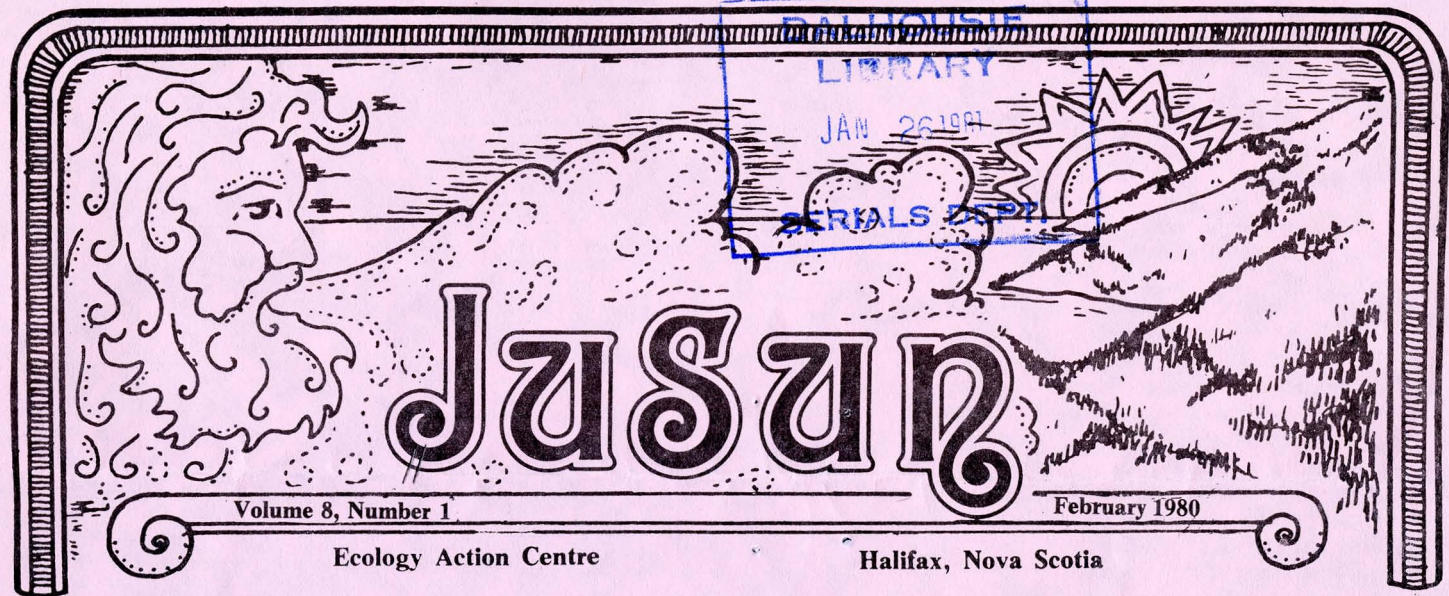


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PRESENTING... THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE!!!
by Peggy Hope-Simpson

Being food-oriented, the Agriculture Committee likes to meet over potluck suppers. After the table is cleared, the committee gets down to business.. We have done a few things, are aiming high and are planning an event for February in the Environmental Lecture series. Read on.

The committee had its beginning two years ago with a public seminar held at St. Mary's University on Ecological Agriculture. About a year ago we started to meet and communicate more regularly, and members now come from New Germany, Wolfville, The Ark (P.E.I.), and Halifax. Recently, we took out membership in the Soil Association (British) which publishes much that is useful, and we plan to take out membership (\$50) in the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement (IFOAM), which for 1979-80 has its headquarters in Maine, U.S.A. And last April, at the People's Food Commission we presented a paper, outlining basic principles of ecological or biological agriculture. biological agriculture.

We have come to believe that a sustainable agriculture is of necessity an ecological one, and for this there is growing support. We see our main purpose as promoting public discussion on the benefits of such an agriculture to human health, soil conservation and enrichment, and to farm economics. We do not pretend to be farm experts, though some of us grow mighty fine gardens. But we believe everyone needs an environmental point of view—farmers, consumers, industry, government—and we can be catalysts, disseminators, foci, questioners, prodders and pushers.

There has been steady growth in support of sustainable agriculture in the U.S. In October, 1977 at Windham College, Vermont, "Research Needs in Alternative Agriculture" was the subject of a pilot training workshop for extension personnel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In December,

1979, the USDA's Organic Committee issued an indepth report on successful organic farms, showing organic farming to be a viable alternative.

In P.E.I., valuable research is being carried out by the Man and Resources Institute and The Ark Project. The Hon. Prowse Chappell, P.E.I.'s Minister of Agriculture comments: *"We've already seen increased emphasis on proper use of manure, and on erosion control measures like grass waterways and cover crops; I think these trends will continue. It is also likely that further developments of integrated pest management systems will have a major impact on crop production practices. . . I'm worried that financial pressures may lead to increased concentration of agriculture production in the hands of still fewer farmers. . . There is some evidence that smaller farms may be better able to adapt to problems caused by inflation and the energy crisis because they are less capital and energy intensive. Recent studies have shown that small farms—even part-time ones—can be at least as efficient as the biggest operations, given the right technology and management. . . . We must ask some hard questions. . . ."*

The E.A.C. Agriculture Committee would endorse and support such a direction for Maritime agriculture in the 80's.

We are planning and look forward to the February 19 evening on "Healthy Foods and a Healthy Land" in the N.S. Museum. Our speakers will be Ken MacKay, Director of the P.E.I. Ark Project, and Lee Ellison, a Wolfville orchardist. This seminar will be the third in a series of five Environmental Issues.

As to future plans of action, we have considered an April workshop covering organic gardening practices and problems. We have also thought about inviting a speaker, Dr. Ross Hume-Hall of McMaster University, to talk about nutrition and food. **What do you think this Committee could usefully do? We welcome your ideas.**

EARP—DUE FOR CHANGE?
by Paul Armstrong

At the initiative of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO), the first of four informal meetings, held at various locations across Canada, took place in Halifax, in early December. The purpose of these gatherings was to conduct a limited public discussion about the weaknesses of the federal environmental assessment process, which is formally titled the Environment Assessment and Review Process (EARP). Of the twenty-five people who attended the Halifax meeting, seventeen participants represented a select sample of the public who were interested in environmental assessment, and eight were working with Environment Canada.

The meetings were the result of several related activities. Firstly, a series of public information workshops was proposed at the meeting last winter, between the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council and environmental groups. There was wide agreement that the first topic of concern to be addressed in a workshop should be EARP. Secondly, the reaction to the Lancaster Sound EARP Inquiry during the past year has been particularly sharp. Indeed, the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, the Canadian Nature Federation, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Federation sought legal opinion on the procedural adequacy of the Inquiry. They were advised that it could be argued "that hearings held by Environmental Assessment Review Panels must satisfy basic standards of fairness which have not been met in connection with the current Panel hearings". Finally, Minister of Environment, John Fraser, requested FEARO to prepare draft legislation formalizing environmental assessment, and that it be scheduled for introduction to Parliament early in 1980.

The Halifax meeting focussed largely on the procedural deficiencies of EARP. The



OPPOSITION TO MARKET PLACE PLAZA

November 29, 1979

Members of Ecology Action Centre's Urban Development and Transportation Committee today highlighted the importance of the upcoming hearing into Market Place Plaza, a development they believe would seriously affect the historic Citadel and downtown area.

Market Place Plaza, Bob Stapell's proposed office building for the corner of Brunswick and George Streets, would rise eight stories high on Brunswick Street opposite the Old Town Clock, and would block a substantial section of the harbour view.

"The Urban Development and Transportation Committee opposes construction of this development because it would conflict with the Municipal Development Plan in at least fourteen ways", according to Alan Ruffman, spokesperson for the group. "First of all, the building would rise forty feet higher than that permitted by City Council's resolution in 1974 which limits new developments on Brunswick Street to the height of the School Board Building."

Mr. Ruffman also said that the proposed building would not conform to the height and design provisions of the Brunswick Street Planning Criteria Statement as approved in draft form by the Downtown Committee in June 1979. This statement was prepared in accordance with the Municipal Development Planning Process, and it reaffirms Council's former resolution which limits all new construction to the height of the School Board Building. It also requires that new buildings complement the historic character of Brunswick Street.

Mr. Ruffman also stressed that the Stapells' proposal is extremely energy inefficient. He said that its terraced type construction would promote heat loss through the many levels of roofs. Furthermore, he noted that the window layout is inappropriate since the cold north face has numerous large windows, while the warm south side is windowless.

According to Mr. Ruffman, the proposed building would also have detrimental effects on an already declining commercial/retail district along Barrington Street, Hollis Street, and Lower Water Street, since the downtown area is currently oversaturated with office and retail establishments.

"Citizen response to this proposal is crucial," said Mr. Ruffman in urging citizens to attend the public hearing on December 5, 1979. "The decision which City Council will make after the hearing will have profound implications for the historic character of our city."



The Paper Recycling Brigade!

(continued from page 1)

issues for discussion included: a) the adequacy of criteria used for the pre-screening of development, and the need for public access to this decision; b) the difficulties in addressing development that involved more than one jurisdiction, or that is not related to a single, isolated project (e.g. Atlantic Coast oil and gas exploration); c) the lack of rigour, consistency, and fairness in the conduct of the Panel hearings; and d) the composition of these Panels such that conflicts of interest are precluded.



There were also a number of substantive issues raised regarding the assessment process. Can the notion of environment be broadened to include economic, social, and physical effects of development? Can the need for a project, and alternatives to the development be addressed in the same manner as its consequences? How is the significance of an "effect" to be determined or valued in an assessment? What is the function of an Inquiry Panel? And are the questions asked in an assessment, scientific or normative in nature?

The Halifax meeting was a good first step. While the coming federal election has naturally deferred the introduction of legislation on environmental assessment, it is clear that EARP is ripe for change. It is equally clear that what is needed is a very hard evaluation of what has been accomplished, and how things could be done differently. Some people are now endeavouring to develop a research programme on environmental impact assessment, in order to act on these concerns; if you wish to become involved with this team, please contact the Ecology Action Centre.

PAPER RECYCLING TO EXPAND INTO FAIRVIEW

January 22, 1980

Ecology Action Centre today announced that residents of Fairview will soon be included in the Centre's Paper Recycling Project, co-sponsored by the Halifax Guiding and Scouting Movements, and Coalition Supportive Services.

As of Wednesday, February 27, and every two weeks thereafter, the recycling truck will pass through designated streets in Fairview to collect recyclable paper left on the curbside by 9 a.m. Recyclable paper includes newsprint, magazines, cardboard, loose paper, and other non-greasy, non-waxy paper products.

The first phase of the Centre's Recycling Project began in October 1979 in Spryfield. Since then, the truck has collected approximately 49,000 pounds of waste paper. This represents as much wood fibre as is found in approximately 490 trees, according to Ms. Ginny Point, spokesperson for the project.

"Since Spryfield proved so successful, we decided to expand into a new area of the City. Fairview was chosen because so many Fairview residents phoned our office during the past several months urging us to expand into their community," Ms. Point said. "If phone calls are any indication of support, we'll do just as well in Fairview as we are doing in Spryfield. I don't know if we will beat the record set by the town of Kelowna, B.C. where 85% of the town residents are putting their paper out for collection, but we'll try our best," Ms. Point continued.

Based on the Spryfield experience and anticipated results in Fairview, Ms. Point expects that the program will expand to cover the entire city by September 1980.

**ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 1979**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Ecology Action Centre

We have examined the balance sheet of Ecology Action Centre as at March 31, 1979 and the statement of revenue and expenditures and members' equity for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, except as noted in the following paragraph.

In common with many charitable organizations, the organization reports an amount for donation revenue which is not susceptible of complete verification by audit procedures. Accordingly, our verification of revenue from this source was limited to a comparison of recorded receipts with bank deposits.

In our opinion, except for the possibility of adjustments had donations been susceptible of complete audit verification, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 1979 and its revenue and expenditures for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for organizations of this type applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

The financial statements for the preceding year were examined by other chartered accountants.

Clarkson, Gordon & Co.
Chartered Accountants

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS			LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Current assets:	1979	1978	Current liabilities:	1979	1978
Cash	\$6,989	\$3,246	Accounts payable and		
Inventory of publications	965	454	accrued liabilities	\$2,161	\$ 63
	<u>7,954</u>	<u>3,700</u>			
Office equipment, at cost	808	808	Members' equity:		
Less—Accumulated			Accumulated excess of		
depreciation	550	485	revenue over expenditures	6,051	3,960
	<u>258</u>	<u>323</u>		<u>\$8,212</u>	<u>\$4,023</u>
	<u>\$8,212</u>	<u>\$4,023</u>			

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

	1979	1978		1979	1978
Revenue			Expenditures		
Donations and memberships	\$11,934	\$12,350	Salaries and employee benefits	\$13,210	\$ 8,113
Project grants—			Office supplies and services	2,608	4,001
The Religious Society of			Telephone	959	667
Friends (Quakers)	3,009	3,437	Postage	759	787
Canadian Friends Service			Travel	270	393
Committee	3,150	—	Publications	890	489
Government grants	1,750	—	Depreciation	65	81
Other activities	1,886	1,667	Miscellaneous	877	1,053
	<u>21,729</u>	<u>17,454</u>		<u>19,638</u>	<u>15,584</u>
			Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	2,091	1,870
			Members' equity—beginning of year	3,960	2,090
			Members' equity—end of year	<u>\$ 6,051</u>	<u>\$ 3,960</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Grants-

Grants are recorded as income in the year they are received from the granting institution.

(b) Fixed assets-

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on a declining balance basis at 20% per annum.

(c) Inventory-

Inventory is valued at the lower cost or market with cost being determined principally on a first-in, first-out basis.

2. Income tax status:

The organization qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 149 (1)(f) of the Income Tax Act and is therefore exempt from income tax.



ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

1978-1979 Annual Report

President's Report

The past year was an extremely important one for Ecology Action Centre. Thanks to a generous response from members, we weathered the financial crisis that has threatened our continued existence in early 1978. While the Centre does not have an abundance of money to spare, we at least have a small reserve that could help us over a few lean months if necessary. More importantly, we have proved to ourselves that EAC is going to be around for a long time to come.

The Centre continues to be actively involved in a growing number of environmental concerns. While much of our time these days is put into energy issues we have been looking at agriculture as a new area in which we should be more formally active. Urban issues such as preservation and public transit, regional parks and recycling continue to command the attention of standing committees and staff.

The Centre has not been as publicly visible this year as in other years. This probably reflects a bit of an unconscious shift towards more research and behind the scenes consultation. In the new year we hope to give more emphasis to our very important role in environmental education and general awareness through such vehicles as public seminars and our newsletter **Jusun**.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I heartily thank members and corporate donors for their generous support over the past year.

Grant MacDonald
President, 1979

Report on Finances

Like so many charitable organizations which depend on the contribution of volunteers and donations in kind, our financial statements do not do a very good job in reflecting the actual magnitude of the Centre's activities. Indeed the numbers mainly reflect just the actual money which we see. If one could put a dollar value on all the time spent, and costs incurred, on behalf of the Centre, the figures would be considerably higher than what the audited statements present.

The financial statements contained in this report outline the revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Centre's basic or core operation. They do not (with but one exception*) reflect monies granted and spent on special projects.

Revenues

Nearly 70% of the Centre's core revenues come from membership fees and corporate donations. The remainder of our funds come mainly from institutional sources such as the Quakers and the Dalhousie Student Union, from the three municipalities in the Halifax metropolitan area and from fund raising events such as book sales and bake sales.

While the Centre depends primarily on members for most of its funds, Corporate donations constitute an important part of the revenues received. Approximately \$4500 was contributed to EAC by various firms in 1978-79. It is possible to do much better than this with more effort on our part as requests for corporate donations are generally well received when made on a personal basis.

There are many "donations in kind" not reflected in the statement of revenue. Included are such things as Dalhousie University's contribution of office space, the N.S. Department of the Environment's printing of our membership brochure and the value of several trips to environmental conferences paid for by various federal and provincial government bodies.

Expenditures

If the use of the Centre's resources (volunteer time, staff time, supplies and other expenses) were to be distributed by function, rather than just broken down by item, one would probably find that in 1978-79 about 30% went towards general environmental awareness and education, about 35% went towards research, and about 20% towards administration and fund raising. The remainder of our resources were devoted to special meetings and to helping organize reaction to specific "current" environmental issues.

In terms of the items of expenditure most of what little money we do have goes towards salaries. In 1978-79 the Centre paid the salaries of one full-time person and one half-time person. However, in terms of the time actually worked by staff, the Centre had the equivalent of two or three full-time employees. Some of the items not accounted for as revenues are, of course, not reflected as expenses either. If they were, one would see office rent as an expense and the figures in several other categories would be higher as well. The chief non-salary items which are accounted for are postage, telephone charges and printing and duplicating costs, the latter being incorporated into the office supplies and services category.

1978 Board of Directors

Paul Armstrong
Danny Baker-Toombs
Ann Brimer
Don Chard
James Coles
George Cooper
Horst Deppe
Parker Donham
Susan Holtz
Peggy Hope-Simpson
Grant MacDonald
Richard MacFarlane
Warren MacKenzie
Audrey Manzer
Anne Martell
Susan Mayo
Bruce Preeper
Alan Ruffman
Bessa Ruiz
Phil Thompson
William Zimmerman

1979 Board of Directors

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George Cooper
Parker Donham
Martin Gursky
Safie Hamed
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Grant MacDonald
Richard MacFarlane
Anne Martell
Susan Mayo
Richard Pearson
Van Penick
Ginny Point
Kenneth Powell
Bruce Preeper
Alan Ruffman
Bess Ruiz
John Scheiblehut
Phil Thompson
Peter Wainwright
Rick Zwick

*Canadian Friends Service Committee granted \$3150 towards the EAC Energy Library.

Speculation on the Final Report of the Porter Commission
by Michael Clow

Biographical Note:

The author is a native of Moncton, New Brunswick. He has a B.Sc. in Physics from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and an M.A. in Political Science from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is at present a Ph.D. student in Political Science at York University in Toronto, Ontario, and has a continuing interest in the politics of the environment in Canada.

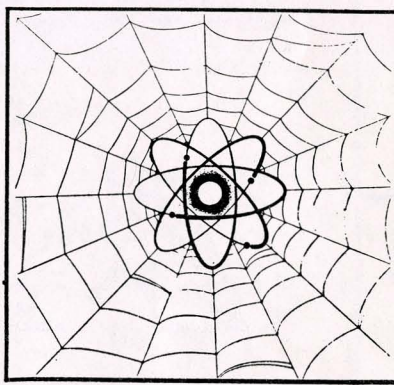
Sometime early in the new year 1980 one of the most important studies into energy matters, the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Electrical Power Planning in Ontario (the Porter Commission) can be expected to be released to the public. What should environmentalists expect from the Final Report of the Commission? While the scope of the report will be huge, covering as it does "a framework for further development of the electrical power system" in Canada's most heavily populated and industrialized province, with respect to the important issue of nuclear power, we can reflect on the special Interim Report (**A Race Against Time**) published in September 1978 and speculate on the changes which events since publication have made reasonably likely.

A Race Against Time is an impressively well organized and presented report, colourfully illustrated and intended to be a "primer" on nuclear power as well as a judgement on its merits and hazards. It is marked by an honest and largely successful attempt to present the basic issues and **positions** of the nuclear power debate "in explicit context of electricity generation and use." It is thus a worthwhile addition to the literature on the nuclear controversy on these grounds alone.

But what stirred the greatest interest were the most important of its 70 "conclusions", which were listed separate from the text in a compendium at the front of the report. On CANDU safety, the Report concludes that "within reasonable limits, the reactor is safe." However, with respect to the crucial issue of the size of Ontario Hydro's nuclear programme, the Commission concludes that "the maximum number of additional nuclear stations to the year 2000 should be three" on the basis of a "moderate" annual rate of growth of 4% in electrical demand—a figure far below the numbers projected by Hydro in the 1974 long range planning study that helped spark the establishment of the Commission. The Commission also came down hard against the reprocessing of spent fuel. This conclusion takes on additional significance when added to another conclusion that "neither the currently known uranium resource base . . . nor the projected maximum production capacities likely to be available for Ontario use are sufficiently secure to guarantee the long term viability of a large 'once through' nuclear power programme. As well, the Commission expressed considerable concern over the disposal of both

reactor wastes and radioactive mill tailings, recommending that the future of the industry be tied to progress on solving these major problems. Finally, the Commission expressed concern over the economic viability of the nuclear industry as a whole.

Among the reactions to the Report from the industry, only AECL managed to find a bright spot in the gloom, the conclusion that their reactor was reasonably safe. Environmentalists were pleased that the Report was something other than an industry promoting whitewash, and that after years in the political wilderness an official body had legitimized their activities and recognized the merits of at least some of their arguments. Even where the Report reached questionable conclusions, as on reactor safety, it left much room for debate on the basis of the contents of the Report itself.



However, for all the courage the Commission has shown in recommending a tight cap on the growth of nuclear electricity generation and in exposing the necessity to put an absolute ceiling on the industry unless waste problems at both ends of the fuel chain are quickly and definitively eliminated, the political power of the nuclear industry in Ontario is evident in the Report. The Report accepts far too uncritically the assurances of the industry about in-place technology such as the CANDU reactor. Very disturbing was the tendency to accept at face value the "independence" of the Atomic Energy Control Board and questionable documents such as the Hare Report on waste management (see Ecology Action Centre's Hare Report brief in JUSUN, August 1978). Utterly inadequate consideration was given to wider ecological problems associated with the fuel chain—a reflection of the general ignorance of the environmental effects of nuclear power generation. Finally, the Commission did not draw out or explore the sharply different futures envisioned by proponents and opponents. This was a sidestepping of the whole range of questions about human needs, values and **political choice** which the Commission emphasized at the beginning of the Report and which are vital to the whole issue.

Some of the weaknesses in the Interim Report have been highlighted by events since its publication. Foremost among these events must rank the near catastrophe at Three Mile Island (TMI). Although the design of the

continued on page 6

Bake Sale

Our annual bake sale is scheduled for Feb. 28 and 29, and we are inviting E.A.C. cooks and bakers to supply the irresistibles and delectables for which we are famous.

Please contact Ginny Point at the office (423-4311) if you can help out. All baked goods should be delivered to Ecology Action Centre between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 27, or dropped off at Scotia Square Shopping Mall (Feb. 28) or the Halifax Shopping Mall (Feb. 29).

Many thanks to the pastry chefs.

Regional Parks Study

MAPC has just released a Regional Parks Study, intended for use in the upcoming Regional Parks review process. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the report can contact Mr. Bob Russell, Community Planning Division of the Nova Scotian Department of Municipal Affairs (phone 424-4091).

Solar Notebook Needs Updating

On May 3, 1978, in recognition of International SUN DAY, EAC began to compile a list of people and organizations in Nova Scotia who are involved with renewable energy projects.

The list has been quite useful, especially to those who plan similar projects.

Now the list needs updating. Please let us know what energy efficient projects you are undertaking. We would be happy to send you forms to fill out and return for our files.

EAC Auction

This year's annual General Meeting will be held in May instead of February in order to coincide with our fiscal year.

A new feature to the meeting will be an EAC Auction. The auctioneer will offer a multitude of unique services and commodities such as a German Black Forest Cake by Susan Mayo, a naturalist tour of Purcell's Pond by Susan Holtz, and a bicycle cleaning/repairing clinic by Ginny Point.

We are looking for our members to submit the rest of the auctionable items. Please phone the office to register your contribution. Thanks.



Ecology is

Life, saving.
Time, litter.
Nature, smells.
Animal, care.

Saving energy and electricity,
Using natural energy: water,
Muscle or battery use.

Life around us.
Take a bike . . . not a bus

Save
Save
Save.

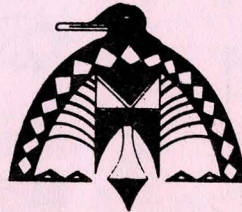
by Beth Medjuck
Grade 4 student
at Halifax Grammar School

continued from page 5

TMI reactor is different from our CANDU (but only as different as DC-10 is from L-1011), the failure of the TMI plant points out a simple fact: that combinations of human error, mechanical failure and design limitations make accidents in such complex devices as nuclear reactors virtually inevitable or, at the very least, highly probable over time. Referring to the "highly improbable" nature of serious reactor accidents is a public relations formulation; the shift by industry apologists to "we must learn to live with accidents and pay their costs" is a sign their previous position is untenable. Since the part of the text of the Interim Report dealing with reactor safety is by no means as pronuclear as the conclusion, it can be hoped that the Final Report will contain second thoughts about the safety of the CANDU system. Recent exposure of problems with the emergency core cooling system in existing CANDUs and the remarkable revelations about the problems at the old NPD plant near Ottawa should strengthen this position.

Recent discussions about the AECB's licencing procedures and criticism of the neutrality of some of its studies (for example, the much criticized Inhaber report on cooperative safety of nuclear and renewable systems) leave its credibility, as a regulatory agency, in further doubt. This too is a fact the Commission cannot ignore. And finally, the failure of the AECL to secure the sale of a second CANDU to Argentina, because of construction problems with the first and Argentina's fear that changing safeguards might make construction of a bomb more difficult, makes the economic future of the AECL gloomier yet.

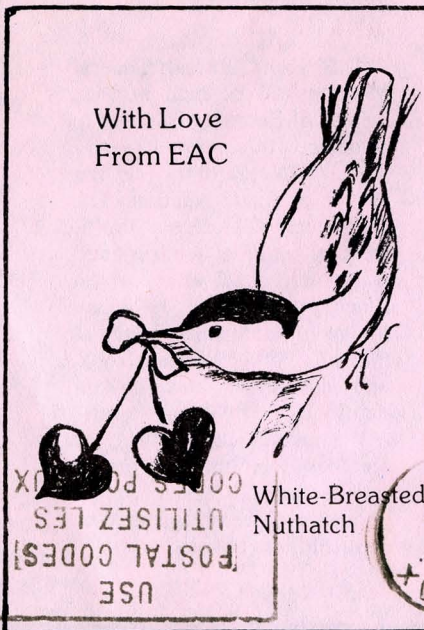
These events make a positive evaluation of the Canadian nuclear programme increasingly difficult. If the Commission remains true to its efforts to be impartial, the Final Report must be more, not less, negative about the nuclear option for Ontario.



WANTED: A HEALTHY GREEN PLANET
A multi-colour, 17" x 32" poster in support of Ecology Action Centre. These attractive posters sell for \$3.00 each plus 25c mailing charges. Send your order to:
Ecology Action Centre
Forrest Building
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3J5

SPLIT WOOD NOT ATOMS

Bumper stickers available at Ecology Action Centre for one dollar (\$1.00)



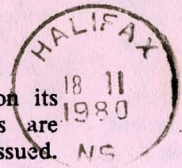
Annual Membership

The Centre is entirely dependent on its members for support. All payments are tax-deductible and a receipt will be issued. Suggested donations for annual membership follow. **Please enter my membership as**

- an individual member, \$5.00
- a contributing member, \$25.00
- a professional member, \$50.00
- a corporate member, \$100.00
- a sustaining member, \$10.00 / month for one year.

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

Return to: Ecology Action Centre
Forrest Building
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3J5



Serials Department
Killam Library
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Expiry: May 80