



NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
TABLE RONDE NATIONALE SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET L'ÉCONOMIE

NRTEE Official Reports Copyright and Reproduction Notice

All **NRTEE Official Reports** (“Works”), provided on this USB memory key and identified in the **NRTEE Official Reports List** folder, contain their individual copyright and reproduction notice. The notice in each of these Works is replaced and superseded by the following copyright and reproduction notice, effective February 22, 2013:

© This Work is protected by copyright and made available for personal or public non-commercial use and may be reproduced, in part or in whole, and by any means, and may be further distributed for non-commercial use, without charge or further permission. All users are required to indicate that the reproduction, whether in part or in whole, is a copy of a Work of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE). Reproduction, in whole or in part, of this Work for the purpose of commercial redistribution is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, no right to modify or alter in any manner the Work is hereby granted.

Consultant Reports Copyright and Reproduction Notice

All **Consultant Reports** (“Works”), provided on this USB memory key and identified in the **Consultant Reports List** folder, were prepared for, or commissioned by, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (“NRTEE”) in support of its research efforts, and may or may not reflect the views of the NRTEE. Such Works may not contain a copyright notice as they were not intended for public release when they were so prepared or commissioned. In the absence of a copyright notice, and where a copyright notice may in fact appear, the following notice shall be read together with the Work and, where applicable, replace and supersede any existing copyright notice, effective February 22, 2013:

© This Work is protected by copyright and made available for personal or public non-commercial use and may be reproduced, in part or in whole, and by any means, and may be further distributed for non-commercial use, without charge or further permission. All users are required to indicate that the reproduction, in part or in whole, is a copy of a Work of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE). Reproduction, in whole or in part, of this Work for the purpose of commercial redistribution is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, no right to modify or alter in any manner the Work is hereby granted.



REVIEW

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



FEATURE STORY: How did Hamilton-Wentworth, the bastion of heavy industry, become a leader in sustainable development, earning it international recognition? Hamilton writer Martyn Kendrick describes the remarkable transformation. See page 4.

EDITORIAL

Sustainable Communities: Progress, Problems and Potential

Despite the existing barriers to local sustainability planning, tremendous progress has been made. Communities have the potential to lead the way to a sustainable future.

The wonderful explosion of sustainable development activity at the community level in Canada is such that we can only briefly highlight here several

dozen examples and point the way to more information. Hundreds of communities have now developed comprehensive sustainable development strategies through local round tables on the environment and the economy or through other citizen-led, multi-stakeholder processes. They all contain achievable and practical short-term targets in the context of a strategy for medium and long-term change. Reforms in planning legislation and practice have led

See *PROGRESS* pg. 1

INSIDE

- What's happening across Canada: local success stories
- Manitoba round tables get together
- Grass-roots sustainability in Atlantic Canada
- Collaboration in Rouyn-Noranda
- The Howe Sound Round Table
- Sustainable Development in Canada's North

SPECIAL

- 4 Hamilton journalist Martyn Kendrick describes his **city's tremendous progress toward sustainable development** as well as the people who have led the way.

FEATURES

- 2 Virginia Maclaren on **Signs of Progress**
- 3 Mark Roseland on the need for **Top-Down Leadership**
- 8 Douglas Burch on **Municipal Reporting on Sustainable Development**
- 11 Rozlyne Mitchell on the **Howe Sound Round Table**
- 13 Robert Sopuck on **Celebrating Success in Manitoba**
- 15 Gordon Edwards on the **Owen Sound Round Table**
- 16 Suzanne Barrett on a **Lake Ontario Greenway**
- 18 Janice Harvey on **Grass-Roots Sustainability in Atlantic Canada**
- 20 **Changing Course: Communities in Action**

- 24 Réal Lacombe on **Villes et villages en santé at work in Rouyn-Noranda**
- 26 Karen Laine on **Sustainable Communities in Nova Scotia**
- 28 Terry Fenge and Barry Sadler on **Regional Sustainability Planning in Canada's North**
- 30 John Gordon provides a **British Perspective on Canadian Round Tables**
- 32 Alan Artibise describes the **International Centre for Sustainable Cities**

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 **Guest Editorial** by Ronald Doering
- 33 **Commentary** by Doug Miller
- 35 **For Further Reading**
- 37 **NRTEE Work in Progress**
- 40 **Round Table Roundup**
- 41 **NRTEE Publications**

NRT REVIEW

Editor:
Kelly Hawke Baxter

Contributing Editor This Issue:
Ronald Doering

Writing and Research:
Carla Doucet, Edwin Smith,
Kathryn Romanow

Design and Layout:
Kindi Chana

Production:
David Baslaw

The *National Round Table Review* is a free newsletter, published quarterly by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. The *NRT Review* aims to provide a cross section of information and opinions on sustainable development and related issues in Canada. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the National Round Table.

Quotation with appropriate credit is appreciated and encouraged.

If you would like to contribute an article, or if you would like more information on the NRTEE and its activities, please contact our office:

1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1500
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7B7
Tel: (613) 992-7189 Fax: (613) 992-7385
E-mail: nrtee@web.apc.org. or admin-nrtee@nrtee-trnee.ca

PROGRESS cont.

to new approaches to energy and water conservation, waste reduction, air and water quality improvements, clean-up of contaminated lands and the protection of environmentally significant areas.

Many communities have even adopted broader principles of sustainable development such as an ecosystem approach to planning and some have introduced considerations of "carrying capacity" and "ecological footprint" into their official plans and practices. All recognize the need to integrate social, environmental and economic decision making and many communities have come to see a more holistic approach as a way out of old jurisdictional problems that have plagued them for years.

Many of the activities described in this Review involve citizens at the grass-roots trying to gain control over decisions that affect their local environment and resources, thus increasing local self reliance. In other cases, activities are catalyzed by innovative local governments tapping into a remarkably diverse array of programs to assist local communities to design and deliver local solutions to local problems.

Of course, many problems remain:

- Sustainability planning must be community-led and consensus-based because the central issue is will, not expertise; only a community-based process can overcome the political, bureaucratic and psychological barriers to change. But these bottom-up, citizen-led processes must be combined with top-down government support if plans are going to be implemented and activities sustained because it is still only governments that have the regulatory and taxing powers to secure the transition to sustainability. It is still too early to know whether this shift of responsibility will lead to real long-term change or result in frustration and a sense of betrayal.
- Strong vertical links to governments will also have to be supplemented by improved horizontal cross-links to other local initiatives. Most communities still have very little knowledge of, let alone connection with, the activities of adjacent regions yet many problems can only be effectively addressed at a larger scale. For example, a river can only be regenerated if all the communities along it work collectively yet there are still very few

examples of effective watershed planning. We can't protect ecosystems, let alone restore them, unless ways and means can be found to integrate the work of all the communities within the region. While efforts like this Review can try to address the awareness issue, the real challenge is to build new kinds of institutions and networks to facilitate cooperation among communities.

- A little understood but powerful barrier to continued progress is the gap that still exists between experts and the public. Bringing the expert-public relationship into better balance is critical for the promotion of the transition to more sustainable communities. Given the nature of modern industrial society, it makes no sense to discourage experts from making their optimum contribution; our task is to strengthen the capacity of the public to represent the public interest. As Daniel Yankelovich has reminded us, "the highest expression of human rationality is not nuclear physics or econometric models but ordinary people speaking and reasoning together on issues of common concern." We must struggle, then, to experiment with ways that involve citizens more directly, and deliberately, into policy making at all levels. At a minimum, governments are going to have to share power, information and resources by going well beyond mere consultation and en-

**Sustainability
planning must be
community-led and
consensus-based
because the central
issue is will, not
expertise; only a
community-based
process can
overcome the
political, bureaucratic
and psychological
barriers to change.**

gaging the public in ways that are not yet clearly understood.

The problems identified above all relate to barriers to citizen participation in decision making because, being primarily consensus-based, the central issue for sustainability is democracy. One of the crucial tests of our current democratic institutions at all levels is whether they can adapt to the challenge of what Janice Harvey calls "a people's movement for sustainability." If they can, the potential is there for communities to lead the way on the many paths to a sustainable future.

The NRTEE would like to hear from you. We're trying to compile a comprehensive inventory of sustainable community initiatives across Canada. If you or your community are doing something, please phone, fax, write or e-mail us.

Ronald L. Doering

Ronald Doering is Executive Director of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

Sustainable Urban Development: Signs of Progress

Virginia W. Maclaren

There are many indications that Canada is indeed making progress toward sustainable urban development. Virginia Maclaren highlights specific signs of fundamental change that demonstrate progress is being made.

Planning for communities such that they reflect the principles of sustainable urban development is an admirable goal. Are we making any progress toward achieving that goal? I think that the answer to that question is an undeniable "Yes". Admittedly, the rate of progress is slower in some areas than in others, but overall progress has been achieved. A few examples of this progress are described in the following paragraphs.

Changes in Planning Practice. One of the most encouraging signs of progress is the fundamental change taking place in the way that communities are looking at planning problems. The concept of sustainable development can be found as a guiding principle or goal espoused by many of the most recently completed municipal plans in Canada.¹ The newer municipal plans also tend to contain statements, goals or policies relating to energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction, air quality improvements, water quality improvements, clean-up of contaminated lands, and protection of environmentally significant areas.

Broader principles of sustainable urban development such as the advocacy of the ecosystems approach to planning, more compact urban form, the integration of environmental assessment and planning, and consideration of the cumulative effects of urban development are finding a place in municipal plans as well. The development of environmental performance standards for new developments holds considerable promise.² The overall result of these changes is that municipal plans are becoming "greener" and their transformation will ensure that the changes are enduring. Planning legislation in some provinces is being modified to ensure that municipalities address environmental issues in their plans to the same extent that they address economic development or social concerns.³

The impact that communities have on the regional and global environment is starting to be recognized. An urban area has an "ecological footprint" that extends well beyond its political boundaries in the sense that other

regions supply resources to the urban area or receive exported wastes.⁴ There are a number of examples of ways in which municipalities are attempting to address this problem. Some have adopted CO₂ reduction policies and CFC by-laws. Others have joined with adjacent municipalities to undertake coordinated environmental planning on a regional basis, frequently with watersheds as the spatial unit of analysis.

A sign of the significance attached to sustainable development by the planning profession is that statements concerning sustainable development and stewardship of the natural environment have recently been incorporated into the Statement of Values embraced by the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP).

Changes in Planning Education. Another fundamental change that must take place in support of progress toward sustainable urban development is a change in planning education. A recent survey of planning schools in Canada, conducted by Mathis Wackernagel during his tenure as student CIP representative found that all planning schools have made significant efforts to incorporate sustainable development concepts into the planning curriculum. Some schools are offering new courses focusing entirely on sustainable development issues and some are modifying existing courses. Others have sponsored workshops or conferences on the topic. A review of the titles of student theses and planning reports completed by planning students in the last few years reveals an increasing regard for sustainable development issues.

The Information Base. Recent research has provided documentation on hundreds of examples of local environmental initiatives in Canada.⁵ An ongoing national study at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is expanding this information base even further and will eventually result in the creation of a computerized data base that will be accessible to members of the Federation and will include detailed information on a wide variety of municipal environmental initiatives. Another indication of how the information base is improving and is likely to improve in the future is the interest in state-of-the-environment reporting at the local level.

Cont. on pg. 10

Bottom-Up Initiative, Top-Down Leadership

Mark Roseland

*Local participation is fundamental to the success of sustainable communities. However, Mark Roseland, author of *Toward Sustainable Communities*, argues that local initiatives must be accompanied by appropriate federal regulations and incentives if they are to succeed.*

The recent revolution in our understanding of sustainable communities is not being matched by changes in our institutions and legislation. Old ways of doing threaten to undermine new ways of thinking unless we address them decisively.

The new thinking stems from a growing awareness that many of our most critical global environmental issues (e.g., atmospheric and potential climate change) are rooted in local, day-to-day problems (e.g., traffic congestion and inefficient land-use patterns), and that enlightened local decisions about these issues will be of global as well as local benefit. To put it simply, sustainable development requires sustainable communities.

Communities must be involved in a democratic process of defining sustainability from a local perspective, yet this process must occur within a framework both of "thinking globally and acting locally," and of "thinking long term and acting now." This fundamental paradox of democratic sustainability poses a dilemma for a national sustainability strategy. How can we encourage democratic participation within a sustainability framework that respects global as well as local biophysical limits, improves inter- and intra-generational social equity, and develops an economy which satisfies individual and community needs rather than one that simply grows?

To a considerable extent, the environmental crisis is a creativity crisis. The only way that we can successfully meet the myriad challenges necessary to develop sustainable communities is through encouraging social innovation and local initiative. Public participation, therefore, is itself a sustainability strategy. Effective and acceptable local solutions require local decisions, which in turn require the extensive knowledge and participation of the people most affected by those decisions, in their workplaces and their communities.

The role of local governments makes them critical players in the movement toward sustainable communities. Although local governments are not the only agencies charged with community planning and development,

they are the only locally elected, representative and accountable bodies responsible for community decision making.

Ironically, at the very moment that the federal government is beginning to recognize the importance of sustainable communities as an integral part of our national sustainability strategy the Supreme Court of Canada has limited the power of local governments and invited legal challenges of their actions.

The case in point was a 1989 decision by Vancouver City Council to boycott Shell Oil products because of the company's financial ties to South Africa. During the 1980s more than 100 cities around the world refused to invest or enter into contracts with firms doing business in South Africa. While the direct economic or political impact of these local actions may be difficult to quantify, they no doubt contributed to the political momentum toward the historic changes taking place in South Africa today. The boycott itself is no longer important, since South Africa's apartheid system is in its dying days, but the recent five-four judgment of the Supreme Court to overturn the local council decision has grave implications for sustainable community development.

A slim majority of judges said the council's censure of Shell was of no direct benefit to Vancouver residents, and therefore outside its mandate. The dissenting judges argued that municipal governments should have broad authority to make decisions for the benefit of their residents and to make local decisions reflecting local values without the threat of judicial interference. The Supreme Court ruling is a clear impediment to the ability of local communities to move toward sustainability.

Several major conferences, including the Rio "Earth Summit," have highlighted the need to fashion global standards for greenhouse gas emissions, forestry, fisheries, etc. The Montreal Protocol, for example, which is leading to a phasing-out of ozone depleting chemicals, has allowed signatories to boycott products from non-signatory nations. To be effective, these global standards must be understood as minimum standards, and nations must have the right to exceed these standards and impose their more rigorous standards on imports (a right frustrated by free trade agreements such as NAFTA and GATT).

Public participation is itself a sustainability strategy.

Cont. on pg. 10

Hamilton-Wentworth Changes Course

Martyn Kendrick

In less than five years Hamilton-Wentworth, once known as a bastion of heavy industry, has become the prodigal son of the sustainable development community. Local author and journalist Martyn Kendrick describes the region's remarkable transformation.

Standing alongside the mountains of black slag that line the perimeter of Stelco's blast furnaces, Allen Fracassi, President and CEO of Hamilton-based Philip Environmental Inc. is shouting above the roar of the ovens: "That, my friend, is a waste stream." He says waste stream the way a stock broker says bullish market or a Canadian in February says Caribbean. Out of this particular waste stream — which, for as long as anyone would care to remember, had been hauled away to landfill sites for a modest profit — he and his brother Philip forged a multi-million dollar integrated waste management company which now ranks among the top 10 in North America.

"For decades people looked at waste and saw garbage. We saw a potential product..." He turns and looks out across Hamilton's frozen harbour, a body of water which the International Great Lakes Joint Commission designated a toxic hot spot. A tanker solemnly breaks the ice heading east toward the open waters of Lake Ontario.

"Today, it's clear that end of the pipe solutions are no longer economically or environmentally viable, so industries around here, around the world are changing. We have equipped ourselves to help them manage the change and in that sense we are environmentally sensitive, but that doesn't preclude a healthy bottom line. If you want a sustainable community you have got to have a sustainable economy..."

Sustainable development is a concept which has come into its own here in Canada's industrial heartland. You hear it bandied about by entrepreneurs such as Fracassi, politicians of all stripes, the captains of industry and college training instructors. With astonishing speed, the idea that development in this region should be based on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs has become an entrenched part of the political process.

"You can't argue with the facts," says Reg Whynott, Hamilton-Wentworth's Regional Chairman. "You have to deal with them." He pauses, and looks out the window of his 15th floor office in downtown Hamilton. "Twenty years ago, few people thought of the environmental consequences of heavy industry or urban development. That was the price you paid for progress. Today, the public and the corporate sector realize we must change. So the question for us was, how do you do that? There aren't a lot of models for what we are doing here."

With Mac Carson, Hamilton-Wentworth's CEO, and Don Ross, a longstanding City of Hamilton alderman, Whynott launched a task force and charged its members with developing a strategic vision statement. Three years and extensive community consultations later, the task force released *VISION 2020: The Sustainable Region*, a detailed outline of directions and strategies needed to implement sustainable

community initiatives in the Hamilton area. In theory, it articulates a set of values based on a parallel concern and respect for people and the environment — not one or the other, not one more than the other, but both together. In practice, it weaves the concept of sustainable development into the government's decision-making process.

Officially released in 1993, *VISION 2020* received external credibility when it was announced later that year that Hamilton-Wentworth had been selected as the first of 21 communities worldwide — and the only one in Canada — to be designated a "model community" under the United Nations International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

Jeb Brugmann, ICLEI's Secretary-General, barely contains his admiration for the region's efforts. "How you restructure a community, how you change the way government behaves, how you make sure a community is doing its share to resolve global environmental problems and how you monitor that process — these are all gigantic issues."

But still, beneath the surface of the congratulatory mood that followed

"If you want a sustainable community you have got to have a sustainable economy."

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives



More than 200 municipalities from 43 countries participated in the founding of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) at the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future held in September, 1990, at the United Nations in New York. ICLEI, whose World Secretariat is located in Toronto, is "...an international association of local governments dedicated to the prevention and solution of local, regional, and global environmental problems through local action."

The goal of ICLEI is to increase the capacity of municipalities to manage development and resource use within their jurisdictions in a manner that is both ecologically beneficial and sustainable over the long term. It serves as an international clearinghouse on sustainable development and environmental protection policies, programs and techniques being implemented at the local level by local institutions. As well, ICLEI directs environmental research and expertise toward major problems facing local communities around the world. Initiatives include the ICLEI Consultant Network, the Urban CO₂ Reduction Project, the Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change, and the Great Lakes and Ontario Municipal Energy Collaboratives.

ICLEI has undertaken to integrate the efforts of municipalities to protect their local ecosystems with the global efforts of international environmental agencies and organizations. A prime example of this is the Local Agenda 21 project, which created a team of municipal environment professionals to research the capacity of local governments to implement the programs outlined in the United Nations' Agenda 21. Hamilton, Ontario has been designated as Canada's model Local Agenda 21 city.

For further information please contact: The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, World Secretariat, City Hall, East Tower, 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2. Tel: (416) 392-1462 Fax: (416) 392-1470.

ICLEI's announcement, one question lingered: How did this bastion of heavy industry manage in less than five years to become the prodigal son of the sustainable development community?

One way to explore that question is to contemplate this region from the turret of the High Level Bridge which divides Hamilton's bay. To stand here is to place oneself in a direct relationship with the natural and industrial forces that have shaped this region's destiny, or at the very least, its image. To the west, the surrounding forest covered bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment merge into undulating hills and valleys and then blur off into farmland for as far as the eye can see. Well preserved nature trails wind their way through a Carolinian Forest wilderness, while the waters of Cootes Paradise and Spencer Creek lap up against the shores of McMaster University on the one side, and the Royal Botani-

cal Gardens (RBG) on the other. For more than a century the wild spaces and the species which live here have been protected by a quiet but powerful Regional Conservation Authority, a handful of naturalists and the RBG. On the surface the scene, like the water, appears tranquil, undisturbed. In reality, the impact of inappropriate land use, sewage overflow, and industrial contaminants leeching into the water table for most of the century has been devastating.

Turning east toward the waters of Lake Ontario, the city of Burlington spans out across the northern bank, but as the eye tracks around to the southern shoreline, it catches trails of smoke billowing from stacks that rise like lugers into a hazy afternoon sky. This is the industrial sector of the region, sprawling relentlessly across 1,100 acres of scorched dark earth, out of which rise the enormous black

hulls of the iron ore foundries and coke ovens.

Outsiders, viewing the city from the QEW corridor linking Toronto and Niagara Falls, see only the smoke and scorched earth. It is this image that stands poised like a weapon in the collective consciousness of non-residents of this region. For insiders, the natural and the industrial coexist uneasily in the imagination.

Until recently, the benefits of industrial progress dwarfed concern for the environmental degradation — the loss of wild species, the disappearance of biodiverse regions, the toxic contamination of the bay — that followed in its wake. But as generations of families here understood, when the mills were working, we were working. "In the good old days," says Al Lanza, a Hamilton lawyer, "when the whistle blew and your dad or your brother came home you would head downtown or off to Ivor Wynn Stadium to take in a Tiger Cat game. In the good old days, you played little league baseball in Do-fasco's little league parks, or attended huge Christmas dinners sponsored by the mills. The mills were always there as part of the fabric of your life."

It was only as the engines of this megalithic industrial complex began to stutter during the early 1980s, that the fabric began to unravel. Automated technology strengthened the steel industry's competitive edge, but it also drastically reduced the need for industrial workers. Highly skilled machinists, an elite group of tradesmen in the heavy manufacturing industry, became mere machine attendants. Hamilton, with 71% of the region's population, has been hardest hit. The downtown core is eroding. Graffiti-riddled boards stretch across city blocks of storefronts on Barton Street, the industrial north end's main retail artery. Otis, Harvester, and Firestone, three of the region's largest employers, have

Cont. on pg. 6

closed their plants. Between 1990 and 1993 employment in the region has dropped from 316,000 to 281,000 and the welfare caseload has soared to a whopping 17,000, almost twice as high as at the peak of the 1981-82 recession.

Admittedly, these are bleak facts, but they present only half the story. The other half, surfacing in documents such as the region's *VISION 2020*, or the recently released follow-up *Renaissance Project Report*, speaks of a resilient community in the midst of radical transformation. These reports, while grounded in the present, speak of a future radically different from the past — a future in which this once exclusively industrial-based region will become what a City of Hamilton Task Force termed a Centre of Environmental Excellence. The new stories of Hamilton are being collaboratively written by high tech entrepreneurs, industrialists, politicians, environmentalists, civil servants and local residents who are joining together in formal and informal alliances to give voice to common visions. The once sharp division between the natural and industrial order which shaped this city is breaking down. And the results, thus far, are as impressive as they are unprecedented.

Dan Glover, Mohawk College's Director of New Ventures, suggests that in the wake of global economic changes, "all of us in training and education have been forced to become more entrepreneurial. That spirit is generating innovative and exciting new partnerships that are changing the way we work together." He may be right. Ron Wallace, the enthusiastic Director of the recently established Greater Hamilton Technology Enterprise Centre says that "small knowledgeable business ventures are the wave of the future. We know now that economic growth

is going to follow upon eco-friendly products generally, and high-tech products and services specifically. So we set out to incubate that kind of business."

Managed by a group of business people in partnership with the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, Employment Canada, and Jobs Ontario, the High Technology Centre provides budding entrepreneurs with a wide range of supportive services. "We are preparing small business people to operate effectively in the 21st century, in markets across the world. Will it work?" Wallace asks rhetorically "In our first year of operation, new enterprises, many of them run by people recently on

tirely new mindset. It is driven by clean, mean, lean operations, that can export products or services into global markets. With a high-tech focus, and building on the light manufacturing, health, education and ecotourism base already strongly developed here, we can provide custom designed training to help people develop marketable skills."

But if the entrepreneurs provide economic inspiration it is the proliferation of round tables that have revealed and tapped the potential of this region's natural and human resources. Over the last decade, representative groups from across the community have voluntarily provided time and expertise to develop

action plans to revive this region's fortunes. The most high profile and earliest of these round table groups focused, fittingly, on the bay.

Starting in 1986 stakeholders from across the region have been working collaboratively to restore the harbour. Known as the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC), Hamilton's Remedial Action Planning group brought together industrialists, corporate executives, educators, scientists, technicians and politicians from all three levels of government. Unlike other Great Lakes areas of concern, BARC emphasized a collaborative, consensus-driven group process involving all of the harbour's stakeholders.

Anne Reddish, a former municipal councillor, and President of BARC, says it was a massive project that no one group could have undertaken alone. "We were able to gain a broad perspective, generate a wide network of decision makers who could help champion the cause, and translate our recommendations into appropriate and comprehensive actions." Reddish believes that traditional antagonists were drawn into

"Twenty years ago, few people thought of the environmental consequences of heavy industry or urban development. That was the price you paid for progress. Today, the public and the corporate sector realize we must change."

unemployment or social assistance, generated more than \$3 million worth of business."

Like Allen Fracassi of Philip Environmental Inc., there are a growing number of articulate and pragmatic "green" entrepreneurs scattered throughout this region who are demonstrating that a healthy bottom line does not preclude sound environmental practices. They are the pioneers, or what Linda Moore, CEO of the Hamilton-based company Transkills, calls the new voyageurs. She believes that what is happening here is a microcosm of what is happening across the country and around the world. We are in transition, she says, from the old to the new economy. "The new economy requires an en-

the process in spite of themselves. "It wasn't set up as confrontation, but as collaboration. That opened everyone to new perspectives. When you are working toward a common goal in an atmosphere that respects opposing viewpoints you begin to appreciate the complexity of the issue and the added resources that the stakeholders bring to the table."

Through its strategic alliances and strong government involvement, BARC has accessed millions of dollars of federal, provincial and private sector funds. It was through BARC that the Royal Botanical Gardens and McMaster University generated the funds to restore Cootes Paradise, a project hailed as the largest wetlands restoration project in North America. This highly publicized project brought environmental issues into the schools, introduced hundreds of volunteer clean-up crew members to a complex ecosystem and lifted ecological issues out of their isolated pockets of concern and dropped them back into the community. BARC's work is not finished, but they have demonstrated dramatically the benefits of a localized round table approach to ecosystem management.

BARC may also have influenced the approach taken by the Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development which concluded its three year consensus-driven term with *VISION 2020* and followed that with the landmark *Renaissance Project Report*. In this last and most recent report, again the product of a representative multi-stakeholder group of community leaders, the emphasis is on jobs and training. It identifies areas of economic growth and the current infrastructure in place to push the economy in new directions.

The *Renaissance Report* identifies the growing number of new training programs available to help, what one person called "the refugees

from the old economy" to find a place in the emerging one. "We have scientific, health, and environmental expertise which we have barely begun to tap," says Renaissance Project Coordinator Barry Boatman. "We have an extremely supportive community which has demonstrated the willingness to work together toward realizable solutions. We have" He stops in mid sentence, sighs and looks out the window at the adjacent library. "Knowledge," he says finally ... "education. This is the key. The jury is still out, but from where I sit, if we can harness the energy, we have the infrastructure here to create a vibrant, healthy and prosperous community that we would be proud to live in and pass on to our children. That to me is what we mean when we say sustainable development."

On March 3, 1994, Premier Bob Rae responded to an ongoing controversy by announcing that his government was allocating funds to build the Red Hill Creek Expressway. For more than 30 years the region's efforts to secure funds to build an expressway on the eastern portion of the escarpment have been thwarted, most recently by Friends of Red Hill Creek, a group of environmental advocates who expressed grave concern over the environmental impact on this biodiverse region. The Premier's response, written by the Honourable David Crombie, satisfied environmentalists and a number of other cultural and social groups who were given funds as part of the package. But Don Ross, a long-time Hamilton city councillor who worked extensively on both *VISION 2020* and the *Renaissance Report*, says that while the environmental impact is significantly minimized, "it remains unclear whether the change from a six lane expressway to a four lane arterial road running through a residential neighbourhood will meet the transportation needs of this community today or 20 years from now. We are

still studying the plans and we will be asking tough questions."

Regardless of the outcome, the Premier's response to the Red Hill Creek controversy was made within the context of the principles enshrined in *VISION 2020*, and it channelled much needed funds into areas identified in the *Renaissance Report*. In that sense, it too, like the ICLEI designation, lent credibility to the ongoing efforts of this region to weave the concept of sustainable development into the decision-making process.

In the past, environmental advocates, as *Spectator* columnist and former Hamilton mayor Jack MacDonald stated recently, were viewed by many as "a small, well organized cabal standing in the way of progress." Today, decision makers in this community are governed by a broader set of integrative principles. They have shaped coalitions that are evolving within the context of a new global ethic. While the world, through ICLEI, looks on, will they be able to maintain the momentum?

Mac Carson, the region's CEO, is cautiously optimistic. "If we can develop indicators that help us monitor our success or failure, if we can integrate sustainable development concepts at the grass-roots level, if we can maintain the course we have set for ourselves in the face of monumental challenges, then we will succeed. And we must succeed. Our lives, our children's lives depend upon it."

For more information on Hamilton-Wentworth, *VISION 2020* or the *Renaissance Report*, please contact:

Mark Bekkering, Hamilton-Wentworth Planning and Development Department, 19 King St. West, 14th floor, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3V9. Tel: (905) 546-2150.

Martyn Kendrick is a Hamilton-based Canadian author, journalist and educator, specializing in sustainable development issues. He is currently writing a book on Hamilton-Wentworth's remarkable transformation.

Municipal Reporting on Sustainable Development: Charting New Ground

Douglas Burch

It has been seven years since the Brundtland Commission and we still don't know if we are making progress toward sustainable development. In order to measure progress we need new systems of both gathering information and reporting. One area where this is especially necessary is at the municipal level. Doug Burch, who recently completed a research paper on municipal reporting for the NRTEE, summarizes his findings here.

Effective decision making requires good quality information. Although information systems in support of decision making at the national level are recognized through the work of agencies such as Statistics Canada, Environment Canada, and the National Health Information Council, less is known about information in support of decision making at the municipal level. In particular, little is known about information which supports sustainable development at the local level. To this end the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy recently examined the status of municipal reporting on progress toward sustainable development in Canada.

Municipal corporations fulfil legal obligations by publishing annual reports. While these reports address the numerous economic and financial considerations of the municipal corporation they often fall short of recognizing additional factors which affect the overall health of the municipality at large. Included among these factors are human health and social conditions, as well as ecosystem integrity. Other forms of reporting which address these considerations include: health status reports done by public health departments; reports of local interest such as crime or housing conditions; and reports covering specific environmental issues such as air quality or the state of urban watersheds. The growing recognition that several factors can contribute to the overall ecosystem health of the municipality has helped municipal "state-of-environment" reporting to grow in importance. Most recently, economic, human health, social, and environmental factors have been synthesized into a couple of additional categories, including: reporting on quality of life and reporting on progress toward sustainable development. In determining the status of municipal reporting it is therefore important to account for all forms

of municipal reporting, and not just consider state-of-environment reporting.

How does someone find out about reporting at the municipal level? Information on municipal reporting can be obtained from a variety of government departments and agencies at both the national level as well as the provincial or territorial level. Not the least of these organizations is Statistics Canada with its data base on municipalities. Other federal government initiatives on municipal reporting focus on more narrowly defined topics. For example, the State of Environment Reporting office (Environment Canada) is working toward reporting on environmental issues at the municipal level. Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, which is conducting research on quality of life and sustainable development in the urban environment, has recently completed a pilot project on applying indicators to quality of life. The National Health Information Council has developed a series of health indicators for use at the municipal level and is continuing this research with the intent to create a nation-wide data base.

Other organizations (in addition to the NRTEE) address municipal reporting within the broader context of environmental initiatives at the municipal level. These include: the Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and Regional Research, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development, to name just a few. Despite the efforts to date, there is no central clearing house for information on municipal reporting.

Provincial efforts to identify municipal reporting initiatives are poorly developed. Government departments with knowledge or interest in the topic of municipal reporting might include municipal affairs, environment, health, and economic development. Other relevant agencies include provincial round tables, environmental networks, healthy community initiatives, and rural and urban municipality associations. With the exception of a couple of provincial round tables on the environment and the economy and possibly the environmental networks, few, if any agencies maintain information on municipal reporting efforts currently underway.

At a first glance there appear to be very few municipal sustainable development reporting initiatives either completed or ongoing across the country. Further examination, however, reveals significantly more activity. The closest approximation to reporting on progress toward

sustainable development has been completed by the City of Toronto. Other cities such as Hamilton-Wentworth are working toward a similar goal. Some municipalities are working on reporting within the context of a larger strategic planning exercise. The Royal Commission on Toronto's Waterfront was one of the earliest initiatives to take a multi-community, sustainable development approach. The Fraser Basin Management Board has taken a physiographic approach by detailing several communities within a portion of the Fraser Basin watershed. Other efforts, such as the Capital Region Strategy (Winnipeg), are organized along political or economic lines. Reporting on progress toward sustainable development is a relatively new concept so it is reasonable to expect that few municipalities are engaged in this activity.

The concept of state-of-environment reporting has been around for a longer time; consequently, there are more known efforts. For example, Burnaby, Winnipeg, Ottawa-Carleton, Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, Hamilton-

Wentworth, Montreal, and

The concept of municipal well-being is increasing in complexity through the integration of economic, social, environmental and human health considerations.

Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean have all completed state-of-environment reports. Other municipalities are either completing state-of-environment reports or are considering developing a report. Many of the reporting initiatives, in support of local decision makers, provide supplemental information to general municipal plans, or community action programs. Some health status reports, generated by municipal public health agencies, are beginning to recognize the environmental factors impacting on human health and, in doing so, bridge the gap between ecosystem health and human health. Finally, some municipalities have developed specific reports dealing with issues such as urban air or water quality, but these are not sufficiently comprehensive to be considered as state-of-environment reports.

Some interesting trends concerning municipal reporting can be identified. Even though comprehensive municipal reporting on progress toward sustainable development or state-of-environment is in its infancy, the number of existing reports belies the level of interest across the country. Most of the current reporting initiatives to date originate in larger population centres where technical support is readily available. Where smaller communities are able to access technical support — either via government agencies or educational institutions — similar reporting efforts have been successful. Other key ingredients to ensure success include strong political support

as well as a minimum of financial support. (It should be noted that these last two ingredients are often transient in nature!)

In a few cases the importance of linkages between communities within a common region is reflected in reporting efforts which integrate the considerations of several communities. Unfortunately this recognition does not often translate into vertical linkages to existing regional or provincial reporting efforts. With one exception (the Saskatchewan government's provincial state-of-environment report) there is no reference to specific communities in the recent provincial state of environment reports. Horizontal linkages across municipal efforts for the purpose of sharing information are not well developed either. It appears that there are few, if any, mechanisms available to facilitate the necessary vertical or horizontal linkages across initiatives.

The concept of municipal well-being is increasing in complexity through the integration of economic, social, environmental, and human health considerations. The process by which we make decisions also reflects this new reality. Municipal reporting on progress toward sustainable development is an essential component of that decision-making process, not merely for municipal corporations, but also for the most fundamental decision-making unit: the household. With approximately 5,200 communities across Canada, the task of developing effective municipal reporting for sustainable development is immense and will require the efforts of many agencies and many more individuals. Sharing of information and experiences will facilitate this learning process. We can only begin to understand what we don't know by learning what we do know.

Douglas Burch is a community development consultant, living in Calgary. He has recently completed a research paper titled *Municipal Reporting on Sustainable Development: A Status Review* for the National Round Table's Task Force on Reporting. It is available from the NRTEE as part of its working paper series.

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy has produced several other reports on sustainable development reporting, including a recent report to the Prime Minister called ***Toward Reporting Progress on Sustainable Development in Canada***, and a number of working papers:

- ***Reporting on Sustainable Development in Support of National Decision Makers*** by François Bregha, John Moffet and Vic Nishi
- ***Reporting on Sustainable Development: The Municipal and Household Level*** by Dr. Trevor Hancock
- ***Corporate Sustainable Development Reporting in Canada*** by David Nitkin and David Powell

Maclaren cont. from pg. 2

At least 13 municipalities across Canada have produced local state-of-the-environment reports to date and many others are currently compiling them.

Institutional Change. One sign that the sustainable development initiatives occurring at the local level are likely to be enduring is that the organizational structure of local government is changing as it responds to sustainable development issues. Many of the routine environmental management functions formerly handled by community advisory committees, such as recycling advisory committees or environmental advisory committees, are being transferred to local government departments. Municipalities are hiring new personnel to fill needs in a broad set of areas, such as in environmental land-use planning, environmental engineering, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and coordination of corporate environmental policies. This transfer of responsibilities to local government departments does not mean that advisory committees are becoming redundant, but rather that they are, for the most part, able to broaden the scope of their activities and focus on identifying innovative solutions to environmental problems.

Responsibilities for environmental issues are also being transferred in the opposite direction, from local government departments to community stewardship groups. Examples of community stewardship activities include tree planting, parks maintenance, pollution monitoring and watershed restoration planning.

Other organizational changes that are occurring include the establishment of permanent inter-departmental coordinating committees on the environment, and new offices or department branches dealing with such issues as environmental protection and coordination, healthy cities, and energy efficiency.

Future Directions. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, progress toward achieving sustainable urban development has been slower in some areas than in others. This is an inevitable condition with new programs and policies that have never been tried before. Municipal officials are questioning the ability of some initiatives, such as Blue Box recycling programs, to accomplish their goals and operate on a sustainable basis. The budgetary constraints that Canadian municipalities have encountered in the last few years are making it more difficult for new initiatives to be approved. On the other hand, the list of successes to date is impressive and the momentum for change is still strong. There is much promise for continued progress.

1. Ouellet, P. (1993) *Environmental Policy Reviews of 15 Canadian Municipalities*. Toronto: Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and Regional Research.

2. See, for example, the Grand River Conservation Authority (1993) *Laurel Creek Watershed Study*. Cambridge, Ontario: Grand River Conservation Authority.
3. For example, significant changes along these lines are being proposed for Ontario's Planning Act by the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario.
4. Rees, W.E. (1992) "Ecological Footprints and Appropriated Carrying Capacity: What Urban Economics Leaves Out." *Environment and Urbanization* 4(2), pp. 121-130.
5. Maclaren, V. W. (1992) *Sustainable Urban Development in Canada: From Concept to Practice*. Toronto: Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and Regional Research; Tomalty, R. and D. Pell (in press) *Sustainable Development and Canadian Cities: Current Initiatives*. Ottawa: Canadian Global Change Program and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Virginia Maclaren is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto and Director of its Graduate Program in Planning. Her current research activities include preparation of a report for Environment Canada, in collaboration with Dr. Monica Campbell, on municipal state-of-the-environment reporting in Canada.

Building Healthy Sustainable Communities Together

Building Healthy Sustainable Communities Together is the theme for a conference to be held in Picton, Ontario, on April 22-24, 1994. Hosted by the Prince Edward County Round Table on Environment and Economy, the conference will bring together representatives from local round tables, green communities, healthy communities, economic development groups and planning organizations.

For more information please contact: The Ontario Social Development Council at Tel: (416) 594-2351 Fax: (416) 594-0552.

Roseland cont. from pg. 3

Similarly, within Canada communities must be required to comply with minimum environmental standards, but they should be encouraged to exceed these standards and make sustainability decisions which go beyond the direct benefit of their residents. Local government decisions which contribute to global sustainability decisions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, conserve energy, phase out ozone depleting chemicals and so on benefit the entire planet. They should not require legal justification solely on the basis of their direct benefit to local residents!

If the federal commitment to sustainable development is genuine, the government should quickly push for the introduction of legislation which empowers our communities to act for sustainability. Bottom-up initiative requires top-down leadership. Without this kind of leadership, the new ways of thinking will be so mired in the old ways of doing that sustainable communities may be little more than a dream. A little leadership now could help make that dream come true.

Mark Roseland is the author of *Toward Sustainable Communities: A Resource Book for Municipal and Local Governments*, now available in a second printing from the National Round Table. He is currently Research Director and Visiting Professor in the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University.

The Howe Sound Round Table: Working Toward a Common Goal

Rozlynn Mitchell

Pristine Howe Sound in British Columbia is used by numerous interest groups and affected by the decisions of several municipalities and districts. Rozlynn Mitchell describes how these different stakeholders and interest groups have come together to form a regional round table to create a collective vision for Howe Sound's future.

Howe Sound, a long narrow fjord measuring approximately 25 miles long, is situated on the doorstep of Vancouver, British Columbia.

There has always been intense competition between a number of uses for Howe Sound, including residential, recreational, fisheries, forestry and industrial activities.

Six municipalities, three regional districts and an Islands Trust separate this clearly defined geographic area into a number of unrelated political districts.

In the past, many felt that decision making and planning was carried out in an ad-hoc, crisis-by-crisis and confrontational manner, with little consideration given to the interrelationship of decisions made by different communities.

In 1991, the Save Howe Sound Society, a community-based environmental organization, undertook the initiative of establishing a local round table. Initial communication with other organizations and joint meetings with local mayors and government officials indicated a great deal of interest and support for a process that would bring different perspectives together.

In April, 1992, 70 delegates from industry, native groups, government, business, recreation, environment groups, health and education organizations were brought to-

gether at a conference to discuss the formation of the Howe Sound Round Table (HSRT).

At the end of the day, participants agreed that a regional process involving the collaboration of all stakeholders was required if we were to develop a collective vision for Howe Sound's future and reach our com-

mon goals of sustainability in the region.

A steering committee was appointed to address issues of funding, terms of reference, linkages with local governments and membership. The membership of the steering committee was as broadly representative of the community interests as the round table would eventually be.

Between May, 1992, and May, 1993, the steering committee met numerous times with community representatives and government officials. During the discussions that followed a number of issues were identified. In times of fiscal restraint, some local governments resisted committing operational funding when, in their view, the economic benefits to their communities were difficult to quantify. They questioned whether a larger community would be expected to pay a greater portion of the funding, based on their population base. Some elected officials raised questions regarding representative government. What is representative government and how would a local round table fit in? Who would the local round table be responsible to, who would it report to and how? Would the round table make recommendations that a community did not want or was unable to implement? How could the different communities be assured that

Cont. on pg. 12

**There are
approximately 30
local round tables
underway in British
Columbia today.**

mon goals of sustainability. Conference delegates identified four broad objectives for the HSRT:

- to promote and coordinate environmental/economic and social sustainability policies and initiatives, through an advisory process involving all interest groups;
- to foster public participation in government decision making;
- to assist in dealing with site specific issues at the regional level;
- to promote public education on the principles and role of environmen-

Mitchell cont. from pg. 11

their community would be geographically represented on the round table?

The steering committee addressed these issues and others in the terms of reference for the HSRT. As well, they embarked on a community education and information program regarding what a local round table is and what the benefits of such a process are to the community.

Having completed the terms of reference, the steering committee developed criteria for membership on the round table and began the nomination process. Over 60 nominations for membership were received from individuals and organizations around Howe Sound. Following a rigorous screening process, 18 in-

itial members were appointed in June, 1993. All attempts were made to balance membership in terms of gender, geographic representation, interest or perspective.

In July, 1993, over 100 community delegates attended a Launch Forum to meet with the newly appointed round table members, review the Howe Sound Round Table's mandate and discuss issues.

The HSRT is now established and working at resolving many of the operational issues that remain outstanding. It came together as an initiative of the community, receiving its mandate from the community. Over time that mandate will evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of the community.

There are approximately 30 local round tables underway in British Columbia today. Their individual challenges are not unique. All are striving for a balance in representation, meeting basic funding requirements, building credibility in the community and recognition from government, balancing the fragile relationship of learning to work together and developing short and long-term sustainability goals.

The B.C. Round Table has provided assistance to local round tables on development information, potential funding options, facilitation, and coordination and information and networking resources.

Rozlynn Mitchell, Chair of the Howe Sound Round Table Steering Committee, is a member of the B.C. Round Table and, was Chair of its Sustainable Communities Task Force.

Canadian Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities movement was widely promoted in Canada from 1988 to 1991 through the Canadian Healthy Communities Project, funded by Health and Welfare Canada and sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The aim of the project was to involve citizens, community groups, the private sector, planners and politicians in an effort to create the kind of local environment that would enable a community to achieve "health" -- defined by the United Nations as "a state of physical, mental and social well-being."

While such project funding no longer exists at the federal level, the Canadian Healthy Communities Network continues to thrive through the support of the Canadian Institute of Planners, a number of strong provincial networks, and the dedication of individuals and communities across the country to the ideas promoted through the Healthy Communities movement.

Over 200 communities have adopted the Healthy Communities concept, including 120 participating communities in British Columbia, 92 in Quebec (see page 24) and 15 in Ontario. Today the Canadian Healthy Communities Network is effectively a network of networks which encourages the flow of information and expertise among provincial networks and, where no provincial networks exist, directly among individual communities.

B.C. Healthy Communities

The B.C. Healthy Communities Network, a program of the B.C. Public Health Association, is an informal grouping of individuals and community organizations who are promoting action on economic, social, political, environmental, cultural and personal factors affecting community health.



Last year the Network co-sponsored a provincial conference on health reform, which explored topics such as citizen participation in health, community planning for health, health reform, and conflict and evaluation of local initiatives. It further supports B.C. communities through *The Network* newsletter, a quarterly publication of stories from communities and individuals around the province about their activities.

Ontario Healthy Communities

In Ontario there are some 27 communities, projects and initiatives participating in a Health Communities Coalition, whose mission is to achieve social, environmental and economic health and well-being for individuals, organizations and local governments throughout the province.

The Ontario movement is not only supported by a groundswell of local support but the provincial government has demonstrated its commitment as well. The Ministry of Health has provided a \$700,000 grant for the development of a provincial secretariat and a network for Healthy Community projects. It has also earmarked an additional \$2.1 million for Healthy Community Grants.

Membership in the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition is open to all provincial associations and communities that participate in activities that are consistent with the goals of the Healthy Communities movement.

For more information contact: The Canadian Healthy Communities Network, 541 Sussex Drive, 2nd Floor, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6Z6. Tel: (613) 562-4646 Fax: (613) 562-4648. Barbara Berry, B.C. Healthy Communities Network, 101-2182 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6K 2N4. Tel: (604) 731-4970 Fax: (604) 731-5965. Rhonda Huskey, The Healthy Communities Secretariat, Suite 1201, 415 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, M5B 2E7. Tel: (416) 408-4841. Toll Free in Ontario: 1-800-766-3418.

Local Round Tables: Celebrating Success in Manitoba

Robert Sopuck

At an unprecedented recent meeting of 52 local round tables in Winnipeg, over 300 people gathered from across Manitoba to share experiences and advance the sustainable development agenda. Robert Sopuck, Executive Director of the Manitoba Round Table, describes the historic provincial event.

Manitoba, more than any other province, has endorsed the idea that a successful sustainable development plan of action is contingent upon local and grass-roots participation. This has been demonstrated through the creation of 52 local round tables on environment and economy across the province.

To harness the enthusiasm of the local round table movement and build on successes, Premier Filmon, also Chair of the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy, hosted a province-wide meeting of community round tables in March. Over 300 people participated in the meeting, and most of those in attendance were representing one of the 52 community round tables which exist across the province. The meeting provided an opportunity for the province's community round table members to share information and experiences among themselves and with other invited guests.

Manitoba's Environment Minister, the Honourable Glen Cummings, who has been a strong promoter of the province's round table movement, was moderator for the day. "Manitobans have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development by having representatives attend this event,"

Cummings said. "We are extremely pleased that so many community round tables, industry associations and environmental groups have gathered to share ideas on how to achieve sustainability."

"Sustainable development is a grass-roots concept that is dependent on the active involvement of all citizens to find solutions and identify opportunities that will help meet our current needs and those of future generations."

— Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon

Guest speakers Judith Espinosa, a member of President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development, and Don Lesh of the Global Tomorrow Coalition in Washington were invited to discuss the international perspective of sustainable development. Canadian perspectives were presented by Diane Griffin of the National Round Table, Audrey Manzer of the Nova Scotia Round Table, Joy Leach of the B.C. Round Table and Ross Thompson, Chair of the Stonewall Community Round Table in Manitoba.

All of the guest speakers emphasized the importance of community

and local level efforts in the transition to sustainable development. Many commended Manitoba on the progress it has made in spreading the sustainability message throughout the province from the Premier on down to grass-roots community organizations. Audrey Manzer and Joy Leach described how action at the community level was being undertaken in their respective provinces and how important it was to making real progress on sustainable development.

Breakout sessions in the afternoon were facilitated by members of the provincial round table and dealt with seven topics relating to sustainable development and communities. These included: a proposal for a

Sustainable Development Act; the Capital Region Strategy — moving toward sustainability around Winnipeg; rural strategies — how communities can work together to reach sustainable development; business and sustainable development; tourism and sustainable development; the changing role of agriculture and natural resources in the rural economy and strengthening the northern regions of Manitoba.

The closing address, given by Premier Gary Filmon, focused on what the community's role is on the jour-

Cont. on pg. 14

Sopuck cont. from pg. 13

ney toward sustainable development.

The community round table meeting was preceded by an evening of celebration on March 17, when Premier Filmon presented the 1993 Manitoba Sustainable Development Awards of Excellence. Close to 400 people gathered to honour the 42 nominees and seven winners who have succeeded in putting the principles of sustainable development into practice in their daily work.

Winners were selected in the categories of Individual and Household, Small Business, Large Business, Education, Public Sector, Research and Development, and Non-governmental Organization. Given the outstanding efforts of all 42 nominees, each was awarded a Certificate of Recognition.

Mr. Lloyd McGinnis, Chair of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), former member of the National Task Force on the Environment and the Economy, and initiator of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Focus 2000 Task Force on the Environment, received

the Individual and Household award.

In the Small Business category, Solar Solutions, a company that designs, manufactures and installs renewable alternative energy systems and a full line of energy conservation devices was selected as the award recipient. The Baxter Corporation, a medical products company which has been recognized internationally for its leadership in incorporating environmental concerns into its operations, was recognized for its achievements in the Large Business category.

The University of Manitoba's Natural Resources Institute (NRI) received the award of excellence in the Education category. The NRI is viewed as a national leader in sustainable development research and education. The Research and Development award was presented to the Meadow Materials Silicon Plant Project. Meadow Materials is a division of Dow Corning Silicon Energy Systems. In cooperation with UMA Engineering Ltd of Winnipeg, they developed and implemented an innovative closed furnace technology for the production of silicon. The

new low-cost technology is less energy intensive and less polluting.

In the Public Sector category, recognized was the City of Winnipeg's "Leaf It With Us" program. The program, created in 1991, is a yard-waste composting program which has enabled the city to reduce the flow of yardwaste to the landfills and contribute significantly to the provincial Waste Minimization and Recycling Action Plan.

The final category was for Non-governmental Organizations, and the award went to the Manitoba-North Dakota Zero Tillage Farmers Association which produced and distributed a zero tillage production manual in an effort to promote conservation farming.

The meeting of community round tables and the awards of excellence celebration provided an excellent overview of Manitoba's progress in achieving its sustainable development vision. These two events strongly demonstrated how sustainable development has in a few short years come to play a very important role in the lives of Manitobans.

Robert Sopuck is Executive Director of the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy, in Winnipeg.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

As part of its mandate to improve housing and living conditions, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is looking at sustainable communities from a systems point of view. Chris Ives, a researcher with CMHC, explains: "Tackling the issue of sustainable communities in a piecemeal fashion will not lead to lasting change. Looking at the community as a system to reduce its economic and environmental impact is good for the community."

CMHC has undertaken research in the following areas: sustainable development and housing, settlement issues, infrastructure, transportation, energy and materials efficiency, healthy housing, indoor air quality, lead hazards, environmental hypersensitivity, soil gas and toxic lands, and international relations.

A paper produced as part of CMHC's Healthy Housing study noted that attention paid to subdivision planning and site selection can be as critical to energy conservation as consideration of construction techniques and building supplies. Another study focused on the issues and challenges cur-

rently facing Canadian cities as they identify ways of achieving more environmentally sustainable transportation systems.

Each year CMHC sponsors a Healthy Housing Design Competition to develop prototypical house designs that are "healthy" for both the occupants and the global environment. This project has produced several innovative designs that fundamentally respect sustainable development principles.

At the international level, CMHC has been actively promoting the role of cities in sustainable development through its work with the OECD Group on Urban Affairs, the Committee on Human Settlements of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio in June 1992.

For further information please contact: Stephen P. Pomroy or Chris Ives, Research Division, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), National Office, 700 Montreal Road, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0P7. Tel: (613) 748-2367 Fax: (613) 748-2156.



Actions speak louder than words

Dr. Gordon Edwards

The Owen Sound Round Table demonstrates the potential of local, grass-roots energy and initiative to bring about change. Physician Gordon Edwards, Chair of the Round Table, highlights some of its successes.

Enough talk. Let's do something. That's the message organizers of our Round Table heard two years ago when we were first getting off the ground. Since then, a great deal of action has taken place, but we've also done a lot of talking. And together the two approaches have gone a long way toward building consensus on sustainable development within a multi-sectoral forum in our area — and that's what we at the Owen Sound Round Table believe our role is.

Sustainability at the local level is, after all, the essence of local round tables. But one of the challenges we have faced is finding the right mix of rousing old fashioned sleeves-up community work and what some would consider unproductive high-brow visioning. In our case, that balance has harnessed the power and energy that can only come from a grass-roots organization.

In 1992 an unlikely mix of businesspeople, farmers and environmentalists came together to form the Owen Sound Round Table. This union was the product of a steering committee's work and two public meetings advertised under the general title of "sustainable development." The public meetings attracted concerned citizens, many of whom were frustrated because there was no vehicle to express their commitment to sustainability.

Thanks to this public process, project ideas were identified, reviewed and selected by a vote. Project groups were formed and action was taken.

Several projects arose from the melting pot of ideas that came about from this public process. Our Earth Expo is an environmental trade show designed to give local businesses a showcase for their environmental products, and industry an opportunity to tell their story on sustainable development. The Owen Sound Cycle Routes Committee, another of our projects, has worked closely with city staff to draft a map of preferred cycle routes linking workplaces with residential areas.

A third group publishes a quarterly bulletin entitled *Cornucopia*, which focuses on ways that local businesses can reduce waste. As well as articles on local waste management opportunities, there is a waste exchange classified listing and a directory of businesses that accept different post-use materials.

Other committees focus on issues such as our rivers and waterways, public education, business liaison, membership and so on. But no matter what their focus, we make sure that all our projects have a sustainability spin to them. We use them as examples of how consensus-building can lead to sustainability. And because they are action-focused, instead of weighed down by theory, these projects have attracted local citizens with a keen interest, energy and dogged dedication to the cause of their choice. This is the power of the grass-roots organization and to watch it unfold is very exciting.

Perhaps it is the spontaneity of spin-off activities that make the process so exciting. Having read *Cornucopia*, a local interior decorator asked

us to help her bring a waste management expert from Toronto to speak to our local Home Builder's Association. A local artist, roused by the work of our Cycle Routes Committee, secured funding from local industry and downtown merchants for a dozen unique brass bicycle bollards. This eventually gave rise to a permanent Cycle Centre which will be built this Spring thanks to a unique collaboration of local artists and designers. Thanks also to over \$45,000 contributed to the Round Table by local businesses and federal and provincial governments.

These activities have developed seemingly on their own. We on the Round Table, however, ever-mindful of the importance of the theoretical side of the coin, have ensured that the concept of sustainability remains the pivotal focus for all the projects. And in this way we are gradually building a vision for our community. As our projects become more sophisticated, and as we gain credibility among members of our community, we are in an increasingly better position to gauge where we should be going.

Some argue that this is putting the cart before the horse — that we should first draft a plan, nail down our vision, and then stick to it. But without the tangible results and immediate rewards of our activities, there would be little momentum to decide on a direction — let alone arrive at any pre-determined destination.

Dr. Gordon Edwards is Chair of the Round Table on Environment and Economy in Owen Sound and Area.

Partnerships for the Future: A Greenway to Sustainability

Suzanne Barrett

Responding to needs identified by the Royal Commission on the Future of Toronto's Waterfront, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust is promoting community development, economic renewal and environmental regeneration. Suzanne Barrett describes how one of the Trust's projects is leading to sustainability.

The Royal Commission on the Future of Toronto's Waterfront (1988-1992) provided a focus for Ontarians to express their fears and hopes about Lake Ontario and its waterfront. At a local level, people were concerned about lack of access, blocked views, closed beaches, lost habitats, and old industrial wastelands. At a larger scale, there was on the one hand a renewed recognition that the waterfront is a resource of provincial significance, and on the other hand, concerns about the effects of pollution in the Great Lakes, and development pressures along their shores. A recurring theme in analyzing the barriers to waterfront regeneration was jurisdictional gridlock.

Responding to the needs identified by the Royal Commission, the Ontario government established the Waterfront Regeneration Trust in June 1992. The Trust acts as a catalyst and facilitator on the waterfront, bringing government and non-government players together to confront jurisdictional gridlock, find new solutions to old problems, and build consensus about future directions.

To ensure a future for the Lake Ontario waterfront that is clean, green, accessible, affordable, useable, diverse, attractive, open and connected, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust is coordinating a Greenway along the north shore of Lake Ontario from Burlington Bay to the Trent

River. The Greenway includes protected natural habitats, a 275 km waterfront trail, parks, cultural heritage landscapes and sites, farms, residential neighbourhoods, business districts, harbours, tourist attractions, and beaches. A variety of projects are underway to integrate economic renewal, environmental regeneration, and community development.

Each project is planned with careful consideration of the relationships among environmental conditions, economic opportunities, and community needs.

How will the Greenway lead to sustainability? Here are a few examples:

1. In Northumberland County, the neighbouring towns of Port Hope and Cobourg, along with the surrounding townships of Hope and Hamilton, have great potential to improve redevelopment and recrea-

tion opportunities, as well as to provide a node of diverse activities for residents and tourists. Their assets include heritage landscapes and buildings, diverse natural areas, beaches, local visual and performing arts, new trail systems, fine restaurants and more. Port Hope is designated a "green community" and has a successful Energreen program in place to reduce waste, energy use and water use. On the other hand, both Port Hope and Cobourg have lands contaminated by former industrial uses that are holding up waterfront revitalization. The Greenway offers a coordinated approach to waterfront clean-up, enhancements, redevelopment, and packaging of recreation and tourism activities. A crucial aspect of this work will be to ensure a long-term perspective, with sensitivity to cultural heritage, ecological systems and quality of life. These are part of the appeal for visitors, and profoundly valuable to local residents, but could be easily damaged if over-used or carelessly developed.

2. In Oshawa, a partnership among Environment Canada, the City of Oshawa, General Motors of Canada Ltd., Friends of Second Marsh, the Province of Ontario, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, the Durham Board of Education, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and Ducks Unlimited

has replaced a 30-year fight to save Oshawa Second Marsh. Work is now underway on wetland restoration, boardwalks, look-out platforms, and interpretive programs. In addition, General Motors Ltd., in building its environmental-award-winning Canadian headquarters overlooking the Second Marsh, set aside the McLaughlin Wildlife Reserve for natural regeneration, connecting the marsh with Darlington Provincial Park to the east. This cluster of nature areas will be linked to the Oshawa trail system, providing a major recreational resource for city residents, as well as a significant attraction for ecotourism on the Lake Ontario Greenway.

3. Rattray Marsh, at the mouth of Sheridan Creek on the Mississauga waterfront, is the last natural lake-front marsh between Burlington and Toronto. Degradation by the cumulative effects of over-use, adjacent residential activities, and changes in the watershed is threatening the sustainability of the Rattray forest and wetland habitats.

A management plan to restore habitats, re-route trails and provide interpretive opportunities is being implemented by a partnership including the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, City of Mississauga, Rattray Marsh Protection Association, Jobs Ontario Capital, South Peel Naturalists Club, Owenwood Residents Association, Meadowood/Rattray Ratepayers, Region of Peel, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Boy Scouts of Canada, and Consumer's Gas.

There are some essential ingredients of projects in the Lake Ontario Greenway that enable them to contribute to the creation of healthy, sustainable places. They include:

Holistic, or ecosystem, approach: Each project is planned with careful consideration of the relationships among environmental conditions, economic opportunities, and community needs.

Balance and diversity: One of the special values of the Lake Ontario Greenway that contributes to sustainability is its diversity. To maintain and enhance this diversity requires the balancing of many apparent opposites; natural and built elements, residents and visitors, passive and active recreation, protection and use of resources, and short and long-term objectives.

Long-term perspective: The Greenway is an investment in the future. Projects undertaken now are designed to ensure long-lasting benefits, and to be consistent with work that may not be undertaken for several decades.

Combining resources: The partners in Greenway projects work cooperatively so that their individual programs and investments can be combined to gain greater benefits.

Ecological integrity: Restoration of degraded environments, protection of natural areas, watershed stewardship, and re-establishment of habitat linkages will ensure a healthy and sustainable foundation for social, recreational and economic activities.

Community-based decisions and actions: Greenway projects are selected, designed and undertaken by communities to match their local opportunities and resources with their needs.

By applying these ingredients to particular places, the municipalities, community groups, service clubs, businesses, conservation authorities, and provincial and federal agencies involved in the Greenway find that they are able to work together in a new spirit of cooperation. These partnerships reflect a profound change in approach — a change to sustainability.

Suzanne Barrett is Director of Environmental Studies, Waterfront Regeneration Trust, in Toronto.

Ontario Round Table: Inventory of Sustainability

The Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy (ORTEE), as part of its mandate, is actively promoting and supporting the dozens of local round tables and sustainable development initiatives in Ontario. One of its current projects involves gathering information on sustainability activities across the province. This *Inventory of Activities* will be used as a tool and provide examples for communities looking to achieve sustainability. Ron Neilson, Policy Coordinator for the ORTEE says "the real purpose is to promote multi-sectoral initiatives in Ontario, through facilitating networking and accessing limited resources in partnership rather than in competition."

Essentially the Ontario Round Table is building on the concept of multi-sectoral round tables because sustainable development and sustainable communities are fostered and enhanced by this approach. An inventory will aid communities in fostering linkages with other communities and groups working in similar areas. Initially a survey was sent to potential respondents from all sectors of society.

Categories of organizations include local round tables, healthy communities, green communities, conservation authorities, remedial action plans, waste management system plans, municipal environmental advisory committees and grass-roots initiatives such as agricultural groups, community action plans, global action plans, information and networking databases, local action groups, native projects, transportation groups, women's groups and education groups.

Neilson says that this is the first time that a multi-sectoral directory has been attempted.

For more information please contact: Ron Neilson, Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy, 1 Dundas Street West, Suite 2502, P.O. Box 4, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z3. Tel: (416) 327-7029 Fax: (416) 327-2197.

Sustainability in Atlantic Canada: A Grass-Roots Movement

Janice Harvey

As Atlantic Canada struggles with the collapse of the fisheries, communities are tapping their own potential for self-reliance. Janice Harvey outlines some of the local sustainability initiatives underway in New Brunswick.

From the crucible of crisis comes change and change in Atlantic Canada is inevitable, given the demise of our natural resources, beginning but not ending with groundfish stocks. These resources comprise our natural capital, the only source of real wealth, other than our people, to which we have had some access. But what kind of change will we see? Who will control it? What agenda will it serve? Will we achieve a sustainable future?

These questions are the focus of many struggles now emerging

throughout this region. They are being fought on many fronts, some more forthright and visible than others. Their collective outcome will colour to a great extent the picture of the future here.

These struggles can be characterized as efforts of people, usually organized into groups, to gain some measure of control over the resource base on which they and their communities depend economically and over decision-making processes which affect them. Their ac-

tions are driven by a few basic beliefs:

- that common resources have been and are now generally allocated and managed to benefit private interests other than those of the local community and its residents;
 - that local people have knowledge about local resources which has not been accounted for to date and must be brought to bear in new resource management regimes;
 - that local communities possess as yet untapped capacities and opportunities for building self-reliance;
 - that community survival will depend on the revival of those resources which have shaped community history, culture, language, skills, knowledge, and social relations.
- Here is a sampling of some of these actions in New Brunswick:
- In Knowlesville, Falls Brook Centre, a training centre for developing sustainability has gained control of a portion of adjacent Crown forest land which is under lease to an industrial forestry operation (although Falls Brook is not allowed to profit from its harvest, unlike the original lessee).
 - Residents of Kedgwick, in northern New Brunswick, organized to influence forest harvesting practices of Fraser Inc., a pulp and paper subsidiary of Noranda, on their doorsteps. They succeeded in having forest management practices within

EnviroTowns

EnviroTowns is a program run by the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation that aims to heighten the environmental awareness of residents of Nova Scotia. It is a catalyst for greater civic pride and practical environmental improvements such as litter control, recycling, conservation and beautification. EnviroTowns provides the stimulus, training and guidance needed to obtain broad-based community support. Through the program a community conducts a self-assessment from which it develops a series of projects, that result in visible improvements and changes in the way the community interacts with the environment.

Initiated over three years ago, the program originally focused on waste management. Now it is developing a sustained campaign to change attitudes and habits, encouraging people to take better care of the place in which they live.

According to Program Coordinator Randy Miller, it has been "very successful in creating lots of energy among volunteers in the communities." There are currently eight EnviroTowns in Nova Scotia; they communicate with each other to share practical information and ideas. A recent one-day workshop for the EnviroTowns helped connect those communities that may have needed an extra boost from the more established communities.

EnviroTowns are endorsed through a council resolution, and the city/county generally provides some financial and logistical support. The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation doesn't provide funding to communities, but it takes responsibility for introducing EnviroTowns to communities, supplying a manual and other printed materials, assisting a task force in planning projects and acting as a resource base for information on environmental issues and projects.

For more information please contact: Randy Miller, EnviroTowns Coordinator, The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, 1675 Bedford Row, P.O. Box 2528, Station M, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3N5. Tel: (902) 420-3474 Fax: (902) 424-5334.

a defined area around Kedgwick subject to their approval.

- In Charlotte County, concerned residents have recently formed the Fundy Community Foundation, an effort to build a locally controlled permanent capital fund to support community development actions by non-profit groups.
- Woodcutters in central and northern New Brunswick have recently shut down several mechanical harvesting operations drawing attention to job loss and ecological destruction in the forest.
- Organized by the National Farmers Union in New Brunswick, potato farmers, victims of Agriculture Canada's handling of the PVYn virus fiasco, have filed a suit against that department, calling on it to account for callous mismanagement of the issue, resulting in massive financial losses and in some cases bankruptcies for potato farmers. A similar action is being taken in Prince Edward Island.
- Through the N.B. Federation of Woodlot Owners, the New Brunswick Woodlot Trust was formed to invest in local, value-added processing of wood products. Their hardwood flooring mill provides independent wood producers with an alternative to the primary market, still largely controlled by pulp and paper corporations.
- The Conservation Council of New Brunswick, a citizens environmental group, has launched a campaign to put "public lands in public hands," proposing a structure for community control of forests within a certain distance of those communities, removing this land from corporate control.
- Friends of the Petitcodiac, a multi-sectoral coalition, is working to have the gates of the causeway across that river opened, restoring its natural tidal flows and ecological

functions, and bringing economic benefits of a free-flowing river to the greater Moncton area. Their intensive work with business groups and municipalities centres around the economic value of natural assets and the spin-off costs when natural systems are disrupted.

- Diverse interests in Saint John, eastern Charlotte County and the St. Croix region have established local committees to develop environmental management plans for their harbours and estuaries under the federal Atlantic Coastal Action Program. The big challenge will be to ensure that these community-based plans are respected by provincial and federal governments.

***Given what is at
stake now –
ecological as well as
economic, social and
cultural survival – an
informed, rooted and
committed people's
movement for
sustainability is more
important than ever.***

- Grand Manan Islanders are fighting to have rockweed beds around their island removed from proposed lease allocations to commercial rockweed harvesting companies in order to ensure that ecological functions in the intertidal zone and the local herring fishery are not disrupted.
- Several diverse fishers' organizations in southwestern New Brunswick are working to bridge their own differences in order to present an effective, coherent voice for fisheries

reform and to ensure their participation in decision making on the fishery of the future.

- Environmental, development and social justice groups held a conference in March called "Alternative Economics: Building Sustainable Maritime Communities", the purpose of which was to increase the understanding of the economic forces at play and explore measures to be taken at the community level to increase local self-reliance and sustainability. The common element in each of these examples (it is an incomplete list) is a local effort to gain some degree of control over decisions which affect the local environment and resources, thus increasing local self-reliance. The greatest obstacle facing each of them is or has been resistance from those in power who, by definition, must concede some power if local struggles are to succeed.

Community participation, community responsibility, sustainable communities -- the slogans and invocation of local involvement in sustainable development emanate from governments, industry, universities, as well as local groups and associations. But few fully acknowledge that to achieve this, a redistribution of power is necessary. Fewer still appear ready to let go of some of their control in order to empower people in communities to make meaningful change.

Given what is at stake now — ecological as well as economic, social and cultural survival — an informed, rooted and committed people's movement for sustainability is more important than ever. The willingness of governments and other institutions to work with this movement, not against it, will be a fundamental indicator of whether it will succeed and what the potential for achieving sustainability here will be.

Janice Harvey, Past President of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, is President of the Fundy Community Foundation.

Changing Course: Communities in Action

City of Nanaimo

In 1991 the City of Nanaimo, British Columbia, put in place a broad-based community planning process to develop a vision of Nanaimo's future to the year 2012, called Imagine Nanaimo.

Every resident of Nanaimo was invited to take part in the process through a public symposium. An Imagine Nanaimo steering committee then produced a series of documents to provide a good sense of community vision. *Focusing the Vision of Our Future* is a community plan for renewal. It clearly sets out a series of goals and strategic initiatives based on several priority issues identified by Nanaimo residents: growth; transportation; economy; neighbourhoods; social, cultural, natural and physical environments; and public participation and leadership.

Unfortunately Imagine Nanaimo was a recent victim of budget cuts. However, the steering committee has agreed to continue as a volunteer advisory group to Nanaimo City Council. The City Planning Department is now in the process of preparing an official community plan update, based on *Focusing the Vision of Our Future*. The City intends to make the next plan more comprehensive, and to present programs that will guide the city to 1995.

For more information please contact: Melinda Entwistle, Economic Development Office, City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5J6. Tel: (604) 755-4465 Fax: (604) 755-4436.



Creston Valley

The Creston Valley Sustainable Community Project was officially launched a year ago as part of the Rural and Small Town Programme at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, thanks to funding provided by the Community Economic Development Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

According to Project Coordinator Lorne Eckersley, the project aims to create a Sustainable Community Plan for Creston Valley, British Columbia, which will allow the area to become a working model for the rest of the province. The measure of success will come when all future actions of the community are made within the context of such a plan.

To begin, the Project organized a one-day visioning workshop on sustainability. It has also co-sponsored a Co-Design Project, which brought together members of the community with artists and writers to create a visual plan based on the interests in sustainability expressed at the workshop.

The Sustainable Community Project is guided by a core of about 30 representatives from a variety of community interests and is directed

**Across the country
Aboriginal
communities, big
cities, small towns,
valleys, villages and
neighbourhoods
are all making a
difference. Here's a
brief sampling of
the range of
sustainability
activities underway.**

by an eight-person management committee which meets monthly with the coordinator.

For more information please contact: Lorne Eckersley, Coordinator, Creston Valley Sustainable Communities Project, Box 2566, Creston, British Columbia, V1A 2E8. Tel: (604) 428-2994 Fax: (604) 428-9164.

City of Calgary

According to its recent environmental policy, the City of Calgary, Alberta, promises to "integrate social, economic and environmental objectives into a coordinated decision-making process to maintain high standards of living, social harmony and environmental quality." Its policy commits it to "environmental leadership to conserve, protect and improve the environment for the benefit of Calgarians and the regional and global community." Specific goals for the City include: communicating the City's environmental policy to Calgarians; taking a leadership role by promoting

environmental legislation; encouraging the conservation of limited natural resources; creating and maintaining an environmental action plan to achieve the City's environmental objectives; encouraging preventative approaches to environmental problems; ensuring environmental considerations are part of all City of Calgary planning decisions; and that the City's own operations comply with legislation.

The environmental policy addresses: air and water quality; solid and hazardous waste; and land-use planning and preservation. Specific strategies to help achieve these objectives include: working with other governments to gain appropriate legislation and enact environmental programs; establishing effective communication with regional jurisdictions; and establishing joint venture initiatives with the private sector.

For more information please contact: David Reynolds, Office for the Environment #8013, Engineering and Environmental Services Department, City of Calgary, P.O. Box 2100, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5. Tel: (403) 268-4699 Fax: (403) 268-1529.

Pincher Creek

Through proactive education and searching for the best possible decision-making processes, the Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation is committed to a better environmental future for Pincher Creek, Alberta. Incorporated in 1989, the mandate of the Foundation is "to enhance the ability of individuals and the community to bring about environmentally and socially healthy change."

One of the ways it does this is through environmental networking, as well as through the development of an environmental resource centre. What began as a self-education tool for those working with the foundation is now recognized as an established and useful resource for the whole town.



A major undertaking of the Foundation in the last year has been the Common Sense Project. Initiated in April 1993, this sustainable community effort was community invented and community driven. It was important to Pincher Creek residents that the initiative came from the town and not from elsewhere. The project, a one-year sustainability study, is based on the premise that you must "plan for your own continued existence within the carrying capacity of your land," says Foundation Coordinator Judy Huntley. Apparently this approach struck a chord with the agricultural and rural people living within the district.

A final project report is now being prepared. If there's one thing that has been realized says Huntley, "it is how hard it is to change the patterns of non-communication." Pincher Creek has made progress using the round table, multi-stakeholder process, but it feels it could still improve the lines of communication.

For more information please contact: Judy Huntley, Coordinator, Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation, Box 2556, Pincher Creek, Alberta, T0K 1W0. Tel: (403) 627-5059 or Tel/Fax: (403) 628-2422 (call first to send fax).

Regina: Non Fossil Fuels

In an effort to reduce the amount of CO₂ emissions from corporate sources, the City of Regina, Saskatchewan, has committed itself to researching and testing alternative fuels for its fleet of vehicles. In one initiative four new diesel-fueled buses were purchased, two of which were converted to ethanol — the first such powered vehicles in North America. Ethanol is renowned for having the lowest emissions of any fuel.

The ethanol-fueled buses were monitored for their operating efficiency as compared to diesel-fueled ones. Results showed that the "on street performance" for diesel and ethanol were about the same, although the vehicles run on diesel fuel got better mileage. The exhaust from the ethanol powered vehicles was much cleaner; however, they were more labour intensive, requiring a greater amount of preventative maintenance. The testing ended in December 1993, and the ethanol-fueled buses were converted back to diesel.

The Department is continuing to look for alternative fuels and is now doing comparison studies between diesel and compressed natural gas. Currently, in a fleet of more than 50 vehicles, trucks are operated on propane, compressed natural gas, and diesel. Surprisingly the emissions performance of diesel rivals that of the compressed natural gas. It is likely that by the end of this year the City will have new buses that operate on yet another alternative fuel.

For more information please contact: Chuck Flavelle, Department of Transport, City of Regina, P.O. Box 1790, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3C8. Tel: (306) 777-7782. Fax: (306) 777-6811.

Healthy Flin Flon

Serving as a network and a central resource, Healthy Flin Flon (HFF) provides a round table forum for dialogue and co-operative problem solving between residents, community organizations, and the City Council. Healthy Flin Flon, Manitoba, supports and assists many community groups and associations who are working toward improving the quality of life for local residents. The group attempts to strike a balance between environmental, economic and social issues. Overall health, not just physical health, is the focus.

There are currently more than 60 member organizations of Healthy Flin Flon and their motto for 1994 is "hope, harmony, and humour for health." The program is based on a community-up process, establishing an environment in which people can come forward and speak out. By providing a public forum, Healthy Flin Flon mobilizes issue-oriented groups into action and successfully addresses community needs.

Some local initiatives and ideas of HFF include: a community garden project initiated by the local food bank; reviewing seniors health needs; a seniors newsletter; a youth centre; and a proposed Community Foundation. "Our community is truly taking responsibility for itself," says coordinator Cathi Wilson.

For more information please contact: Cathi Wilson, Healthy Flin Flon, Box 100, Flin Flon City Hall, Flin Flon, Manitoba, R8A 1M6. Tel: (204) 687-3190 Fax: (204) 687-5133.

Capital Region Strategy

The Department of Urban Affairs, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, has undertaken a Capital Region Strategy to integrate the sustainable development policies of 16 municipalities in the region. This region includes three cities — Winnipeg, Stonewall and Selkirk — and 13 rural communities. In addition to the three mayors and 13 reeves on the Capital Regional Committee (CRC), there are three cabinet ministers from the departments Rural Development, Environment and Urban Affairs. Together, they are developing a plan for the region.

A subcommittee of the CRC is drafting action statements which cover five categories: economic development, environment and resources, settlement, human resources and partnerships. Says strategy coordinator Heather MacKnight, "These are not new program commitments, but rather commitments to new ways of doing things ... more cooperative, integrated ways."

What makes this strategy different is its holistic approach, which integrates human development issues, education, poverty, land use and resource protection. The CRC recognizes the importance of community involvement, as 50-60% of policies are implemented by municipalities. To this end, there is an increased emphasis on independence and more self-reliance.

A meeting in mid-March reviewed the draft strategy, and more meetings are scheduled for May. After public consultations, the committee hopes to release a final report early in 1995.

For more information please contact: Heather MacKnight, Coordinator, Management of Regional Policy, Department of Urban Affairs, City of



Wabaseemoong-Ontario

In the 1970s, after flooding and displacement of the original Wabaseemoong First Nations community (in northwestern Ontario) forced relocation, it was discovered that mercury contamination levels at the new settlement were excessively high. To empower the community and improve the consultation process, the Wabaseemoong First Nations and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources entered into a co-management agreement in 1983.

The Wabaseemoong First Nations formed the Wabaseemoong Area Resources Committee in order to facilitate the joint administration and co-management of natural resources within the Wabaseemoong Traditional Land Use Area. The main objective of the committee is to develop and implement an integrated resource co-management plan for the area.

Community consultation is a key element in the development of this joint plan. The Committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Wabaseemoong First Nations, and third party sectoral interests.

For more information please contact: Jack Masters, Wabaseemoong Area Resources Committee, 153 Whalen Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 7H9. Tel: (807) 475-9253 Fax: (807) 473-8373.



Guelph 2000

Guelph 2000 is a multi-sectoral, community-based initiative designed to help the citizens of Guelph, Ontario, understand and implement ecologically responsible living. It is supported by the Ontario government through the Green Communities Initiative, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Green Communities Initiative assists local communities in designing and delivering their own tailor-made green action plans. It attempts to move away from traditional program delivery toward more appropriate community-driven planning and action.

The vision of Guelph 2000 is to help the community work together to make Guelph a model of resource conservation and waste reduction, ensuring ecological health for future generations. Through the Home Green Up program, Guelph 2000 advisors visit homes to find ways to reduce energy, water and waste. Canada Trust provides "Enviroloans" to help homeowners finance home improvements.

The Project has an institutional, commercial and industrial program that help businesses reduce energy, water and waste, and improve their "bottom line". Guelph 2000 also works with schools to help develop educational programs in waste reduction, energy and water conservation.

For more information please contact: Barry Bauman, Information Officer, Guelph 2000, 90 Yarmouth Street, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 4G3. Tel: (519) 823-0860 Fax: (519) 823-8777.

City of Montreal

Having completed its first State-of-the-Environment Report in 1991, the City of Montreal, Quebec, has been involved in over 120 environmental initiatives, both municipal and regional.

Although the Environment Unit of the Planning and Coordination Department is responsible for overall coordination of the City's environmental policy, initiatives and actions are carried out cooperatively among most of the City's departments. Through this

process the City promotes multisectoral management. The following are examples of some of the initiatives undertaken:

- The Bicycle Path Master Plan is designed to consolidate and complete the bicycle path network, to encourage the use of bicycles for recreation and transportation uses, and to improve and promote bicycle safety.
- The Green Space Network Master Plan consists of a system of recreational pathways linking the City's principal public green spaces, institutional and community green spaces, open spaces, and railroad and hydro-electric transmission corridors.
- Driven by a commitment to reduce energy consumption, the Energy Efficiency Program was created to heighten the awareness of municipal building occupants and suggest ways that they could modify their energy consumption habits.
- A Waste Sorting and Recycling Centre was set-up for recyclable material from residential, commercial and industrial sources.

For more information please contact: Normand Brunet, Planning Advisor, Planning and Coordination, City of Montreal, 413 rue Saint-Jacques, 5th Floor, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9. Tel: (514) 872-8353 Fax: (514) 872-8662.

Sherbrooke

After seven years, Healthy City Sherbrooke, one of the 91 communities participating in Quebec's Villes et villages en santé program, continues to improve the quality of life of its citizens. With a rallying cry of "a shared responsibility," Healthy City Sherbrooke uses available community resources and creates links to aid partners from various sectors and organizations. The key to Sherbrooke's success lies in the collaboration of its partners and the broad-based participation of its citizens.

The goal of Healthy Sherbrooke is to establish a structure that will allow the participation of citizens at every level of decision making and to achieve concrete results that will improve all facets of daily life in Sherbrooke. Initiatives include: a youth centre; an annual tree-planting campaign; and a domestic hazardous waste collection program.

Healthy Sherbrooke believes intersectoral collaboration is important. In the future it plans to focus on protecting the environment in the work place, eliminating poverty and developing mutual aid mechanisms among community organizations and neighbourhood institutions.

For more information please contact: Louise Gosselin, City of Sherbrooke, Box 610, Sherbrooke, Quebec, G1H 5H9. Tel: (819) 829-6444 Fax: (819) 562-1222.



McAdam

In 1991 McAdam, a community of 1600 people located in the southwest corner of New Brunswick, joined Mount Allison's Rural and Small Town Programme. This small town was the perfect testing ground for planning tools aimed to help communities help themselves towards sustainability. With 65% unemployment and two major industries in receivership, community leaders recognized the potential of a sustainable approach to economic development.

As of March 1994, McAdam has a set of action plans aimed to fulfil the community's social, environmental, and economic goals. These goals are based on the people's own assessment of McAdam's strengths and weaknesses, and the threats and opportunities posed from outside. A partnership of community leaders worked long and hard to prepare the plan which is now circulating through the community and government circles.

McAdam demonstrates that a community in decline can and will accept responsibility for its own future if community participants are given the right process to work with, and if local governments support both the process and implementation of a community plan.

For more information please contact: John Flynn, Southwest Development Corporation, P.O. Box 8, Harvey Station, New Brunswick, E0H 1H0. Tel: (506) 366-3022 Fax: (506) 366-3444.



Bedford EnviroTowns

Through the assistance of Clean Nova Scotia's REACH Program (Restoring

Environmental and Community Health), the Bedford EnviroTowns Committee has been successful in getting the community animated around issues of environment and health. The Town of Bedford, with a population of about 12,000, officially endorsed the creation of the Bedford EnviroTowns Committee in June 1993. "The main goal of the committee, has been to promote community involvement ... to get people talking and working out what needs to be done in Bedford ... and we've done that," says Chair Mark Coffin.

In November 1993, Bedford was involved in a province-wide workshop to discuss the REACH program and to address the linkages between health and the environment. (REACH, part of a national Community Animation Project funded by Health Canada, works with communities on projects they have identified that link issues of environment and health.) Feedback from this workshop was vital to the Bedford EnviroTowns Committee and was extremely useful in setting its agenda for the following year.

The Committee surveyed 800 Bedford residents; the results have been written up in a report, identifying concerns and suggesting community actions to be taken. Already the Committee is promoting chemical-free lawns. Other suggestions include smoke-free workplace environments, alleviating traffic flow, recycling and composting.

Next steps of the Committee include playing a major role in the City sponsored *Arbour Day* in May. The event involves distributing seedlings to residents, a tree planting ceremony and the presentation of highlights of results from the Committee's report. The Committee hopes to increase its profile and to get more residents involved.

For more information please contact: Mark Coffin, Chair, Bedford EnviroTowns Committee, Suite 200, 2 Dartmouth Road, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 2K7. Tel: (902) 835-8355 Fax: (902) 835-1301.

St. Peter's Bay

Under P.E.I.'s Watershed Improvement Program, the St. Peter's Bay Environmental Committee has undertaken a project on Schooner Brook to improve the condition of this local watershed habitat. Work included conducting a detailed habitat assessment, maintenance of habitat previously enhanced and initiating restoration of degraded habitat.

This program not only assists in the improvement and preservation of valuable watershed habitat, it assists in the economic development of the region by improving recreational fisheries and employing people in the project itself.

P.E.I.'s Department of Environmental Resources launched the Watershed Improvement Program in 1992. With help from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the program provides funding and technical support to get communities involved in environmental work such as stream, watershed and habitat restoration and enhancement and creation of recreational trails.

For more information please contact: Bruce Smith, Watershed Improvement Program, Department of Environmental Resources, P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7N8. Tel: (902) 368-6081 Fax: (902) 368-6082 or Roger Stedman, St. Peter's Bay Environmental Committee, General Delivery, St. Peter's Bay, P.E.I., C0A 2A0. Tel: (902) 961-2941.

Humber Arm

The Humber Arm Environmental Association Ltd. (HAEA), became a part of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program in February 1992. There are now approximately 20 stakeholders in the Association, representing many local interests.

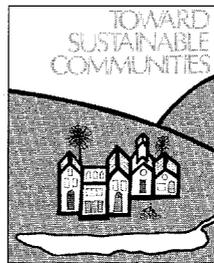
Six community visioning sessions were initially held to help develop a comprehensive environmental management plan. A community profile was also produced which involved conducting an environmental quality assessment of current conditions in the community.

Humber Arm, Newfoundland, is also involved in a partnership project dealing with the issue of hazardous waste at the local level. The feasibility of diverting these wastes from landfill sites for total destruction in a local cement company's kiln is now being examined. HAEA also helped devise a program for a Household Hazardous Waste Day.

As part of the Association's Urban Rivers program, it has developed an environmentally sound trail network which promotes education and ecotourism. Further plans for the network include an interpretation centre for heritage and environmental awareness.

HAEA is now focusing on a strategic workplan for the implementation of recommendations that developed out of the community profile. As well, the Association is developing terms of reference for proposals arising from the environmental quality assessment.

For more information please contact: Sean Dolter, Humber Arm Environmental Association Inc., 89 West Valley Road, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, A2H 2X4. Tel: (709) 634-1552 Fax: (709) 634-0255.



AVAILABLE AGAIN:

Toward Sustainable Communities: A Resource Book for Municipal and Local Governments

by **Mark Roseland**

The National Round Table has been overwhelmed with constant requests for this popular book. We are pleased to announce that it has now been reprinted.

Toward Sustainable Communities is a handbook for local government officials and citizens who want to apply the concept of sustainable development to their own cities and towns. It discusses air quality, transport, land use, energy conservation, waste management, water and sewage, economic and community development, and planning and implementation. Dozens of tools, initiatives and resources are included, accompanied by annotated bibliographies and contacts for key organizations.

Mark Roseland lectures internationally and advises governments on sustainable planning and policy. He is currently Research Director and Visiting Professor at the School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University.

Villes et Villages en Santé: The Rouyn-Noranda Community of Notre-Dame

Réal Lacombe

In 1987 Rouyn-Noranda, a Quebec mining town, adopted the first Villes et villages en santé project in North America. Two years later it tackled the contentious issue of lead contamination, and, through a multi-stakeholder collaborative process, reached consensus on how to tackle the problem. Réal Lacombe describes how the community made such tremendous progress.

Quebec's Healthy Communities Network (Villes et villages en santé) is the most active in all of Canada, involving 92 communities throughout the province. Though the original rationale for the Healthy Communities movement began with human health and social well-being, the focus of the Villes en santé program in Quebec has expanded to include environmental concerns. The movement, sponsored by the World Health Organization, today includes more than 1,000 cities around the world.

One of the first North American cities to participate in the program, Rouyn-Noranda has rejuvenated community spirit through a collaborative community effort, and has made significant progress toward sustainable development as a result of an inquiry into lead contamination several years ago.

Rouyn-Noranda is a mining city with a population of 27 000, located 600 km north-west of Montréal, in the heart of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, a mining and forest region. In November 1989, regional public health authorities published preliminary results of an inquiry into lead contamination of the children in the Notre-Dame community of Rouyn-Noranda. This was instrumental in launching a process of consultation

and collaboration led by Rouyn-Noranda's Villes en santé team. Although similar findings were published in 1979, it was not until the community participated in the Villes en santé movement that action was taken, 10 years later.

At the invitation of a joint committee, composed of citizens of the Notre-Dame community and representatives of the city of Rouyn-Noranda, all the stakehold-

ers concerned with the lead contamination issue became participants in the process: Noranda Minerals Inc., who had a record of pollution in the Rouyn-Noranda region, the company union, the regional office of the Ministry of the Environment, the Community Health Department, the Local Community Service Centre, the Rouyn-Noranda Standing Committee on the Environment (an ecological group), and the Chamber of Commerce.

Rouyn-Noranda witnessed the development of a new solidarity.

The group set two objectives for itself:

1. to prepare a general action proposal, for the end of 1990, aimed at correcting the lead contamination problem in the Notre-Dame community;

2. to create a common information base for all players, with a view to the collaboration that would be needed to realize the project.

To reach these objectives, the Committee scheduled five meetings to collect and exchange information, to which all the stakeholders were invited.

The Villes en santé team, which had been facilitating the process also had another objective: to bring all the players participating in the discussions to a consensus on how to deal with the lead issue.

In the spring of 1990, after four months of analysis, meetings and drafting, the participating committee reached unanimous consensus on an 18-point, \$20 million program of corrective measures to be scheduled over a three-year period. Ninety-five percent of the cost of the measures was subsidized by Noranda Minerals. A follow-up committee was set up to see that the work was carried out.

At the end of May, 1990, two weeks after publication of the report and less than six months after the first meeting of the Joint Committee, work began.

At the end of October, 1991, 10 of the 18 corrective measures had been applied: 80% of the land had been decontaminated, average blood lead concentrations had dropped from 116 to 77 µg/l, the appearance of the community was completely changed and a new community solidarity was born. In mid-March of this year Noranda Minerals announced the last of the 18 measures to be taken. By this fall, the 18-point plan will be complete.

It took 10 years for the lead contamination problem to find a permanent solution. Of course, major impediments to progress have existed, such as the need for financial support to implement major clean-up measures, the fact that decision centres were outside the community (Toronto, Québec), a dynamic of confrontation existed between some of the parties (the Ministry of the Environment, the company and

the labour union), and the fact that Noranda's previous threats of closure had not been erased from the minds of the citizens and business people of Rouyn-Noranda.

However, there were many factors which facilitated the success of the agreement and action plan, such as:

- The community was more aware of environmental questions in 1989 than it had been 10 years earlier; it expressed this awareness clearly, particularly during the consultation process and the community forum held by Villes en santé.
- In the 1980s Noranda Minerals had already decided to modernize its plant and change some of its operations so that they generated less pollution. Management changes included a focus on labour relations, the environment and community responsibility.
- The city had taken a firm stand in defence of the interests of its citizens.
- The Villes en santé project had already created a positive climate and the team had acquired important

expertise on how to tackle this type of problem.

- An appropriate plan of action had been accepted, with a tight deadline and clear ground rules.
- The way was now clear for the community to maximize its expertise.

Rouyn-Noranda knew what it had to do to end a serious problem that had affected many of its citizens for a long time. As a bonus, it witnessed the development of a new solidarity on which it would be able to count for support to face future challenges to the community.

If there is a lesson to be learned from this experience, it is undoubtedly the importance of bringing together all the expertise in a community, including that of its citizens, and identifying and putting into practice with imagination and determination, the processes to harness this expertise and, through the synergy thus created, to bring about effective solutions, acceptable to all the parties concerned.

Réal Lacombe is coordinator of the Réseau Québécois des villes et villages en santé in Québec City.

Atlantic Coastal Action Program

Atantic Canada's marine environment is vital to the region's economic and social fabric. In recent years this environment has become increasingly threatened by a collapse of the fisheries and by rising levels of pollution. In response to these threats, the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP), a federally funded initiative, aims to help improve and restore Atlantic Canada's coastal waters. It does this in real communities with real people facing real issues.

This \$10 million program funds communities through Canada's Green Plan from 1991 to 1997. ACAP organizations are multi-stakeholder and community-based round tables that are developing action plans for restoration and/or conservation of coastal ecosystems. By focusing on degraded harbours and establishing environmental marine management plans, ACAP promotes sustainable communities through comprehensive environmental management and displaces the notion that communities must choose between the environment and jobs.

Industries and environmentalists work with the community to achieve social and economic stability, and to set a vision of desirable environmental community qualities. Jim Ellsworth, Manager of ACAP, attributes the success of the program to



"the ability of stakeholders to identify and focus on their common interests. Their greatest common desire is to leave a healthy and productive environment for future generations."

There are now more than a dozen Atlantic communities participating in the program, such as Saint John Harbour, N.B., Sydney Harbour, N.S., Cardigan Bay, P.E.I., and Humber Arm, Nfld. Although no two community organizations operate in the same fashion, all communities have an inclusive membership policy, partnerships with other organizations, excellent communications and strong public involvement through education and local action.

This program is empowering communities to take control of their future and to integrate sustainable development into local decision making. The networking of ACAP organizations and linkages with other coastal community initiatives ensures that the knowledge, ability and skills gained in one community are shared with other communities.

For more information please contact: Jim Ellsworth, Manager ACAP, Environment Canada, 4th floor, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 2N6. Tel: (902) 426-2131. Fax: (902) 426-4457.

Building Sustainable Communities in Nova Scotia

Karen Laine

Communities in Nova Scotia are struggling to overcome economic hardships — in particular resulting from the collapse of the East Coast fisheries. Karen Laine, founding member of the Sustainable Communities Network, describes how local communities are working together to achieve sustainable development and sustainable jobs.

Many Nova Scotians are feeling the brunt of economic hard times. Especially hard hit are coastal communities following the collapse of the East Coast fisheries. Tens of thousands are now out of work, and thousands more could be. Other traditional resource industries such as forestry and farming are also heading for crisis.

Short-term thinking, reliance on single industries, and an increasing monoculture view of resources have jeopardized the sustainability of both the ecosystems that jobs are dependent on, and the communities reliant on those jobs. We need a new approach, and we need to involve the community in economic decisions to create long-term, sustainable jobs.

Our race towards globalization is not rooted in any desire to develop a fair, equitable and secure lifestyle for all peoples of the world, but rather to find bigger markets, reduce expenses and increase profits at any cost. "In order to compete on the global market" has become an excuse for moving the focus away from strengthening our local economies. The promise of more jobs has overridden concerns for fair trade, social justice and environmental health, even though the promise is often hollow. As a recent *Globe & Mail* headline noted, "Higher profits predicted, [but] job cuts to continue".

With crisis, however, comes opportunity. Many Nova Scotians are also taking a serious look at present economic structures and are promoting alternatives. But building sustain-

We need a new approach, and we need to involve the community in economic decisions to create long-term, sustainable jobs.

able communities means getting involved in economic decision making — in fact, it means regaining community power — and communicating with others who are also struggling for sustainability.

The first challenge for sustainability is process. Community animation projects are a process where communities develop their own vision of the future, determine their unique strengths and barriers, and develop a plan that the community supports, a plan that accounts for social, cultural, environmental and economic health.

Unfortunately, such "multi-stakeholder" approaches are often biased

by who has chosen the "stakes," and the "power" is still in how you stack the deck. The deck should reflect the true diversity of the community, to develop a vision that is forward thinking — beyond a four-year political term — and driven by more than just profit.

Equally as important as the process are encouragement, access to information, resources, and the knowledge of other communities' efforts. It helps to know that someone else has faced similar circumstances, and overcome them. The need for real examples of successful community initiatives, and help to find the tools and resources needed is essential.

Last spring the Nova Scotia Environment and Development Coalition facilitated workshops at which individuals and organization representatives from environment, development, government and community groups met to discuss what kind of structure could best support the building of sustainable communities in the province. One need strongly identified was a vehicle through which those interested in sustainable communities could communicate, exchange information, resources and experiences, and work together.

The Sustainable Communities Network of Nova Scotia (SCN) was incorporated in the this fall of 1993 to

provide such a vehicle. The mandate of the network is to promote a vision of resilient communities which are environment and people friendly. In this vision, communities have a healthy and diverse economic, social and cultural life and a measure of self-reliance.

The SCN will promote this vision by facilitating information exchange, educational opportunities and co-operation among groups and individuals with an interest in sustainable communities.

Information about sustainable community initiatives is presently scattered — there is no easy way to locate organizations, information and resources. For small grass-roots organizations and individuals the situation is frustrating. Several organizations have been trying to overcome this by publishing catalogues and directories, but sustainable community initiatives are growing at an explosive pace and information is often outdated.

The SCN felt that what was needed was a user friendly, easily updated structure through which to access such information.

Community Links is a computer communications project that will allow members to share information and ideas on issues related to sustainability. There is much talk about the "information superhighway", but will it be used for profit, or people and places? Community Links is an attempt to create an "information bike path".

Work has begun on a database, and over the coming months it will include a directory of organizations, resources and community "stories" and initiatives. The database will be available in both print and electronic formats. Community Links will also feature an interactive "Electronic Community Hall" where ongoing discussions on sustainable communities can take place, and questions

Rural and Small Town Programme: Sustainable Communities Project



Whoever said academics never come down out of their ivory towers has obviously not heard of the Rural and Small Town Programme in the Geography Department at Mount Allison University. The Programme's Sustainable Communities Project is pilot project with communities from P.E.I., New Brunswick and British Columbia, focusing on developing and implementing sustainability action plans at the local level.

Carried out over a three-year period, the project encourages broad-based community participation in the management and administration of the process. The project involves as many interested parties as possible, working as equals, rather than operating from the top down by just a few elite members of the community. These different interests include economic, environmental and social issues, all of which affect sustainable development.

Participating pilot communities include Campobello Island, McAdam and Sussex from New Brunswick; Georgetown, Malpeque Bay and the Resort Municipality from P.E.I.; and Creston and Kimberley from British Columbia.

John Flynn, Project Coordinator for the New Brunswick community of McAdam, says that "by involving everyone in the community the resulting plan is far removed from what a high-priced consultant would come up with. The plan has the support of the community and the process is just as important as the result." He also emphasized that the project allows communities to build their confidence by doing small things first and then moving to larger items.

The communities are also assisted by a resource kit developed by the project. The kit offers practical how-to guides to provide community leaders with ideas and practical suggestions for strategic planning toward sustainable community development.

For more information please contact: Jennifer Rowe, Research Associate, Rural and Small Town Programme, Department of Geography, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, E0A 3C0. Tel: (506) 364-2386 Fax: (506) 364-2601.

can be posted for members to respond to.

All information will be available free through electronic networks (Internet, Web and FreeNet Systems), and at cost of reproduction for printed and floppy disks. For those without computers, our hope is to in future provide access in public locations, for example libraries and other high traffic community buildings.

Just a few short months after its birth, the network already has a mailing list of close to 200, and membership is growing daily. This network can link organizations and initiatives across sectoral boundaries, and the potential for cooperation is exciting.

The SCN is currently looking for initial funding assistance to develop the network and data base system.

The systems will be designed to work on a very low budget, and set up so that little maintenance will be needed to keep it going.

Membership to the SCN is open to all individuals and groups who support the Network's mandate. Membership fees are on a pay what you can basis, with a suggested minimum of \$5.

For more information, please contact: The Sustainable Communities Network of Nova Scotia, Suite #502, 1657 Barrington St., Halifax, NS B3J 2A1. Tel: (902) 422-4276, Fax: 423-9736

Karen Laine works for the Nova Scotia Environment and Development Coalition in Halifax, and is a founding member of the Sustainable Communities Network of Nova Scotia.

Regional Planning for a National Sustainable Development Strategy: Canada's North

Terry Fenge and Barry Sadler

Canada's North, which contains 30% of Canada's landmass, is a frontier for regional sustainability planning. Terry Fenge and Barry Sadler explain how a national sustainable development strategy could support Canadian circumpolar policies and vice versa.

Sustainable development is a defining theme of our time. More than 100 heads of state attended the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to discuss pressing issues of global ecological change, North-South inequalities, and sustainable development. By all accounts, Canada played a constructive leadership role in the processes of international negotiation that concluded in Rio. More debatable is whether Canada's own record as steward of the second largest country in the world sets a good example of sustainable development. Certainly, the Liberal Party "Red Book" — *Creating Opportunity* — indicates that Canada should do much more to clean up its environmental act and goes on to identify federal priorities and policies for the environment and sustainable development.

Across Canada, local governments, business and industry associations, and voluntary organizations already have undertaken activities that support the government's proposed agenda for sustainability. Required now is an overall "road map" that focuses and brings these projects together, a national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) based on a coherent vision of the future, a clear framework of goals and principles, and a comprehensive package of policies and actions that give them effect.

In this regard, Canada's North is a frontier for sustainability planning. More than 30% of Canada's landmass lies in the Arctic. Our arctic region is also part of a larger circumpolar realm shared by eight countries. On the North American continent, Canada and the United States share critical wildlife resources, several major river basins, and the Beaufort Sea, which contains significant volumes of oil and gas.

Many of Canada's most critical environment and development issues are found in arctic lands and waters. More positively, important policy in-

itiatives are under way to meet the challenges presented by such issues. A national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) can provide context and reinforcement for Canadian and circumpolar policy and planning processes and vice versa.

For 20 years federal policy on the North has stressed "balanced" development of natural resources; yet recurring themes of critics of northern policy include lack of integration between environment and development, inadequate attention to the use and development of renewable resources, fixed focus upon energy

Northern Sustainable Development Issues

To bring together environment and development in the North, the NSDS will have to address many issues, including:

1. the implementation and amendment of comprehensive land claim agreements between the Crown and aboriginal peoples;
2. the establishment of aboriginal homelands;
3. the steady, if slow, progress of Yukon to provincehood;
4. the need for agreements between upstream provinces and downstream territories on environmental standards;
5. the construction of roads, ports, and other infrastructure to support increased exploitation of mineral and energy resources, and taxes, royalties and subsidies on these industries;
6. the clean-up of industrial and military facilities;
7. income support for those wishing to hunt and fish;
8. interjurisdictional agreements within Canada and between Canada and circumpolar countries to manage migratory wildlife and to limit long-range transport and deposition of contaminants;
9. the integration of traditional ecological knowledge in natural resource management.

and mineral resources, and lack of lasting benefits to northerners of mineral and energy development undertaken literally in their back yards. A NSDS should go some way to answering these criticisms. To use the words of the *Green Plan*, the strategy must reflect the "unique stewardship" to be exercised in the Arctic, an ecologically vulnerable region long equated with the national interest. But the "national interest" must not be an excuse to reinforce centralized decision making in Ottawa.

To be acceptable in the North and therefore to be implemented, a NSDS must reinforce the growing authority of northerners, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal, to develop and conserve the North. Further, a NSDS must show how sustainable development can be achieved within the context of evolving jurisdictional and fiscal relations between North and South.

But it is not only the relationship between Ottawa and the territorial governments that is important. A NSDS will not succeed in Yukon and the Northwest Territories unless it deals with the relationship of the territories and provinces. Geographically, the North is downstream from the South. Environmental practices in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba impinge directly upon the North.

In many ways, the South can learn from the North. After all, northern Inuit and Dene have, for generations, lived in an environmentally sustainable manner. Hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering remain vitally important economic and social activities in the North, practiced primarily in small communities that have acquired many of the accessories of modern suburbia. Many residents of Yukon and the Northwest Territories have first-hand experience of wildlife and wilderness, unlike most residents of the urban South and, as a result, hold values

about the environment and their place within it that are different from the values commonly held in the South. Northern values might usefully inform the objectives of a NSDS.

It is important to note from the preliminary list of issues in the box on the page opposite that achieving sustainable development in the North requires coordinated action by a variety of agencies in various governments and co-operation with other interests. Furthermore, it requires representatives of the North to be involved in policy initiatives that fall beyond the jurisdiction of Whitehorse or Yellowknife. For example,

**Many of Canada's
most critical
environment and
development issues
are found in arctic
lands and waters.**

the federal government must realize that long-range transport to and deposition in the North of contaminants generated in Russia and elsewhere is a foreign policy matter worthy of the attention of the best and brightest in the Lester B. Pearson building, the Ottawa base of Canada's foreign service. This is not now the case. Northern and circumpolar matters are handled in the Department of Foreign Affairs as a minor add-on to western European affairs.

Ministers of the Environment from all eight circumpolar countries are scheduled to visit northern Canada next year to discuss implementation of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. This scheduled meeting represents a date for us to work toward, to unwrap a northern component of the NSDS. Yet if we are truly to deal with the issue of north-

ern contaminants we will have to consider the negotiation of a legally binding and enforceable sustainable development treaty with the eight Arctic nations. Only then can we be assured that future industrial and military development in the Arctic will not repeat the environmental mistakes of the past.

The new federal government has stated repeatedly that sustainable development is one of its policy priorities. Surprisingly, the Liberal Party "Red Book" says very little about the territorial North. It is a political truism that vacuums are filled immediately. If the North, rather than Ottawa, is to fill this vacuum, it will have to get its act together quickly.

The task is daunting. But the opportunity is also real, for an extraordinary consensus in favour of sustainable development exists across the land, including the North, among people of very different political persuasions in diverse ways of life. Moreover, in the North we already have fashioned some, perhaps many, of the pieces of the sustainable development jig saw puzzle. The *Arctic Environmental Strategy* (AES), a corollary to the national *Green Plan*, focuses on cleaning-up industrial sites in the North. Comprehensive land claim agreements are providing new institutions and methods to manage land, water, and wildlife. The innovative *Yukon 2000* exercise and the *NWT Sustainable Development Policy* adopted by the government of the NWT also are pieces of the puzzle. But each piece is insufficient in and of itself, and we still need a comprehensive picture to guide us in assembling the parts. This is why we need a national sustainable development strategy with an explicit northern dimension.

Terry Fenge is the Executive Director of the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee in Ottawa. Barry Sadler is a consultant based in Victoria, B.C., and served as the first director of the *Projet de Société*. The above article was excerpted from *Northern Perspectives*, March 1994.

Round Tables: A British Perspective

John Gordon

Round tables have become an important Canadian response to the challenge of sustainable development. John Gordon provides a British perspective on the value and relevance of the round table process for sustainable communities in Britain.

As sustainable development has become a more widely understood and discussed concept more people in this country have come to realize that political process by which policy is arrived at is as important as the policy itself, that Britain's present institutional structures cannot provide the answers and that there is almost certainly much to be learned from the Canadian round table experience.

1993 was a turning point in Britain. There was widespread dissatisfaction with the consultation process used by the British government in the course of preparation of the national strategy for sustainable development, which was seen as shallow, hasty and making little difference to the final outcome. In parallel British local authorities beginning their Rio task of preparing Local Agenda 21s based on the broadest possible public consultation were increasingly aware of the need to find new institutional processes to help.

Against this background I was commissioned last fall to go to Canada to write a report on the round table movement. In two fascinating weeks last November, with the help of the NRTEE, I duly visited Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba last November and met scores of Canadians involved in the round table movement and related initiatives.

It is impossible in the course of one short article to give an adequate summary of my visit. For these I refer the reader to the study itself. But I would pick out the following impressions.

- *The variety and liveliness of the Canadian institutional scene:* To a visitor from Britain it is rather like being a biologist studying biodiversity moving from a bleak island to a tropical forest. This diversity shows itself not just in terms of the very different ways round tables are set up and work at national, provincial and local levels, but also through the existence of a number of parallel movements, notably the Green Community initiative in Ontario, the Healthy Communities movement in Anglophone Canada, its sister "Villes et villages en santé" movement in Quebec, community-oriented consultation procedures

at provincial and local levels and consultation processes run by commercial utilities. All these are of great interest to a British audience and led me to broaden the basis of a study which I had originally thought would only cover round tables.

- *The potential synergies between round tables and other parallel movements:* There seem to be many possibilities for integrating the round table movement, Green Communities and Healthy Communities more closely together in a new whole which avoids overlap of functions and competition for resources or committed individuals. Health, which brings its own powerful constituency of institutions and financial possibilities, should perhaps become the third leg of the tripod. Thus we would talk of Round Tables on Environment, Economy and Health — as at Sudbury. The potential weaknesses of round tables in terms of delivering services which enable individuals and companies to benefit the environment can perhaps best be met by integration with the Ontario Green Communities initiative whose centrepiece, community-based household eco-audits, appears well in advance of any similar scheme in Europe. Hence the importance of what is going on in, for example, Guelph (see page 22).
- *The apparent lack of independent analysis:* Participants themselves are probably too busy to analyze what is being achieved by the round table process and may not in any case be the most appropriate people. Yet without proper analysis question marks must remain. The round table process looks impressive. No doubt, as we are told, it transforms the perspectives of those involved and has led to key participants exercising their influence in government and business in ways which reflect this. Many pieces of individual evidence are offered to the enquirer, but no one yet appears to have brought them together — or conversely to have asked the inevitable awkward questions about what difference round tables really make. An independent study, or perhaps series of studies, of the actual difference which the round table process has made would surely be valuable — not least to the round tables themselves in considering their strengths, weaknesses and how best to develop in future. How about it, Canadian researchers?

We need new mechanisms for reaching agreement based on consensus between government and key sectors of society.

Lessons and Prospects for Britain

At one level the answer is obvious. We need new mechanisms for reaching agreement based on consensus between government and key sectors of society on long-term policies and perspectives, at least as badly as Canada and probably far more. The Canadian experience is extremely relevant for us. All sorts of meetings linked to Rio implementation are already loosely being called round table consultations. Inspired largely by the Canadian experience, the government recently announced that a National Round Table on Sustainable Development would be established to help implement the government's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (published in January). Perhaps a score or so of local round tables will be established in the course of the year by local authorities seeking to pursue Local Agenda 21s.

Would that it were that simple. The underlying reality is that the political culture this side of the Atlantic provides stony ground for the growth of the partnership of equals and of consensus-building habits which are essential elements in the Canadian process. In a highly centralized political system almost all real power is exercised by

the central government. The decision-making process is closed and secretive. The British government is probably sincere in its proclaimed desire to move further and faster toward sustainable development. But it has lost the habit of listening to those outside it and fails to understand the link with increased democratization and decentralization of the political process.

Whatever happens, round tables are increasingly on the British political agenda. I very much hope that this will serve to reinforce links between Canada and Britain. It would for example be very much to our advantage, and I hope also to Canada's, to establish a number of twinning programs between towns, cities and regions in both countries which have established round tables and feel that they can learn from each others' experience and provide mutual support.

John Gordon was for many years a British diplomat. He is currently Deputy and Policy Director of the Global Research Centre at Imperial College, London and has written widely on sustainable development issues. His study *Canadian Round Tables and Other Mechanisms for Sustainable Development in Canada* is available, price \$20 (Canadian), plus post and packing (\$10 airmail; \$4 surface mail), from Publications Section, The Local Government Management Board, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Luton, Beds, LU1 2TS, England (Tel: 0582 451166 Fax: 0582 412525).

Community Animation Project

By determining what kinds of animation techniques bring about change at the community level, the Community Animation Program (CAP), hopes to help communities build their own capacity for change. Coordinated by The Delphi Group in Ottawa the program works with four regional partners: the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, and B.C. Healthy Communities Network. CAP is a six month pilot initiative funded by Health Canada's Healthy Environment Program. The purpose of the program is "to assist communities to move on an agenda of sustainable development by looking at environment-health linkages," says Gord Harrison of The Delphi Group.

The partners recognize that for real change to happen the communities must be able to do it themselves. Community-level skill development is an essential component of the program. In its own approach, each partner provides animation services and promotes understanding of the issues to selected communities. By exploring the challenges of community change, conflict resolution and consensus building, the project hopes to build sustainable communities.

For more information please contact: Gord Harrison, The Delphi Group, 402-126 York Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5T5. Tel: (613) 562-2005 Fax: (613) 562-2008.

The Canadian Rails to Greenways Network

While everyone in Canada was talking about the loss of rail lines the Canadian Parks/Recreation Association was doing something about it. They realized that the abandonment of rail lines has created the opportunity for a number



of creative alternative uses, including the development of recreational trail systems.

The Canadian Parks/Recreation Association has taken a national leadership role in the movement to convert abandoned railway lines to

a recreational, heritage and environmental resource. Heritage Canada, Parks Canada, Fitness Canada and numerous local, provincial and regional groups from all parts of Canada have joined this campaign.

Communities in every province see exciting possibilities for the re-use of abandoned railway lines. Trails, greenways, fibre optic highways, safe cycling transportation routes and landbanking for future uses are but a few of the numerous initiatives that have been proposed.

New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna recognized in his government's Throne Speech that "culture and recreation are important elements in our quality of life." He further stated that New Brunswick will initiate "a system of community-based multiple use trails throughout the province in partnership with communities and local organizations."

New Brunswick is not alone in the drive to turn rail lines into recreational resources. Newfoundland has completed a study, including a management information system, that proposes over 1200 kilometres of trails linking 80 communities. Anne Robinson of the Canadian Parks/Recreation Association says "all the ground work is done, the next step is to begin to implement the proposal."

For further information please contact: Anne Robinson, Canadian Parks/Recreation Association, 306-1600 James Naismith Drive, Gloucester, Ontario, K1B 5N4, Tel: (613) 748-5651 Fax: (613) 748-5854.

International Centre for Sustainable Cities

Alan F.J. Artibise

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities was created to help facilitate Canadian participation in sustainable urban development programs. Executive Director Alan Artibise explains the Centre's mandate and current projects.

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC) is an important part of Canada's response, under the *Green Plan*, to address the challenge of sustainable development as foreseen at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Centre, (based in Vancouver) is an urban-focused, non-profit, action-oriented institution. Its primary goal is not to conduct research, provide training or extend advisory services, but to facilitate Canadian participation in selected sustainable urban demonstration programs. These are to be operational activities "on the ground".

Working in close cooperation with other international organizations (United Nations Development Program, World Bank, United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, etc.) the Centre's mandate includes:

- securing Canadian expertise to manage and participate in sustainable urban development programs;
- focusing on management participation, shelter development, land-use planning, infrastructure development, quality of life, supply of potable water, sanitation, clean air and waste management type of projects that produce tangible results;
- creating opportunities for Canadian suppliers, urban management systems, and technologies to participate in international activities and develop long-term relationships in major cities of the world.

The first urban demonstration project of the ICSC relates to the Vancouver - Seattle "Cascadia" region which is currently experiencing rapid urbanization. The project is designed to advance the public policy agenda through active discussions among all stakeholders on both sides of the Canada/U.S.A. border. The basic question to be resolved is how to ensure the continuing development of this unique urban region while preserving the present high standards of liveability. During the first phase an illustrated presentation will be developed to pinpoint the main issues of urban development which are of common concern to communities in the region. The presentation will be the basis for further discussion and preparation of

the next planning and policy development phase to tackle specific sectoral areas such as land-use planning, transportation, trade, tourism, urban environmental concerns and public participation. The lessons learned from this and other demonstration projects will be widely disseminated.

An example of ICSC cooperation with other international organizations is the Centre's collaboration with the UNDP-LIFE (Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment) program. Launched at the Earth Summit in Rio, this program initiates small-scale urban environmental projects at the local community level to improve living conditions in low-income areas. It involves NGOs, community-based groups and municipal authorities. LIFE supports local community-based initiatives that tackle urban environmental problems including inadequate management of urban waste, the poor quality of water supply, air pollution, the absence of environmental education, occupation of hazard-prone areas and poor environmental health.

Although the main work of ICSC relates to sustainable urban demonstration programs, the Centre also undertakes other initiatives related to this subject area. For example, in conjunction with GLOBE '94, ICSC was invited to organize a special session on "Urban Environmental Strategies" held on 23 March 1993. This session focused on managing the urban environment with reference to some of the key elements such as waste, energy, water and sanitation.

Another current initiative of the ICSC is to organize a meeting of the world's top experts on the critical question of urban security. Organized in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) the meeting will focus on the interface between urban planning and design on the one hand, and the enhancement of the security of the citizens on the other hand.

For further information on the ICSC, and/or a subscription to our newsletter, please contact: The International Centre for Sustainable Cities, Suite 1150-555 West Hastings Street, Harbour Centre, P.O. Box 12071, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4N5. Tel: (604) 666-0061 Fax: (604) 666-0009.

Alan Artibise is Executive Director of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, Vancouver.

The Centre is an important part of Canada's response to UNCED.

Commentary by Doug Miller

Sustainability from the Ground Up

Sustainable development will be driven largely by local initiatives. However, Doug Miller argues that more attention and resources are needed to support local planning and action.

History shows us that major change seldom happens from the top down; it mainly happens from the bottom up.

Environmental change has been a good case in point. While many national groups and some governments were pushing for change, it took individual Canadians voting with their dollars in the marketplace to put real impetus into corporate greening.

I suggest it will work the same in achieving sustainability. It will be municipal and community-level sustainability planning exercises that will lead the way to a sustainable future. I say this for a least four reasons:

1. Communities have pull. Existing patterns of thinking and action don't change without both push and pull. While national and provincial round tables are providing essential push, local government activism can pull change through the system.

2. Local benefits are tangible. In a time of shrinking resources, only changes that have tangible benefits will receive support. The benefits of sustainability are usually more easily seen locally, where "whole-system" thinking can yield tangible budget savings, health benefits and economic security.

3. Fewer barriers maximize success. Once local leadership forms around taking steps toward sustainability, there are fewer barriers to action than in more highly bureaucratized senior governments where compet-

ing interests are more difficult to resolve.

4. There is grass-roots momentum. With over 200 communities in Canada already involved in some form of sustainability planning, there already exists the critical mass and momentum to carry this forward.

The extent of local interest and action on sustainability topics is both impressive and inevitable, given the pressures on municipalities today. Literally hundreds of communities, especially in B.C., Manitoba and Ontario, have organized local Round Tables on Environment and Economy. Hundreds are more actively involved in the Healthy Communities initiative, especially in Quebec, Brit-

ish Columbia, and Ontario. Other frameworks that are attracting significant municipal interest include the Green Communities initiative in Ontario and the national Safe Communities crime prevention initiative.

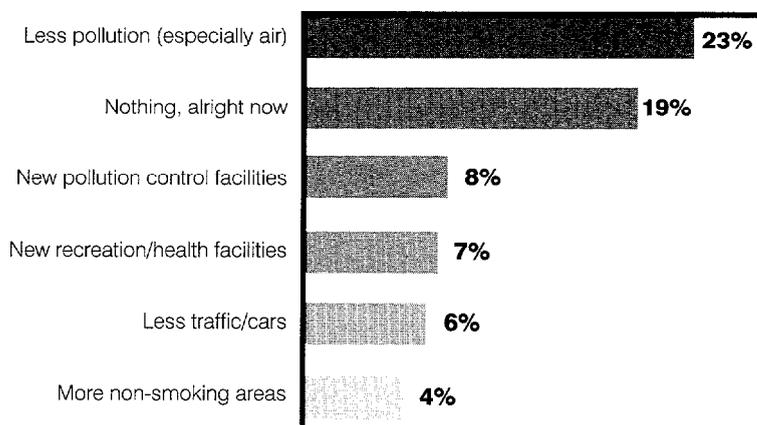
Experience shows that regardless of which framework a community chooses to start with, all roads seem to lead to the same outcome — "whole system" planning and action. The interrelationships are just too obvious at the community level.

Consider the case of a community choosing to pursue a Healthy Community initiative. What do people see as the local change that would have the greatest positive influence on

Cont. on pg. 34

Community change having most positive influence on health

(open-ended responses)



Source: Environics' Environmental Monitor, January, 1994

Miller cont. from pg. 33

their health? When Environics' Environmental Monitor survey asked 1,500 Canadians this question in January 1994, fully one in three pointed to environmental improvements (less air pollution, less pollution in general, or new pollution control facilities). With these interrelationships so well established in the public mind, it's no wonder that Healthy Community initiatives often turn into sustainability initiatives.

By far the most important requirement for local sustainability initiatives is not their starting point, but their breadth of participation and process. Experience shows that involving a broad group representing all key stakeholders, and working using consensus are the two key ingredients for success.

But while local sustainability planning and action is necessary in order for Canada to achieve a sustainable future, a *laissez faire* approach to it will not be sufficient. Much more attention and many more resources need to be applied for this local activity to contribute in full measure to a sustainable future. Nothing less than a Centre for Sustainable Communities needs to be established to provide local leaders with five key services:

- **Access to Peers.** Lively peer-to-peer exchange helps reduce leadership burn-out and time spent "reinventing the wheel". A Centre for Sustainable Communities could foster this "cross-fertilization" through referrals, an electronic bulletin board, a network newsletter, community twinning, travel subsidies, and periodic meetings of practitioners.
- **Access to Expertise.** At different times, community leaders need a touchstone where they can gain practical advice, strategic insights, and access to specific information, expertise or skills. A centre could provide a 1-800 number and knowledgeable staff to offer support di-

rectly as well as put the callers in touch with other experts, including academics, professionals and accomplished community practitioners.

- **Access to Resources.** Many community leaders are not aware of the programs and resources that are available. A centre could offer "one-window" access and referral to the programs of many different government agencies and private foundations aimed at fostering community planning and action around environmental, economic, health, energy and other areas of sustainability.
- **Access to Tools.** There are a number of existing depositories of literature, resources and tools that would be useful to community sustainability practitioners, but they are not easily accessed nor are they cross-referenced. A centre could work with these other groups to augment and catalogue available resources, then make them accessible through the development and promotion of an on-line abstracting and ordering system. This would give needed access without having to physically create a new resource centre.
- **Access to Training.** Together with other groups, a Centre for Sustainable Communities could assess training needs and ensure that the necessary resources and talents are applied to develop and deliver practical training experiences and professional development opportunities for community practitioners.

Canada has a wealth of people who really understand bottom-up processes. It's time to harness their commitment and expertise to ensure local sustainability initiatives live up to their full potential.

Doug Miller is President of Synergistic Consulting in Toronto and, together with Environics Research Group Ltd., conducts the quarterly Environmental Monitor survey of public attitudes and behaviour.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Canadian municipalities have an important role to play in creating healthy and sustainable communities both locally and globally. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is conducting a research project to gather and disseminate information about Canadian municipal initiatives to improve the environment and promote long-term urban sustainability in Canada and abroad. With a membership of 580 municipalities, the FCM is well placed to conduct the project, called Canadian Urban Research on the Environment (CURE).

According to Dan Friesen, research coordinator for the project, "CURE is providing municipalities with a strong information base for sustainable community planning and networking among municipal officials and staff on urban sustainability issues."

The database created by this project will contain environmental contacts and initiatives for over 800 municipalities, large and small, across the country. It will assist municipalities in learning about the experiences of other local governments and in turn, improve and enhance their environmental policies, programs and initiatives.

CURE is supported by the International Development Research Centre, Environment Canada, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Three tangible products are expected from this project: a directory of environmental contacts and initiatives; an analytical look at municipalities and urban sustainability; and an international piece on Canadian municipal assistance for urban sustainability in developing countries. The municipal directory is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

For more information contact: Dan Friesen, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, International Office, 24 Clarence Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5P3. Tel: (613) 241-8484 Fax: (613) 241-7117.

FOR FURTHER READING

The following list of resources aims to provide people working on local sustainability initiatives with a selection of hands-on guide books and tools to assist them in their efforts.

Atlantic Coastal Action Program (1993) *Sharing the Challenge - Volume I: A Guide for Community-Based Environmental Planning; Volume II: Community Environmental Profile: A Workbook for Use in ACAP Project Areas.* Dartmouth: Environment Canada.

Russell, Eleanor (1993) *Volume III: Sharing the Challenge: A Guide to Community Project Funding.* Dartmouth: Atlantic Coastal Action Program.

A three volume set of resource materials to assist communities in building a community vision. Can be applied to communities elsewhere in Canada. Contact: Coastal Ecosystems Division, Environment Canada, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 2N6. Tel: (902) 426-2131 Fax: (902) 426-4457

B.C. Healthy Communities Network (1992) *Getting Communities Involved - Reform & Renewal of our Health Care System.* Vancouver: B.C. Healthy Communities Network and Associated Boards of Health of British Columbia.

Aims to help communities interested in consensus building, conflict resolution and group facilitation to address issues such as community involvement, assessment of support needs and determination of available skills. Contact: B.C. Healthy Communities Network, 101-2182 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6K 2N4. Tel: (604) 731-4970 Fax: (604) 731-5965.

B.C. Ministry of Health, Office of Health Promotion and the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. (1991) *A Guide for Communities to Enact Health-Promoting Policies.* Victoria: Queen's Printer for British Columbia.

Designed to assist anyone interested in improving the health of their community through policies that promote healthy living for community residents.

B.C. Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, Office of Health Promotion (1991) *Health Indicator Workbook - A Tool for Healthy Communities.* Victoria: Queen's Printer for British Columbia.

A process tool to help communities gather information about the health of individuals and the community.

——— (1993) *Community Health Impact Assessment for Local Governments.* Victoria: Queen's Printer for British Columbia.

A short guide book for municipal staff and council.

——— (1993) *What Do You Know? What Can You Do? - Guidelines for Setting up a Learner-Driven Workshop on Community Leadership* Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors.

Highlights main principles underlying the model of learner-driven community leadership.

Contact: Population Health Resource Branch, B.C. Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, Main Floor, 1520 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C8. Tel: (604) 952-1798 Fax: (604) 952-1713.

British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (1993) *Strategic Directions for Community Sustainability.* Victoria: British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

Presents preliminary recommendations on issues considered most important to achieving overall sustainability. Examines the physical, economic, social, political and economic changes required.

——— (1992) *Guide to Establishing a Local Round Table.* Victoria: British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

A tool for building a more sustainable community through establishment of a local round table.

Contact: B.C. Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, 229-560 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C6. Tel: (604) 387-5422 Fax: (604) 356-9276.

Canadian Healthy Communities Network (1991) *Workbook for Local Projects in the Canadian Healthy Communities Project.* Ottawa: Canadian Healthy Communities Project.

A useful tool for communities interested in building a healthy community. Designed to show individuals, groups and communities how to develop the process and adapt it to suit their own needs. Contact: Canadian Healthy Communities Network, 541 Sussex Drive, 2nd Floor, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6Z6. Tel: (613) 562-4646 Fax: (613) 562-4648.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (1993) *Reconsidering the Dream: Sustainable Suburbia.* Ottawa:

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

A video examining alternatives to suburban development. Proposes compact, self-contained residential and urban areas as sustainable approaches to land-use planning.

——— (1993) *Under a Green Roof.* Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Highlights CMHC programs related to healthy sustainable housing, alternative housing and sustainable consumption.

Contact: CMHC, 7th Floor, "C" Building, 700 Montreal Road, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0P7. Tel: (613) 748-2515 Fax: (613) 748-2402.

City of Toronto, Board of Health (1993) *Toronto's First State of the City Report.* Toronto: Department of Public Health, City of Toronto.

Examines indicators of health within the City of Toronto, including the health of the economy, the environment, the community, education, housing, transportation and safety. Contact: Healthy City Office, 1036-20 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON, M5G 2C2. Tel: (416) 392-0090 Fax: (416) 392-0089.

Doering, R.L., D.M. Biback, P. Muldoon, N. Richardson and G. Rust-D'Eye (1991) *Towards Integrating Environmental Protection into Land-Use Planning.* Toronto: Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront.

A balanced and practical guide that provides a framework for adopting an ecosystem approach to land-use planning.

Harmony Foundation of Canada (1991) *Positive Action for the Environment.* Ottawa: Harmony Foundation of Canada.

A video, hosted by Gordon Pinsent, of practical information and demonstrations to change everyday activities around the home to protect the environment.

——— (1991) *Community Action Projects Booklet.* Ottawa: Harmony Foundation of Canada.

A booklet accompanying the above video that helps groups organize community environmental projects.

Contact: Harmony Foundation, 202A-145 Spruce Street, Ottawa, ON, K1R 6P1. Tel: (613) 230-5399 Fax: (613) 238-6470.

Cont. on pg. 36

FURTHER READING cont. from pg. 35

Maclaren, Virginia. (1992) *Sustainable Urban Development in Canada: From Concept to Practice. Volume I: Summary Report; Volume II: Annotated Bibliography; Volume III: Compendium of Initiatives.* Toronto: ICURR Press.

A three volume report documenting the plans, policies and tools which Canadian local governments use to implement sustainable development. Contact: ICURR, 301-150 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON, M4P 1E8. Tel: (416) 973-1331 Fax: (416) 973-1375.

Manitoba Rural Development (1991) *Community Choices - A Sustainable Communities Program for Manitoba.* Winnipeg: Manitoba Rural Development.

An overview of the Community Choices Program, outlining how to form and effectively use community round tables. The program stresses the need for local participation, local leadership and local ownership in order to achieve success. Contact: Manitoba Rural Development, 605-800 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 0N4. Tel: 204-945-2150 Fax: 204-945-5059.

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (1990) *Sustainable Development and the Municipality.* Ottawa: National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

A guidebook outlining how a municipal round table can help the community; how to establish one; what roles it can play; and how to report on its progress.

——— (1993) *Building Consensus for a Sustainable Future - Guiding Principles.* Ottawa: National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

Presents 10 guiding principles in using consensus processes to achieve a sustainable future.

Contact: National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, 1500-1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7. Tel: (613) 992-7189 Fax: (613) 992-7385.

Nova Scotia Environment and Development Coalition (1994) *Living in the Real World.* Halifax: Nova Scotia Environment and Development Coalition.

An education kit that addresses the "jobs vs. the environment" myth by making connections among environment and community economics, resource use, social/cultural health and international development. Promotes viable sustainable development alternatives. Contact: Nova Scotia Environment & Development Coalition, 1657 Barrington Street,

Halifax, NS, B3J 2A1. Tel: (902) 422-4276 Fax: (902) 423-9736.

Nozick, Marcia (1992) *No Place Like Home: Building Sustainable Communities.* Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development.

Examines the development of sustainable communities in industrial nations with examples from North America. Contact: Canadian Council on Social Development, 55 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1Y 4G1. Tel: (613) 728-1865 Fax: (613) 728-9387.

Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy (1991) *Local Round Table on Environment and Economy - A Guide.* Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

A practical tool for starting a round table or improving an existing one.

——— (1992) *On the Way to Sustainable Development - Profiles of a Province in Transition.* Toronto: Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy.

Includes 25 profiles of the sustainable development initiatives of various sectors such as manufacturers, municipal governments, aboriginal groups and educational institutions.

Contact: Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy, 2502-1 Dundas Street West, P.O. Box 4, Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z3. Tel: (416) 327-2032 Fax: (416) 327-2197.

Roseland, Mark (1992) *Toward Sustainable Communities: A Resource Book for Municipal and Local Governments.* Ottawa: National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

A resource tool for elected officials, municipal staff and citizens who would like to apply the concept of sustainable development in their communities. Contact: National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, 1500-1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7. Tel: (613) 992-7189 Fax: (613) 992-7385.

Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront (1992) *Regeneration: Toronto Waterfront and the Sustainable City.* Toronto: Queen's Printer.

A wide ranging and comprehensive compilation of information on how to apply sustainability principles and an ecosystem approach to a large urban area. Special emphasis on integrated planning practice, water and shoreline regeneration and greenways.

Tomalty, Ray and David Pell (in press) *Sustainable Development and the Canadian City: Current Initiatives.*

Ottawa: the Canadian Global Change Program.

Over 300 case studies of policies and programs to promote sustainable communities at the municipal and regional level. Contact: Canadian Global Change Program, c/o The Royal Society of Canada, P.O. Box 9734, Ottawa, ON, K1G 5J4 Tel: (613) 991-5639 Fax: (613) 991-6996.

Young, Dennis and Janine Charland (1992) *Successful Local Economic Development Initiatives.* Toronto: ICURR Press.

Success stories address the questions of why some communities succeed in developing and diversifying their economies while others continue to decline. Contact: ICURR, 301-150 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON, M4P 1E8. Tel: (416) 973-1331 Fax: (416) 973-1375.

NEWSLETTERS

Community Horizons, published by the Rural and Small Towns Programme, Mount Allison University, Nova Scotia, focuses on updates of initiatives underway in the maritimes as well as progress of the RSTP. Contact: (506) 364-2394.

Liaison, published bimonthly by ICURR, contains reviews of recently published planning and public management reports, a calendar of conferences, sources of planning information, bibliographies, news from the planning world and lists of new reports acquired by the ICURR library. Contact: (416) 973-5644.

Making Waves focuses on community economic development in Canada, aimed at practitioners and policy-makers. Published quarterly by the Centre for Community Enterprise. Contact: (604) 723-1139.

The Network consists of stories from communities and individuals around B.C. about their healthy communities activities. Published quarterly by the B.C. Healthy Communities Network. Contact: (604) 731-4970.

Ontario Healthy Communities Update disseminates information about current activities of healthy communities across Ontario. Published by the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition. Contact: (416) 408-4841 or in Ontario 1-800-766-3418.

The Institute of Urban Studies **Newsletter** has information on current urban research, development and policy, and notes on publications and conferences. Published three times a year. Contact: (204) 786-9409.

NRTEE WORK IN PROGRESS

Education Task Force

Full development funding has been put in place for SustainABILITY, a national social marketing proposal of the task force and ParticipACTION. Contributors to the program include the governments of Canada, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories, as well as the J. W. McConnell Foundation, Nestlé Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers' Union of Canada and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. After a six month developmental phase the program should be operational.

In February the task force hosted a workshop in Toronto for academic institutions providing post-secondary education in sustainable development. The participants expressed their appreciation to the National Round Table for hosting the workshop and agreed to form a steering committee to explore further networking opportunities. The task force continues to conduct Youth Round Table simulations. Organizations involved include: the Forum for Young Canadians, the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, the Association for Bright Children and the Network for Conflict Resolution.

Forest Round Table

After three years of hard work, the Forest Round Table has officially wound up its work with the publication of its final report. The report highlights the Round Table's original 26 principles, as well action plans to implement those principles. The report also includes notes on the consensus process used and offers valuable lessons learned from the dialogue.

The final task of the group was to tackle the issue of harvesting methods, a controversial and topical issue.

After long discussions, members of the Forest Round Table reached consensus that harvesting methods should be site specific and could not be subject to national guidelines. A synthesis of their points of view has been published as a working paper in the NRTEE series, *Harvesting Methods In Canada's Forests: A Discussion Paper*. The views contained in this working paper represent leading-edge thinking on the topic.

The work done by the Forest Round Table continues to be a model for consensus processes. Their work has been inspirational not only for those involved, but for many others who hold out hope that progress can be achieved by working together, not at odds.

Pulp & Paper Round Table

The Pulp and Paper Round Table held its sixth meeting in April. The group is working toward consensus on four major areas: sourcing of fibre; manufacturing processes; marketing and consumption; and jurisdictional issues.

After much heated debate, members have drafted a set of principles to guide the sustainable production of pulp and paper products. The principles have been finalized by the group and are now being taken back to member organizations for their endorsement. Action plans are being sought from all stakeholders to illustrate that these principles are more than a gesture. The next meeting will be June 20 - 22, 1994, in Quebec City.

Consensus Decision-Making Task Force

Building Consensus for a Sustainable Future: Guiding Principles was released in October, 1993, and to date over 18,000 copies have been distributed. The task force is currently working on a companion volume of case studies to be released in the fall. As

well, the task force is developing a speaker's kit that can be used by those presenting information on the consensus decision-making process. Members of the task force hope to make several presentations to government officials in the upcoming months. With the completion of these last two projects, the official work of the task force will be completed.

Rural Renewal

In November and December of 1993, the task force convened two workshops: one in Saskatoon and one near Halifax. It invited the advice of interested individuals and stakeholder groups in determining the scope of the challenge facing rural Canada, possible processes to address the challenge, and specific recommendations to implement the process.

Workshop participants stressed that rural renewal is broader than one sector alone; that communities themselves be able to make decisions affecting them, and that implementation of community initiatives be under their control. The task force has discussed these issues with a number of interested groups, and has now developed seven specific action plans for its contribution to rural renewal for the next fiscal year.

Biodiversity

The Rural Renewal Task Force led a Canadian delegation to the first of a series of three meetings on biodiversity. The first meeting, held in Mexico City, March 10 and 11, 1994, was hosted but the Mexican Foundation for Environmental Learning. The second meeting, to be held in Colorado in the Fall, will be hosted by the World Resources Institute. The third meeting, co-hosted by the NRTEE and the Canadian Museum of Nature, will be held in Ottawa in 1995 and will focus on policy and program recommendations to promote biodiversity.

Cont. on pg. 38

Cont. from pg.37

**Projet de Société:
Planning for a
Sustainable Future**

The Third National Stakeholders Assembly of the Projet de Société, opened by the Hon. Sheila Copps, took place in Ottawa December 16 and 17, 1993. The Minister stressed the importance of sustainable development and the work of the Projet de Société. The national stakeholders reviewed the work completed during phase II, and discussed how to proceed with the development of a national sustainable development strategy. It was agreed that the NRTEE should assume a larger management responsibility for the next phase of the Projet.

NRTEE members discussed the proposed Projet agenda and their role in the Projet at the NRTEE plenary in Ottawa in February 1994. Members strongly supported the Projet's aim to develop a national sustainable development strategy and agreed that while the national stakeholders must retain ownership of the Projet, the NRTEE could function as a facilitator of the process. The next National Stakeholders Assembly will take place in the fall of 1994.

**Task Force on Trade
and Sustainability**

On March 28, 1994, the task force hosted a well attended and highly successful workshop in Montreal to examine the sustainable development implications of the Uruguay Round of the GATT and the prospective World Trade Organization (WTO). The purpose of the workshop was to bring together stakeholders from relevant constituencies to identify areas of consensus and possible points of emphasis for the Canadian government at the GATT meeting of Ministers in Marrakech on April 15, 1994.

In addition to follow-up work on the WTO, the task force has two priorities for the coming year. The task force is

embarking on a major initiative which will culminate in the preparation of advice for the Canadian government on how best to promote Canada's interests and sustainable development at the hemispheric summit which President Clinton will host in Miami in early December 1994. It is proposed that this so-called "Summit of the Americas" will have as its two main themes: 1) democracy and good government and 2) trade expansion, investment, and sustainable development.

As well, the task force has undertaken some preliminary work to determine how the principles of sustainable development could serve as an integrating theme for Canada's foreign policy in the coming years.

**The Economic
Instruments Collaborative**

In October of 1993, the Collaborative released its final report entitled *Achieving Atmospheric Quality Objectives Through the Use of Economic Instruments*. It has since been released to a target audience across the country and has generated considerable interest and support. The report examined the potential role of economic instruments on three specific atmospheric issues: acid deposition, ground-level ozone, and climate change. In an effort to encourage further discussion that could lead to pilot or demonstration projects, the NRTEE is working with Environment Canada officials to promote the document and its recommendations.

**Task Force on
Sustainability Reporting**

The NRTEE submitted a report to the Prime Minister in December called *Toward Reporting Progress on Sustainable Development in Canada*, based on the task force's extensive work in this area. Building on the reporting advice, the task force is currently producing a book (available early summer) for a broader distribution that will also include the results of a fall symposium on reporting.

The NRTEE commissioned a background paper to review options for an environmental auditor general, based on the federal government's commitment to establish this function. A *Renewed Framework for Government Accountability in the Area of Sustainable Development: Potential Role for a Canadian Parliamentary Auditor/Commissioner for the Environment* is available as a working paper. The NRTEE was recently invited to appear before the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to brief members on its work in this area.

**Communications
and Publications**

Requests for NRTEE publications and material continue to increase. From October 1993 to January 1994, the NRTEE distributed over 9,000 publications in response to requests. *Sustainable Development: Getting There From Here*, produced in partnership with the Canadian Labour Congress has proved to be tremendously popular.

With a waiting list of over 400, readers of the *National Round Table Review* will be pleased to hear that the long-awaited reprint of *Toward Sustainable Communities* is now complete. As well, the Royal Bank of Canada has generously sponsored a reprint of *A Manager's Handbook*, which is still in constant demand. Limited reprints of the *National Waste Reduction Handbook* and *Decision Making Practices for Sustainable Development* are also underway. For a full listing of our publications, which now includes 24 working papers, see page 41.

The NRTEE now has an electronic mail address, so you can contact us via the electronic information highway. Our WEB address is nrtee@web.apc.org. We have established a National Round Table conference on WEB (nrtee.susdev) to assist WEB subscribers in learning about the NRTEE and to request further information. The NRTEE also has an Internet address: admin-nrtee@nrtee-trnee.ca.

SustainABILITY

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, in partnership with ParticipACTION, has conceived and raised development funds for a social marketing program to foster sustainable development understanding and changes in values and behaviour.

NRTEE member Leone Pippard, a driving force behind the program says, "SustainABILITY can empower Canadians to make changes in their minds, homes, and workplace."

Once operational the program will be a multi-year, multi-million dollar program. SustainABILITY is based on the approach that fostering attitudinal change which leads to new behaviour in present and succeeding generations is critical to the adoption of sustainable development by Canadian society and communities.

SustainABILITY will be delivered at both national and community levels through the media, a vast network of volunteer and professional organizations, business education and community leaders, and the public in general. Twenty possible program components are currently being assessed by technical and development advisory committees.

"The key to the success of this program will be the community level involvement. ParticipACTION has capably shown that they have a long track record in this area," says Jon Grant, President of Quaker Oats Canada and Chair of the Ontario Round Table.

The program is supported by the NRTEE, ParticipACTION, the J.W. McConnell Foundation, Environment Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, Nestlé Canada, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union, as well as the provincial governments of Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P.E.I., Quebec and the Northwest Territories.

For more information please contact: Russ Kisby, President, ParticipACTION, 40 Dundas St. West, Suite 220, Toronto, ON, M5G 2C2. Tel: (416) 954-1212 Fax: (416) 954-4949.

PROVINCIAL ROUND UP

British Columbia

Unfortunately the British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (BCRTEE) was a recent victim of budgetary cuts in the province. The Round Table is scheduled to cease operations on June 30, 1994.

Over its lifetime the B.C. Round Table has produced many valuable reports and materials relating to sustainable development, including a comprehensive sustainable development strategy for the province. It has worked hard to advance the goal of a sustainable society for British Columbia and for Canada as a whole.

During the past year the BCRTEE completed various reports, including an education document called *Learning for Change*, an economic framework document, and materials on sustainable communities. The BCRTEE will complete work on several other projects during the next few months. It will continue work on its Monitoring Report, the first state of sustainability report to be released in the province. Also, the second phase of a guide to local round tables will be completed. Finally, a report on government consultation relating to sustainable development will be finished.

The British Columbia Round Table and its valuable contribution to the work of Canadian round tables will be missed by all those involved in the sustainable development/round table movement.

Yukon

The Yukon Council on the Environment and the Economy has been asked by the territorial government to conduct public consultations into the introduction of video lottery terminals and the expansion of casinos in the Yukon. It was felt that the Council was best positioned to receive input from the various organizations, groups and individuals that have a stake in this matter. A report of the Council's find-

ings will soon be completed and presented to the government.

The Council, which was restructured and streamlined in October 1993, has been providing input into the planning and preparation of a State of the Environment Report for the Yukon.

Manitoba

On March 17-18, 1994, the Manitoba Round Table convened an unprecedented meeting of community round tables that was attended by representatives of the 52 local round tables operating in the province. During this conference the Round Table presented its Sustainable Development Awards of Excellence for noteworthy accomplishments in the following categories: research and development, small and large business, education, non-governmental organizations, public sector, and individual and household. In addition, certificates of recognition were presented.

Premier Gary Filmon announced that the government will begin consultations on the possibility of introducing a Sustainable Development Act, the first of its kind in North America.

The Manitoba Round Table has just completed work on several new publications including its Annual Report, and documents on forestry, mining and water use. As well, it has released its Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba.

Ontario

In February the Ontario Round Table presented its *Recommended Steps Toward Sustainability* to Floyd Laughren, the Ontario Minister of Finance. Included in this paper were 10 principles to guide environmental financial policy in Ontario, and a recommendation for immediate action in three areas: incentives for green industry, emission permit fees and infor-

Cont. on pg. 40

mation transparency. This release followed the Round Table's discussion of financial policy and sustainability on January 18.

Since the release of the Report of the Fair Tax Commission in December, an Ontario Round Table task force has been considering the use of taxation and other financial measures to move the province toward sustainability.

The Ontario Round Table has also been considering full-cost utility pricing focusing on electricity and water, in response to Ontario Hydro's announced goal of "helping Ontario develop an energy efficient and competitive economy, applying the principles of sustainable development."

Quebec

In November 1993, a meeting was held to determine the conditions for the renewal of the Quebec Round Table. This meeting brought together members of the previous Round Table and other individuals interested in sustainable development and the round table process. Recommendations were then made to the Quebec Minister of the Environment.

The government has expressed an interest in renewing the Round Table's mandate and is presently working through the details of its operation. Le conseil de la conservation et de l'environnement will provide secretariat services to the new Round Table contingent upon resolution of resources and related matters.

New Brunswick

On February 21, 1994, the New Brunswick Round Table on the Environment and the Economy was officially re-established; the original round table had completed its mandate. About one third of existing round table members were reappointed, while new members were appointed to terms of two years. This new Round Table will implement many of the proposals, initia-

tives, and strategies set out by the previous organization.

The New Brunswick Auditor General is working toward the greening of the auditing process for government departments. The New Brunswick Round Table has been and will continue to be instrumental in providing advice to the auditor general on how he might achieve this objective.

The Commission on Land Use and Urban Environment has been working with the Round Table to coordinate policies in the area of land use including flood plain management and settlement patterns.

Nova Scotia

In the aftermath of last spring's provincial election the Nova Scotia Round Table appointed six new members: the Premier and five ministers. The new government has already committed itself to the concept of sustainable development and the work of the Round Table.

The Nova Scotia government has proposed the creation of a new Environment Act that will consolidate the numerous environment-related acts presently in existence. The Round Table has been asked to facilitate public input into this piece of legislation and to act as a conduit to the provincial government. As well, the Round Table is continuing to work toward implementation of its Sustainable Development Strategy for Nova Scotia.

At the most recent meeting of the Round Table in March 1994, members discussed their possible involvement

in the area of coastal environmental management. The next meeting of the Nova Scotia Round Table will take place in June 1994 at which time a workshop will be held on consensus decision making.

Prince Edward Island

The Prince Edward Island Round Table is in the process of appointing new members. Once members have been appointed the Round Table will set out its mandate and workplan for the upcoming year.

Newfoundland and Labrador

The provincial cabinet has renewed the mandate of the Newfoundland and Labrador Round Table and is presently appointing new members. Since its original mandate expired in July 1993, the Round Table has continued its work toward a formal report to the Premier on the state of environment/economy integration in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Three working groups commissioned by the Newfoundland and Labrador Round Table have completed their work in the following areas: waste management, energy and land-use planning; education, public awareness and government decision-making; and resource management, and wildlife/wilderness/protected areas.

The Round Table, in consultation with various provincial and federal stakeholders, has been considering a state of the environment report for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Round Tables Discuss Sustainable Communities

Hamilton, Ontario will be the site for the May 5-6 plenary meeting of National Round Table members. As part of that meeting, a joint session will be held with members of the Ontario Round Table to discuss programs underway, such as sustainable communities and rural renewal, and to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

As well, cities within the Hamilton-Wentworth region have declared May 1 to 6, 1994, Environment and Economy Excellence Week. Round Table members will meet with representatives from the region to learn first-hand about local sustainability planning efforts. Events will be organized around local projects and sites which demonstrate sustainable development in action.

Sustainable Development Book Series

- Sustainable Development: A Manager's Handbook
- The National Waste Reduction Handbook
- Decision Making Practices for Sustainable Development
- Preserving Our World *
- On the Road to Brazil *
- Toward Sustainable Communities
- Trade, Environment & Competitiveness
- Green Guide - A User's Guide to Sustainable Development for Canadian Colleges
- Sustainable Development: Getting There from Here (A Guidebook for Unions and Labour)
- Covering the Environment: A Handbook for Environmental Journalism
* Out of print

Other NRTEE Reports and Products

- Building Consensus for a Sustainable Future: Guiding Principles
- Toward Reporting Progress on Sustainable Development in Canada: Report to the Prime Minister
- Achieving Atmospheric Quality Objectives Through the Use of Economic Instruments: A Final Report of the Economic Instruments Collaborative
- Forest Round Table on Sustainable Development: Final Report
- The North American Free Trade Agreement and the North American Commission on the Environment (Report of Workshop)
- Shaping Consensus: The North American Commission on the Environment and NAFTA (Report of Workshop)
- Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism
- Model Round Table for Youth Kit
- Sustainable Development and the Municipality
- Focus 2000: A Small Business Guide to Environmental Management
- A Report on Waste Management for the Construction Industry
- COURAGE Cassette and Music Video on Sustainable Development
- NRTEE Poster: Objectives for Sustainable Development

Working Paper Series

- 1 Prosperity and Sustainable Development for Canada: Advice to the Prime Minister ✦
- 2 The Financial Services Industry and Sustainable Development: Managing Change, Information and Risk
- 3 Lender Liability for Contaminated Sites: Issues for Lenders and Investors
- 4 Market Correction: Economic Incentives for Sustainable Development
- 5 Environmental Regulations and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Industry: An Examination of the Porter Strategy
- 6 Environmentally Perverse Government Incentives
- 7 Environmental Impact Assessment and Competitiveness
- 8 Emerging Trends and Issues in Canada's Environmental Industry
- 9 A Report on Jobs, Training and Sustainable Development
- 10 Trade, Competitiveness and the Environment ✦
- 11 Sustainability and Prosperity: The Role of Infrastructure
- 12 Measuring Sustainable Development: Energy Production and Use in Canada
- 13 Exploring Incentives: An Introduction to Incentives and Economic Instruments for Sustainable Development ✦
- 14 Canadian Round Tables on the Environment and the Economy: Their History, Form and Function ✦ ☉
- 15 Reporting on Sustainable Development in Support of National Decision Makers
- 16 Reporting on Sustainable Development: The Municipal and Household Level
- 17 Corporate Sustainable Development Reporting in Canada

- 18 Aperçu national sur la planification stratégique du développement durable dans les provinces et les territoires
- 19 Canada's Agricultural and Trade Policies: Implications for Rural Renewal and Biodiversity ✦
- 20 Sustainable Subsidies: Assessing the Law of Unfair Trade and North American Disputes
- 21 A Renewed Framework for Government Accountability in the Area of Sustainable Development: Potential Role for a Canadian Parliamentary Auditor/Commissioner for the Environment ✦
- 22 Media, Fish and Sustainability: A Paper on Sustainable Development and the Canadian News Media
- 23 Harvesting Methods in Canada's Forests: A Discussion Paper ✦
- 24 Municipal Reporting on Sustainable Development: A Status Review

All NRTEE publications are available in English and French. The Working Papers are reproduced in the author's original language, unless otherwise marked.

- ✦ Aussi disponible en français
- ☉ Also available in Spanish

NRTEE Review

- Summer '91
- Fall '91
- Annual Review '91
- Spring '92 (Round Tables in Canada)
- Fall '92 (Biodiversity)
- Annual Review '92
- Spring '93 (ENGOs)
- Fall '93 (Jobs and the Environment)
- Annual Review '93
- Spring '94 (Sustainable Communities)



For copies of publications, please check off boxes and send this form to the **National Round Table**, 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1500, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7, or fax us at (613) 992-7385.

Please check if you would like to be placed on our mailing list

Name

Address

.....

NRTEE MEMBERS

George Connell

Chair, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

R.C. (Reg) Basken

Executive Vice-President, Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union of Canada

The Honourable Jane Barry

Minister of the Environment for New Brunswick and Chair of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment

The Honourable Sheila Copps

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Government of Canada

The Honourable J. Glen Cummings

Minister of Environment, Government of Manitoba

Pat Delbridge

President, Pat Delbridge Associates Inc.

Josefina Gonzalez

Research Scientist, Forintek Canada Corp.

Diane Griffin

Executive Director, Island Nature Trust

Tony Hodge

School of Planning, McGill University

Susan Holtz

Environmentalist, Nova Scotia

John E. Houghton

Chairman, QUNO Corporation

Pierre Marc Johnson

Directeur du recherche, Centre de médecine, d'éthique et de droit de l'Université McGill

Geraldine A. Kenney-Wallace

President and Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University

Lester Lafond

President, Lafond Enterprises Ltd.

Jack M. MacLeod

Corporate Director, Calgary, Alberta

The Honourable John Manley

Minister of Industry, Government of Canada

The Honourable Paul Martin

Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development - Quebec, Government of Canada

The Honourable Anne McLellan

Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Canada

David Morton

Chair, Alcan Aluminium Ltd.

Bob Page

Faculty of Environmental Design, The University of Calgary

Leone Pippard

President and Executive Director, Canadian Ecology Advocates

His Honour Judge Barry D. Stuart

Judge of the Territorial Court of Yukon

NRTEE SECRETARIAT

Executive Director

Ronald Doering

Executive Assistant

Denise Simmons

Corporate Secretary

Gene Nyberg

Senior Secretary

Hélène Massie

Director of Communications

Kelly Hawke Baxter

Senior Associate

Steve Thompson

Policy Advisors

David Baslaw

Carla Doucet

Sarah Richardson

Sandy Scott

Dana Silk

Communications Officers

Kindi Chana

Edwin Smith

Research Assistants

Kathryn Romanow

Allison Webb

Office Manager

Cathy Heroux

Finance Officer

Pierrette Guitard

Secretaries

Julie Martinat

Sarah Shadforth

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, mandated by the Parliament of Canada, plays the role of catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting in all sectors of Canadian society and in all regions of Canada, the principles and practices of sustainable development.

Aussi disponible en français.

For more information, contact:

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

1 Nicholas St., Suite 1500

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7B7

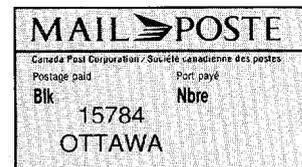
Tel: (613) 992-7189 Fax: (613) 992-7385

E-Mail: nrtee@web.apc.org or admin-nrtee@nrtee-trnee.ca



Printed on Guardian Opaque, Canadian Environmental Choice, recycled paper, using vegetable inks.

ISSN 1188-0945



To help avoid waste, please pass this newsletter on to a friend or colleague.

Canada