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## Manitoba Model Forest Annual Report 1998/99

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### President's Message



1998/99 President Trent Hreno

We have now completed two years of Phase II of the Canadian Model Forest Program, with three years left to go. As a Model Forest we have accomplished many things, and as President for the past year I can not help but be enthusiastic and excited about the progress of the Manitoba Model Forest in 1998. For our Model Forest it was a year of increased partnerships with forest stakeholders across Manitoba, Canada and indeed internationally. We saw increasing participation of aboriginal people on our Board of Directors and in project activities, and we successfully developed and implemented significant networking and technology transfer opportunities locally, as well as across the Canadian Model Forest Network.

The Manitoba Model Forest is primarily about people working together in a partnership to achieve social, environmental and economic sustainability in forest management. It is also a place where communities and traditional knowledge play a key role in forest management. As I reflect upon the new faces at this years expanded Board of Directors, I feel privileged to be a part of this organization. We now have four First Nations communities participating at the Board level, as well as representation from the Metis community. With thirty-one Directors currently on our Board, representing a wide spectrum of people, backgrounds and experience, our Model Forest is now the most diverse partnership in the entire Canadian Model Forest Network. We should be proud of this and of our success in working together in a true partnership. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our Board, as well as the countless *other* volunteers who have so generously given of their time.

I have a personal sense of accomplishment in the assistance we have brought to our sister Model Forest in Mexico. Mike Waldram and I, along with volunteers from both Model Forests have been involved in assisting the people of the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest look at ways of increasing the eco-tourism potential of their area. Through innovative economic diversification - eco-tourism development - local people will be able to reduce their dependence on timber harvesting within the designated Butterfly Reserves (which threatens the winter habitat of the Monarch Butterfly), while still providing for their families. This will help maintain healthy and sustainable forests *and* preserve the winter habitat of the Monarch Butterfly. This partnership effort links not only Manitoba and Mexico through our respective Model Forests, but as the project progresses has the potential to link aboriginal peoples, industry and environmental groups in an international co-operative effort. Having a modest yet focused international aspect to the Manitoba Model Forest is also of strategic importance, as we move closer to the end of Phase II and the beginning of serious discussions about the future of the Canadian Model Forest Program. On behalf of the Manitoba Model Forest, I look forward to continuing my involvement with this project as it progresses.

Looking back over the year, it is clear that our accomplishments go far beyond our expanded Board. While the participation of four First Nations communities and Metis representation at the Board level is a notable accomplishment in and of itself, the work being done in the First Nations Land Study will clearly result in significant long term benefit. The development of Criteria and Indicators of sustainable forest management (in which we have worked closely with the Canadian Forest Service this year) is also an extremely important initiative for us. These projects and the Natural Disturbance Regime project headed by Dr. James Ehnes, will result in "on the ground" application of ecologically sound forest management practices. The developments arising from further ongoing projects such as the Integrated Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee, and many others will also be the basis to ensure our forests are truly sustainable.

It is unlikely that any of the progress of the past year could have been accomplished without the dedicated, committed and hardworking Manitoba Model Forest staff. They have done an excellent job managing our limited resources, pursuing the goals and objectives of the program and keeping our partnership informed. I know that I speak for the entire Board in thanking them for their tremendous efforts over the past year.

In the coming years, we must *ensure* that what we have accomplished and recommended is actually implemented, in order to leave a lasting forest legacy. This will require increasing our efforts to successfully develop and implement networking and technology transfer opportunities locally, as well as across the Canadian Model Forest Network. Along with the other ten Model Forests across Canada, we will require the Canadian Forest Service's continued support and partnership as we take our Model Forest into the new millennium and begin Phase III of the Program.

Trent Hreno, President

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## Science Projects and Activities

The Manitoba Model Forest successfully completed many of its science based projects . Others are long term on-going projects. For further information about any of the projects discussed here contact the Manitoba Model Forest offices. Box 6500, Pine Falls, Manitoba, Canada R0E 1M0. Tel: 204-367-5232. FAX: 204-367-8897.

### 2.46 Ecosystem Based Management Project.

The expression "ecosystem-based management" is difficult to explain and impossible to translate. Instead, when working with the 16 communities in the research region for the Ecosystems Based Management project, the expression "caring for the land" is often used. It is a concept that many people can understand and that many in the region have been taught since birth. For it is on the ecosystems of the forest that the residents of the region rely for survival.

As a first step toward ecosystems based management for the Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Natural Resources has launched a pilot project in eco-region 90. This region includes the Manitoba Model Forest. In an effort to bring the best in experience, approaches and technologies to this process the Manitoba Model Forest has partnered with the province and numerous other organizations in this provincial initiative.

Ecosystems based management balances values associated with air, soils, water, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and forests with various land use activities, including industrial development. It involves new management approaches that consider the whole

ecosystems and not just specific resources, such as trees, wildlife, and water. It acknowledges the importance of the values people place on forests as a whole as well as the needs we have of the forest. It also recognizes our dependence on the continued health of all terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The new planning process being tested on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg will consider both public values and the ecological characteristics of the area. The results will be used to shape guidelines for applying Ecosystems based management principles and ideals to other eco-regions in the province.

The main objectives of the project is to first describe the natural features of eco-region 90, then an assessment will be conducted to determine the region's capacity for resource use and extraction. To ensure people's forest values and needs are considered in the assessment a variety of methods will be used to determine what people think is important about the area.

To start, the pilot project will evaluate and build upon current resource management practices and policies. This will be an exploration of what is being done and "how to do" Ecosystems based management. As a basis for this exploration the 1996 document "Manitoba's Forest Plan. ..Towards Ecosystems Based Management," will be used.

The presence of the Manitoba Model Forest was a key element in the decision to select eco-region 90 for the pilot project. It has a combination of intensively used areas with remote wilderness. It has a range of uses and values. It also has 6 years of research by the Manitoba Model Forest to support and assist in the development of new approaches and sustainable practices. Among the most important research projects underway is the Manitoba Model Forest's work in developing indicators to measure sustainable forest management.

Manitoba Natural Resources has taken the lead role in the Ecosystems based management project. The Steering Committee is composed of the Dr. Rod Boolean, Chair, Department of Biology, University of Winnipeg and director of the Manitoba Model Forest; Bill Sneer, Director of Forestry, Pine Falls Paper Company; Margaret Donnelly, regional biologist, Louisiana-Pacific Canada; Dr. Rick Baydack, Associate Director, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba; Bob En's, Director, Eastern Region, Manitoba Natural Resources; Gourd Jones Director of Forestry Branch, Manitoba Natural Resources; Jack Dubious, Associate Curator of Mammology and Ornithology, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature (Dubious was selected to represent environmental interests on behalf of several Manitoba organizations.): and it is chaired by Dr. Merlin Shoesmith, Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources. This group makes up the primary decision-making body for the project.

Work has begun with several First Nations on traditional land use and occupancy studies. With eight of the sixteen communities in eco-region 90 being First Nations, they are primary users of the land. Given their unique legislated rights and traditional knowledge of the area, First Nations people have a significant role in defining and implementing a successful Ecosystems Based Management pilot project. It is for this reason that several land use and occupancy studies are a first step towards ecosystems based management. These studies will increase our understanding of what is important about the area from a non-industry or non-resource extraction perspective.

## **2.47 Criteria and Indicators**

The development of Criteria and indicators of sustainable development in Manitoba began at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg. It was there that a workshop was held to develop a values determination process as it related to the six criteria for sustainability. Graham Forbes and Martin VonMirbach were brought in from New Brunswick and Newfoundland respectively to lend their expertise to the process.

This initial workshop led to a draft document outlining the indicators prepared by members of the Manitoba Model Forest and the Local Level Indicators working group. Subsequent workshops involving over 100 people of diverse backgrounds reviewed the initial draft document. Their critical analysis and suggestions resulted in a revised document of indicators which is to be reviewed by an even larger audience in 1999. The results of this Criteria and Indicators process are going to be incorporated into the Pine Falls Paper Company 2000-2010 Forest Plan. (For additional information on the Forest plan see <http://www.pinefallspapercompany.com>.)

Ultimately, the objective of this project is to implement a program which will identify, measure, monitor and report on indicators of sustainable forest management. Through the use of workshops and expert advise, the initial suite of indicators of Sustainable Forest Management is being developed across all six criteria identified by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers for local application. These indicators will be used as the basis for the development of a forest management plan by the Pine Falls Paper Company, the Manitoba Model Forest's industry partner.

A public review and input process will be developed to refine the initial indicator suite. This process will be managed by Pine Falls Paper Company with input from the Advisory Committee. In addition, a soil disturbance index will be developed through

Lakehead University for local application and reporting of soil conditions after harvest.

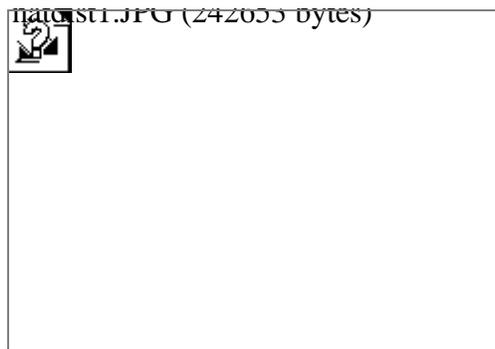
## 2.49 Natural Disturbances Regime

In Manitoba, there are many natural disturbances affecting the forest and its residents. Of these, fire is the most noteworthy. Over the course of the past 70 years, fire has shaped much of the forest region which is the Manitoba Model Forest. With an increasing emphasis on ecosystem based management it is, therefore, not surprising that emulating natural disturbances such as fire would be the focus of a Manitoba Model Forest research activity.

Implementing a forest management regime based on a better understanding of natural disturbance features and effects requires an understanding of the natural forces at work. Building upon a workshop held in 1997/98 in which researchers from across Canada introduced the concept of natural disturbance emulation in forest management, the Manitoba Model Forest implemented project 2.49 Natural Disturbance Regime. This project is researching wildfire disturbance and developing management regimes for eastern Manitoba.

The natural disturbance approach to maintaining forest ecosystem health attempts to design forest management practices that approximate the naturally occurring major disturbances of the region. The approach attempts to design timber harvest practices so that they generate forests that look and operate like natural ones.

There are several fire regimes in the Model Forest area. The boundaries of this region reflect the regime that accounts for the largest area. This region is characterized by exposed Canadian Shield, shallow mineral soils and bogs.



field inspection of sites

Wildfire is the dominant natural disturbance regime in the central Canadian boreal forest. To understand the effect of wildfire, post-fire changes in the composition and structure of woody material has been examined in the Manitoba Model Forest. A series of wildfires that occurred 0, 9, 15, 19, 22, 43 and 69 years prior to sampling were used to identify successional pathways for factors such as trees, recruitment, snags, and downed woody material. Age classes spanned the range of forest developmental stages from establishment to maturity. Trends in the various forms of woody material were examined for rock outcrops, thin mineral soils, moderately deep mineral soils, and bogs.

Historical maps indicate that over 90% of the study area has burned over the past 100 years. In combination, the pieces of information being gathered in this study suggest that few jack pine/ black spruce communities survive beyond 100 years, which is before the time when jack pine and black spruce usually start to die of old age.

It is extremely difficult to manage forests by developing guidelines for every species that we think is important. Managing for species however, often means that one species benefits at the expense of another. Finding a balance and assuming that the one created by nature is the one that has the smallest chance of creating serious problems. This is the basis for using fire as the disturbance when planning new management regimes. The plants and animals of this area have coped with frequent fire for thousands of years.

Designing timber harvest practices so that harvested areas look and operate like natural ones assumes that whatever species would be there naturally, will still be there if our management practices mimic what happens after natural disturbances. Harvest designs at the landscape scale means that operating areas should be large so that landscape flows and patterns are affected like wildfire. Disturbed areas, corridors and islands should be located in the same places that wildfire would typically leave them.

The information gathered and utilized in this study has resulted in timber harvest trials that commenced in February, 1999.

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study site post harvest

The process of designing and refining practices which emulate natural disturbances will be a long one. The knowledge and experience gained however, will be transferred through the production of guidelines, procedures and manuals. The Manitoba Model Forest has already begun the process of field tours and demonstrations to transfer the knowledge already gained and will continue to do so in the years to follow.

## 2.51 Spatial Model Development

Implementing spatial ( GIS ) forest inventory systems that incorporates enhanced stand, site and non-timber value information requires more than a familiarity with the available technologies. It also requires a review of these technologies to determine which will best suit the objectives that need to be achieved.

The Manitoba Model Forest in partnership with the Manitoba Forestry Branch and Pine Falls Paper Company held a technology transfer workshop on spatial models. The purpose of this event was to advise Manitoba Forestry Branch on how to use their existing Forest Inventory with the available spatial models. Modeling experts were on hand to introduce the available forest planning models. With this expertise assembled, discussion regarding the merits of the various models available took place. Practitioners and potential users of these models were able to evaluate models and benefit from the assembled experience.

Following on this workshop was a tour of forest industries. This tour allowed for a review of models in operation. This provided the practical as well as theoretical information needed to select the model or models to be used and applied in the Manitoba Model Forest area and across Manitoba. This intensive review of models and their applicability is necessary as the selected model(s) will need to be configured for Manitoba forest inventory and local growth and yield information. It is expected that there will be data gaps and uncertainty with forest succession and growth and yield information. As a result, a program to fill these data gaps will soon be implemented.

## 2.52 Black Spruce Genetic Biodiversity

With more effort being placed on replanting and regeneration of harvested areas with nursery stock, concerns are being raised over the genetic diversity of regenerated black spruce stands. The need for genetic diversity within the tree population is necessary to the long term survival of the forest. It is the genetic diversity which allows for the adaptation of the forest to changing climatic and other ecosystem shaping forces.

In general, the objective of this project is to implement a program to identify, measure, monitor and report on indicators of sustainable forest management. More specifically, the project will benchmark the genetic diversity inherent in natural black spruce populations. In addition, it will determine genetic impacts of natural disturbances, such as fire, and alternative silvicultural harvesting and regeneration systems on forest tree genetic diversity.

Subsequent monitoring of these factors can provide resource managers with an indicator of long-term forest sustainability and ecosystem health. By monitoring indicators, resource managers may be able to adjust forest plans and activities thus ensuring healthy and diverse forest ecosystems.

Activity in 1998, the first year of the project, began collecting data to describe benchmark information on levels of genetic diversity in mature and young fire origin black spruce stands. It will also provide the basis for comparison to genetic diversity existing in post-harvest naturally and artificially regenerated stands.

The work on isolation and characterization of DNA markers from Black spruce has been started. Identifying gene markers will

allow for the establishment of a genome library. This library will serve as a record of diversity to use as a reference in future years. This reference will be invaluable in assessing the genetic diversity of future forests and predicting their sustainability.

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## Social, Cultural and Community Projects and Activities

The following projects are reflective of the ongoing efforts to ensure cultural, social and community values are considered in the pursuit of sustainable forest practices. For further information about any of the projects discussed here contact the Manitoba Model Forest offices. Box 6500, Pine Falls, Manitoba, Canada R0E 1M0. Tel: 204-367-5232. FAX: 204-367-8897.

### 6.19 Scholarship Program

In recognition of academic achievement and excellence the Manitoba Model Forest has established the Manitoba Model Forest Achievement Awards for public school students within the Model Forest. In addition, the Manitoba Model Forest awards two scholarships. The aim of the scholarship is to assist students wishing to pursue post-secondary education in an environmentally related field in attaining their goal.

The cash achievement awards are made to full time students that attain the highest grade average with a full course load. Awards of \$200.00 for Grade 12 students and \$75.00 for Grade eight or nine are made at their graduation ceremonies. In the event of a tie, the cash prize is split equally. The Manitoba Model Forest relies on the school principals to advise them of the students that will be receiving the awards.

Last year, the schools involved in the program were: Lac du Bonnet Senior School, Powerview School, Springwell Elementary, St. Georges Francais School, Bissett School, Wanipigow, Hollow Water, Walter Whyte, Anicinabe School, Sagkeeng School, Fort Alexander/Sagkeeng, Pine Falls and Pinawa Secondary School

The Manitoba Model Forest began a scholarship program in 1997 for residents of the Model Forest to assist those who are pursuing a full time post secondary education at a recognized university or an accredited technical school. The \$2000.00 award is open to all areas of study, however preference is given to those applicants whose area of study is most applicable to the research and work being conducted within the Manitoba Model Forest.

While selection is largely based upon academic standing, the selection committee also considers life experience and other achievements. The successful candidates are selected from applicants by a committee set up by the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Model Forest.

In 1998, two Scholarships were awarded. These scholarship winners were; Colleen Chevrefils - Powerview School and Kristine Lussier - Lac du Bonnet Senior School

### 6.23 Moose Management Committee

In 1993, when the Manitoba Model Forest was first established, it was quickly recognized that moose populations in the Manitoba Model Forest region needed help. Various groups relied on the moose as an economic generator through tourism, sport, or in the case of area First Nations, a dietary staple. There was little in the way of cooperation between the competing interests that made up the area's moose stakeholders.



In 1994, a committee was struck to address this problem. Since that time, it has been the purpose of the Moose Management Committee to bring together stakeholder groups and work on a plan that benefited the moose and all stakeholders.

Today, the Moose Management Committee has evolved from a Manitoba Model Forest project to become a valuable sounding board for moose management issues. The role of the committee has evolved as well. While Manitoba Natural Resources is responsible for wildlife management, the members of the Moose Management Committee have become an advisory group dealing with issues of access control, moose harvest recommendations and control recommendations.

Currently, the Moose Management Committee is in the process of developing a work plan that will involve the employment of First Nations people to collect information and monitor moose hunting and populations. Their work in the coming year will build upon the information base accumulated over the past 5 years and enhance our understanding of moose use. They will develop further documentation of habitat use and conduct ongoing monitoring of habitat and moose populations in full cooperation with Manitoba Natural Resources. This expanded survey activity will be funded in part from the sale of hunting licenses.

The work of the Moose Management Committee has contributed to our understanding of factors affecting moose and how timber harvesting can be to create favorable habitat. They have gathered from other regions information on predator levels, the affect of brain worm, and competition from other species to develop successful monitoring programs and management strategies. Most importantly they have shared this information with moose stakeholders across the region.

In 1999, the Moose Management Committee will be expanding its role as an educator. Their publication, Moose News, will be distributed more widely as they expand their efforts to put accurate moose information into the hands of the people who rely on them.. Their efforts to seek input and advice from other user groups will be enhanced while providing access their accumulated experience and knowledge in return.

The goal of developing the Moose Management Committee was to create an operational committee with participation, experience, and advice from all interested parties. Today, the Moose Management Committee is a cohesive group of First Nations, Manitoba Natural Resources personnel, hunters, communities and environmental groups working in partnership to ensure a sustainable forest future.

## 6.25 Archaeological Model

Archaeologists long ago realized that an examination of archaeological, ecological, historical and ethnographical information including oral tradition information can be combined to provide a powerful tool. This tool allows for the interpretation of archaeological sites and prediction for potential site locations. The Archaeological Model under development uses a method of compiling all existing archaeological data for the Manitoba Model Forest region and using it to develop a predictive computer model. The model, once completed, will allow forest planners of all types to develop management plans that would allow for the preservation of potentially undiscovered heritage resources.

The Manitoba Model Forest is situated in a portion of the southern boreal forest which has evidence of over 8,000 years of human habitation. Since the establishment of the Manitoba Model Forest in 1992, many biophysical, sociological and economic studies have been undertaken within the boundaries of the model forest. This type of research has resulted in forestry companies becoming more aware of other forest user values. As a result, they are beginning to include traditional ecological knowledge and archaeological studies in their planning as a means of accommodating the non-timber values of the forest. They are also recognizing that a archaeological predictive model can be a powerful tool in planning forestry operations that protect historically significant sites.

A data base of available information is necessary so that informed decisions can be made with minimal or no impact to the

cultural or heritage landscape. It was therefore the purpose of the Archaeological Model project to gather known and available archaeological information and traditional ecological knowledge to create a data base of archaeological and traditional ecological knowledge sites. This base would then be used to create a map of these data on Manitoba Model Forest township maps.

Knowledge of the physical landscape and available natural resources is important for the interpretation of archaeological site locations and traditional ecological knowledge. It is therefore important that geological and wildlife studies would also be included in the information search.

Archaeological surveys and excavations have been conducted along the east side of Lake Winnipeg since 1950. These have contributed greatly to our understanding of the region's cultural history. As most of the archaeological investigations, however, took place along the shorelines of lake, this left a large gap in our knowledge of settlement history inland and potentially hundreds of undiscovered archaeological and heritage sites.

This project involved, in part, the collection of traditional knowledge of the area. In the past, the collection of traditional ecological knowledge from the resident First Nation and Metis people has been limited. While there is a wealth of knowledge in the many communities within the Manitoba Model Forest, most of this remains within the communities. It is not published or is not available at present to researchers. As elders have traditionally been the keepers of ancient oral records and detailed knowledge about the land and its resources, it was important to gather this valuable information before it was lost. As many of the Elders in these communities have passed away there has been a loss of information. It was therefore an important component of this project to gather what oral history is available before it too disappears.

In addition to traditional knowledge, biophysical studies consisting of geological, botanical and zoological research describing the various transitions of the landscape from the end of the last Ice Age to present; social studies provide ethnographical, archaeological and historic graphical data have also been compiled. The collected data was submitted to Pine Falls Paper Company for entry into their Geographic Information System for integration with their existing database. This information will prove useful in their ongoing harvest planning.

The study report currently available summarizes the various kinds information that were gathered to complete the mapping project. This includes a general review of the effects of deglaciation; the physiographic region; the cultural groups identified by the archaeological record; and the use of the oral tradition and traditional ecological knowledge. The study also includes wildlife studies which were reviewed for specific information regarding First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples' resource use. All of this information will be used to develop a predictive model which will allow for future identification of possible sites of archaeological importance.

## **6.26 Value determination**

Determining the values people attach to forest ecosystem states, goods and services is key to developing a comprehensive Ecosystem Based Management approach. It was necessary therefore that a component of the Ecosystem Based Management project research and facilitate the determination of values that need to be considered when planning forest operations in Eco-Region #90. In partnership with the Criteria and Indicators project and working with the Values Working Group, the Ecosystem Based Management project hired Angela Bidinosti under the NRCAn Intern Program. Bidinosti's role would be to research and facilitate the determination of values that need to be considered. Her work would lead to a masters Thesis from the Natural resources Institute, University of Manitoba.

The Canadian Model Forest program was established in 1992 as an initiative to accelerate the implementation of sustainable forest management. Each of the eleven Model Forests in Canada involve a variety of different stakeholders and partnership groups from the local, regional area in which they exist. The purpose of Bidinosti's research was to compare how various Model Forests have attempted to determine and incorporate information about forest values into their specific projects and activities.

The specific objectives were: to determine which forest values have been identified or documented; to establish the method(s) used to determine the forest values of various partner groups; to document the use of forest values in management, decision making and activities; and, to illustrate ways in which forest values have been, or could be, incorporated into sustainable forest management practices.

The study involved structured interviews with the General Managers and Program Management Board members (i.e., Board of Directors) of four case study Model Forests. These four were: Manitoba, Long Beach, Lake Abitibi and Foothills. Along with the results of these interviews, data was acquired from sources of Model Forest documentation such as annual reports and program evaluations. In addition, information was collected from direct observation of Board meetings at each of the case study sites. This information was used to analyze and compare how these Model Forests are attempting to incorporate forest values into their projects and programs.

The study also provides an overview of the values work being carried out in the Canadian Model Forest Program in general. To ascertain this information, structured interviews were conducted with the General Managers of five other Model Forests. These Model Forests were: McGregor, Prince Albert, Eastern Ontario, Bas Saint-Laurent, and Western Newfoundland.

The findings of the study reveal that the Model Forests have been effective in a number of ways. Model Forests have been viable vehicles to assist partner groups in putting the values into action. They have served as a good means to bring together people that hold diverse forest values. In bringing these interests together, Model Forests have increased the different partners' appreciation of the ways in which other people value the forest.

The finding also suggest however, that values research is still in its infancy and that more work needs to be done in the majority of the Model Forests in order for them to influence the transition to sustainable practices in the management of Canada's forests. While some initial work has been carried out to identify the forest values of the various MF Boards and local communities, much work remains to be done in implementing new and varied methods to collect this data.

Integrating diverse values into sustainable management decision making and activities of the Model Forests is an ongoing challenge. Having those agencies responsible for forest management recognize and learn from the Model Forest experience is a challenge in education and awareness which will be shaping the Model Forest experience into the new millenium.

## 6.27 Green Kids

Fostering awareness of the Model Forest program and the importance of sustainable forest management is one of the major objectives of the Manitoba Model Forest. Educating young people and involving them in Model Forest research and activities is however, a difficult task without the appropriate avenues into education facilities. Through a partnership with Green Kids, the Manitoba Model Forest was able to develop these avenues and bring the model Forest message to thousands of Manitoba youth



Green Kids is a non-profit charity group that performs interactive skits with environmental messages to over 40,000 children a year in Manitoba. In consultation with the Manitoba Model Forest a series of messages were designed by Green Kids that took the ideas, concepts and innovations of the Model Forest program into the schools. These messages were crafted and delivered by Green Kids in a way Manitoba youth could understand and relate to the world in which they live. The messages were delivered through scripts for the skits performed by Green Kids in schools, and newsletters produced and distributed through out the education system. All schools in the Manitoba Model Forest area were sponsored by the Manitoba Model Forest to receive Green Kid shows.

In 1999, a series of one minute television commercials are being produced in cooperation with Green Kids and other sponsors to take these sustainable forest messages to the youth of Canada. They will be broadcast through the Global Television network.

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## 6.28 Forest Educator workshop

Informing and training teachers in Manitoba about sustainable forest concepts and practices is an ongoing challenge for the Manitoba Model Forest. It is especially difficult given the increasing urbanization and thus removal from the natural world, of the province's population. To assist teachers in rediscovering the natural world and in acquiring the skills to teach their students about sustainable forest concepts the Manitoba Model Forest, in partnership with the Manitoba Forestry Association, Manitoba Natural Resources, Manitoba Hydro, University of Winnipeg, Pine Falls Paper Company and many volunteer partners, sponsored a three

day workshop for teachers in the Manitoba Model Forest.



Co-ordinated by the Manitoba Forestry Association and volunteer partners, this three day field workshop for Manitoba teachers was staged in Bel Air forest region of the Manitoba Model Forest. Professionals from different disciplines gave outdoor classroom lectures and provided the teachers with hands-on training in topics such as tree and plant identification, forest soils, entomology, wildlife management and silvicultural practices. By taking teachers from the classroom to the forest, teachers were able to gain a greater appreciation of the forest as well as experience the learning situation first hand. This experience will allow them to have a greater appreciation of how the student approaches the material. It also gives the teacher a better understanding of Boreal Forest Ecology through direct experience.

The teachers left the workshops with teaching material and exercises for application in their classrooms. Most of these materials and exercises were covered in the presentations and field workshops giving the teachers practical experience with the new



educational material.

The Manitoba Model Forest recognizes the ongoing challenge facing teachers to remain current as new and innovative ideas and approaches are developed and implemented. The Manitoba Model Forest is bringing the principles of sustainable forest management directly to those who will take them to Manitoba classrooms.

### 6.31 Non-Market Values Workshop

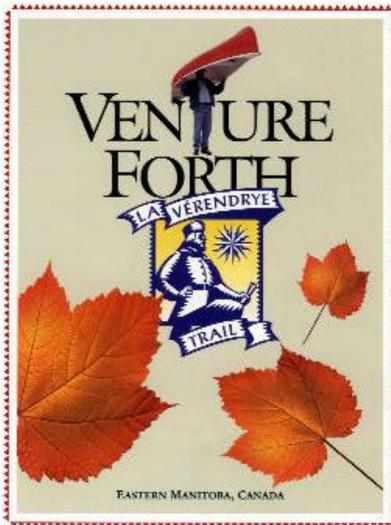
For the much of this century the value of the forest was dictated by the fiber resources which could be extracted. Today, an increasing emphasis is being placed upon identifying the non-fiber resources. To establish a fair value of non-market goods and services, the non-market values must first be identified. Once known, a program of research for particular non-market values can be established.

The Manitoba Model Forest sponsored a workshop at the University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba to identify some of the many values people who live in the forest and who live in urban centers place upon the forest. Coordinated by the University of Winnipeg, in consultation with Aboriginal people, the workshop defined values and determined how specific values can be measured and categorized. This workshop assisted in developing agreement on the creation and direction of a research community of professional and local people. This community is composed of people who want to share their interests and skills in the tasks of defining frameworks for the measurement of forest values in the Model Forest.

The identification and sharing of diverse values by the people who hold them is an important step in the developing of a common, shared understanding. It is through a shared understanding that the diverse values people place upon the forest can be considered when developing new and innovative approaches to sustainable forest management which will benefit all forest values.

## 6.32 Laverendrye Trail

The pursuit of economic diversification in resource based communities is becoming more important as the sustainable limits of resource extraction are recognized. One economic diversification project which has attracted considerable attention and success is the promotion and enhancement of the tourism potential of the Manitoba Model Forest region. The focus of this project has therefore been the enhancement of existing partnerships in tourism industry; identification of tourism product opportunities and development of packaged tours throughout the region.



Building on the successes of the La Verendrye Trail Association, a regional tourism group recognized provincially and nationally, this project assisted in developing the La Verendrye Trail Product Club. This group has developed a model for rural regional tourism development which examines partnership development, opportunity identification, Winnipeg River waterway development, packaged tours and communication initiatives which can be pursued in the diversification of the local economies through tourism..

The projects and activities pursued under the model and strategy are governed by the La Verendrye Trail Product Club Board of Directors. Their success thus far has resulted in comprehensive reports on tourism development models; business opportunities and business plans for promising tourism product development initiatives. This work has been accomplished through extensive consultation with local tourism operators and through focus group sessions.

## 6.35 Employment Training

The Manitoba Model Forest is a member of the Eastman Regional Assessment Committee. This is a non-profit organization composed of a variety of partners throughout the region who are interested in pursuing Economic Diversification in the region. The committee's objective is to inform public and potential entrepreneurs about funding, training and partnership opportunities available through other agencies with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for currently unemployed and under trained local people.

The Manitoba Model Forest has partnered with employers, industry and others in the past to provide unemployed people with training opportunities. Recognizing this success the Eastman Regional Assessment Committee is furthering the initial work and giving people the opportunity to receive necessary skills training, upgrading and work experience that they might otherwise be unaware of or unable to access.



Like all resource based communities across Canada the communities of the Manitoba Model Forest are actively pursuing economic diversification opportunities which will provide long term sustainable employment within the region. Assisting people to take advantage of sustainable opportunities is one way to ensure that sustainable forest communities prosper for the benefit of people and the forests they live in.

#### **6.40 Envirothon** Watershed Management: A Local Approach to the Issue of Water Quality

The Envirothon Program started in 1979 in Pennsylvania as an outdoor hands-on competition for high school students to test their knowledge about the environment. Over the next several years the program continued to slowly grow and in 1984, the first Pennsylvania State Enviro-Olympics was held in June at the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. The first state competition hosted six teams.

Today, the Envirothon touches and positively influences the lives of over 500,000 young people across the continent. Several Canadian Provinces, including Manitoba, Mexican States, Japan, and Australia now participate in the Envirothon program. The valuable support from a variety of financial contributors and supporters has proven the Envirothon to be an exciting and useful tool for incorporating environmental education into high school classrooms.

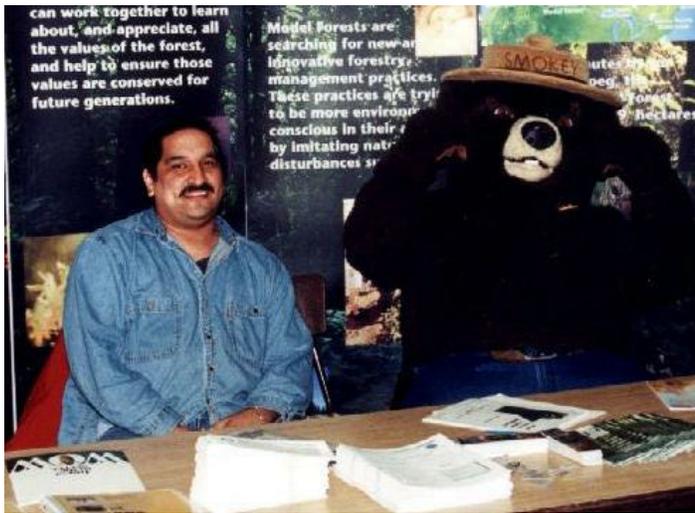
The program is based on a "Reach for the Top" concept where teams from a variety of schools test their knowledge about the environmental and ecological concerns. The program is designed to create awareness of management strategies and multi-stakeholder decision making, a fundamental part of the Model forest program. In 1997, Manitoba's first Envirothon year, 4 schools participated. In 1998, with the assistance of the Manitoba Model Forest and other partners, 12 schools participated. The competition owes special acknowledgment to the Canadian Forces Base Shilo who provided accommodation, food and the site for the Oral testing portion of the envirothon competition. Spruce Woods Provincial Park was chosen as the site of the trail testing component where a wetlands theme was the focus.

The volunteer and partnership involvement in this program is outstanding. A very big thank-you is directed to all those who worked on the steering committee/sub-committees and all those who came out during the actual event to help on the trails, to judge the orals, to cook and clean, and to generally assist where needed.

It is hoped that the 1999 Envirothon which has as its theme, wildfire management, enjoys the success of previous years. As the ideas and objectives of the program reach across the province, it is hoped that the ideals and principles of multi-stakeholder decision making is increasingly seen as a practical way of working together to achieve sustainable development, just as it has been in the Manitoba model Forest..

For additional information about the Envirothon program on the internet, the address is: <http://www.envirothon.org/>

#### **6.41 Community Open Houses**



The Manitoba Model Forest first began visiting communities to spread information about research and development in the Model Forest program in 1994. In 1998, the Manitoba Model Forest continued this activity by taking the opportunity to visit communities in the Manitoba Model Forest region with more information about the successes of the Model Forest program.

Among the many community visits made by Community Awareness Officer, Jeff Courchene were his information sessions with the four Manitoba Model Forest First nation Communities. As key forest stakeholders, these communities have much to benefit from the successes of the Manitoba Model Forest. Achievements in sustainable forest management ensures that forest communities will be able to pursue non-timber activities such as trapping and the traditional collection of medicinal plants.

In addition to First Nations communities, the Manitoba Model Forest also visited recreational cottage owners in the Manitoba Model Forest region. At events locations such as Walter Whyte School near Victoria Beach, the Manitoba Model Forest introduced cottagers to sustainable forest benefits and provided white spruce seedlings as part of a cottage lot tree planting effort.

One of the largest regional events attended by the Manitoba Model Forest was the annual 4P Festival in Pine Falls. This festival, named after the forest products Power, Paper, Pickeral and Peas, attracts people from the surrounding communities in an annual celebration of what the forest has to offer. Bev Dube, Executive Assistant at the Manitoba Model Forest attended the event and offered information about sustainable forests to thousands of visitors.

Outside of the Manitoba Model Forest region, events such as the Logger Hauler Festival in Swan River, Manitoba was attended. This annual event attracts forest industry workers and decision makers from across the province and provides an excellent opportunity to bring the advances and technologies of sustainable forest management from the Manitoba Model Forest directly to the forest workers who need them.

### **6.43 Brokenhead Historic Village**

The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Historic village is located 40 minutes north of Winnipeg, Manitoba and part of the Manitoba Model Forest region. It was begun by the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation as a means of increasing cross-cultural awareness, and developing the economic potential of their community. The village offers visitors to the site the opportunity to experience some of the traditional lifestyle of the Ojibway. Visitors may stay in one of many teepees located near the Brokenhead river and experience some of the traditional Ojibway foods such as deer and wild rice.

In 1998, the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Historic village approached the Manitoba Model Forest for assistance in enhancing the village site. Enhancements would involve restoration of the site by re-establishing many of the plants, trees and herbs which historically would have been found on the location.

With the assistance of Ken Fosty from the Manitoba Forestry Association extension services, a wood lot survey was performed to establish what was needed in terms of restoration or enhancement. With this information in hand a detailed wood lot plan was developed. This plan is now being employed to help in site planning.

Using nursery stock obtained through partnership sources, planting was performed. In 1999, re-introduction of plants and trees indigenous to the area will continue. These plants and trees and the explanation of their traditional uses will be interpreted to tourists visiting the Village site and to day visitors such as school tours.

As work continues into 1999, the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Historic village will regain some of the natural heritage. It will become not only an important economic generator for the community but a valuable educational resource and living testament to the success which can be realized when diverse partners work together.

#### **6.44 Native Land Study**

Aboriginal people in the Manitoba Model Forest are greatly affected when change comes to the forest. For generations their lives have been revolved around traditional uses of, and values for, the wildlife and plants which flourish in the region. As increasing population pressures place stress upon forest resources it is becoming increasingly apparent that the innovations and resources modern technology offers need to be used to ensure lands are used sustainably, and traditions kept alive

To assist Aboriginal people of the region to create an information base regarding native lands and values, the Manitoba Model Forest entered into partnerships to establish native land use studies. These studies would allow for the recording of historic values and traditional land uses as well as allowing for the definition of economic opportunities which build on native values in the region.

Managed by the First Nations of Hollow Water, Little Black and Brokenhead with technical support from the Taiga Institute for Land, Culture and Economy, information on land use and values is being collected and mapped. Each First Nation has hired and trained one Community Researcher and one Research Technician to conduct the project field research in their area. Information from interviews is being captured on personal computers using ESRI Arc-View software for PC's. Information is being gathered on cultural information of historical and contemporary significance including locations; sites of resource use; recommendations for keeping the land and resources healthy; and information on non-timber forest products suitable for economic development.

Information gathered through personal interviews with elders and others in the communities, community meetings and historical records are being used to create GIS maps and reports. This will allow for the community to have the capacity to use contemporary tools to participate in resource management.

It is through the sharing of new and innovative ways to use traditional knowledge that the Manitoba Model Forest is working in partnership with the region's First Nations Communities to build a sustainable future. It will be through continued partnerships and cooperation between all forest stakeholders that the region will support forests and sustainable communities through the next millenium.

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## **Board Activities**



MBMF Board of Directors

### **1.06 Board Travel**

Partnership building and the development of information transfer opportunities requires that members of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Model Forest travel to conferences , workshops and Model Forest network meetings and events. One such

partnership and information exchange opportunity occurred in February 1999, when Manitoba Model Forest Vice- President, Alice Chambers, traveled to Merrickville, Ontario to attend the Workshop on Model Forests and National Parks: Enhancing the Partnership.

Five Model Forests have National Parks as Partners: Western Newfoundland Model Forest/Gros Morne; Fundy Model Forest / Fundy National Park; Prince Albert Model Forest / Prince Albert National Park; Foothills Model Forest / Jasper National Park; and Long Beach Model Forest / Pacific Rim National Park. In several cases only part of the Park is included in the Model Forest.

Chambers had previously attended the National Parks Panel on Ecological Integrity. This Panel had discussed how the Parks were going to attempt to maintain ecological integrity under the present and future external stresses and the dire need to work with those who impact the Parks. This challenge being faced by parks is one that the Model Forests have been working on since their inception in 1993.

According to the latest "State of the Parks" report, National Parks receive 15 million visitors a year. It is not surprising therefore that some of the stresses faced by Parks are tourism infrastructure; transportation and utility corridors; external management plans and activities such as forestry, mining, hydro dams, agriculture; urbanization; and climate change. The loss of amphibians and reptiles from Point Pelee and the clear cut boundaries of Fundy indicate the need for Ecosystems Based Management policies. These policies would allow for the integration of parks and protected areas into the surrounding areas.

For Parks, participation in the Model Forest Network will have a variety of benefits, such as: education and community outreach, research value beyond Parks Canada, and the building of mutual cooperation and understanding of involved stakeholders. Parks are also looking for real changes on the ground that will assist them in maintaining and attaining ecological integrity.

The new State of the Parks identified 19 of 36 National Parks as reporting significant impacts from forestry activities. The National Parks partnering with the MFs are reporting impacts: Gros Morne and Jasper as increasing, and Fundy and Prince Albert are severe. There are real benefits in partnerships with the Model Forests. Technology transfer leading to changes on the ground and the work being done on biodiversity indicators being performed across the Model Forest Network are only two examples of potential benefits.

As Manitoba Directors participate in information exchange opportunities across Canada, they are playing their role in building the understanding of the value of partnership building and shared understanding of all forest values. Together with Model Forests across the network, they will be building new partnerships and assisting in the development on new "on the ground approaches" to sustaining not only Canada's parks and protected regions, but forest communities across the country.

## Awards

The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development recognized Alice Chambers, Manitoba Model Forest, vice-president, for her outstanding achievements in sustainable development at the seventh annual awards dinner held in their honour April 14, 1999.

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon presented the lifetime achievement award to Alice Chambers. This is only the second time in the past decade this special award has been presented.

"I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Alice's immense energy in public advocacy on behalf of a healthy environment and a strong Manitoba," said the Premier. "Over the years she has served on, initiated and chaired innumerable boards and committees to help make Manitoba a better place. Recently, Alice sat as a public representative on the provincial government's consultation group under the Sustainable Development Act."

Chambers represented the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society on the Pine Falls Paper Company's Sustainable Forest Management Advisory Committee. She is a board member of Resource Conservation Manitoba, and has been the contact for the Canadian Environmental Network Forest Caucus and the Canadian Endangered Species Coalition. She is vice-president of the Manitoba Model Forest and has served on its science and technology, social issues, education, communication and heritage committees.

One of 28 Board members of the Manitoba Model Forest, Alice Chambers is representative of the commitment and dedication of the people of the Model Forest Network who are working in partnership with governments, Industries, environment and Non-governmental groups and individuals to achieve a true sustainable forest future in Canada.

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## Network and Other Activities

### 9.03 Translation of Harvesting Guidelines

When the Manitoba Model Forest partnered with industry and government to address societal pressures to have forest workers be more environmentally responsible in their work it was the aim to provide a simple environmental rule book for workers to follow. The successful "user friendly" guide for forest workers titled "Environmentally Responsible Guidelines for Sustainable Forestry Operations in Manitoba" was completed and in use by 1996.

The guide illustrates some basic environmental protection goals and alternate logging techniques which can be used to shorten the forest harvest rotation while enhancing wildlife habitat and aesthetic values. Printed in English, it has served the needs of the forest industry in Manitoba very well. By 1998, however, the Guideline handbook was being adopted for use in Northern Ontario and Quebec. As the majority of these forest workers use French as their working language it was necessary to translate the book to make the most use of it.

Through the partnerships and cooperative work environment of the Model Forest network the document is now being translated into French. The Manitoba Model Forest, Lake Abitibi Model Forest and Bas St. Laurent Model Forest in cooperation with the Canadian Forestry Service are working to bring this valuable resource to the French speaking forest workers of Canada.

Above all, this project illustrates the truly cooperative foundation which defines the Model Forest Program. It illustrates the possibilities that exist in transferring new technologies and informational resources to all forest workers.

### 9.04 Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Working Group

In 1998, the Manitoba Model Forest participated on the Model Forest Network Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Working Group. This group's mandate is to ensure increasing involvement of aboriginal communities in the activities of the Model Forest. In Manitoba, a large number of First Nation and aboriginal communities make the Manitoba Model Forest region home. It is therefore important to ensure that Aboriginal involvement occurs as they are important forest users.

The Manitoba Model Forest hosted a meeting of the Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Working Group at the Hollow Water First Nation. This meeting brought representatives from across the network together to share their experiences and develop a strong network for information transfer.

In addition to direct involvement in the Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Working Group at a network level the Manitoba Model Forest has increased Aboriginal involvement through projects such as the First Nations Land Use studies currently underway, and the Archaeological Model. (*See 6-25 Archaeological Model and 6-44 Land Use Study*).

Currently the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Model Forest has representatives from three First Nations and two Metis communities in the Model Forest region.

### 9.05 Network Communications

It was partly in response to increase communications and technology transfer between Model Forests that a group, consisting largely of Communication professionals employed by Model Forests across Canada, was assembled to direct and coordinate national communication efforts. In place for over 5 years the Model Forest Communications Network committee enhanced lines of communications between model forests and key decision makers in government industry and non-governmental organizations.

The Model Forest Communications Network committee had its first full meeting in Toronto in February of 1995. Subsequent meetings, most notably at the Model Forest Network Forum '97 hosted by the Manitoba Model Forest, the process of revising goals and objectives for Phase II began. From these later meetings a revised goals and communication options were implemented to improve network communications.

To date, the Manitoba Model Forest has participated in the development and implementation of a number of communications tools which are used to promote the Model Forest network and all its members.. The Manitoba Model Forest has assisted in the development and delivery of network messages and contributed towards the development and construction of the highly

successful Model Forest Network website.

The involvement of the Manitoba Model Forest in network communications will continue in 1999 as the need for technology transfer continues to increase.

Model Forest Network website. <http://www.ModelForest.net>

## 9.10 IDRC Agreement



The discovery of Monarch butterfly hibernation sites, by Canadian scientists in 1975, created considerable national and international interest. This interest is seen in the growing eco-tourism sector. The growth of eco-tourism has resulted in a significant increase in the annual tourist demand for access to these sites. During the last 19 years, demand has grown from 2,000 visitors in 1980 to over a quarter of a million tourists in 1999.

The concentration of tourism in these sites has threatened the very natural resources these tourists seek to experience. It has become necessary, therefore to reach an equilibrium which balances eco-tourism with the needs of the forest..

Through an agreement with International Development and Research Council, IDRC, an international partnership has been established . This partnership is seeking to improve and utilize the existing infrastructure in a way that expands the potential for eco-tourism. This diversification, would expand the limited tourism activity now focused on the butterfly, to include activity on a yearly basis. This would involve the establishment of programs in eco-museums, eco-archaeology, eco-production, environmental education, eco-technologies, birds, fungi, plants, wildlife, mountain tourism and nature trails.

This work is intended to develop in three stages. The Monarch Butterfly Model Forest Executive Management, with the collaboration of experts in different fields will develop various workshops to identify and determine the potential for eco-tourism in a forest area of 350,000 hectares. These workshops will include the participation of leaders of 40 communities who own resources in these areas.

The outcome of this first stage will allow for the development of an Eco-Tourism Development Plan, a marketing study, a corporate image, and a study of the capacity for public use of the existing Monarch Butterfly sanctuaries.

The second stage is intended to work along four lines. It will establish a radio-communication system, regional thematic maps, tourism information guides and the nature interpretation graphic guides. It will also involve Infrastructure construction and improvement.

The first phase of this international partnership has already begun. Trent Hreno, Manitoba Model Forest President, visited the Mexican Butterfly reserves and assisted in establishing the opening dialogues. These dialogues resulted in the framework for what would become this international partnership's eco-tourism project. His work has been built upon by Mike Waldram, Manitoba Model Forest General Manager who assisted in the establishment of international agreements, funding base and work plan for this ambitious project.

It is hoped that through international partnership the Monarch butterfly will continue to thrive in both its Mexican and Canadian homes. The eco-tourism development will bring an important source of annual revenue to the Mexican people helping local residents provide for themselves and a sustainable forest future.

## 9.21 Biodiversity Conference

The rapid transfer of technology, approaches and information across Canada is one of the strengths of the Model Forest Program. The Gananoque Biodiversity Conference of October 16 - 18, 1998 at the Glenhouse Resort and Training Centre, Gananoque, Ontario was an opportunity to discuss and record Model Forest accomplishments in bio-diversity conservation and

indicator development. A leading role in the organization of this conference was undertaken by the Manitoba Model Forest. It was through the efforts of the Manitoba Model Forest before, and after, the conference that the conference proceedings were assembled. The proceedings for this conference are now available through the Model Forest Network web site at <http://www.modelforest.net>



National Operations Committee,  
Gananoque

As a demonstration of successful networking, cooperation and information sharing by and across the Model Forest Network the Gananoque Biodiversity Conference stands out as one of the highlights of 1998. In addition to providing a printed record of the work of the Model Forests across Canada, the Gananoque Biodiversity Conference allowed greater access, by a wider audience, to the information provided at the conference.

Greater awareness of the benefits of the Model Forest program and the people, organizations and supporters of it is one of the benefits of organizing technology transfer opportunities. It is however, the promotion and dissemination of the results and knowledge gained through the Model Forest Program which is of prime importance. For without the effective sharing of information, technologies and applications through technology transfer opportunities the ability of Canadians to achieve sustainable forests will be greatly hindered.

## 9.24 Latest Tools Conference

The Manitoba Model Forest in partnership with; Pine Falls Paper Company, Manitoba Natural Resources, Louisiana Pacific, Tolko and the Canadian Forest Service hosted over 200 participants at a conference demonstrating some of the latest technologies and applications for resource management issues and decision making. Over thirty applications, field tools and models related to Forestry, Inventory, Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Socio-economics were demonstrated at this two day event. Participants had the opportunity to access the latest forest technology and management approaches as well as form new partnerships and contacts with application developers.

In attendance at the conference were Natural Resource Managers from government and industry, as well as members of Non-Government Organizations with an interest in new technology and applications being employed in natural resource decision making in government and industry. Students and teachers seeking the most up to date information in natural management issues and decision making were also in attendance from the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg and Keewatin College, The Pas.

Concurrent sessions dealing with three general subject areas were covered during the conference. These areas were Forestry, Forest Resource Inventory and Fish and Wildlife. Presentations included ecological modeling, spatial analysis for forest and wildlife management, recreation modeling and wolf population and habitat modeling in Riding Mountain.

One of the most popular presentations involved the latest in forest worker training equipment, the Timberjack 3000 harvester simulator. Training harvester operators without damaging the forest or equipment is a big challenge. The answer: a really big virtual reality video game which simulates the operation of a harvester under a variety of conditions and forest types. One of the many new tools techniques and applications available to the participants at the "Latest Tools" conference, the simulator provides a

safe effective method of harvester operator training without the need for sacrificing a part of the forest.

The system also allows for simulated accidents such as roll overs caused by careless operation of the harvester on slopes. This allows for the operator to gain experience in avoiding situations which may not only risk their lives and damage equipment, but unnecessarily damage the forest in which they are working.

The development of new and innovative techniques and approaches is but one component of the Model Forest program across Canada. The Manitoba Model Forest is transferring this technology to the people who will be able to use it and giving forest workers the knowledge, experience and tools to work for a sustainable forest future in Canada.

## 9.26 National Parks Model Forest Liaison Conference.

Partnership building and the development of information transfer opportunities is a major focus for the Manitoba Model One such partnership and information exchange opportunity occurred in February 1999, when Manitoba Model Forest Vice-President, Alice Chambers, traveled to Merrickville, Ontario to attend the Workshop on Model Forests and National Parks: Enhancing the Partnership.

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According to the latest "State of the Parks" report, National Parks receive 15 million visitors a year. It is not surprising therefore that some of the stressors faced by Parks are tourism infrastructure; transportation and utility corridors; external management plans and activities as forestry, mining, hydro dams, agriculture; urbanization; and climate change. The loss of amphibians and reptiles from Point Pelee and the clear cut boundaries of Fundy indicate the need for Ecosystems Based Management policies. These policies would allow for the integration of parks and protected areas into the surrounding areas. It integrates interactions and stressors, with Parks, into the larger ecosystems picture. It would permit regional plans, inter-regional planning and even hemispheric planning.

For Parks, participation in the Model Forest Network will have value such as: education and community outreach, research value beyond Parks Canada, and the building of mutual cooperation and understanding of involved stakeholders. Parks can also receive technologies to help attain real changes on the ground that will assist them in maintaining and attaining ecological integrity.

The Model Forest network is building opportunities for science and building relationships among people that will be a legacy for sustainable development. As Manitoba Directors participate in information exchange opportunities across Canada, they are playing their role in building the understanding of the value of partnership building and shared understanding of all forest values. Together with Model Forests across the network, they will be building new partnerships and assisting in the development on new "on the ground approaches" to sustaining not only Canada's parks and protected regions, but forest communities across the country.

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[report written by G.R. Kynman](#)

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