry ☐

Climate Change ☐ Farmers' Market ☐ Transportation ☐

Other: _____

Would you be willing to help out with WEC events? _____

Would you be interested in sitting on any of the following WEC committees or working groups:

Events ☐ Fundraising ☐ Farmers' Market ☐

Outreach and Communications ☐ Community Garden ☐

Are you interested in becoming a Board Member? Yes ☐ No ☐

How did you hear about WEC? _____

Do you have any additional information for WEC? _____

To learn more about WEC, visit www.wecnl.ca or join us on Facebook or Twitter.

Benefits of Membership

- Receive updates on WEC events and activities
- Receive our newsletter
- Access to WEC resources
- Become part of a growing organization that is committed to protecting the environment in Western Newfoundland and elsewhere

Office Use Only

Date: _____

Origin (e.g. walk-in): _____

Payment method:

Cash ☐ Cheque ☐

Memberships are tax deductible.
Memberships expire after 1 year.

Please return form & payment to:

The Western Environment Centre,
Suite 5, 86 West Street (2nd floor)
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 2Z3
E: info@wecnl.ca
T: (709) 634-9470

WEC will protect your private information. We never share or sell our membership lists.