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For the convenience of our visitors the [Manitoba Model Forest](#) is pleased to provide our 1999/00 Annual Report of projects and activities on-line. By book marking this page you can browse through at your leisure.

Manitoba Model Forest Annual Report 1999

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Memorial: Alice K. Chambers. June 11, 1937 to December 13, 1999.



Chambers , right, working with students and Global Positioning Systems. Teaching the next generation environmental awareness.

The Manitoba Model Forest lost one of its most dynamic members on December 13, 1999, Alice Chambers.

Alice Chambers was an active member of Manitoba's conservation/environmental community. She was also one of the most knowledgeable. It was this knowledge, coupled with her drive for sustainable development and environmental protection that made her one of the most valued members of the Manitoba Model Forest's Board of Directors.

Alice will be remembered by many across the network as the soft spoken environmentalist who had an unfailing dedication to the cause of environmental protection. She volunteered with many organizations in Manitoba devoted to conservation and the protection of our environment. Among the list she was involved with were; the Manitoba Naturalists Society, the Sierra Club, Resource Conservation Manitoba, the Manitoba Eco-Network, and Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems. It was as a representative of the latter that she came to be on the board of the Manitoba Model Forest.

Alice will continue to make her presence felt through memories that she evokes among Manitoba's environmental community, and the advances she helped the Manitoba Model Forest make on the journey to sustainable development. Her courage, selflessness and integrity will continue to inspire and energize not only the Manitoba Model Forest but all the groups that Alice has been associated with.

It was Alice's wish that anyone wishing to make In memoriam donations do so by supporting the Taiga Biological Station. Donations can be made to the Fort Whyte Foundation - Taiga Station Trust, c/o Fort Whyte Foundation, 1961 McCreary Rd, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 2K9.

The Province of Manitoba has named a lake along the Mantario Trail after Alice Chambers. It will be indicated on the Mantario hiking trail map beginning in June 2000. Manitoba Conservation decided in favour of the initiative after a lot of legwork by Friends of Mantario Trail with the support of another committee in the Manitoba Naturalist Society, the Manitoba Naturalist Society board and others outside of the Manitoba Naturalist Society. Alice Lake is a very pretty lake just north of Peggy Lake and has its own official Mantario Trail campsite. Special acknowledgment go to John Shearer and Donna Danyluk for their efforts in support of this initiative.

President's Message



Stan Kaczanowski

Three of the five years of Phase II of the Canadian Model Forest Program have now been completed. We are steadily continuing our progress in accomplishments and in building relationships with our many partners.

We should be proud of having the most diverse partnership in the entire Canadian Model Forest Network. With thirty-one Directors on our Board, that is our strength. Through this power of partnership, we can dismantle age-old barriers and shape the future as to how the forests are managed sustainably.

The CFS has not yet reached a decision on whether the Model Forest Program will continue once Phase II has been completed in 2002 and if so, in what form continuation may occur. Our Board members held a Phase III strategy workshop and overwhelmingly expressed strong support for the continuation of the Model Forest program in general and in the Manitoba Model Forest specifically.

There were many recommendations made for options and areas of emphasis for Phase III but the main three were:

- ▶ continue to communicate and demonstrate Sustainable Forest Management
- ▶ Aboriginal involvement in Sustainable Forest Management and the Model Forest Program must remain an element of focus in a phase III program
- ▶ Model Forests should move beyond merely being testing grounds for innovative technical and management practices. They must also play an important role as testers of policy proposals by both government and industry.

Our progress to date has only been possible because of the professionalism, dedication and hard work of the Model Forest staff, partners and the many other volunteers involved in the many working groups and projects. The outstanding contributions made by these men and women have established a high standard to build upon. We face the future with confidence.

Stan Kaczanowski, President

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General Managers Report

It is always difficult to take the time to reflect back in the Model Forest program because one is consumed with the future. This report summarizes our many activities throughout 1999 and if anything, proves that our program is as diverse as our partner organizations and people. What stands out for me in this past year, however, is the increased activity at the Network level. The Model Forests Strategic Initiatives dealing with Communications, Local Level Indicators, Aboriginal Involvement, Translation and Future Direction require as much attention as our local programs if they are to succeed in cementing the individual Model Forests into a true working Network. For many of our partners the potential benefits of these Strategic Initiatives is not as apparent as our local programs and we need to pay more attention to and contribute more to these initiatives.

The issues facing resource management in Canada cross provincial boundaries and indeed are often driven by International agendas. The results of court decisions in Alberta or New Brunswick can become precedents for litigation and conflict in Manitoba. Consumer choice in Europe or the United States can have profound impact on local economies. Mistakes and indeed successes in approaches to resource management issues in other areas of the country need to be monitored closely for application here. We need to increase our efforts in working with the other Model Forests to find joint solutions and develop joint approaches. While the front end effort in doing this is substantial, in the long run we will make more efficient use of our people and financial resources in contributing to the resource management issues facing both Manitoba and Canada.

Over the past three years I have talked about the need for our program to become more provincially relevant. I still believe this and it is something we are and should continue to pursue. I challenge our partners now to become familiar with the National Forest Strategy. We need to look into that document and ask ourselves " What can we do to contribute ?" The time has come for the Manitoba Model Forest to look beyond our boundaries and beyond our province.

J. Mike Waldram R.P.F., General Manager, Manitoba Model Forest



Mike Waldram , far left, on the job in the Manitoba Model

Mexican delegates from Michoacan working with Manitoba's sister model forest, the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest, came to Manitoba on Vacation and to attend the Pan Am Games. They spent a day on tour in the Manitoba Model Forest.

Here they make a stop in Little Black River and meet Gerald Harry, MBMF Director. (right)

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[Year in Review](#)

The past year focused on the transfer of knowledge, experience and information to the people who would benefit from it the most; the people who work in the forest and the youth who will be making forest decisions in the future.

Early in 1999 the problem of training forest workers in new and innovative methods of working in the forest was at the fore. Harvester operators were introduced to new ways of learning harvesting techniques without rising damage to the forest or equipment at the "Latest Tools" conference in Winnipeg. By mid year, French translation of the Manitoba Model Forest manual, "Environmentally Responsible Harvesting Guidelines" was underway at the Network level. By year's end, the french edition of this manual was being distributed and a new manual, "Harvesting for Natural Forests; techniques in natural disturbance mimicry" was being finished for introduction in the spring of 2000.

New timber harvesting techniques were not the sole focus in 1999. The Manitoba Model Forest played a vital role in presenting the first international conference on non-timber forest products in cold temperate and boreal forests. This workshop was held in Kenora, Ontario.

Officially titled "Forest communities in the third millennium: Linking Research, Business and Policy towards a Sustainable Non-Timber Forest Product Sector", the conference attracted over 140 participants. Among the delegates in attendance were representatives of a variety of Model Forests from across the Model Forest Network as well as international visitors from Mexico, Russia, New Zealand and Alaska. Among the many topics covered during the four day event included an examination of issues associated with the sustainable commercialization of non-timber forest products. This included discussions about the concerns surrounding the intellectual rights of First Nations people in regards to the development of products based on traditional knowledge and teachings.

Exhibitions at the network level were not ignored as Manitoba Model Forest representatives traveled to Halifax for a sustainable development conference exhibition and trade fair. This three day event highlighted the Canadian and International Model Forest Networks and featured eco-tourism initiatives across the network as well as sustainable development products and services relating to the Conference's themes.

On Monday, November 29, 1999, the Manitoba Model Forest made communication history as it brought together children from Manitoba, Canada and Michoacan, Mexico over the Internet. Through this link, the children began the process of learning from each other as part of the quest for sustainable forests in both countries. The inaugural Internet link was made at Winnipeg's Rockwood School. The students were assisted in making the link by Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Lloyd Axworthy, Stan Kaczanowski MBMF President, Mike Waldram and Trent Hreno, Past-President were all on hand to ensure the schools linked successfully

axworthy.JPG (74511 bytes)

Students from Rockwood school and Little Black River First Nation, located in the Manitoba Model Forest, were able to link with students in Escuela Primaria Federal "Nino Artillero" in Zitacuaro, located in the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest in Mexico. Using the Internet, the children "talked" about their experiences with Monarch butterflies. The monarch is a migratory species which summers in Canada and winters in Mexico.

Students at school in Zitacuaro, Mexico, used a telephone line and computer in the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest office to make the link. They were assisted in making the link by Angela Bidinosti. Angela is a Manitoba Model Forest intern working in collaboration with the Mexican Monarch Butterfly Model Forest staff in researching ways to improve eco-tourism opportunities within the Mexican community. Also on hand in Mexico was Monarch Model Forest General Manager Benigno Salazar.



< Mexican students wait to link up

Through the assistance of Lloyd Axworthy and the department of Foreign Affairs, the students of Little Black River First Nation, Rockwood School and Zitacuaro, Mexico will soon be in regular contact with each other and expanding their knowledge of what is needed to have sustainable global forests.

The Manitoba Model Forest continued its support of ForestEd which teaches teachers to be better forest educators. It also continued its support of Environthon which brought together students from across Manitoba in competition to test their environmental knowledge. the top team, from Swan River Manitoba, went on to represent Canada at the international Envirothon placing 9th overall.

With the Manitoba Model Forest now over half way through its second five year mandate it was decided that the Manitoba Model Forest should take a pro-active approach to their future and in particular their relationship with the Canadian Forest Service. This approach involved members of the Board of Directors and invited guests such as the directors of provincial Conservation departments such as Forestry, Environment and Policy. In a facilitated workshop looking to the possible future of the Manitoba Model Forest, participants shared views as they relate to possible future initiatives of the Manitoba Model Forest.

Several specific priorities arose from the workshop discussions. It was recognized that the Model Forest program is largely funded by the Federal Government. As such the Manitoba Model Forest is somewhat restricted in how it operates as a condition of its federal funding agreement. The participants therefore recognized a need to increase the level of flexibility that the Manitoba Model Forest has in pursuit of its goals and objectives. They recognized that individual Model Forests have different local needs

and priorities and they require freedom to pursue their local priorities if they are to be successful in the future.

The strength of the Manitoba Model Forest has long been recognized to be its broad based partnership involvement. This involvement has been built up since the start of the Manitoba Model Forest. It has become one of the most broad based partnership bases in the Model Forest program. It is not surprising therefore that this workshop identified the need to maintain and expand support. With this support the Manitoba Model Forest has an opportunity to develop a Phase III program that would truly be representative of the expanded stakeholder interests. It also has great potential for the development of new and innovative programs reflective of stakeholder needs and priorities. While the need to be more provincially relevant through expanded partnerships is necessary, it is also recognized that the Manitoba Model Forest must maintain and continue to support a community based program as a major element in Phase III if it is to achieve its goals and objectives.

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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.

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99-2-46 Ecosystem Based Management

As a first step toward ecosystems based management for the Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Conservation launched a pilot project in Eco-region 90 situated along the eastern shores of Lake Winnipeg. This region includes the Manitoba Model Forest, and therefore a wealth of experience, approaches and technologies. The new planning process being tested considers both public values and the ecological characteristics. The project began with an evaluation of current resource management practices and policies. This explored what is being done and "how to do" Ecosystems Based Management at a large landscape level. As a basis for this exploration, the 1996 document "Manitoba's Forest Plan. ..Towards Ecosystems Based Management," was used.

Manitoba Conservation has taken the lead role in this project. A Steering Committee makes up the primary decision-making body for the project and has representatives from a wide interest base.

The overall objective of project 99-2-46 Ecosystem Based Management and Technology is to refine, test and implement an ecosystems based management framework that builds on the Manitoba Forest Plan, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers criteria and indicators and current scientific literature.

Overseen by the Project Partner Steering Committee, the EBM pilot project is developing a new planning approach which considers both public values and the ecological characteristics of Eco-Region 90 on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The results of the process are being used to shape guidelines for applying EBM to other Eco Regions in the province of Manitoba. Components of the project include a) a biophysical description of Eco-Region 90 including forests and soils, b) traditional use and occupancy studies. c) wildlife, d) vegetation dynamics and e) a review, assessment. guidelines and recommendations for the process of determining public values.

Ecosystem based management considers all forest stakeholders



The multi-partner steering committee is composed of representatives from Manitoba Conservation (Manitoba Natural Resources), Pine Falls Paper Company, Louisiana Pacific, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, and the University of Manitoba.

The Manitoba Model Forest brings to the project 7 years of research to support and assist in the development of new approaches and sustainable practices. The Manitoba Model Forest's work in developing indicators to measure sustainable forest management is playing an important role in this project.

The role the Manitoba Model Forest plays in the project is defined in part by its awareness of diverse values, public understanding and respect for diverse values associate with ecological regions. As the Manitoba Model Forest continues to improve our general knowledge and understanding of forest ecosystems it will continue to provide the management committee with the information it needs to develop sustainable ecosystem based management for application in Manitoba. It is expected that the acceptance of the guidelines and recommendations developed by the multi-stakeholder steering committee will in part be due to the Manitoba Model Forest's pioneering work in sustainable forest practices. In the near future, the implementation of new EBM guidelines in other areas of Manitoba will occur as provincial policy changes to meet the needs of sustainable ecosystems in Manitoba.

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99-2-47 Soil Compaction Index

The intent of the soil compaction index project is to develop a system of assessing the impacts of logging activity on forest sites, especially soils, and the subsequent regeneration of desirable species. Of particular interest is the development of a system to assess the potential for rutting before harvest. This would give the ability to modify harvest systems or timing to minimize or perhaps eliminate the observed impacts.

In the 1998 field season a Masters candidate student from Lakehead University concentrated on examining the diversity of post harvest conditions. The examination paid particular attention to rutting that occurred on 512S soil types. These soils are typically poorly drained Black Spruce sites. The range of conditions found were then classified into severity classes.

In the 1999 field season, sampling, analyzing and further research into available literature occurred. Among the results was the production of a site impact assessment system, as well as a Masters degree and thesis at Lakehead University

The outputs will benefit Manitoba Resource Managers, forest industry, interest groups and academia. They add to our understanding and knowledge of the problems associated with forest activities and the modern techniques, methods and practical solutions to mitigate these problems. In addition, the results will identify alternative harvesting models and forest practices and result in the adoption of indicators initiated at a local level.

Ultimately, improving our understanding of forest ecosystems is a basic necessity if we are to actively pursue the conservation of biological diversity in a working forest. The long term maintenance and enhancement of forest ecosystem conditions and their overall productivity, is dependant on our ability to conserve not only species, but the soil and water resources they depend on.

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99-2-49 Natural Disturbance Regime

The intent of the Natural Disturbance Regime project is to develop and implement an operationally feasible harvest design that approximates a wildfire disturbance in terms of residual patches and structure.

Implementing a forest management regime at the forest worker level requires an understanding of the effects of natural forest disturbances such as fire. Building upon a workshop held in 1997/98 the Manitoba Model Forest implemented project 97.2.49 Natural Disturbance Regime. This project was to research wildfire disturbance and develop management regimes for eastern Manitoba. Throughout 1998/99, research was conducted in the Manitoba Model Forest area on the arrangement of residual patches left after fire and the amount and type of residual structure (snags, downed woody material,) left by fires. Project emphasis was on documenting the harvest, the development of an operational monitoring program, production of a natural disturbance operations manual and monitoring of ecological impacts.



Model forest researcher Dr. James Ehnes(center) explaining aspects of the Natural disturbances project to the steering committee.

Information gathered and utilized in the early stages of this study has resulted in timber harvest trials which commenced in February, 1999. Based on a broad scope of inventories and information on key forest and landscape characteristics, including the impact of natural processes and human activities on forest ecosystems, the MBMF has developed a manual titled "An Operator's Guide To Keeping Forests Healthy: Harvesting for a Natural Forest "

The manual discusses the concept of Ecosystem Based Management and examines such questions as What Is Forest Ecosystem Health? What Does It Mean To Maintain Ecosystem Condition And Productivity? It assists the forest harvest operator to keep forests healthy by acting like natural forest processes such as wildfire. The manual gives information through easy to read text and illustrations on how operators can use a region's natural ability to maintain such things as soil fertility and rare species; while enhancing the forest's ability to rejuvenate.



Natural disturbances project to the steering committee took to the field to examine actual outcomes.

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 new guidelines, procedures and manuals.

The natural resilience of forest ecosystems is reflected in their capacity for renewal in the face of natural disturbances such as fire, insect damage and disease. While all cause trees to eventually die, they create new conditions for forest species that thrive and the forest to regrow. It is the challenge of forest users to emulate the natural disturbances of the forest so that they allow natural processes to shape the forest over time.

Ecosystem-based forest management requires better knowledge and information about characteristics of the forest. Understanding the responses of forests to natural disturbances is the basis for the research and development under the Manitoba Model Forest Natural Disturbances project.

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99-2-52 Black Spruce Biodiversity

The intent of the project is to benchmark genetic diversity inherent in natural black spruce populations and determine genetic impacts of natural disturbances such as fire and alternative silvicultural harvesting and regeneration systems on forest tree genetic diversity. In 1998, two study sites were selected in Manitoba, one in Eco-Region 90 in the Manitoba Model Forest and one in Eco-Region 158 which is the Forest Management Licence of forest company TOLKO.

Stands of different origins were sampled. Tree foliage was shipped to the Forest Genetics Laboratory at the University of Alberta. Extraction of DNA was begun with the extraction of enzymes to follow. The data regarding the genetic make up of the individual trees and stands was analyzed for determining various genetic diversity parameters for each of the four stand types examined. These types are: natural mature of fire origin, natural young of fire origin, post-logged naturally regenerated and post-logged planted



a healthy forest
needs diversity

Increasing our knowledge and understanding of how modern forestry techniques and methods impact upon forest health indicators such as genetic diversity will assist in the development of practical solutions which mitigate the impact forest harvesting has on the forest. By incorporating information from studies such as this into manuals for forest resource managers and forest workers, these professionals will be able to identify forest practices which result in the best outcome for the forest. It is through the acceptance of alternative models and the adoption of these models and forest practices that forest biodiversity can be maintained into the future.

The final report and findings for this project will be available in the summer of 2000.

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99-2-53 Criteria and Indicators Workshop

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 advice, 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.

In 1998/99 Pine Falls Paper Co. working with the Model Forest partnership developed indicators of Sustainable Forest Management using various workshop and meeting formats with experts and interested stakeholders. This process began with determining values and matching them to the criteria as set out by the CCFM. Goals, indicators, strategies, operating practices and targets have been determined. The results of this year long exercise will be brought back to those who have participated up to this point for one last workshop to review the results to date and make final adjustments. The final results will become part of Pine Falls Paper Company's forest management plan.

The public review and input process was developed to refine the initial indicator suite. This process was managed by Pine Falls Paper Company with input from the Advisory Committee. In addition, a soil disturbance index was developed through Lakehead University for local application and reporting of soil conditions after harvest. (project 99-2-47)

The results of this Criteria and Indicators process will be incorporated into the Pine Falls Paper Company Forest Plans.

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Social, Cultural, Education and Community Projects and Activities

The following projects and activities are part of the Manitoba Model Forest's ongoing efforts to ensure cultural, social and community values and issues 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.

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99-6-10 Kenora forest products workshop

The Manitoba Model Forest believes in bringing new and innovative ideas and technologies to the people who can best use them. In pursuit of this objective, the Manitoba Model Forest assisted in presenting the "First International Conference on Non-Timber Forest Products in Cold Temperate and Boreal Forests in Kenora, Ontario.

Officially titled "Forest communities in the third millennium: Linking Research, Business and Policy towards a Sustainable Non-Timber Forest Product Sector", the October conference attracted over 140 participants. Among the delegates in attendance were representatives of a variety of Model Forests from across the Model Forest Network as well as international visitors from Mexico, Russia, New Zealand and Alaska.



Lake Abitibi Model Forest GM, Sue Parton (left) checks out Birch syrup products Non-Timber Forest Product conference

Many topics were covered during the four day event including an examination of issues associated with the sustainable commercialization of non-timber forest products. One issue discussed of particular concern to Aboriginals involved the intellectual rights of First Nations people in regards to the development of products based on traditional knowledge and teachings.

The development of non-timber forest products are very compatible to values and lifestyles of Aboriginal Communities. Delegates recognized the importance of intellectual rights and traditions of Aboriginal peoples in terms of the development of non-timber forest products.

Of major concern during discussions was the need for sustainable forest product development. It was generally agreed that the time to take a pro-active approach to managing the sustainable development of non-timber forest products was now. In addition, it was noted by some delegates that sustainable product development must be a major consideration before any expansion of non-timber forest products into wide spread commercial distribution took place.

The strong presence of Model Forest Network representatives among the delegates, displays, presenters and participants signified the role that model forests are playing in the area of sustainable Non-timber forest product development. Attention was particularly given to the Manitoba Model Forest and Lake Abitibi Model Forests and their accomplishments in the areas of environmentally responsible harvesting guidelines; non-timber forest product development, and partnership building for sustainable forest management.

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99-6-19 Achievement Awards

The Manitoba Model Forest established the Manitoba Model Forest Achievement Awards for public school students within the Model Forest to recognize academic achievement and excellence within the schools of the Model Forest region. The aim of the awards is to encourage students to pursue their studies, especially in the environmentally related fields of study.

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.

In 1999, the schools involved in the program were: Sagkeeng Anicinabe High, Sagkeeng, Lac du Bonnet Senior, Wanipigow,

Walter Whyte, Ecole St. Georges, Pine Falls, Powerview, Pinawa Secondary, Springwell Elementary, and Little Black River. Among the winners in the grades 8 and 9 category were: Crystal Seymour, Josh Henderson, Jodie Lussier, Matthew Armstrong, Nicole Vincent, Stephanie Dutka, David Bilsky, and Lindsey Bird. Among the winners in the Grade 12 category were; Suasn Guimond, Virginia Fontaine Alcare, Christine Proulx, Stephanie Courcelles, Laurel Whitehill and Karsten Cramer.

The Manitoba Model Forest began the program in 1997 for residents of the Model Forest. The awards are open to all students. The successful candidates are selected by a committee set up by the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Model Forest.

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99-6-23 Moose Management Committee

The Moose Management Committee has evolved from a Manitoba Model Forest project to become a valuable sounding board for moose management issues. Today, the members of the Moose Management Committee have become an advisory group dealing with issues of access control, moose harvest recommendations and control recommendations.

In 1999, the Moose Management Committee developed a work plan that involved the employment of First Nations people to collect information and monitor moose hunting and populations. For the first time, a First Nations Moose Management Position was developed. This individual is conducting a community survey on various moose management issues including road closures, road refuges and no hunting areas. In addition, First Nations people were involved in the aerial survey of special moose blocks as well as the Owl Lake Caribou count. Their work over the coming year will build upon the information base accumulated over the past 6 years, enhancing our understanding of moose use. Further documentation of habitat use and monitoring of habitat and moose populations will continue. As in past years, this will be done in full cooperation with Manitoba Conservation. The expanded survey activity is funded, in part, from the sale of hunting licenses.

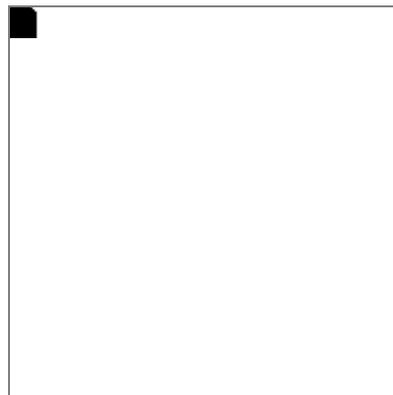
In 1999, the Moose Management Committee expanded its role as an educator. Their publication, Moose News, was more widely distributed. Their efforts to seek input and advice from other user groups was enhanced while providing access to their accumulated experience and knowledge in return.

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, environmental groups and the forest industry working in partnership to ensure a sustainable forest future.

In 1999, aerial population surveys were conducted in the Model Forest. Two units were surveyed. In GHA 26 the population is doing very well due to the efforts of the Committee for Moose Management. Much of this success is due to working with the Pine Falls Paper Company and Manitoba Conservation on management issues such as road management.

The GHA 17-A moose population is declining. This decline has been traced to over harvest which is believed to be attributable to the increasing ease of access into the area.

moose calves



The committee was able to support its decisions through the use of test plots or areas which were monitored in 1999. Moose numbers in these areas are increasing demonstrating that closed access and closed hunting decisions are having a positive affect on moose numbers over a 4 year period.

Several Moose Management meetings were held which provided input into two major road management plans submitted by Pine Falls Paper Company. These included the Beaver Creek and Rainy Lake Road Management Plans.

As the committee works through the issues of the region which affect moose populations it brings together forest stakeholders. Together they have had a positive impact on moose populations and ensured that sustaining forests includes key animal populations.

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99-6-25 Archaeological Model

Forest land tenure systems must balance rights with responsibilities, encourage sound stewardship, sustain a supply of resources and provide opportunities for a fair return on investments. One such responsibility is the identification of sites of potential archaeological and cultural significance. Identifying these sites can be a challenge. Due to the site's potential importance, the Manitoba Model Forest accepted the challenge to develop an archaeological predictive model.

The Archaeological Predictive Modeling Project study team was busy in 1999. Background research of various models was been completed, maps and data digitized, and variables chosen with preparations for initial runs of the predictive model. One of the most significant accomplishments of this project to date has been the bringing together of physio-geographic and archaeological data to develop cultural models for various types of resource use.

Once completed this model will allow for predicting where sites of archaeological significance may be located. By being able to predict the location of these sites, forest activities can be adjusted to protect the potential archaeological knowledge these sites may contain.

The Archaeological Predictive Modeling Project has developed a computer model that predicts the location of archaeological sites based on previous site characteristics and surface features. This model allows for the prediction of sites of archaeological significance. By being able to predict the location of these sites, forest activities can be adjusted to protect the potential archaeological knowledge these sites may contain until they are investigated.



09 Archeological sites of significance would include sites where aboriginal villages occurred.

Project leaders, Virginia Petch and Linda Larcombe with faculty and students at the University of Manitoba are currently preparing for the second phase of this project. This involves field verification of site locations that the model has selected as high, medium and low potential. All three types of sites have to be randomly selected in order to have a healthy model. This field work will require that people will be out at the various sites predicted by the model to check for archaeological evidence. Petch and Larcombe visualize the First Nation and Aboriginal communities as playing an important role in this part of the project. University/college and high school students, hired from the communities, will assist trained archaeologists to conduct the field research.

A temporary laboratory is being planned for set up in 2000. It will be located near one of the Manitoba Model Forest communities so that students can participate in the project from the initial recovery of artifacts in the field to the final lab work and analysis. Manitoba Hydro has joined the project as a funding partner while data sets and expertise is being provided by Tolko Industries, Louisiana Pacific, Pine Falls Paper Co. and Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

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99-6-27 Green Kids

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, Green Kids is taking the ideas, concepts and innovations of the Model Forest program into the schools.

Educating young people about sustainable forest principles and involving them in sustainable development issues is a major challenge for the Manitoba Model Forest. Access to school children is made easier through the partnership with Green Kids.

GreenKids is an active advocate of environmental stewardship among Canada's youth. Using engaging and fast paced sketch comedy, GreenKids actors present environmental messages to their audiences in a manner relevant to them. Two shows for K-4 and 5-8 respectively, stimulate classroom discussion of environmental messages. The performances give students the opportunity to not only learn about issues but express opinions, concerns and questions about the environment in a fully interactive and peer setting.

Performances in the schools of the Manitoba Model Forest were introduced by the Manitoba Model Forest's Community

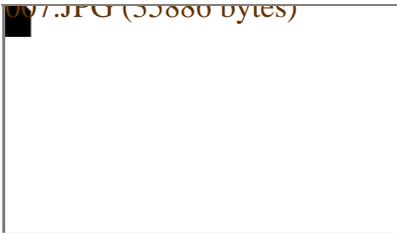
Awareness Officer. With the presentation of information about the Model Forest program and GreenKids messages, the students gain a valuable understanding of the challenges of sustainable forest development and the role they play in the future of the world's forests.

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99-6-28 Forest Educator Workshops

As sustainable forest concepts and practices evolve, teachers in Manitoba face the ongoing challenge of keeping current. With the increasing urbanization, and thus removal from the natural world, of the province's population it has become increasingly important to assist teachers in rediscovering the natural world. This includes acquiring the skills to teach their students about sustainable forest concepts. To assist teachers to develop their skills and knowledge base the Manitoba Model Forest, in partnership with the Manitoba Forestry Association, Manitoba Conservation, Tolko Industries and many volunteer partners, sponsored the Forest Educator Workshop for teachers.

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Teachers check out resources available.

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Teachers in the field. Hands on learning

Co-ordinated by the Manitoba Forestry Association and its volunteer partners, this three day field workshop for seventeen Manitoba teachers was conducted at the Atikameg Scout Camp in The Pas, Manitoba. Twenty presenters from different disciplines provided a wealth of information to teachers in a "hands-on" learning opportunity. They covered topics such as cave formation, forest soils, frog identification, and innovative Resource Management programs.

Taking teachers from the classroom to the forest enables them to enhance their appreciation of the forest as well as apply their new skills in the field. This experience allows teachers to have a greater appreciation of how the student approaches the material. It also gives the teacher a better understanding of Ecology through direct experience.



Teachers took to the forest for lectures.

Recognizing that teachers face an ongoing challenge to do more with less, teachers at the workshop left with teaching materials and exercises for application in their classrooms. As they apply the new and innovative ideas and approaches they gained in the workshops, teachers further the quest for sustainable development in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Model Forest believes in bringing the principles of sustainable forest management directly to those who will use them. In the case of Manitoba teachers, they will take the ideas and concepts of sustainable forests directly to the classroom and

thus the future of Manitoba's forests.

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99-6-35 Special Forest Products Workshop

It has long been recognized that if sustainable development is to become a reality, forest communities must diversify away from single industry economies. The Manitoba Model Forest has therefore been investigating ways to identify and promote opportunities for the sustainable use and development of value-added secondary and alternative forest products. In developing these alternatives the Manitoba Model Forest has recognized that they must recognize, acknowledge and be sensitive to the traditional cultural uses of aboriginal peoples. In this way, with the diversification of economies, will come the incorporation of a broad range of forest values into each community of the Manitoba Model Forest.

24 A native elder speaks on the harvest and preparation of some of the non-timber forest products found in the model forest.



In the fall of 1998, the Manitoba Model Forest held an outdoor workshop at Hollow Water First Nation. The intent of this workshop was to introduce interested public to the identification, use and gathering of special forest products such as mushrooms and medicinal plants from the local boreal forest. The public response was so enthusiastic that the event was repeated in 1999.



The volume of participants indicates the amount of interest in non-timber forest products.

In the early summer of 1999, a workshop was held at the Brokenhead First Nation Historic Village site. Produced on a larger scale than the previous year, the number of instructors was increased to include the participation of Keewatin Community College. The location allowed for interested people from the east beaches area of Lake Winnipeg and the city of Winnipeg as well as people who were full time residents in the Manitoba Model Forest.

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99-6-39 Communication Support

The Manitoba Model Forest uses a variety of methods to communicate with its audiences. From local initiatives such as community displays, to its website the Manitoba Model Forest strives to inform forest stakeholders about advances and changes in sustainable forest thinking both in the province and across Canada. Costs for production of print and electronic information are covered under this project. Most of the material is produced by consultant who tailors the communication product for the audience it is intended.

With the demand for the Manitoba Model Forest communications products steadily increasing, the funds expended in this area are definitely achieving the objective of sharing information. The last 6 months of 1999 saw a doubling of visitation to the Manitoba Model Forest website, one of the Canadian Model Forest Network's oldest sites. Newsletter circulation increased by 20% over the year. This in addition to the number of people who now access this information through the Manitoba Model Forest website and, in an abridged version, through the Canadian Model Forest Network e-news. Community visitation increased as Community Awareness Officer, Jeff Courchene, visited Manitoba Model Forest communities.

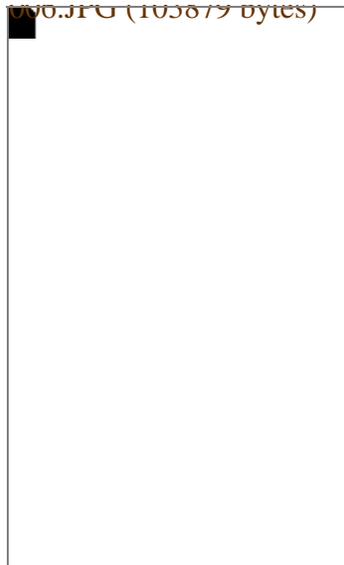
In 2000, the demand for information about Manitoba Model Forest and Canadian Model Forest Network activities is expected to increase. With that demand will come a need to put more resources towards servicing the growing hunger across the province, and Canada, for innovative ideas to achieve sustainable forests for all forest stakeholders.

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99-6-40 Envirothon

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. Today, the Envirothon touches and positively influences the lives of over 500,000 young people across the continent.

Envirothon is an Olympic style environmental competition for high schools based on a "Reach for the Top" concept. High school teams test their knowledge about environmental and ecological concerns. In 1997, Manitoba's first Envirothon year, 4 schools participated. In 1999, with the assistance of the Manitoba Model Forest and other partners, 11 schools participated.



06 On the trail, students worked through a variety of testing stations.

For 1999, Envirothon had the theme, wildfire management. The province wide competition saw teams from rural and urban centres compete for the opportunity to represent the province at the International Envirothon Competition in northern California. The provincial champions were a team from the Swan Valley Regional Secondary school in Swan River, Manitoba.

The students from Sawn Valley regional held a variety of fun raising activities to help raise the \$10,000 needed to take the team to the International Competition. Fired up from practicing, fund raising, and studying the team performed well against teams from 42 states and 4 provinces. They finished an impressive eighth place over all.



02 Close teamwork helps when tackling the written tests

The volunteer and partnership involvement and commitment 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. The 4th Manitoba Envirothon will be held in May 2000. Those schools wishing additional information about the Manitoba Envirothon program are encouraged to contact the Manitoba Forestry Association.

For additional information about the Envirothon Program on the internet, the address is: www.envirothon.org

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99-6-41 Community Open House

If the knowledge gained from the activities of the Manitoba Model Forest is going to achieve positive change in the forests of Manitoba information must reach the community levels. The most effective way to inform people and interest groups is through personal contact. This is particularly true with the aboriginal communities.

The Manitoba Model Forest first began visiting communities to spread information about research and development in the Model Forest program in 1994. In 1999, the Manitoba Model Forest's Community Awareness Officer, Jeff Courchene continued this activity by taking the opportunity to visit communities in the Manitoba Model Forest region with more information about accessing the knowledge and resources of the Model Forest program.

In addition to First Nations communities, the Manitoba Model Forest also visited recreational cottage owners in the Manitoba Model Forest region. At event 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.

Awareness of the Model Forest program and its achievements both provincially and locally will lead to a greater understanding of the program and what can be achieved through partnership ventures. With the common knowledge base gathered and distributed through Manitoba Model Forest, people can strive to apply improved forest practices with accepted alternative solutions from a trusted information source.

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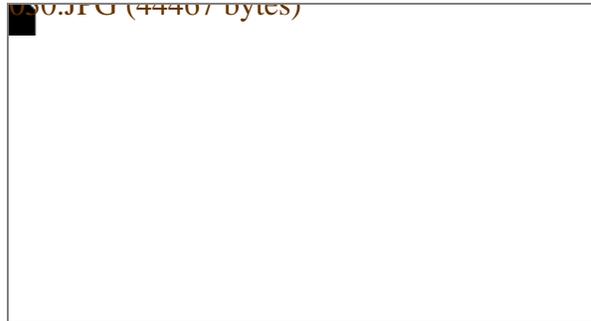
99-6-44 First Nations Land Use Study

For generations, the forest has played a significant role in shaping social organization, spiritual beliefs and the allocation of physical resources in First Nations Communities. Growing societal pressures to make reserve lands produce economically, as well as provide cultural and social benefits, has resulted in the Manitoba Model Forest's First Nations Land Use Study.

To assist Aboriginal people of the region to create an information base regarding native lands and values, the Manitoba Model Forest entered into partnerships with First Nation Communities to establish native land use studies. These studies would allow for the recording of historic values, traditional land uses, and Ojibway language as well as allowing for the definition of economic

opportunities which build on native values in the region.

30 Project team discussing some of the information being mapped in the study



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.



29 Inputting data

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 millennium.

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99-6-45 First Nations Land Study - Spin off projects

Many Aboriginal peoples depend on the forest for their culture and livelihoods. They therefore, have a stake in what decisions are made that could change the forest. As they have become more involved with the Model Forest Network, they have recognized the value in a sustainable plan for forests under their control.

With the First Nations Land Use Study, the region's First Nations communities brought together crucial traditional knowledge about the forest and its uses, as well as an assessment of what will be required in the future. Through the First Nations Land use study it has become apparent that valuable information was gathered that would lead to self-directed spin-off projects consistent with Model Forest goals.

On completion of the First Nation Land Study Project 99-6-44, it was expected that new initiatives and projects would be identified as spin offs or to compliment the work. Specific projects are being identified as the communities have an opportunity to

review the Land Study work and reach agreement on their own priorities. One of the spin off projects involves the development of a CD highlighting the study and some of the information gathered including aboriginal language and place names. There also appears to be potential for the development of new economic opportunities as a result of the original studies findings and a desire to see more people trained in the use and application of the GIS software and technology. It is expected that as communities review the results of the Land use study that they will be able to further develop sustainable strategies for the forests upon which their culture and livelihoods depend.

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99-6-46 Community opportunities

Hands-on community led projects, consistent with Model Forest goals, allow people to apply sustainable concepts and ideas at the community level. This application also familiarizes communities with the concept of sustainable development and dispels the mystery that often surrounds new and innovative approaches to development.

In order to provide local communities and local organizations with an opportunity to design and conduct programs that can be supported at the local level the Manitoba Model Forest established a Grant program. Under this program, project proposals are accepted from communities and reviewed for Manitoba Model Forest support and funding. Eligibility criteria and proposal guidelines released into the communities outline the type of projects, and the requirements that need to be met. Eligibility is based on how the projects meet Manitoba Model Forest goals and objectives.

It was anticipated that significant lead time would be necessary between notification of the opportunity and the date for acceptance of proposals. A communication program to promote the opportunity was established and a committee assisted in the development of suitable guidelines.

Ultimately, individual members of communities must accept society's responsibilities for sustainable development. By giving communities input into projects of local significance the Manitoba Model Forest is making people aware of their responsibility and giving them a stake in maintaining the benefits of forests to society. One of the most successful ventures to date is the Brokenhead Ojibway Historic Village now operating near the Brokenhead First Nation community of Scanterbury.

26 Staff and guests at the Broken head Ojibway Historic Village.



Many Europeans, like a large number of Canadians, reside in urban communities far removed from the forest. They do however, value Canada's forests for more than timber products. They value the role of our forests in maintaining global ecological systems and recently have a growing appreciation for the traditional lifestyle of First Nations.

First Nations heritage, culture, and in some ways spiritual well-being are all closely tied to the forest landscape. The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation took the opportunity that this increasing interest provided to create the Brokenhead Ojibway Historic Village. It was established as a means of increasing cross-cultural awareness, and developing the economic potential of their community. The village offers visitors the opportunity to experience some of the traditional lifestyle of the Ojibway. Visitors may stay in teepees located near the Brokenhead river and experience some of the traditional Ojibway foods such as deer, moose, buffalo and wild rice.



22 Village site at the Brokenhead Ojibway Historic Village.

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

Work continued through 1999, with training and equipment purchase to set up Manitoba Maple sugar production near the Village site. Maple syrup production was a traditional activity in the area. The 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, and foreign visitors such as European tourists.



21 Jingle dancers at Brokenhead Ojibway Historic Village.

As enhancements continue, the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Historic village will regain some of the natural heritage and 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.

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 tipis located near the Brokenhead river and experience some of the traditional Ojibway foods such as deer and wild rice.

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99-6-47 TV Micro-series

Educating young people and involving them in sustainable development is a major challenge for the Manitoba Model Forest. Through a partnership with Green Kids, the Manitoba Model Forest was able to develop cooperative projects that 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, Green Kids takes the ideas, concepts and innovations of the Model Forest program into the schools.

In 1999, under the direction of GreenKids and in-partnership with a number of other organizations, a series of four, sixty second television vignettes were produced. They were broadcast through the Global Television network across Canada under theme of "kids can and are changing the world." the target audience was school children ages five to twelve.

The four vignettes had four separate themes. They were: recycling, hydro conservation, forests and Tetra Pak - recycling. All four vignettes followed the same format and focused upon the opinions of children. These were presented through a series of real interviews about why they think the environment is important to kids, what they can do and why they should take action.

The vignettes were tailored to the audience and were energetic, fun and with a message presented in a way relative to the target audience's world. They use spot animations, graphic boards, real children's opinions and age relevant music to communicate how and why children need to help the planet. Each vignette focused on the message chosen by the vignette sponsor. In the case of forests vignette, the message was the need to have sustainable forests.

These sustainable forest messages were taken to the youth of Canada and brought the image of the Model Forest Network to the newest generation of forest stakeholders. The vignettes are on file at the Manitoba Model Forest offices.

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99-6-48 Student Daily Minder

In order to help increase the awareness of youth about Model Forest research and activities, the Manitoba Model Forest produced a Student daily minder.

Student daily minders are similar to day timers/calendars with additional information such as how to set goals and plans, grammar rules, math formulas and world maps. The Student daily minder also contain information about the Model Forest program and activities the program pursues. The objective of the daily minder is to put the information directly into the hands of students in a format that they will refer to on a regular basis.

Thirteen hundred students attending schools in the Manitoba Model Forest had received the student minders by the beginning of the school year in September, 1999. The Manitoba Model Forest Education Committee determined the content and messages based on the goals and objectives of the program.

The Manitoba Model Forest informs and educates the general public in a balanced way about the Model Forest program. By understanding others' values and uses of the forest, youth may gain a better understand of the issues and develop a respect for the position of others.

As awareness is raised about the value of forests, students acquainted with the Manitoba Model Forest program begin to take an interest in the sustainable forestry goals of the program. They begin to accept part of society's responsibilities for sustainable development and maintaining forests for future generations.

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99-6-49 Education Web site

The Manitoba Model Forest has one of the oldest web sites in the Canadian Model Forest Network. Established in 1995, the site has evolved over the years to meet the requirements of its users. In an attempt to make the resources of the Internet more accessible to educators visiting the site, the Manitoba Model Forest is undertaking to rebuild it's site to include an Education section.

The education section of the site is being constructed to include educational resources of direct applicability to teaching sustainable forest concepts in the classroom. This construction process will continue into 2000 as educational resources on the

Internet are reviewed for their content, accuracy and applicability to sustainable forest practices and concepts.

As Internet resources are reviewed, a short description of the resources available is being developed. This information will be posted on the Education pages of the Manitoba Model Forest web site. Accompanying the description will be a direct link to the Internet resource.

By taking the time to review sources on the Internet the Manitoba Model Forest is making it easier for educators to access up-to-date and accurate information on sustainable forestry concepts and practices. It is making it easier to access teaching tools and techniques which will enable future generations to make informed sustainable decisions.

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99-6-50 Cross Cultural Awareness

Since its creation, the Manitoba Model Forest has brought together groups with different cultural experiences into a common discussion and decision making system. While this has been a long process, the Manitoba Model Forest now involves groups as divergent in their interests as First Nations, environmentalists and the forest industry in seeking common sustainable forest practices goals and objectives. Conflict between groups does, however arise , due to misunderstanding of cultural perspectives and processes.

In 1999, the Manitoba Model Forest held a Cross cultural awareness workshop at the Brokenhead First Nation Interpretive Centre. The goal of the workshop was to assist the Manitoba Model Forest to develop a forum whereby ways of addressing conflict can be resolved. The framework of this workshop was based on the Medicine Wheel teachings.

This workshop was based on adult learning principles which incorporates self-directive activities. Instructional techniques consisted of short presentations, questions and answer sessions and group discussion/decision making activities. The workshop was designed for participants to be involved in a "hands on " learning experience and have input into practical outcomes.

Upon completion of the workshop participants were more familiar with native ethics and rules of behavior. They had been introduced to guidelines for talking circles. They had also gained first hand experience by going through a conflict resolution scenario based upon a mediation framework of the Medicine Wheel.

The Manitoba Model Forest believes that through greater understanding of our cultural differences that shared values will emerge. Through these shared values, it will be possible to build towards a sustainable forest future for all.

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99-6-52 Mariposa Monarca

Cooperation between Manitoba Model Forest and Bosque Modelo Mariposa Monarca (Monarch Butterfly Model Forest in Michoacan Mexico) has been ongoing for the past four years. In 1995, the Manitoba Model Forest and the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the purpose of fostering international partnerships and awareness in forest and ecosystem management, and to aid each other in the identification and undertaking of co-operative studies, programs and projects related to that purpose.

Since the signing of the Agreement research has been conducted on the migratory patterns of the Monarch butterfly. This butterfly migrates from Eastern and Central Canada and the US to the Sierra Madres mountains in the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest. It may be remembered from previous annual reports that stable isotope analysis was used to determine the natal origins of the butterflies.

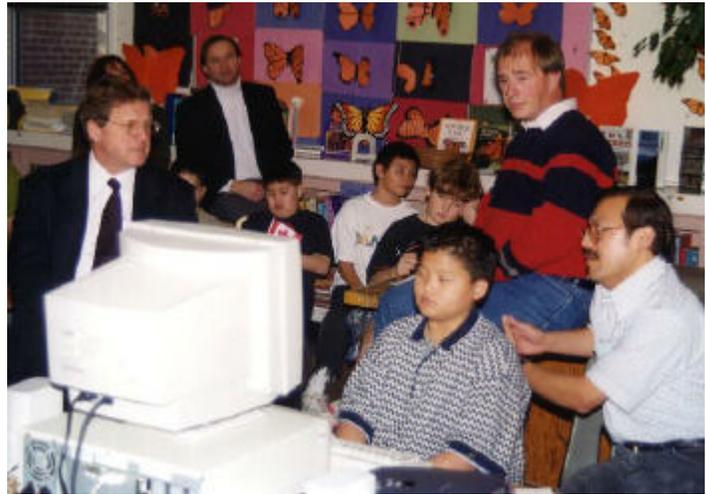
The Manitoba Model Forest has helped the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest produce a strategic plan to guide their activities in meeting their objectives of increasing eco-tourism opportunities and diversifying the local economy while protecting the habitat of the monarch. An expert in tourism was sent to Mexico from Manitoba to assess the situation and provide advice and recommendations as input to the strategic plan.

The Manitoba Model Forest continues to advise the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest on funding opportunities to enhance their

program and to provide advise on proposal development and submissions. In addition, three young Manitobans have been sponsored by the Manitoba Model Forest and Earthbound Environmental Inc., an agent to Foreign Affairs Canada, to act as interns in the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest. There they are helping to implement the strategic plan with Monarch Butterfly Model Forest staff.

Recently an additional link has been made between Manitoba and Mexico. A project has begun to link school children in the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest, Winnipeg, Manitoba and the Little Black River First Nation over the Internet. The purpose is to help them exchange information on their different cultures and environments and to share ideas on how to improve their environmental quality. The inaugural link up was recently performed with the assistance of Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

08 Manitoba / Mexico Internet link. Little black River First Nation and Rockwood School students. linked with Mexican students for the first time with the assistance of Lloyd Axworthy, (left) on 29 November, 1999



Partners involved in making this possible were the Manitoba and Monarch Butterfly Model Forests, Earthbound Environmental, Foreign Affairs Canada, and the International Model Forest Secretariat.

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Board Activities

MANITOBA MODEL FOREST- BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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- Past President: Trent Hreno
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- Second Vice-President: Eileen Meade
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- ▶ Executive Assistant: Beverly Dubé
- ▶ Community Awareness Officer: Jeff Courchene
- ▶ Communications Consultant ; George Kynman

99-1-06 Board Support

Over the course of the year, the Board of Directors has met with many organizations and individuals in their pursuit of new and innovative ways to achieve sustainable forestry in Manitoba. In addition to local meetings, directors have traveled to meet with their counterparts from across the network. One such meeting was held at the exhibition and trade fair highlighting the Canadian and International Model Forest Network held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September, 1999.

This conference featured eco-tourism initiatives across the network as well as sustainable development products and services relating to the conference's themes. As a result, it was an excellent opportunity for directors from across the network to discover the variety of initiatives, products and service opportunities being created and encouraged across Canada.

Exhibits at Halifax's World Trade and Convention Centre included government agencies and departments; associations and private firms having a demonstrated interest in model forests; eco-tourism; and tools used for sustainable development. Presentations at the conference covered a wide range of sustainable development topics. These included the basics of Local Level Indicators to demonstrating the leadership roles Aboriginal communities can take in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Manitoba Model Forest's directors took the opportunity to showcase some of the Manitoba Model Forest's eco-tourism activities including the Brokenhead Ojibway Historic Village, located in the southwest corner of the Manitoba Model Forest. In addition, Manitobans were able to network with individuals from across the International Model Forest Network and shared experience and ideas. Armed with this shared knowledge, the Manitoba Model Forest will be able to move its work forward toward the goal of sustainable development in the province.

Future Strategies Workshop (Workshop photo: from newsletter)

The Manitoba Model Forest has taken a pro-active approach to its future and in particular their relationship with the Canadian Forest Service. This approach recently involved members of the Board of Directors and invited guests, the directors of provincial Conservation departments of Forestry, Environment and Policy. In a facilitated workshop looking to the possible future of the Manitoba Model Forest, participants shared views as they relate to possible future initiatives of the Manitoba Model Forest.

Overall, this group unanimously expressed strong support for the continuation of the Manitoba Model Forest as well as the Model Forest Program as a whole.

The Model Forest program is largely funded by the Canadian Government. As such the Manitoba Model Forest is somewhat restricted in how it operates due to conditions of its federal funding agreement. Participants therefore recognized a need to increase the level of flexibility that the Manitoba Model Forest has in pursuit of its goals and objectives. In addition, they recognized that individual Model Forests have different local needs and priorities and they require freedom to pursue their local priorities if they are to be successful in the future.

The strength of the Manitoba Model Forest is recognized to be its broad based partnership involvement. It has become one of the most broad based partnership bases in the Model Forest program. It is not surprising therefore that this workshop identified the need to maintain and expand support. With this support the Manitoba Model Forest has an opportunity to develop a Phase III program that would truly be representative of the expanded stakeholder interests. This would also increase the potential for the development of new and innovative programs reflective of stakeholder needs and priorities. While the need to be more provincially relevant through expanded partnerships is necessary, it is also recognized that the Manitoba Model Forest must maintain and continue to support a community based program as a major element in Phase III if it is to achieve its goals and objectives.

First Nations representatives stated that Manitoba First Nations became involved in the program late and needed a Phase III to continue their involvement and build upon the successes of the past. There was recognition that the whole area of First Nation rights and entitlements with respect to natural resources is evolving. This evolution and the new relationships being created, particularly between industry and First Nations, are being developed as both parties seek to establish long term beneficial working arrangements and opportunities. There is a continuing need to support both First Nation and non-aboriginal peoples understanding of the different cultures so that these new relationships can flourish. The Manitoba Model Forest has played a vital role in helping these relationships get established and will, in part, be instrumental in assisting these partnerships to flourish in the future.

A number of Manitoba Model Forest sponsored projects are currently fulfilling the need to demonstrate Sustainable Forest Management advances. Examples cited in the workshop included the Ecosystem Based Management Pilot project, the development of the Caribou strategy and guidelines, the development of the Archaeological Predictive Model and the on-going Natural Disturbance Regime project. It is expected that as advancement continues the Model Forest program in Manitoba and across Canada will continue to fulfil a role in demonstrating Sustainable Forest Management to all forest stakeholders.

The participants pointed out that increasing policy support for Sustainable Forest Management is desirable. To accomplish this, it means support at a multiple of levels such as Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nation governments. Also included in this policy support, is the need for support from the forest industry. With it's past successes in influencing policy makers in the province it was suggested that, in the very near future, the Manitoba Model Forest will be playing a larger role.

It is considered vital that the Manitoba Model Forest continue to enhance its work with the Provincial government. A more close and formal relationship with the Provincial government is necessary as they are the major policy developers in the province owing to the large amount of Crown Land forests. To ensure the province's involvement and support the Manitoba Model Forest program must become more provincially relevant in its scope and activities. This could mean that the Manitoba Model Forest designs its projects such that results are more readily transferable to other parts of the province and/or projects and programs are implemented in areas outside the current Model Forest boundaries to ensure their provincial relevance. The involvement of policy makers in the design of the program and projects is seen as key if Model Forest activities, findings and trials are to be relevant to final decisions respecting policy, guidelines or processes.

(Photo : Provincial representatives caption: l to r :)

Among the invited guests were representatives of the new provincial government super-ministry of Conservation.

The participants endorsed the concept of continuing to communicate and demonstrate Sustainable Forest Management in the Model Forest Program. It was felt that there continues to be a strong need to help people , including ourselves, understand and define the meaning of sustainable forest management. There is a need to have Sustainable Forest Management on-the-ground, particularly at the community level. This is necessary so that on-the-ground examples are achievable, readily apparent and easily understood. As a result of this, an emphasis on youth education was identified as a major focus in Phase III.

The Model Forest program is mid-way through its second five year mandate, commonly called Phase II. A decision on whether or not the Model Forest program will continue after the end of Phase II or 2002 or the form continuation may take has not yet been made by the CFS. The process of that decision, however, is expected to begin in the fall of 2000 and continue until mid to late

2001. It is hoped that through cooperation and sharing ideas such as these, the decision making process can include as many ideas, concerns and priorities as possible.

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Network and Other Activities

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99-9-30 Sagkeeng First Nation Forest Resource Assessment

The Sagkeeng First Nation, reserve lands fall within the Manitoba Model Forest ,MBMF, boundaries. In 1999, the MBMF entered into a project with the Sagkeeng First Nation to re-initiate forest management on reserve lands. The objective was to provide Sagkeeng First Nation with a forest management plan, and the tools and training to sustainably manage their forests. In discussions between the Sagkeeng First Nation and the MBMF it was apparent that the lack of forest management on reserve lands was jeopardizing the sustainability of the resource base and stifling any attempt at resource-based economic development.

In follow-up to a 1990/91 forest inventory of reserve lands, the SFN produced the Forest Renewal Implementation plan, 1992-96. It outlined activities for reserve lands over that period. Not all were implemented and no follow-up activities were performed to support these initial investments. The same program had acquired and installed a Geographic Information System, supporting software and data base which included the provincial Forest Resources Inventory. The system had however, fallen into disrepair and the data base lost.

A user needs assessment was performed and new hardware and software for the GIS system was installed. Data was loaded and updated on the system. Forest planning expertise was obtained to develop a silviculture activity schedule, review timber harvesting and economic development opportunities, and research silviculture activity costs. Local expertise was found to provide logistical support for field work.

It quickly became apparent that land use management issues and practices conflict with forest management initiatives on reserve lands. Lacking land use and resource management goals and objectives also hinder effective planning and management. Although a land use plan exists for SFN reserve lands it has not been implemented and the current chief and council question whether it truly reflects community goals and objectives.

It is apparent that land use planning and practices issues must be addressed before comprehensive forest management can take place. In the in-term, short-term forest management initiatives that focus on enhancing existing silviculture investments and improving the capacity within SFN to manage resources by providing technical training and using the newly installed GIS as a management and planning tool are to be undertaken.

A silviculture activity plan has been proposed for 2000 to 2002 that will reactivate forestry initiatives on the reserve lands. The plan covers approximately 950 hectares and focuses on silviculture investments from the early 1990's, striving to salvage and enhance these where possible.

The Partners involved in this project were MBMF, Pine Falls Paper Company, Manitoba Conservation - Forestry Branch and the Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Strategic Initiative.

99-9-02 Local Level Indicators Working Group - Saskatoon

The Manitoba Model Forest actively participates in many network level initiatives and working groups. Among the more research oriented is the Local Level Indicators Working Group. This group met in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1999. Manitoba representatives in attendance took an active role in discussions surrounding the identification of local level indicators of sustainable development formulated from Traditional knowledge.

As the Canadian Model Forest Network continues to work towards sustainable forest management the Manitoba Model Forest will continue to contribute its expertise and experience in the development and monitoring of the indicators of sustainable

development.

99-9-04 Enhanced Aboriginal Initiative Working Group - Kenora

To enhance the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in sustainable forest management, the Canadian Model Forest Network formed the Enhanced Aboriginal Initiative Working Group. The Network has many Aboriginal and First Nations communities working with other forest stakeholders towards sustainable forest practices. As these people have a long history of cultural and traditional knowledge of the forests of Canada they can contribute to the knowledge base being compiled in the various Model Forests.

One of the main objectives the Manitoba Model Forest has pursued over its history is to bring together forest stakeholders so that they may share ideas and technologies. In pursuit of this objective, and in support of the Canadian Model Forest Network, the Manitoba Model Forest hosted an Enhanced Aboriginal Initiative Working Group meeting in Kenora, Ontario as part of the "First International Conference on Non-Timber Forest Products in Cold Temperate and Boreal Forests"

This conference provided an excellent opportunity to bring Aboriginal representatives from across the country together. In addition, it also allowed for participants to see how different economic opportunities could be developed from non-timber forest products in their communities.

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