

HOW IT IS WITH US

By Ginny Point

Susan Mayo asked me to include a farewell message from her to all members of Ecology Action Centre in this current issue of JUSUN. As many of you already know, back in March Susan decided to resign her position as coordinator of the Centre. She had been working at EAC for five years, and thought it was time for a shift in her energies.

Since its inception in 1971, the Centre has grown from a very small group of university students to a broad based environmental organization with a membership of over six hundred. For the past five years, Susan played a crucial role in furthering this continuous evolution of EAC. We will all miss her very much.

One of her favourite sayings was, "Think globally, but act locally". That guiding philosophy is one which I hope the Centre will always remember.

We've hired a new office manager to resume part of Susan's former activities. Elizabeth Greenhavens is now the person who will take on the tasks of answering the mail, keeping the books in order, doing the typing, and organizing the volunteers to do all the other things which need doing. She will be working part-time, everyday from noon to four o'clock. Anyone wanting to give her a hand at any time is more than welcome. And anyone who wants to visit our library or check a reference to something is best off calling in the afternoon between those hours.

With Elizabeth on staff, I know that we will have a well organized, well managed office. But what of Susan Mayo's other former responsibilities? For example, she was an ex-officio member in virtually all the working committees (energy, urban, agriculture, and recycling) as well as the various Board committees such as fundraising and membership. Essentially, the Centre will have no overall coordinator. This means a big change for EAC. The Board of Directors will now serve as the formal link between all the various

committees. Of course, Susan Holtz and I will continue to stay abreast informally of all the various committee activities.

The Board of Directors decided to try this arrangement rather than hire someone to assume all of Susan Mayo's former responsibilities because we knew that Susan's was more than a full time job. She was both office coordinator and office manager. We knew that we could not afford to hire two new people, so, faced with the choice between these two, we chose office manager. The office can't function without the minutes being typed, and the books kept in order. The Board will re-evaluate in September to assess the new organizational structure.

Amidst this big change, the Centre has been very busy. On June 7 we held the Annual General Meeting (reported elsewhere) and on June 26, Grant MacDonald, Susan Holtz, and Paul Armstrong presented discussion papers on the topic of "The Conserver Society Re-examined", the last of our Environmental Issues Lecture Series for this past year. The panelists have all agreed to prepare short summaries of their talks for the fall issue of JUSUN.

Otherwise, I am still determined to keep on schedule with the revisions to the Environmental Law Text, which is funded by the Department of Justice, and co-sponsored by the Dalhousie Law School and EAC. It is being rewritten based on some very helpful feedback received from students, teachers, and outside reviewers this past year. We hope to see a publishable version this September.

Looking ahead to September, the Energy Committee promises to be actively investigating energy conservation at the municipal level, and model "right to light" bylaws for municipalities under two contracts respectively from the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy and the Nova Scotia Law Foundation. We are also planning another Environmental Issues Lecture Series. Any ideas for topics are more than welcome.

And, that's how it is with us.

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL SUNSHINE AND TARRED DUCK AWARDS

At its Annual General Meeting, held Saturday, June 7, Ecology Action Centre announced its annual Sunshine and Tarred Duck Awards for the best and worst regional environmental events of the year. Runners-up were also named.

The Tarred Duck Award went to New Brunswick's Premier Richard Hatfield and his government for their refusal to approve a motion for an independent safety inquiry into Point Lepreau nuclear generating plant, now under construction in New Brunswick. The recommendation for an inquiry had originally been made by the legislature's Energy Committee after hearings were held last summer on the safety of the Lepreau facility. The safety of Canadian reactors has been questioned repeatedly in the past three years since the release of documents indicating that emergency core cooling systems in several of Ontario's reactors were inadequate.

Runner-up for the Tarred Duck Award was the Waterfront Development Corporation (WDC), for their precipitate demolition of the Irving Arch despite recommendation for its preservation by Halifax City Council. While acknowledging that much of the redevelopment done by the WDC to date is attractive, the Centre's award is intended to indicate concern not only about the

continued on page 2



P.S. Susan Mayo has left the Centre, but she has not permanently left the province. Don't be surprised if you see her cycling down the back roads to Truro, Yarmouth, or even Cape Breton on her trusty one speed, with the pup trailing close behind.



**Peggy Hope-Simpson
and Fae Croft
receiving the
Sunshine Award.**

destruction of the Arch, but also about the corporation's accountability and sensitivity to the local planning process.

The Sunshine Award this year was shared by two individuals for their extensive personal efforts in environmental work. Fae Croft, Cub Leader of the Third Spryfield Boy Scout Pack, initiated with Ecology Action Centre the Spryfield paper recycling pickup service in the area. She contributed enormous energy and commitment to the project's publicity and to its success. Peggy Hope-Simpson, a longtime volunteer at Ecology Action Centre, undertook the organization of the Centre's Ecological Agriculture Committee this year, thus focalizing a long-standing interest within the Centre. As well, her behind-the-scenes work in office management at the Centre has contributed greatly to the organization's effectiveness. Both people represent how much can be done about environmental quality by dedicated volunteers.

Sunshine Award runner-up went to Halifax City Council for their decision for the third time in three years not to spray the city trees with toxic chemicals for pest control. Ecology Action Centre has long opposed chemical control of insect pests, and in a densely populated urban area felt that human health considerations should absolutely preclude use of chemicals such as Sevin. Other forms of insect control, including biological controls and good hygiene, should be employed, in the Centre's opinion.

Ecology Action Centre spokesperson Susan Holtz noted that many other issues, besides those highlighted in the awards, are of concern to the province's environmentalists. "These awards, good and bad, are given in recognition of specific events. But a great many problems, such as the widespread use of toxic chemicals, don't crystallize into media events."

E.A.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On June 7, we held the Annual General Meeting which included business meeting, presentation of awards, pot luck supper, auction and a panel discussion on Environmental Issues Facing Us in the 1980's.

The next issue of JUSUN will be devoted to a formal Annual Report, focusing on the items discussed at the business meeting such as auditor's report, budget projections for next year, committee activities, list of new board members, and general information about EAC at a glance. So, let's skip the business meeting and move on to the presentation of the Tarred Duck and Sunshine Awards.

Ever since February when we normally hold the Annual Meeting, EAC members and representatives of the press have been persistently phoning the Centre for a preview of the awards. We made them wait. And surprise! The New Brunswick government won the Tarred Duck Award for the second year running. This year's awards also included a special presentation to Susan Mayo. She received a small maple tree seedling, a much larger version of which will be planted near the front door of the Forrest Building on her behalf. As the tree grows, so will the Centre.

The Pot Luck Supper which followed the business meeting was delicious. Over coffee and dessert, our auctioneer, Neil Livingstone, held everyone's attention for the next hour. The auction featured contributions from EAC members which ranged from a home cooked lobster supper for two on St. Margaret's Bay, to a cord of wood -standing in Hants County, or a work weekend on a King's County homestead. One of the hottest items was a fishing lesson for a child in a favourite fishing spot. The only contribution which was not a fast seller was one which appeared to have been donated by the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission. The Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station was eventually given away to the person who bought the No Nukes record album set. In total we raised over six hundred dollars and had a great time as well.

The evening concluded with a panel discussion focusing on the most significant environmental issues facing us in the 1980's. Panelists included Ray Cote, Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Service for the Atlantic Region; Art Hanson, Director of the Institute for Resource and Environmental Studies; and Norman Dale, an environmental consultant specializing in environmental mediation. Susan Holtz chaired the panel.

THE ENERGY CAROL

When I was young and fair,
They threw away paper,
Like cutting hair.

Light bulbs were always on.
Oh, they're good alright,
But you wasted them,
And now they're all gone.

And now the bad part,
Electricity,
They turn on the stove,
Air conditioner, and they turn on the heat
Oh, the world was coming to great defeat.

But it's all changed now,
And I'm so glad,
I sort of miss T.V.,
But I'd rather miss something than be sad!

by **Lara Robinson**
prep IV
Halifax Academy
1979
9 years old



"TRANSPORT 2000" SENDS DISTURBING NEWS AS WE GO TO PRESS:

It appears the Minister of Transport has recommended (in a confidential memo to cabinet) severe cutbacks in train service outside the Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa triangle, including seven of the eight passenger trains operated by VIA in the Maritimes! It is suggested we write Regan/MacEachen in Ottawa, as well as Premier Buchanan. If you want to be involved further, contact John Pearse, Transport 2000, 40 Lorne Avenue, Dartmouth.

ENGOs MEET WITH FEDERAL MINISTERS

Several times during the past four years, Susan Holtz has met with other representatives of Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOs) to discuss mutual interests and concerns. The meetings have been sponsored by the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council (CEAC).

In the May gathering of this year, ENGOs met with John Roberts, Federal Minister of the Environment, and Marc Lalonde, Federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and they submitted briefs on energy conservation, the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) nuclear policy, public participation, freedom of information, and northern issues. In this edition of JUSUN, and in subsequent issues, we will include copies of some of the briefs submitted, with summaries of the ministers' responses. (The summaries were reprinted from the summer edition of the National Survival Institute Newsletter.)

RENEWABLE ENERGY

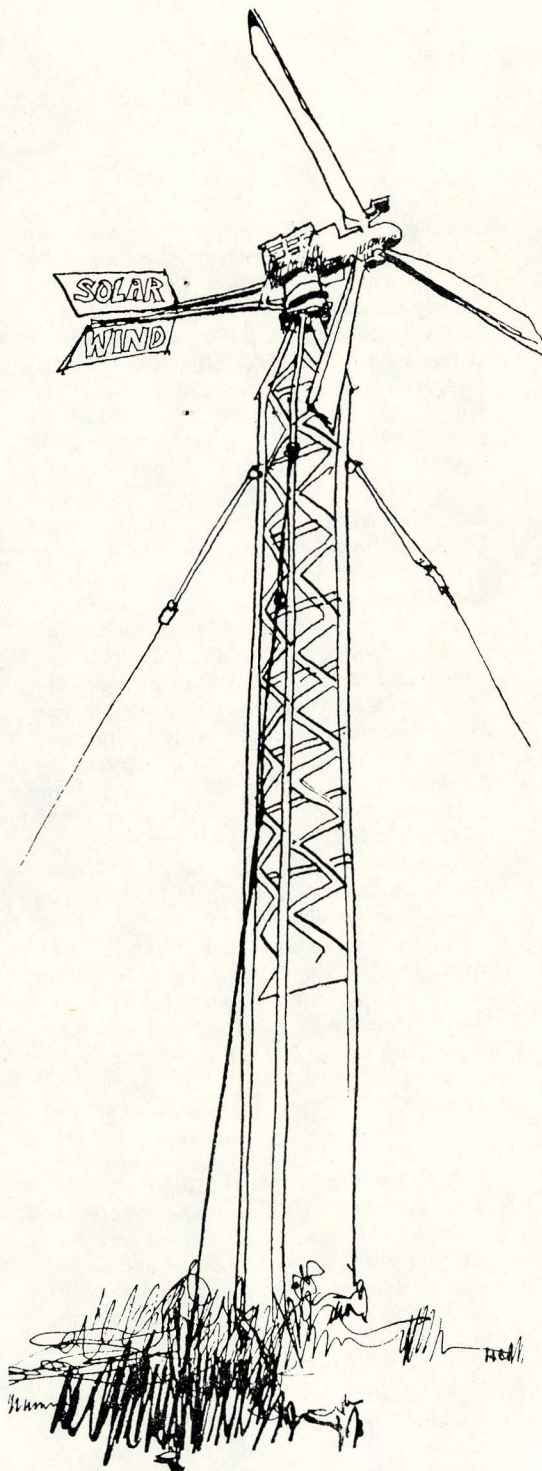
Presented by Dr. David Brooks, Energy Probe, Ottawa

Reprinted from NSI Newsletter

Initiating a substantial shift towards renewable sources at this time would have many advantages, including providing security of supply, reducing environmental damage, creating a regionally distributed energy industry and offering Canada an economical supply of energy adequate to its needs. Technologies to accomplish this are available, and are typified by the following characteristics:

1. They are diverse, with the appropriate source chosen for each end use.
2. They are resilient, so that failure of one component does not jeopardize the system.
3. They are simple to manage and require no protecting "priesthood".
4. They can be matched in quality to demand, reducing energy losses caused by conversions and by the use of expensive forms of energy for simple tasks.

Many renewable technologies are already competitive with new sources of energy. This means that they yield a higher discounted rate of return on investment than the electrical power stations being built and the frontier oil and gas resources being sought today. Studies sponsored by Friends of the Earth in Canada show on a province-by-province basis how we could move to substantial dependence on renewable resources by the turn of the century and to more than 75% dependence by 2025. The main barriers are neither technological nor economic, but rather institutional.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Federal government should commit itself to targets for the substitution of renewable for non-renewable energy sources over the next 15 to 25 years.
2. Tax advantages and subsidies comparable to those given to conventional energy sources should be made available for the renewable energy sector.
3. The Federal government should provide financial aid to small firms and consumers to purchase renewable energy systems where life-cycle costs justify them.
4. The Canadian government should introduce renewable energy technologies in its own operations (as with the construction of passive solar buildings and the development of a fleet of methanol vehicles).
5. The Federal government should introduce renewable energy technologies in its own operations (as with the construction of passive solar buildings and the development of a fleet of methanol vehicles).
6. Existing Federal renewable programs should be given a renewed mandate to reduce fears that they will be prematurely terminated.
7. The proposed Alternate Energy Corporation should be given a broad mandate encompassing research, implementation and promotion of renewable energy.
8. A public/private task force should identify ways by which municipalities and community groups can undertake energy audits and implement renewable energy projects locally.

MINISTER'S RESPONSE

Mr. Lalonde questioned the realism of a target of 75 per cent dependence on renewables by the year 2025. David Brooks of Energy Probe pointed out that the Friends of Earth study took into account efficiency and conservation measures which would result in a definite deceleration in energy consumption growth. Brooks labelled the criteria for projected energy growth used by the department as "unrealistic".

The minister expressed concern over problems stemming from provincial jurisdiction over recommendation number eight. David Brooks answered this by saying that the proposals did not exclude participation from any level of government, "it simply suggests each level must contribute its own expertise".

Pertaining to the development of the Alternative Energy Corporation Mr. Lalonde said it received a \$20 million commitment from the Federal government. During its formation, consultation will take place with existing departments and organizations to set a blueprint for its operation. "It is critical to understand what has been done and what is required," Lalonde stressed.



ENERGY CONSERVATION

Prepared by Susan Holtz, Ecology Action Centre, Halifax

It has become apparent, especially in the last three years, that the potential for energy conservation is far greater than previously realized. "Soft path" scenarios developed in Canada and elsewhere indicate that, with existing technology, a per capita reduction of energy use to about half of today's level by 2025 is both feasible and also compatible with continuing economic growth. Moreover, technical developments in the past few years have been very encouraging. Quite ordinary-looking, reasonably priced houses can and have been built whose heating load is so small that it can be met largely by the hot water system plus the heat from appliances and people in the house. That such significant technical improvements in efficiency are possible belies the myth that a high conservation scenario implies severe personal and social austerity. This large scope for technical improvement also means that conservation savings are not merely in the short term. On the contrary, as time goes on, older capital stock, like cars, buildings, and industrial machinery, gets replaced, year by year, with new stock that is increasingly efficient. Conservation, in short, is not an option which we will soon exhaust, returning then to "business as usual".

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conservation must be supported by the Canadian government as the keystone of energy policy, with national targets set for at least the next two decades. No higher than zero energy growth is the suggested target by the 1990s. The commitment to "off-oil" as the Department's major policy thrust must be immediately reversed. Though substitution is a valid component of energy policy, conservation must take absolute and explicit precedence. Furthermore, where off-oil programs are appropriate they must stress renewable energy sources and avoid increased use of electricity for such purposes as home

heating. The effective (though unofficial) emasculation of the policy development function of the Conservation and Renewable Energy Branch must be reversed.

2. Pricing of all forms of energy must be at replacement costs. Protection for those individuals, industries, and communities least able to adapt must be undertaken in the transition period through the tax system, social welfare programs, and other means.

3. Barriers to conservation through preferential treatment of supply projects by the Canadian government, in both financing and policy emphasis, must be removed. Mechanisms to provide equal access to capital for the decentralized measures needed for energy conservation as is available for large scale supply projects must be developed by the Canadian government in conjunction with provincial and municipal governments.

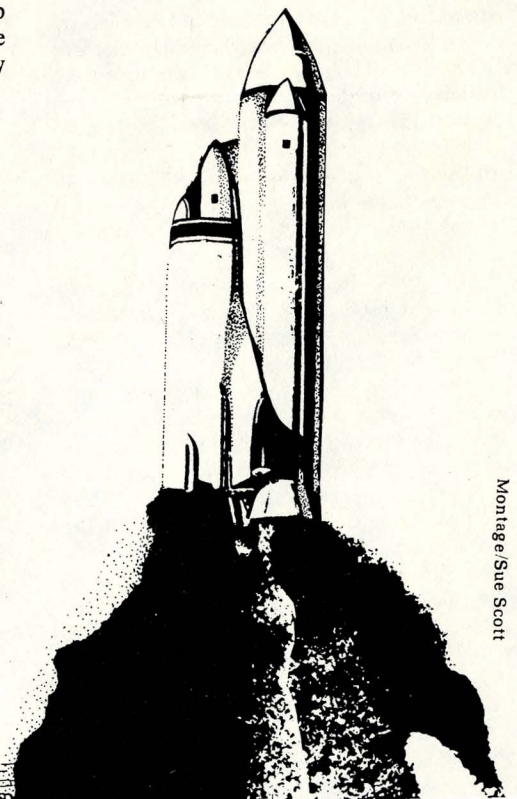
4. The role of the Canadian government in developing and enforcing efficiency standards, especially for cars, appliances, and federal buildings must be increased. Gradualism in this case has few if any benefits, and standards should be developed as rapidly as possible.

5. Costs of regulation, health impacts, and environmental degradation and clean-up should be explicitly accounted for as the disbenefits in the economic analysis of energy supply projects.

MINISTER'S RESPONSE

Mr. Lalonde responded to the presentation saying he wanted to make it perfectly clear that the proposed off-oil conversion plan does not threaten the government conservation program. "No emasculation of the conservation branch will take place," the Minister promised. The off-oil plan is only a policy, not a major policy thrust, he said.

Although he agreed with the concept of replacement cost for energy, "that doesn't mean we should be at world prices", Lalonde said. The minister also expressed doubts on the predictions of consumption patterns in the presentation, saying he would consider them in greater depth, after more background statistics on which they were based were made available.



Montage/Sue Scott



"We are the curators of life on earth. We hold it in the palm of our hands. It is

our responsibility as spiritual, moral and feeling human beings,

MARKET PLACE PLAZA

By Ginny Point

On February 28, 1980, Halifax City Council approved (by a 5-4 vote) a proposal by Halifax developer Bob Stapells, to build an office building at the corner of Brunswick and George Streets. The building would rise about 100 feet above Brunswick Street. It would be eight storeys high on the Brunswick side and ten storeys high on Market Street.

The Ecology Action Centre (and a number of other individuals and organizations) appealed the City's decision to the Planning Appeal Board of the Province of Nova Scotia, on the grounds that Council's decision was inconsistent with the City's Municipal Development Plan. Fortunately for the Centre, Blair Mitchell and Wilson Fitt agreed to represent EAC at the hearing, for what amounts to a token fee. Thank you Blair and Wilson.

At the hearing, which commenced the 12th of May, argument was first heard from the respondent, Canterbury Investments Ltd. The initial witnesses, many from City Hall, maintained that the building was, indeed, consistent with the MDP. Edmund Morris, who was mayor when council first approved the development, testified that he would have voted in favour of the proposal had there been a tie vote. He did admit, however, that he did not think the building would enhance the view from the Citadel.

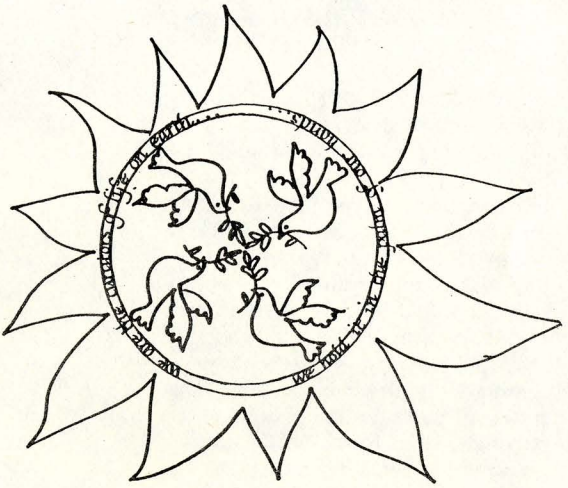
The appellants had an impressive array of witnesses, too many to list in this update. However, I would like to draw attention to those who testified on behalf of EAC's position, or who were particularly helpful in developing our case.

Hugh Milward, an urban geographer from St. Mary's University; Rev. Herman Campbell, formerly from Brunswick Street United Church; and Forbes Thompson, an official surveyor; all presented expert testimony on behalf of the Centre. Other people who assisted in the case were Philip McAleer, an architectural historian; Ed Babb, city planner and former member of the Halifax Planning Department; Kell Antoft, Director of the Institute of Public Affairs; James Darley, an environmental psychologist; Douglas Day, an urban geographer and Tom Pinfold, an economics professor at Dalhousie University.

The combined testimony from all the witnesses for the appellants focused on critical concerns such as the height and mass of the proposed building, its incompatibility with other historic structures on Brunswick Street, its effect on Barrington Street, the failure to provide residential space, its implications for planning process currently underway for Brunswick Street, and for other detailed area plans.

*Safe Energy Film
and Video Festival*

HALIFAX, SEPT. 29-OCT. 5



News has travelled fast throughout the region about this week-long presentation. More than fifty films and tapes from Canada, the U.S. and Europe will be shown in afternoon and evening screenings, with participation by Wormwood Theatre, NFB, Videotheatre and the Atlantic Filmmakers' Co-op.

Some films relate nuclear power generation to questions of health, weapons, environment and civil rights. Others illustrate world-wide examples of small, community-based energy projects, using renewable energy sources. The powerful Helen Caldicott videotape concerning Three Mile Island, and low-level radiation in general, will be shown daily.

If you would like to help, you can leave your name at the Ecology Action Centre and we'll pass it on.

"to save this planet." Helen Caldicott.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE NOTES

Since October, we have been collecting paper from Spryfield on a biweekly basis. In late February, we began in Fairview. With the truck and crew generously donated by Coalition Supportive Services we were able to collect an average of 6000 pounds from Spryfield every two weeks, with about 18% of the households putting their paper out, and 3800 pounds of paper every two weeks in Fairview, where about 10% of the houses were participating in the program.

Based on these encouraging results, and the promise of a higher dollar value for the paper collected, we moved into Phase II of the project. We hired three staff, under the Provincial Summer Employment Program—Fred Wendt, Diane MacDougall, and Leslie Swann. They intended to continue the weekly pickups in Spryfield and Fairview, and to prepare eight additional neighbourhoods for inclusion into the program by September.

However, the salvage paper market appears to be less stable than originally apparent. At present we can't be guaranteed a price for our paper sales which will support the operation. The Recycling Committee is now faced with a hard decision as to whether or not to expand the program as originally planned, or to choose some modified scheme. We'll keep you posted.



FIFTEEN THOUSAND SIGNATURES ON ANTI-NUCLEAR PETITION

On March 3, 1980, an Ecology Action Centre delegation, representing about ten groups around the province, presented to N.S. Premier John Buchanan a petition opposing provincial involvement in nuclear energy development. Approximately 15,500 signatures from Nova Scotians were collected during the summer and fall months of 1979.

Spokesperson for the group, George de Alth, commented, "The strong response to this petition campaign by the Nova Scotia public represents a real and growing distrust of nuclear energy. Many people signed the petition as a way of expressing their specific concern about the Point Lepreau (N.B.) nuclear power plant that's now under construction. These people are worried about the effects of an accident at Point Lepreau. And they're also worried about foreclosing other energy options for Nova Scotia if we get involved in that—or any other—nuclear facility.

"Health effects are what worry most people," he added, "but energy planners in Nova Scotia should also think about the financial risks. The biggest casualty of the Three Mile accident so far is the financial soundness of the utility that owns the plant. Nova Scotia simply can't afford to gamble with those kind of stakes."

WE NEED MORE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Can you be a sustaining member of EAC for a year by pledging \$10 a month?



It is only
a little planet
But how beautiful it is.

Robinson Jeffers

Ecology Action Centre, Halifax

WANTED: A HEALTHY GREEN PLANET

We still have a quantity of these beautiful multi-colour, 17" x 32" posters. Do you belong to a group that could buy or sell some in support of the Ecology Action Centre? Advance Christmas shopping? Prizes?

They sell for \$3.00 each plus 25c mailing charges. Or you can pick up a bunch, plus mailing tubes, at the Centre.



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EAC CALLS FOR A HALT TO URANIUM ACTIVITY IN NOVA SCOTIA

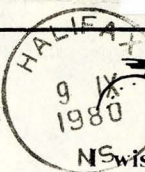
February 29, 1980: Ecology Action Centre today called on the Hon. Ron Barkhouse, N.S. Minister of Mines & Energy, to follow British Columbia's lead and prohibit uranium development in this province. B.C. announced this week that it was imposing a 7 year freeze on uranium mining.

Uranium exploration activity in N.S. has increased dramatically over the past three years, although no mining has started yet. A number of international oil and mineral companies are involved in the exploration.

EAC's research coordinator Susan Holtz noted that many more people have contacted the Centre about the issue during this year than ever before, reflecting both the increased exploration and also greater public distrust of nuclear energy.

SUPPORT FOR VALLEY TRAIN

People are responding to the new fares and improved schedules of VIA RAIL's service to the Annapolis Valley; in fact, there has been a 450% increase in traffic since the service went into effect June 8! Comments include appreciation of the possibility to go to Halifax from Yarmouth and return the same day, as well as approval of the new cars, catered and bar service. Excursion rates are cheaper than driving; the route is more scenic than the highway. All in all, passengers agree, a comfortable way to travel.



Membership Form

NS wish to join Ecology Action Centre and receive free copies of JUSUN, the E.A.C. newsletter.

- \$10 individual membership
- \$25 contributing membership
- \$75 professional membership
- \$100 corporate membership
- \$10 a month for one year sustaining membership

Serials Department
Killam Library
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Expiry: May 80

All payments are tax-deductible. Mail your payment to Ecology Action Centre, Forrest Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Please renew Today!

