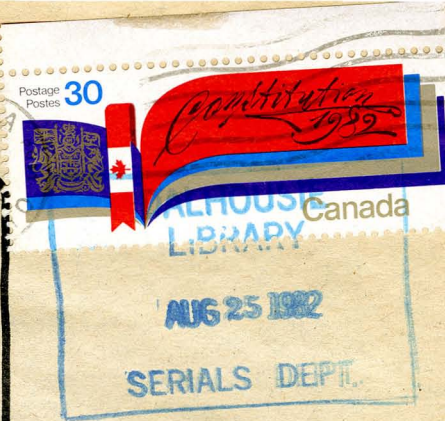


# BETWEEN THE ISSUES

## ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

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### How It Is With Us

by Ginny Point

It is a fresh, breezy day today, with a taste of autumn in the air, and a hint of the changes that EAC will be experiencing in the next few months.

Changes? One piece of news is that I won't be working at EAC as of October 1. My husband (Alan) and I will be moving to the Valley to try our hands at rural living. To dig my fingers into the living soil--to live the lifestyle I've often dreamt about from the depths of the damp, dark Forrest Building basement--that is my plan!

I will miss the day-to-day work at EAC, but definitely intend to stay active with environmental issues (In fact I've even nominated myself as a Regional EAC Board Member). EAC is a strong, vital organization. I truly am thankful for the chance to have worked here. But now it's time to move on.

Of course, my resignation opens the door for someone new at the Centre. Later in this newsletter is a notice giving details for people interested in applying for the job. I should also say that the job description will be a bit clearer than my position has ever been, because we are also hiring a part-time secretary/receptionist this fall. Details about that job are also listed elsewhere. Being a membership organization, EAC's strength comes from member input. If you are interested in either job, or know anyone else who would be, I hope you'll contact the Centre.

One other major change that has already happened is that EAC has moved! Now located on the third floor of the old Provincial Archives Building (Kings' College campus), the office is warm, dry and sunny. It is a real treat. We owe many thanks to Dalhousie University for continuing its policy of rent-free space within the University. It would be great if you could write a short note of appreciation to Dalhousie for its support. Letters should be sent to Dalhousie University, c/o Mr. Robert Shaw, Vice President of Finance and Administration.

Still in total chaos after our move is the EAC Library. We lost quite a bit of "built-in" bookshelf space in the move, so are in desperate need of bookshelves. Tables and chairs are also needed. If you have any of these to donate, it would be wonderful!

Moving on to the issues--the real heart of EAC--it's clear that forest management has been the major theme in the office this summer. Later in this edition of BTI is an excellent summary of recent events on the herbicide issue by Susan Hower, plus a few other "as we go to press" news notes. For now, all I'll say is that the herbicide issue needs your support--both morally and financially. Telephone calls and legal action are extremely costly. The current court case in Sydney could cost several tens of thousands of dollars. Please help if you can. Send donations marked "Herbicide Hotline and Court Cases" to Elizabeth May, Margaree Harbour, Nova Scotia, or directly to EAC. We'll send tax deductible receipts for

monies received here, and will forward the funds to Elizabeth. Thanks so much.

Here is a more positive note. The Sustainable Agriculture Conference, sponsored by NOFA (National Organic Farming Association), which Cathy McCarthy and I and five other Nova Scotians recently attended in New Hampshire, was a real inspiration. Imagine 800-900 people in attendance (most of them producers), all of whom shared the goal of preserving and maintaining local food production systems, based on sustainable practices of pest control, weed control and renewable energy inputs. (If farmers can ease away from using pesticides, so can the pulp and paper industries!) One encouraging tidbit we learned was that Vermont now has legislation which requires state institutions to purchase locally grown foods wherever possible! That includes state universities, some hospitals and so on!

I'll sign off with a "goodbye" from Bessa Ruiz, Chair of EAC Board 1980-1982. She has moved to Ithaca, New York for graduate studies. We'll miss her. It is largely thanks to her that EAC weathered the financial and organizational crises of the past year as well as it did.

And lastly, I give three cheers to Paul Tyndall, EAC's summer student intern, who cheerfully worked long hours moving boxes and painting the new EAC office. He has also been a real asset with EAC's Forestry Committee. Thanks Paul.

See you at EAC's annual general meeting on October 2 (details elsewhere).





\*HERBICIDES IN THE WOODS\*

by Susan Hower  
(reprinted from SSEPA News  
Vol. 1 #4)

The pace of herbicide spray activity over the past month makes complete coverage impossible. Following are but a fraction of the potential notes:

\*July 8th Province House Group of 14 Press Release:

This is an outline. The release contained a succinct policy statement from the 14 citizen action groups represented at Province House on July 8th.

1. Pleased that Government "appears" to recognize hazards associated with herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. However, concern that spraying will still be allowed and that former aerial permits can be easily (understatement) converted to ground operations.
2. Call for total ban on all phenoxy herbicides in forestry and ban of 2,4,5-T in all sectors.
3. Same environmental hazards still present in ground operations--now the emphasis is occupational health. Reference to studies that have shown increased risk of cancer and other health related problems in workers using said herbicides.
4. Herbicides in forestry vs. agriculture--large scale forestry use of herbicides new to the Maritimes--now we should question usage before we become dependent. Change in agriculture is a long-term objective.
5. Question the validity of conifer release policy. Banning herbicides is only part of the solution--we need to change our whole attitude toward forest management--hardwoods should be regarded as ecological assets, not weeds.



**Ecology groups angered  
by spraying announcement**

6. Question the justification of herbicide use as an economic necessity--true costs of programmes have not been adequately examined--cost of permit procedure (site inspection, departmental review, pre & post monitoring costs by three departments--Health, Environment, Lands & Forests) have not been assessed fully...not to mention health related costs to the work force and general public.

7. Continued expression of alarm that public will receive no public notice prior to approval when industry reapplies.

8. Expression of gratitude to Chief Ryan GooGoo and the Whycomagh Band Council for civil disobedience action that led to the Cabinet decision. At the same time, expression of dismay that such action was necessary in order for Government to respond--a sad commentary on our democratic process.

\*PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY/APPLICATION PROCEDURES = ANYTHING GOES

As the situation unfolded following the July 8 Cabinet decision to ban aerial spraying until findings of the Royal Commission, there came a steady stream of conflicting statements making one fact absolutely clear: The Department of Environment is operating without a consistent and coherent policy regarding spray permits.

At first, Min. Greg Kerr assured us that the three companies (Scott, NSFI, Bowater Mersey) would have to reapply for approval to convert aerial permits to ground permits. At Province House, his P.R. Officer, J. Sansom even implied that permits would need some scrutiny to accommodate ground operation equipment.

When Bowater Mersey placed the required Public Notice ad in local papers without having received re-approval, the official line hurriedly became that all permits originally approved still stood as long as air vehicles were not employed.

*(When I called the N.S. Dept. of Environment, I was told that the areas which had been originally approved for aerial spray were still approved as areas, but that the companies were required to "notify" the Department of any intention to ground spray. Each "notification" would then be reviewed by the Department and a new permit issued. When I asked what the criteria were for the Department's review, I received no clear answers. In practice,*

# 'Band to destroy trees if spray not stopped'

*the granting of converted ground permits appears to be virtually automatic, even though, as Susan Hower points out in her article, we were told initially that the Dept. would have to consider additional factors when reviewing requests for ground spray permits (i.e. road access, site terrain and so on.--G. P.)*

To date, the situation has been reduced to this: Companies place ads of intention to spray in a particular county (no specifics required--just "for details contact Lands and Forests or Department of Environment") then notify Departments which specific areas they are going to spray. And apparently they do this as they please, adding a zone this day, another that. But if you try to call "for details" no one seems to know anything. Some roads have been posted. Some ads haven't been placed. We cannot even find out if any spraying has taken place.

## Production of safer pesticides difficult, costly, says Palfrey

The lack of information also brings the whole pre-approval procedure under scrutiny. Precisely what goes into the assessment of an application? Does anyone really know what is supposed to be done? Three departments are supposed to be involved (Env., Health, Lands & Forests), on-site inspection is supposed to take place, including cruising of the areas by Lands and Forests and technical reports written. But all of these are questionable as information gaps become evident: Major geographical features are missing (a stream in Antigonish); catch-up areas are seen but not part of descriptions (North Queens); applications are processed and approved in five days (NSFI, 6000 acres, application dated June 21, was recommended internally for approval June 25, but never approved by the Minister --no explanation given) which is a physically impossible feat; technical reports are unattainable

## Transfer of spray permits allowed - Kerr



(continued from page 2)

and their summaries contain next to no information, e.g. they do not describe the age, size, species of hardwoods in the spray areas.

(Neither do these summary reports mention depth of soil cover or extent of rock outcroppings, and yet clearly the potential for groundwater contamination will depend on how much soil there is on any given area to filter out the toxins.--G. P.)

ECONOMICS, UNEMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEERS

\*Two groups have volunteered to clear areas for NSFI and Scott. The Cape Breton group offered to manually clear 75 acres (Kepoch unit). A Scott rep quoted an \$80/acre figure for manual vs. \$69 for spraying. Thus a \$6000 donation to NSFI. To date there is no news about company response to the offer. We might add here that those \$/acre figures for manual release now bring

Notes from EAC Forestry Committee

by Ginny Point

We have asked for a November hearing with the Royal Commission into Forestry, and this has been tentatively accepted, although no date has yet been set. Work on the brief is progressing well, with different sections written by various members of the Forestry Committee.

Being on the Commission's mailing list, we also received a notice indicating that the Commissioners were open to receiving invitations for on-site tours. We are hoping to arrange for a tour in the Halifax/Hants county area. If there are any

sites near you that are either well managed or poorly managed, it would be great if you asked to give them a tour.

The Forestry Committee has been in close contact with the other groups across the Province working on the herbicide issue. We've sent out maps of the approved spray sites to groups (since neither the companies nor the government did), participated in the telephone poll organized by FALASH (results elsewhere), and we have corresponded with the Minister's office to arrange for a group meeting between Greg Kerr, and representatives of environmental groups to discuss the very real concerns about the permit approval process and the public notification process. So far there is no response to the request.

It is a frustrating issue, and was a real "slap in the face" when Lands and Forests recently announced its intention to spray three new sites in the Musquodoboit Valley. It shows such blatant disrespect on the part of the government- the government that was elected to represent the interests of the people. It is bad enough when private companies want to spray! Hmmmmmm.

\*Fact Sheets--Two fact sheets are available. One is on herbicides and pesticides by Dr. David Wulfman, chemist. The other, produced by Elizabeth May of the Cape Breton Landowners is on herbicides in forestry. Both are available through Q/L SSEPA with our travelling education booth.

# Aerial spraying banned in wake of growing protests

In light of this, one must ask what the role of Lands and Forests is in the procedure, i.e. just what are they looking for when they "cruise". And water testing has recently been brought into the picture by members of CAWS (Musquodoboit) who received guarantees from Deputy Minister of Environment, Lou Rowe, that water will be tested prior (base line study) and post spraying for dioxin, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. With this

the range of quoted costs from \$80 (Scott) to \$700 (Dept. of Environment).

CAWS (Musquodoboit) has also offered to clear areas with brush cutters. In a meeting with Hon. Ken Stretch, he assured the group that their offer would reach Scott executives. No word on this offer yet either.

## Spray opponents want ban extended

\*Herbicide Poll Results--FALASH (Framboise, C.B.) conducted a provincial poll of 1024 Nova Scotians in urban/rural, spray/non-spray areas. No significant differences were detected between the areas. Standard polling techniques were used, the unidentified caller asking five questions including two about herbicides.

N.S. by %

No--94% Yes--2%

Are you in favor of spraying of the herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T to kill hardwoods in Nova Scotia? In the second question, do you think 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T should be banned in Nova Scotia, 15.5% said no while 84.5% said yes.

precedent, we should all be able to expect water testing. But can we? Do we have to ask for it? And how can the Department of Environment get to all the areas before spraying takes place when they don't know which areas are being sprayed, when? And further, as brought out by Ginny Point of Ecology Action Centre, we will need to follow up on these tests and cultivate experts who can interpret results.

This is a lot to wade through but we hope it gives you an idea of the situation. These kinds of problems must be addressed in briefs to the Royal Forestry Commission and the Select Committee on Health.

\*Hardell, Provincial Government, and Dow--The Swedish study by Lennart Hardell suggests that forestry workers involved in herbicide application have a risk factor six times higher than the general public for certain cancers. The latency period is 15-20 years and it would appear that 2,4-D is every bit as dangerous as 2,4,5-T. This means that TCDD (dioxin) levels aren't the only concern as TCDD does not occur in 2,4-D. Chlorophenols (Pentox, etc.) cause increased risk also.





URANIUM COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Hal Mills

The McCleave Uranium Inquiry is presently on recess, but Stanley Forgeron and Judge McCleave will resume hearings in September. The EAC Brief will be presented in Halifax, location T.B.A., on September 29th. EAC members who wish to contribute to preparation of the Brief, or who have specific points that they want covered in it, are asked to contact Hal Mills at 429-4891 or to leave a message at the Centre.

There still is little information on what Phase II of the Inquiry will be like in terms of form or content. We remain very concerned about the financial requirements for this quasi-legal phase which will require expert witnesses and legal resources, and which may be very time consuming. With summer drawing to a close, now would be a good time for you to write your MLA about your concerns for Phase II, and the need for adequate funding for citizen participation.

N.B.!! The "Know Uranium" day is being organized for September 18th at the Lord Nelson Hotel Ballroom--from 1:00 P.M. until Mid-night. The program will include films, workshops, speakers and entertainment, with special childcare provided featuring Ken Ward and Kidstuff. The day is designed to provide educational material on uranium issues, and to promote media exposure. We need volunteers to assist with arranging and carrying out the program. We also need people who will show up and demonstrate their interest in the uranium issues, and give a message to the Buchanan government, so please start now to organize your busload to this important event. For further information, contact:

- 1. Donna Smyth 757-3352 (Ellershouse)
- 2. Ron Leitold 644-3459 (Barss Corner)
- 3. Pauline Cudmore 678-1447 (New Minas)
- 4. Hal Mills 429-4891 (Halifax)
- 5. E.A.C. 422-4311 (Halifax)



Environment Canada and Public Consultation

Environment Canada has taken steps to implement its recently adopted Public Consultation Policy. Two new activities are 1) a regular newsletter and 2) annual public meetings. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the newsletter should contact Mr. Terry Tremayne, Environment Canada, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The first annual meeting for Nova Scotia will be held on Monday, September 20, at the Dresden Arms Motel, Dresden Row, Halifax. The agenda is as follows:

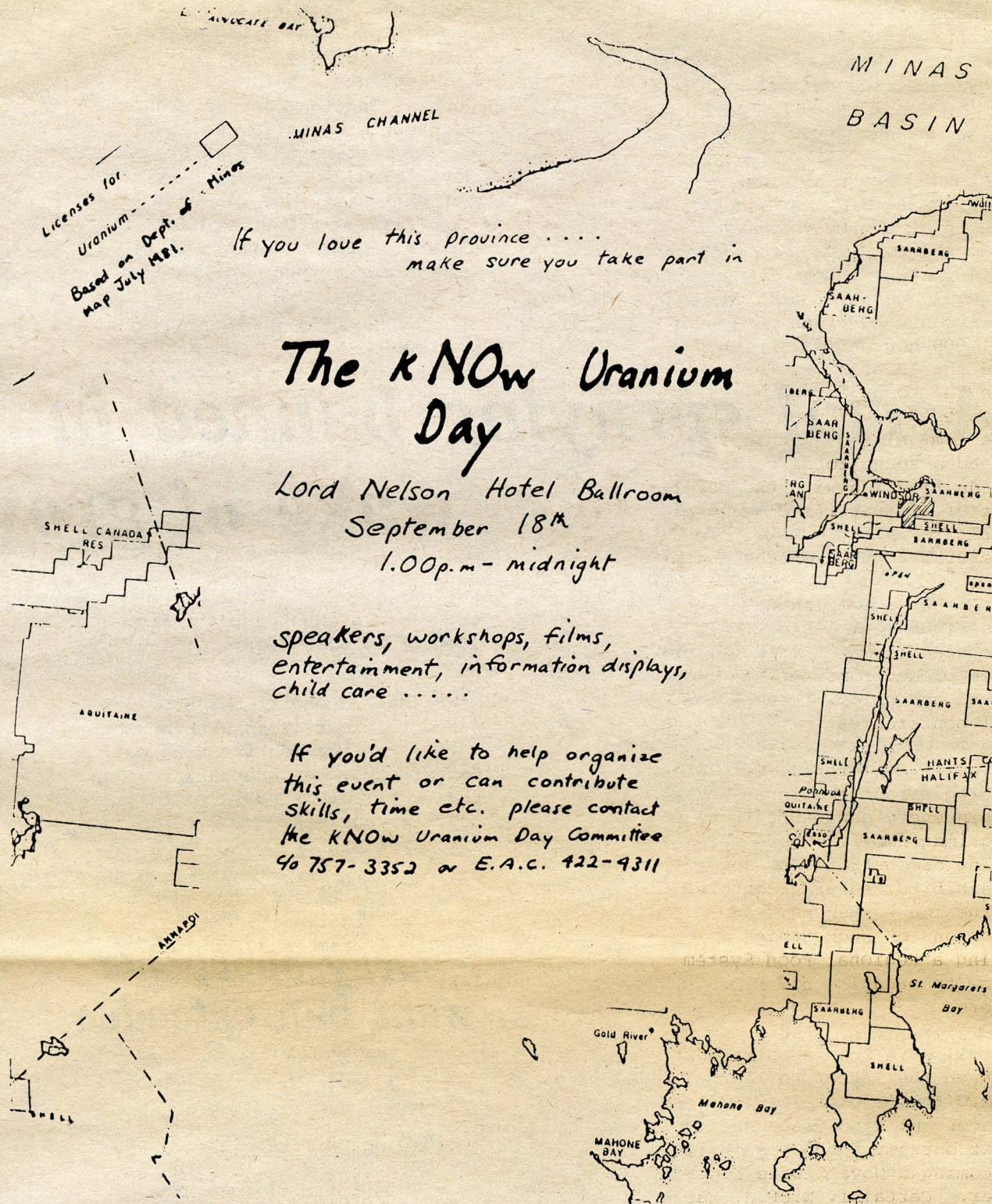
- 9:00 Introductions
- 9:30 Workshops with discussion from audience
  - Toxic Chemicals - Ray Cote as discussion leader
  - Biocides- Bill Ernst
  - Toxic Waste - Colin Duerden
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 2:30 Energy & the Environment - Dave Kelly

-Acid Rain - Joe Kozack

- 5:00 Supper Break
- 7:00 Summary of Recommendations made throughout the day
- 8:00 General Discussion - Clint Edmonds
- 10:00 Session Concludes

Environment Canada has a limited amount of money to cover transportation costs for representatives of non-profit groups to attend the workshop. To apply for the money, you must notify Terry Tremayne (see address above) of the estimated costs for transportation by September 15.

We urge people to attend this meeting. Given current controversy over herbicides, uranium mining and others, now is a good time to see where Environment Canada stands, and to make constructive criticism or suggestions. You can piggyback this meeting onto the "kNOw Uranium Day" on Saturday, September 18. If you need a place to stay in Halifax, we may be able to arrange billets. Call the office for details.



# The kNOw Uranium Day

Lord Nelson Hotel Ballroom  
September 18th  
1.00p.m - midnight

speakers, workshops, films,  
entertainment, information displays,  
child care . . . . .

If you'd like to help organize  
this event or can contribute  
skills, time etc. please contact  
the kNOw Uranium Day Committee  
40 757-3352 or E.A.C. 422-4311



Sustainable Agriculture in the Northeast: New Options

by Catherine McCarthy

The last weekend of July, seven Nova Scotians made their way to New Hampshire to take part in the 8th annual N.O.F.A. conference held at the University of New Hampshire.

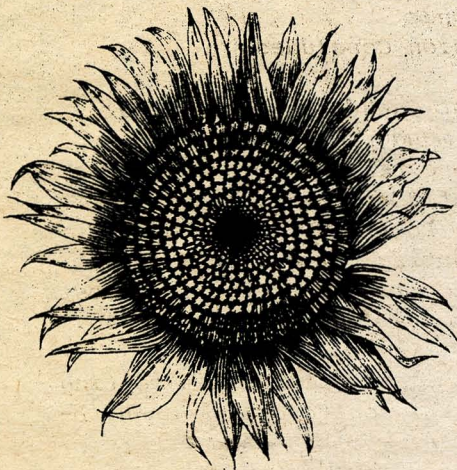
N.O.F.A. (Natural Organic Farmer's Association), an organization of over 1,000 households centered around the "Boston" states has become the focus for farmers who believe that environmental health viable communities, meaningful work and a sound local economic base can flourish with the development of a diversified regional agriculture which works within the natural rhythms of the earth.

N.O.F.A. has accomplished a lot in its eight year history. It has founded farmers' markets, organized producer marketing co-operatives and held workshops and annual conferences.

This year's conference, with about 1,000 registrants, offered workshops in every aspect of rural living imaginable. There were scything demonstrations, angora goat exhibits, solar greenhouse construction workshops, panel discussions on such topics as Building a Regional Food System and how to organize new N.O.F.A. Chapters.

Our small Nova Scotia contingent sat in on the latter to learn from N.O.F.A.'s organizational experience. We also discussed amongst ourselves the possibility of becoming a Nova Scotia N.O.F.A. chapter. Certainly N.O.F.A. has a lot to offer us. Suggestions please!

The Keynote address of the conference was by Robert Rodale, editor of Organic Gardening and the New Farm magazines.



Robert Rodale spoke about a Regenerative Agriculture, an agriculture that would leave the land improved for future generations. Regenerative agriculture would work with nature, not against her. Such an agriculture would promote the development of perennial grain crops. In this regard, Robert Rodale

praised the contributions being made by Wes Jackson, director of the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. In fact the work of Wes Jackson was mentioned several times throughout the conference.

Our Nova Scotian group felt pleased at hearing the references to Wes Jackson, the reason being that Wes Jackson is coming to Nova Scotia for speaking engagements the end of September.

Wes Jackson's Search for a Sustainable Agriculture

The Agriculture Committee of Ecology Action Centre in co-sponsorship with the Institute for Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and hopefully, the Kentville Research Station, has arranged for Wes Jackson to address the public at evening seminar sessions in Kentville, Halifax and Truro. The topic of his address will be "The Search for a Sustainable Agriculture".

The times and locations are as follows:

Kentville: Cornwallis Room,  
Kentville Research Station  
September 26, 8 P.M.

Halifax: MacMechan Auditorium  
Killam Library  
Dalhousie University  
September 27, 8 P.M.

Truro: Room 205, Cox Institute,  
Nova Scotia Agricultural College  
September 28, 8 P.M.

Arrangements are also being made for Wes Jackson to meet with farmers, agriculturists and students in the three localities.

More About Wes Jackson and the Land Institute

Wes Jackson was born and raised on a farm in Kansas. He holds degrees in biology, botany and a Ph.D. in genetics. He taught for many years before founding the Land Institute, of which his wife Dana is co-director. His books include "Man and the Environment", W.C. Brown 1971 and "New Roots for Agriculture", Friends of the Earth 1980.

The Land Institute is a non-profit, educational research organization devoted to the study of sustainable alternatives in agriculture. Much of the research at the Land is directed towards the development of perennial grain crops. Agricultural crops that act like a natural ecosystem could offer tremendous possibilities. A permanent ground cover of grasses

would reduce soil erosion and lower toxic soil salinity levels. The amount of energy saved as a result of reduced cultivation would be of an enormous benefit.

The Land Institute has a distinguished list of honorary board members including such well-known environmentalists as Wendell Berry, Amory Lovins and John Todd.

The Land Institute espouses many of the teachings of E.F. Schumacher, who was an economist and president of Britain's Soil Association. In fact the Land Institute is a good example of Small is Possible.

Last fall Wes Jackson and Wendell Berry spoke in Boston at the E.F. Schumacher Society lecture on "People, Land and Community". The auditorium was filled to overflowing despite the staggering \$15. per person ticket cost.

When Wes Jackson speaks in Nova Scotia this September the lectures will be free to the public. Ecology Action Centre hopes that the auditoriums in Kentville, Halifax and Truro will be filled to capacity September 26, 27 and 28.

For more information about the Land Institute interested persons can contact Cathy McCarthy in Dartmouth at 434-2254; David Hope-Simpson in Wolfville at 542-3906; or Ecology Action Centre in Halifax at 422-4311.



Membership Plea

Help! We need new members and we need speedy renewals of old memberships! Bill Coffey, new chair of the Membership Committee, and Steve Youn, EAC staff, have great plans for an expanded membership. But they need your help. Willing to join the Committee? Know any names of people whom you could suggest as new members to approach? Have any ideas for a membership campaign? Please call!

P.S. In the last JUSUN, due to poor design of the membership form, we received many more renewals at \$15.00 than \$25.00. It was my error entirely. To clear the record, we'd like to consider the \$25.00 fee as the standard individual membership fee, and the \$15.00 as the "at cost" membership for those on tight budgets. Sorry for the confusion.



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HERBICIDE USE IN FORESTRY

by Hester Lessard, Susan Hower and Bill Zimmerman

1. Is it fair to compare Agent Orange to forest sprays when Agent Orange contained 100 to 1000 times more dioxin?

There is no safe level of dioxin. "The effect of decreasing dosage is simply to increase the time for tumor formulation." (Royal Chemical Society Review, Vol. 10, 233-1981). Also the dioxin (TCDD) is not necessarily the only problem. 2,4-D, which does not contain TCDD, has been linked to a six-fold increase in soft tissue cancer in forestry and agriculture workers (Hardell Study, Umea, 1981).

2. Is it fair to single out 2,4,5-T when so many other sources (gasoline, cigarettes, etc.) also contribute dioxin to the environment?

Although there is some evidence to support the claim that combustion of several common compounds produces miniscule amounts of TCDD, it is not universally accepted. (Chemical Engineering News, January 5, 1981). The manufacture of phenoxy herbicides is probably the largest single contributor of TCDD pollution to the environment and TCDD is known to be the "most poisonous and most teratogenic non-radioactive chemical known to man". (Thurlow paper, Nova Scotia Medical Bulletin, April 1981, Halifax) In April it was reported that children under fifteen and all women were warned not to eat trout from Lake Ontario because hazardous levels were found in the fish. And in June, it was reported that for the first time, TCDD was found in human tissue of a Canadian a deceased former patient of Kingston General Hospital in Ontario. The first incident was linked to a 2,4,5-T manufacturing waste dump, while the latter with general industrial dumping into the Great Lakes system on both sides of the border (CBC Radio, April 2, 1982, Globe and Mail, June 25, 1982, p. 1). Dioxin gathers in sediment of bodies of water then gradually works its way up the food chain.

3. The use of herbicides in agriculture is much greater than forestry. If only 1% of the total land area of Nova Scotia is sprayed through forestry programmes, how can this possibly affect the other 99%?

The size of area sprayed is not necessarily the issue. The most important considerations are proximity to water supply and to human habitation, and Nova Scotia is in a unique position with regard to both. We do not

have vast tracts of wilderness forest land, miles from any community, as on the West Coast or northern Ontario. We are dealing with comparatively small acreages that are interspersed with villages and farms. Furthermore if you take the time to look at a topographical map of your area in your local Lands and Forests office, you are likely to find that any spray programme would be hard-pressed to avoid water contamination as Nova Scotia is blessed with a comprehensive network of lakes, streams, rivers, and marches. Also the amount of phenoxy herbicides used in agriculture is alarming, and should not be used to justify the use of lesser amounts in forestry. The widespread use of weedkillers in Maritime silviculture programmes is a recent phenomenon. Now is the time to question that use, before the industry becomes dependent on it and before community health is damaged.

4. If we do not use herbicides, won't our forests end up containing mostly hardwoods?

It is no surprise that recent

natural regeneration studies indicate that a large percentage of the softwood cutovers are coming back as hardwood or mixed wood stands. This is the natural succession whether a stand of trees is cutover, burnt over, or decimated by insects. And for good reason. It is through this natural succession that a healthy soil and a disease and insect resistant forest is maintained. The intermediate stage of growth also provides cover and food for many forms of wildlife. (Baker, Richard St. Barbe, My Life--My Trees; Toward Integrated Resource Management, Fred Payne, N.S. Department of Lands and Forests).

5. Aren't reforestation programmes in Cape Breton trying to introduce alternate species of softwoods in order to diversify naturally occurring stands of budworm susceptible white spruce and balsam fir?

Yes, and those efforts are to be commended. But this only addresses the situation in



**COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FOREST PROTECTION**

by Ed Bailey, Director of Reforestation & Silviculture - Dept. of Lands & Forests. Reprinted from Vol 6 No 2 of "Conservation", publication of the N.S. Dept of Lands & Forests.

**1. Agent Orange is Used in Forest Spraying Programs**

Agent orange was a mixture of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D which has not been produced since 1970. It was used as a defoliant in Vietnam and contained 100 to 1,000 times more dioxin than is presently contained in 2,4,5-T. Due to the higher rates and frequencies of application in Vietnam, the dioxin level actually applied was up to 30,000 times greater per acre than the level applied in Nova Scotia.

**2. 2,4,5-T is the Only Source of Dioxin in the Environment**

Recent reports indicate that dioxin originates from many different sources such as gasoline, cigarettes, diesel powered automobiles and trucks, charcoal grills, etc. In the past it was thought that dioxin occurred only as an impurity in the manufacture of such products as pesticides.

**3. Vast Areas of Forest Land are Being Sprayed with Herbicides**

Estimates of the annual area requiring herbicide treatment in forestry is less than 1/5 of 1% of the total land area in Nova Scotia. On any one acre of forest land, herbicide is applied only once or at most twice in a 40 to 60 year period. In 1980 there were 106,000 acres treated for forestry purposes with herbicide in Canada. For comparison purposes, 35,000,000 acres of wheat are treated annually in Canada. The quantity of herbicides used in forestry amounts to less than .01% of the total herbicides used in Canadian Agriculture.

**4. Herbicides are Destroying the Hardwood Resource**

This argument is unfounded for 2 main reasons:

- a) The largest percentage of sites sprayed to control competing vegetation were previously occupied by a softwood forest in which hardwoods made up less than 10% of the merchantable volume; and
- b) Recent natural regeneration studies indicate that a large percentage of the softwood cutovers are regenerating as hardwood and or mixedwood stands. In other words there has been a substantial increase in the hardwood component of the forest. It now appears that even with the planting of approximately 1.3 of the cutovers with unsatisfactory regeneration and cleaning of 15% of the naturally regenerating cutovers, the component of hardwood species in our forest will gradually increase beyond its traditional 30%.

**5. The Reforestation Program will Result in a Monoculture Being Established in Nova Scotia.**

Over 70% of the softwood volume in eastern Nova Scotia is made up of only 2 species - namely balsam fir and white spruce. In Victoria and Inverness counties, balsam fir and white spruce comprise almost 90% of the softwood volume. Moreover, most of this white spruce and fir is mature with less than 20% of the softwood forest under 40 years of age. By planting red spruce and black spruce, and various species of pine, the percentage of balsam fir and white spruce can be gradually decreased, thereby increasing the species diversity and reducing the risk to future attacks by insects and diseases. Because plantations and other silviculturally treated stands can be harvested 30 to 40 years sooner than natural unmanaged stands, the average age of the forest can be gradually reduced, thereby making the future forest less susceptible to attack.

**6. The Forest Industry is Being Over-subsidized by Government**

The provincial and federal governments collect 3 billion dollars in taxes from Canada's forest sector each year. However, according to a recent federal government report, only 5 cents on every tax dollar collected is reinvested in reforestation and improving the productivity of the country's forests.



(continued from page 6)

Cape Breton. The natural condition in the rest of the province is very different from Cape Breton and must be treated as such. And still we are left with conifer-only stands. Such practices can lead to degraded



soils over several rotations. Increasingly, European practice stresses the value of mixing broad-leaved species with the conifers to help maintain and improve soils. (Troup, R.S., Silvicultural Systems).

Short rotation management of conifer stands is only justifiable if the forest is viewed solely as a source of cheap raw material for the pulp mill. This management approach places emphasis on solving the mechanical problems of harvesting and regeneration without considering ecological and economic problems likely to be posed in the future. (Smith, David Martyn, The Practice of Silviculture).

6. Why do citizen groups complain that the forest industry is being over-subsidized by government?

This is a widespread misunderstanding. Citizen groups are not asking that government subsidies be cancelled, but rather that where public money is being spent, public voices should be heard. For one, citizen groups feel subsidies should be used to encourage diversity in the forest industry leading to a healthier economy and avoiding turning our forests into vast pulp farms. The herbicide spray programmed subsidies, both direct and indirect (provincial government admits never having calculated the full costs of administering spray programmes including the application process and monitoring) are particularly objectionable because of the hazards to public health and long-term effect to forest ecology.

This article is written by Queens/Lunenburg Chapter of the South Shore Environmental Protection Association to correct some common misconceptions about the position of citizen groups concerned with herbicide use in forestry.

In the answer to question #1, the full name of the Hardell study which was accidentally omitted is: Hardell, Lennart, Epidemiological Studies on Soft-Tissue Sarcoma and Malignant Lymphoma and their relation to Phenoxy Acid or Chlorophenol Exposure, Umeå, 1981.

EAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

POTLUCK SUPPER

& AUCTION



Day: Saturday, October 2, 1982  
Place: Oakwood House  
Crichton Street  
Dartmouth, N.S.



Agenda: 4:30 - Business Meeting and Election of Officers  
6:00 - Presentation of Tarred Duck & Sunshine Awards  
6:15 - Potluck Supper\*  
7:30 - EAC Auction  
9:30 - Go Home

(Bring your favourite food for the supper, (no need to bring plates or silverware this year). And come prepared for great bargains at the EAC Auction. Anyone with items to donate to the auction should call Steve Young at the EAC office. Thanks, and see you there. P.S. For directions to Oakwood House, call EAC)

Select Committee on Health

Uranium mining, herbicide spraying, toxic waste dumping, acid rain....all these environmental issues pose serious questions about the connection between what we do to the environment, and how it affects our health - our children's health.

Now is the time to let the government know about our concerns. The Government of Nova Scotia has recently established a Select Committee on Health, with directives to look into all aspects of health related matters in Nova Scotia, and to call for briefs on these issues from the general public.

We urge you to present a brief. Please notify the Committee of your intention by the end of August if possible. Write:

The Secretary  
Select Committee on Health  
P.O. Box 488  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2R8

Committee members are: Hon G. Sheehy, Hon. L Stirling, Dr. W. Gillis, A McDonough, J. Leefe, Dr, R.C. Stewart (chair), Hon. E. Morris, . Cameron, G. MacIssac, V. MacLean and F. Mooney.

-GP-



Tarred Duck and Sunshine Awards

Now is the time to send your suggestions for Tarred Duck and Sunshine awards to be presented at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. For those of you who don't know what I mean, the Tarred Duck award goes to the person or group who has done the most environmentally inappropriate action in the past year. The Sunshine award is the opposite. Send your ideas to EAC!

I wish to join ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE and receive free copies of JUSUN and BETWEEN THE ISSUES.

\$25/year contributing  
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\$10/month sustaining  
\*\$15/year special "at cost" for tight budgets

\* This category covers the cost of newsletters but not the expenses of other vital EAC activities (preparing briefs, keeping the library up, public information programs etc.).

All payments are tax-deductible.

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed.

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a special area of concern, please

Address \_\_\_\_\_

specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Code \_\_\_\_\_





by Alan Ruffman

The EAC joint appeal against the all commercial 18-storey tower of Marine Towers Ltd. at the foot of Sackville St. in Halifax goes to the Nova Scotia Municipal Board on Wednesday, September 18, 1982. The proposed building is in an area designated residential where the Board turned down two similar towers all-commercial office towers last December as a result of an appeal. This building was approved just prior to that decision and clearly violates the residential requirement in the MDP. The other appellants are Milo Stenning-Riding and Alan Ruffman.

The key issue is whether or not the proposed building will be permitted to apply the Central Business District criteria. The developer feels it does, and the Centre feels it does not, due to Implementation Policy #10 of the Halifax MDP. Policy requires property to be "immediately adjacent" to the Central Business District in order for it to qualify for the CBD policies. The appeal will not be restricted to this matter, but it will be key.

No decision is expected until September.

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quote and only man is vile quote

as a representative  
 of the insect world  
 i have often wondered  
 on what man bases his claims  
 to superiority  
 everything he knows he has had  
 to learn whereas we insects are born  
 knowing everything we need to know  
 for instance man had to invent  
 airplanes before he could fly  
 but if a fly cannot fly  
 as soon as he is hatched  
 his parents kick him out and disown him  
 i should describe the human race  
 as a strange species of bipeds  
 who cannot run fast enough  
 to collect the money  
 which they owe themselves  
 as far as government is concerned  
 men after thousands of years practice  
 are not as well organized socially  
 as the average ant hill or beehive  
 they cannot build dwellings  
 as beautiful as a spiders web  
 and i never saw a city  
 full of men manage to be as happy  
 as a congregation of mosquitoes  
 who have discovered a fat man  
 on a camping trip  
 as far as personal beauty  
 is concerned who ever saw  
 man woman or child  
 who could compete with a butterfly  
 if you tell a dancer  
 that she is a firefly  
 she is complimented  
 a musical composer  
 is all puffed up with pride  
 if he can catch the spirit  
 of a summer night full of crickets  
 man cannot even make war  
 with the efficiency and generalship  
 of an army of warrior ants  
 and he has done little else  
 but make war for centuries

archy.

BTI Editor: Ginny Point  
Typing: Betty McNeil

Recycling - Another Try?

by Ginny Point

When someone tells me about a recycling program that works and is economical, I can't help myself. My mind starts playing around with the idea, and I have visions of the hundreds of tons of paper which we could be diverting away from the landfill.

That's what happened to me yesterday when I had a visit from Michael Wheeler, chair of the Secondary Resources Development Council, of which EAC is a member. He described a seemingly a seemingly faultless system of fine-paper collection for recycling. He personally has organized several fine paper recycling systems collecting from universities, municipal school boards, municipal offices and provincial offices in Ontario. In Halifax we could also tap into the federal offices as well.

Let's give recycling another chance. Michael says he will help out in any possible. He might even be able to arrange another visit to the Maritimes to help us work out the details. Please phone the Centre if interested. It is a crime to throw that paper away.

The Latest Word on Mobil's "Venture"

Mobil Oil Canada Ltd. has issued a series of contracts for a Sable Island "Venture Development Project" Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.). Hardy Associates (1978) Ltd. of Calgary and Halifax are coordinating the E.I.S. A first draft is due September 15, 1982, with a final due December 5, 1982. No plans for a public information process or public input have been announced as yet. Persons interested in this topic should contact Susan Holtz at the Centre after Labour Day.

Sable Island will probably be Canada's first area of offshore hydrocarbon production and it is important that the assessment be done openly and correctly.

**ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE**  
 Requires a full time Environmental Action Coordinator and a Part Time Secretary/Receptionist.  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COORDINATOR**  
 A full time position with responsibilities including direct contact with the media, involvement with action committees, organization of educational events, coordinator of volunteer effort and production of a newsletter. Applicants should be very knowledgeable of environmental issues and be able to respond on their own initiative.  
**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST**  
 A part time position including typing, handling telephone inquiries, coordinating volunteer work, assisting with general office duties. Applicants should have a basic interest in environmental issues and have good organizational skills. Applicants for both positions should apply in writing before September 1, 1982 to: Ecology Action Centre, Old Provincial Archives Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. B3H 3J5.

ecology action centre

old provincial archives building  
dalhousie university  
halifax, nova scotia b3h 3j5

(902) 422-4311

