

Three (count 'em) Successes for Greens

There is rarely anything to celebrate in environmental news in Alberta, but as 1996 faded away and 1997 crept in there were three pieces of good news:

1. The government has been forced to admit that the Swan Hills toxic waste disposal plant is spreading PCB pollution over the surrounding land. High levels were found in local game and small animals. Charges are pending.
2. The Alberta Government has been forced to release a report on the effects of petroleum production on cattle. They had previously released only a sanitized summary and locked up the original.
3. Alberta environmentalist's protests against "Cheviot" coal strip mine next door to Jasper National Park are making the news in Alberta and around the world.

Make it your New Year's resolution to get involved in at least one issue that protects the people, the wildlife and the habitats of Alberta!

One way to get involved is to support the Alberta Greens in the upcoming 1997 provincial election. Your time, money or candidacy will help bring the environment and other Green issues to the forefront of debate. Call us today (see page 3 for contact information), don't delay!

Green Party of Canada Leader Resigns

Wendy Priesnitz, leader of the Green Party of Canada resigned suddenly on the 13th of January. Harry Garfinkle of Edmonton has been appointed interim leader until a new leader can be appointed.

Wendy's resignation indicates that she was disenchanted because she was unable to make the changes within the party that she wanted, and that she did not get the cooperation and support from non-governmental agencies that she needed and expected.

Her resignation is certainly a blow to the Green Party of Canada, however several people have expressed interest in this position, and it is expected to be filled by membership ballot within the next few months.

My personal feelings are that Wendy tried to move too far, too fast. In doing so, she encountered some resistance from long-time members of the party. This probably would have eventually dissipated, if she had given personality conflicts time to iron themselves out. Also, it was overly optimistic to expect non-governmental agencies to break the habit of associating with politicians with power who sweet-talk them, rather than supporting politicians with no power today, but who espouse more similar beliefs.

It is important to note that this resignation does not directly affect the Alberta Greens, which is a completely separate political party.

-David Crowe

Calgary 2005 Exposition Boycott

The Alberta Greens have joined a boycott of the Calgary bid to host the 2005 World Exposition. Calgary is competing against Nagoya, Japan and The Gold Coast, Australia, for the right to host the 2005 Expo.

The Calgary Expo 2005 committee submitted a bid proposal to the BIE in June 1996. The theme which has been adopted by the Corporation for the Calgary bid is: "The Land: Our Common Ground" and two sub-themes: "Celebrating Our Ties to The Land" and "Finding Balanced Solutions for Living".

In the light of the stark reality of how the land and aboriginal peoples have been and continue to be abused in Alberta, a group of Calgary and Alberta based environmental, aboriginal, social justice and poverty activists, including the Alberta Greens, have initiated a boycott campaign against the Calgary Expo bid.

BACKGROUND

The level of frustration and the degree of helplessness felt by Alberta citizens who care about environmental, aboriginal, social justice and poverty issues has dramatically increased throughout the 25 year regime of the Conservative Government. Regulatory interventions, court actions and rational argument have all been ineffective in producing progressive changes in public policy with regard to these many pressing issues.

In situations which are driven by the business agenda, a boycott is a powerful and widely used technique for influencing public policy and creating social change.

ISSUES

Democracy:

The Calgary Expo bid is being driven by a narrow group of government and special interest corporate promoters, with the complete absence of any public democratic process such as a plebiscite. In view of the history of Expo failures, the lack of such a process is unacceptable.

Economic:

The Calgary Expo bid is presently anticipated to cost Calgary, Alberta and Canadian taxpayers \$200 million. The Corporation's estimates of economic benefits are highly suspect. A review of past Expo performances suggests that a substantial deficit will burden the taxpayer. In the shadow of dramatic cuts in public funding for environment, health, education and social services, this level of public funding is inappropriate.

Environmental:

In spite of the efforts of the Conservative Government to portray Alberta as an environmentally progressive jurisdiction, the reality is that the environment is chronically and systematically abused. In the light of this harsh reality, the choice of theme: "The Land: Our Common Ground" is the ultimate in hypocrisy.

Aboriginal:

Aboriginal cultures have traditionally had close spiritual ties to the land, but this traditional relationship has been severed by almost 200 years of systematic persecution by the Government of Canada and, more recently, the Government of Alberta. It is hypocritical to appear to honour the traditional aboriginal spiritual connection to the land while governments and corporations actively support environmental racism and the theft of natural resources from aborigi-

nal peoples.

Poverty:

20% of Canadian children live in poverty. The Calgary Expo will result in the displacement of low and fixed income residents from inner city communities, causing more social upheaval and physical and emotional trauma. These disadvantaged citizens of Calgary's inner city should not have to bear the additional burden of inequitable land development policies associated with the Calgary Expo development.

TIME LINE

In June 1997 the BIE will decide which location (Nagoya, Japan; Calgary; or the Australian Gold Coast) will be awarded the Exposition. The Expo is slated to begin early in 2005.

BOYCOTT PLAN

A boycott of the Calgary 2005 Expo has been initiated. The principal objectives of the boycott are:

1. To advocate for a democratic, grass roots discussion about the costs and benefits of the Expo bid, and to push for a fair and democratic plebiscite.
2. To expose the Canadian and Alberta Governments' chronic disregard and contempt for environmental and human rights issues.

COMMUNICATION

The communication strategy under development by the Boycott Committee includes the following components:

1. We will focus on achieving international exposure of the boycott campaign rather than local or provincial exposure.
2. Information will be disseminated primarily through the use of the internet from the Boycott Committee's Web Page, which is currently under development.
3. Other provincial, national, and international environmental, aboriginal and social justice groups will be contacted by the Committee to seek their participation and support

for the boycott.

The Expo Boycott will have two distinct phases. Before June 1997, the focus will be to convince the BIE not to award Calgary the 2005 Expo. If Calgary is awarded the Expo, the focus of the boycott will be to convince other countries not to participate in Calgary's Expo and to convince international travellers not to visit Calgary or Alberta during the 2005 Expo year.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you wish to help with the boycott, please contact the boycott committee. An interim office has been established in Calgary. It can be reached by telephone at (403) 266-2468, by e-mail at expoboycott@rmec.org or on the Web at <http://rmec.org/expoboycott>.

Sears Supports Shell

You may be offered a deal that you cannot refuse next time you try to pay cash at Sears. If you apply for a Sears credit card, you will receive a \$10 rebate ... and your card can be used at Shell gas stations ... great unless you disapprove of Shell's relationship with the Nigerian dictatorship that hangs people who protest too loudly. Perhaps getting the card and cancelling it with a note as to why is a better protest than simply refusing to apply. If it saves you any money, donate it to the Alberta Greens! Thanks to Allan McCreary for this idea.

Scott Paper Cancels Unbleached Products

Scott Paper has stopped producing and distributing unbleached paper products. As a consequence stores supplied by Scott Paper no longer have a choice of unbleached papers - for example, unbleached toilet paper.

The reason given is that, "There was not enough demand", probably partly due to the higher prices of unbleached products. You can register your dissatisfaction by phoning Scott Paper (for free) at 1-800-667-0775. Do it today!

International Green News

USA: Ralph Nader's campaign was a big boost for the US Green parties at both the federal and state levels.

California: The big news was in the city of Arcata, which now has a Green majority on their City Council! Jennifer Hanan and Bob Ornelas won seats on their 5-member council, joining Green Jason Kirkpatrick. In Santa Monica, a city of 90,000 people, Michael Feinstein presented a mix of environmental and labor messages in his successful campaign to win a City Council seat, coming in 2nd for 4 seats out of a field of 13 candidates. Two Greens won City Council seats in Berkeley: Dona Spring was re-elected for the second time and has been joined by long-shot candidate Chris Cavanagh. Tom Radulovich was elected to the Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors in San Francisco.

New Mexico: The Greens maintained their major party status, with Peggy Helgeson receiving 11% of the vote for Corporation Commission. This is just as high as Roberto Mondragon, Steven Schmidt, and Pat Wolff did two years ago --- showing the Greens are no "flash in the pan".

Green candidate Abraham Gutmann only received 4% statewide, but he gained 17% in Santa Fe County and 8% in Bernalillo, where Green organizations are stronger. His candidacy also helped the Greens build new alliances, including endorsements from the Conservation Voters Alliance and the Human Rights Election Fund, both of which have primarily endorsed Democrats in the past.

In Albuquerque, Bob Anderson got 29% for State Legislature. In three-way races, Greens continued to make credible showings: Andres Vargas received 25% of the vote for District Attorney in Taos, Colfax and Union Counties. In two-way races against Democrats, Greens do as well as Republicans. Scott Jones got 25% for County Commission in Cibola County, and Roberto Mondragon got 35% for State Legislature in Santa Fe.

The New Mexico Greens continue to grow, with over 5,800 registered members compared to just 700 two years ago. They remain New Mexico's preeminent third party, doing significantly better than the Libertarians, Natural

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Office location	#9, 610 - 8th Ave. SW, Calgary	
Mailing address:	Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6.	
Phone:	(403) 269-2384.	
Fax:	(403) 289-1465.	
Email:	molders@freenet.calgary.ab.ca	
Web:	http://www.freenet.calgary.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html	
Leader	David Parker	469-1448
President	David Crowe	289-6609
Secretary	Madeleine Oldershaw	282-4788
Treasurer	Pam Munroe	245-3441

Meetings

For information on meeting dates, times and locations, call Madeleine Oldershaw in Calgary, or David Parker in Edmonton.

Comment

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6, by fax to (403) 289-6658 or by email to crowed@cadvision.com.

Change of Address

Please let us know your new address when you move. Include your name, old and new addresses and date of the move.



Law, and Taxpayer parties in statewide and local races.

Minnesota: Cam Gordon, the first Green candidate in Minnesota, made an excellent showing for State Legislature with 25% in a three-way race.

Hawai'i: Green candidates Keiko Bonk, Julie Jacobsen and Julie Leialoha each came in second out of three candidates (beating two Democrats and a Republican) in races for Big Island Mayor and County Council.

Wisconsin: Ralph Nader and running mate Winona LaDuke received more votes in central Madison than Bob Dole, Ross Perot or any other third party candidate. They received more than 28,000 votes statewide, guaranteeing the party ballot status through 1998.

Nationwide: Green Party members hold local office in 12 states, including School Board, City Council, and County Commission seats.

Ralph Nader, candidate for US president, did best in Oregon, where he received 4.1% of the vote. However, his campaign qualified new Green parties in Vermont, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Nevada, Minnesota, and Washington D.C., and greatly raised public awareness of the Greens.

The Green Party emerged as the fourth largest party in the US, beating out the Libertarians in popular vote, although Greens ran candidates in only 21 states while Libertarians ran in all 50 states.

Mexico: The Green Party of Mexico (PVEM) has formed a "partial alliance" with the left-leaning Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) for specific congressional and gubernatorial races but will run its own candidate for Mexico City mayor in July 1997, according to the party's director general.

New Zealand: Greens ran under the banner of the "Alliance" coalition, which received 10% of the vote and 13 seats in the legislature (out of 120). However, they were not invited to join the 'business as usual' coalition of the previously ruling National Party and New Zealand First - sworn enemies un-

til this marriage of convenience which provides a slight majority of seats in parliament.

Brazil: 13 Green mayors were elected in October 1996 local elections (compared to 3 in 1992 elections). 189 Green city council deputies were also elected.

Skiing Louise Breaks the Law with Applause from Parks Canada

A group of environmentalists from Banff, Alberta protested the November 1996 World Cup Ski Race at Lake Louise in Banff National Park. Their sardonic message was:

"CONGRATULATIONS, AND SORRY

We Canadians are proud of our ski team. We welcome skiers from around the world! But sorry, we don't deserve to host racers of your quality. We apologise on behalf of all Canadians, because our government and this ski area broke the laws of our National Parks for this 1996 World Cup Race.

Parks Canada, Skiing Louise Ltd. and the Alberta Alpine Ski Association violated Canada's National Parks Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act under pressure from the International Ski Federation. They cleared twice as many trees for course changes as was proposed and they plowed ahead with chainsaws and bulldozers before the environmental assessment was approved.

In a National Park that's poaching. Skiing Louise Ltd. has a disastrous environmental record here at our favourite ski area. Sorry, we in Canada fail to live up to the world class environmental standards the World Cup racers deserve.

So we gather on the hill today to celebrate Banff Park as a World Heritage Site. We celebrate biodi-

Ontario Greens Jailed for Protecting Temagami

On October 5, 1996 five Green Party of Ontario members, including leader Frank de Jong, were arrested while blocking the Rabbit Lake road to protest logging in the Owain Lake old-growth forest.

The Green Party of Ontario is protesting the Harris government's decision to allow conventional (i.e. clearcut) logging and mining in Temagami where Native land claims have yet to be resolved.

According to GPO leader Frank de Jong, "The Harris government has no right to open up these lands to logging and mining. Not only does this ignore the crucial issue of unresolved land disputes, but it also dismisses the importance of preserving biodiversity."

Frank de Jong added, "Mechanization, not environmentalists, has reduced the number of logging jobs. Instead of liquidating the minuscule amount of old-growth left in Temagami, the Ontario government should be protecting it and promoting it as the focal point of a thriving eco-tourism industry that is both economically viable and ecologically sustainable in the long-term."

For more information on the Green Party of Ontario phone (613) 237-4768 or write to Box 35101, Ottawa, K1Z 1A2.

Canadian Recycling Handbook

The Canadian Recycling Handbook is available for \$79.95 (plus taxes, shipping and handling) from #129, 2424 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4C 1K9 (phone: 416-423-0182). It is available on computer disk for about \$20 more. This list of companies provides contact information, materials accepted, recycling services (e.g. pickup services, fees and payments) and products manufactured from the recycled goods.

Greens Oppose Sable Island Gas Extraction

The North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group (NSAPG) in Nova Scotia opposes the proposed extraction and distribution of Sable Island gas.

NSAPG is made up of land-owners and concerned citizens who oppose the Sable Gas Project, both off-shore and on-shore, because this Project has the potential to cause significant negative impacts on:

- rural landowners along the pipeline routes, imposed without their consent;
- ^a human health and safety;
- the nearby land and sea;
- the atmosphere, through global warming;
- energy resources available to present and future Nova Scotians.

NSAPG provides a forum for the discussion of these and other concerns related to the Sable Gas Project. Through meetings, research, public presentations, petitions, press releases and so on, NSAPG seeks to develop a better informed public who will come together to challenge and ultimately stop the Sable Gas Project.

To contact NSAPG write:

Citizens against the Sable Island Pipeline,

P.O. Box 874
New Glasgow
Nova Scotia B2H 5K7.

You can also send email to greenweb@fox.nstn.ca.

Write a Letter: Protect Mahogany

By Lorna Visser of the Calgary Rainforest Action Group, with research by Tim Keating of Rainforest Relief.

In the United States, environmentalists have been successful in winning a key measure which will help save rainforests -- the U.S. government will propose that mahogany be more fully protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Canadians must urge the Canadian government to support this listing.

Concerned citizens in the U.S. were successful in their efforts to gain support from key officials for a U.S. proposal that Bigleaf (or Latin American) mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) be listed on Appendix II of CITES.

The United States has notified the CITES Committee in Geneva stating its intention to propose listing at the Convention of the Parties meeting in June. If so listed, international trade to and from countries which have signed the CITES treaty (nearly all) would be restricted to that trade which is documented to be legal and from sources that do not threaten the species' wild status, theoretically reducing the volume traded between countries to sustainable levels.

Their efforts included a letter-writing and postcard campaign aimed at Vice President Al Gore (who has supported listing mahogany on Appendix II in the past, as well as other initiatives to protect tropical forests), Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, and Undersecretary of State Timothy Wirth. A week-long series of demonstrations by various groups around the country culminated with a protest organized by EarthCulture in front of the Old Executive Office Building (Al Gore's office) on December 7. On hearing of the protest plans, the White House scheduled a briefing with The US Fish and Wildlife Service on the issue. Rainforest Action Network and Defenders of Wildlife each gathered signatures from around the country on a letter to Gore and others. Each letter was signed by leaders of over a hundred environmental organizations, representing total memberships in the millions.

Some eighty percent of US mahogany im-

ports are Bigleaf Mahogany, mostly decades to centuries old trees from virgin forests in Brazil and Bolivia.

According to the former Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who headed the delegation that proposed Bigleaf Mahogany to be listed on Appendix II of CITES in 1992, "The Caribbean and Bigleaf species of American mahogany have been the subject of intense use and habitat losses that have damaged their abundance and quality as species, risking their ecological extinction."

The US and Costa Rica proposed listing a number of mahogany species four years ago. At that meeting, Caribbean Mahogany was listed, but by then, it was all but commercially extinct, having been nearly eradicated from its natural range.

Brazil, the largest mahogany exporter, and Costa Rica placed the species on a non-binding nature protection treaty in 1965. Brazil supported the CITES listing in 1992 (as did most other range states), but Brazil was against it in 1994 and again this year. It is unlikely that Brazil will support listing in June. Large profits are made from mahogany exports by a few very powerful logging interests in the country. Much of the federal policy reflects a sympathetic attitude toward timber exports, even though much of them originate from illegal operations.

In mahogany exporting countries, illegal logging is rampant. According to a report by Friends of the Earth and substantiated by others, around 80% of the mahogany exported from Brazil and Bolivia has been taken illegally from indigenous reserves and parks and preservation areas. At least eight indigenous groups have had members killed and many others have been beaten at the hands of mahogany loggers.

The Brazilian institute of Environmental and Renewable Natural Resources and the Brazilian Botanical Society have declared Bigleaf Mahogany in danger of extinction. A coalition of over 80 environmental, human rights and indigenous groups have called for a moratorium of all logging of mahogany until the status of the species can be determined.

The US Forest Service has been against listing on Appendix II in both previous meetings of CITES (1992 and 1994), and this year was no different. In 1994, the US State Department also opposed listing. Those pressures on then-President Bush in addition to intense industry lobbying caused the US to retract its proposal. But, a proposal from the Netherlands went forward to a vote. The measure to list received a majority of votes in favour (50 to 33), including those of the United States, the European Union and also most of the 13 "range states" -- the countries where Bigleaf Mahogany is native -- but not the two-thirds majority needed to pass.

This year, however, may be different. Much more is known about the depletion of the species in the wild. Studies have shown that the species is not regenerating in its natural range after logging. According to Dr. Laura Snook, now a professor at Duke University and author of one study, highly selective logging of mahogany in the tropics creates conditions which prevent the species from reproducing. Mahogany trees need sunlight to grow and the seeds do not survive beyond one rainy season. Trees typically need to be over 120 years old to reach even the minimum legal allowable diameter for harvest in Brazil. No new mahogany seedlings are evident where the species has been logged in the past.

In many countries, including Brazil, illegal and legal mahogany logging is the main mechanism for the creation of new roads into pristine forests. This can lead to further deforestation in areas where pressures to expand agriculture are intense. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 70% of deforestation is precipitated by logging and mining roads.

Intense pressure to reduce imports of mahogany has occurred in Europe over the last five years, spurred by numerous groups including Friends of the Earth. A unique series of demonstrations, begun in England by a group known as CRISPO, involved retrieving "stolen"

mahogany from retail stores and delivering it to the local police station for investigation. This, combined with an intense education campaign around Europe, resulted in a four-fold drop in mahogany imports into the European Union (EU).

If you care about this issue, write to Canada's Environment Minister, The Hon. Sergio Marchi:

The Hon. Sergio Marchi,
Minister of the Environment,
House of Commons,
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6

Urge Mr. Marchi to add Canada's voice to those calling for big leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) to be listed in Appendix II of CITES. No stamp is required on your letter.

Organic Production & Marketing Conference

A conference on organic production and marketing will be held February 27 and 28, 1997 at Olds College Alberta

The conference will include an overview of the Organic Industry by Nick Orton, board member for both the Organic Trade Association (OTA) and the Canadian Organic Advisory Board (COAB).

Topics that will be discussed are:

- The Canada Organic program;
- The Organic Marketplace;
- How to become Certified Organic;
- On-farm processing - adding value to your production;
- Production techniques for livestock, field & horticulture crops;
- Organic weed control.

The cost is estimated at \$225, with an anticipated lower fee for students.

For more information, please contact Geraldine Byrne in Extension services at Olds College (phone 403-556-8254) or Raphael Thierrin by email (raphael@nucleus.com)

Greening Cities: Building Just and Sustainable Communities

The book "Greening Cities: Building Just and Sustainable Communities", by Joan Roelofs, is now available. It is published by The Bootstrap Press, which bills it as:

"A treasure trove of practical ideas that embody Green values of social and environmental justice and are actually working on the ground in small, medium, and large cities, as well as some rural communities, all around the world. It shows how these values can and are being incorporated in local government policy and how they shape voluntary efforts by community groups.

Topics covered range from urban design, democracy and culture to energy, water, transportation, food, waste, health, economy, and recreation.

Originally conceived as a workbook for students in urban and environment studies, public administration, geography, and planning, *Greening Cities* is also useful for community leaders, activists, and indeed anyone concerned about and committed to building a more just and sustainable society."

A sample of advance praise: "Joan Roelofs has brought together for us many of the most inspiring projects that are creating more sustainable communities in all corners of the globe. *Greening Cities* is a very welcome source of information and an inspiration for this process."

-- Jan Juffermans, author of the guide, *Sustainable Lifestyles*, recently published by Towns and Development, an international network of local authorities, NGOs, and community groups.

Available from The Bootstrap Press, 777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 3C, New York, NY 10017. E-Mail: cipany@igc.apc.org. Phone: 1-800-316-2739. The price is US\$24.50.