

# GREENPRINT

# Issue # 4

the newsletter of the Green Party of Manitoba

August 2006

[www.greenparty.mb.ca](http://www.greenparty.mb.ca)

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## COMING EVENTS

### New Members Orientation

August 12: 1 - 2 p.m. at the office

Contact Andrew at

[membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca)

### FALL FUNDRAISING DINNER

September TBA

Contact GERALD ENNS at

[fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca)

### Constitutional Review Meeting TBA

Contact Ardythe Basham

[president@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:president@greenparty.mb.ca)

### AGM AND ELECTIONS

November 18 - 19 Location TBA

## WEBSITE

Our website has been completely redesigned by volunteer Webmaster Bonnie Moore. Check out the new interactive features at [www.greenparty.mb.ca](http://www.greenparty.mb.ca)

**Please check out the BLOG section of the GPM website!**

## LISTSERV

MBGREENS is an unofficial discussion group.

If you are not yet a member of the list\_serv, you can sign on to Yahoo and request membership at:  
<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/mbgreens/>

## GREEN TEA PARTY at the FRINGE

During the FRINGE FESTIVAL this year, the Green Party of Manitoba hosted a table outside the Pantages Theatre. We offered iced tea, petitions to sign, and GPM handouts.

We also served as unofficial Fringe volunteers, directing people to the two venues inside the Pantages Playhouse.

Would you like to take part in a similar event at next year's Fringe Festival?

Email any member of Council, or if you do not have email access, leave a message at 488-2831.

## GPM COUNCIL

**Holly Nelson, Leader**  
[leader@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:leader@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Ardythe Basham, President**  
[president@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:president@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Sylvia-Linda Kaktins, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca)  
(resigned effective July 27, 2006)

**Andrew Basham, Membership  
Development Co-ordinator**  
[membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca)  
Deputy: Clint Roscoe

**Scott Harrison, Secretary**  
[secretary@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:secretary@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Shelagh Pizey-Allen, Action Chair**  
[action@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:action@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Michael Jack, Elections Planning  
Co-ordinator**  
[elections@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:elections@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Alon Weinberg, External Liaison**  
[external@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:external@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Vere Scott, Policy Chair**  
[policy@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:policy@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Shayn Peitsch, Young Greens Chair**  
[info@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:info@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Cody Gabrielson, Media and  
Communications Chair**  
[media@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:media@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Gerald Enns, Fundraising Chair**  
[fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca)

Michael Jack has also been appointed Chief  
Financial Officer of the GPM.

Contact Mike at  
[elections@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:elections@greenparty.mb.ca)  
or [CFO@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:CFO@greenparty.mb.ca)

Members of the GPM are invited to contact  
Scott Harrison, Secretary, to receive minutes  
of Council and general meetings.

## OFFICE MANAGER

Council is very happy to introduce our new  
volunteer Office Manager, Lee Gaylene.

Lee will be in the office Monday and  
Tuesday from 10 - 3.

Her current project is to create an election  
readiness file for each constituency. If you  
have information that would be helpful to a  
Green candidate, please send it to Lee (by  
email or post) for inclusion. Email  
[info@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:info@greenparty.mb.ca)

## *Council Training Opportunities*

Are you interested in learning about the  
GPM Council, how it works and what  
Councilors do? Council is the executive  
body of the GPM. There are currently 12  
positions/seats on Council. In 2006,  
Council set up a Deputy system, whereby all  
councilors are able to have one Deputy who  
shadows them, learns from them, and is  
ready, willing, and able to take over their  
position if necessary. Deputies also make  
great candidates for Council at AGMs.

Currently there are no deputy councilors.  
Council would like to change this, and so  
we are inviting all Members to consider  
becoming a Deputy for any position on  
council. Available positions include all  
council positions except Party Leader. You  
will be introduced to your Councilor and  
Council, trained in the tasks of your  
Councilor, and included in all Council  
communications.

If this sounds like something you would like  
to do, please don't hesitate to contact the  
party. It is a great way to get involved and  
gain valuable volunteer experience. Please  
contact either Ardythe Basham (President),  
Andrew Basham, (Membership Development  
Coordinator) at  
[president@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:president@greenparty.mb.ca)  
or [membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca).  
If you do not have email access, please call  
or write to the GPM office.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **THE LEADERSHIP CONTEST FOR THE GREEN PARTY OF MANITOBA OFFICIALLY BEGINS ON AUGUST 1, 2006.**

Do you have a vision for the Green Party of Manitoba?

Do you have time and energy to invest in a party working for a sustainable future for all Manitobans?

Do you support the values and principles of the Green Party?

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT?

### **OCTOBER 9 DEADLINE!**

Candidates must contact the Chief Financial Officer of the GPM and must comply with all requirements of Elections MB.

**All candidates** must have completed their paperwork with Elections MB and must have given any campaign messages to Council to be included in AGM mailout.

To ensure fairness, each candidate may include a one page information sheet with the AGM mailout.

Candidates may mail out literature at their own expense. Council will have address labels printed to apply to stamped and sealed envelopes. The membership list will not be provided to candidates. Any candidates who are council members must abide by the same rules. Candidates' messages and profiles will also be posted on the website.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

of the Green Party of Manitoba will be held on November 18 and 19. Elections for Leader and Council will take place on November 19, with a mail-in ballot for Leader provided to ensure that all members of the party are able to vote even if they cannot attend in person.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW**

As the GPM grows and develops, some provisions of the Constitution need to be updated. A review is in process and your input is invited. The areas being considered for amendment are:

### **COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL:**

A smaller Executive Council, with a regionally-based Advisory Council for policy and platform, is being suggested.

Standing Committees on Policy and Platform Development, Media and Communications, and Fundraising are suggested. These would replace some current Council positions.

Responsibilities of Council would be clarified.

### **GENERAL MEETINGS:**

One General Meeting per year is suggested, replacing the policy convention with a Standing Committee on Policy and Platform.

### **BYLAWS:**

Bylaws governing organizational details will be separated from the constitution, which will set out general principles.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES:**

More comprehensive policies on privacy and conflict of interest will be presented to the membership.

Scott Harrison and Ardythe Basham have done some preliminary revisions. Further input from any members with an interest in constitutional issues would be welcome. A set of proposed revisions will be available to members well in advance of the AGM.

To participate in the Constitutional Review, please contact [president@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:president@greenparty.mb.ca) or call 488-2831 and leave a message and your contact information, including times you are available to meet.

## Manitoba's Electoral System: An Overview with Options for Change *by Andrew Basham*

Manitoba's electoral system, like all other provinces, is based on single member electoral districts where elections are conducted using plurality (the most votes wins). This system, known as single member plurality (SMP) is designed for two candidates. With more candidates, a common outcome is to electing candidates who have a minority of votes, leaving the majority unrepresented. Canada, the US, and the UK are the only electoral democracies left in the world using SMP for elections.

In a democracy, the electoral system is the key to power for politicians and governments. In Manitoba today, our electoral system is producing undemocratic results because it was designed for two-party elections. Currently there are 3-5 candidates in every riding representing the NDP, PC, Liberal, or "Other". In the last election the Liberal party received 15% of the vote and only 2% of the seats (see [www.elections.mb.ca](http://www.elections.mb.ca)). Federally we have just witnessed a Conservative government elected with 35% of the vote, that means 65% voted for some other party, likely *against* the Conservative Party of Canada's values, policies, leadership, and/or local representative. Could the same thing happen in Manitoba? Let's reexamine the system we have and make sure it conforms to modern democratic values of diversity, inclusion, non-violence, and proportional representation.

Many scholars, lawyers, politicians, and citizens have called for electoral reform in SMP jurisdictions and Manitoba is no exception. A non-partisan method of electoral reform is needed; British Columbia used a pioneering "Citizens' Assembly" model ([www.citizensassembly.bc.ca](http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca)) recently, which looked at the current system, decided it was no longer suitable for BC and then began looking for alternative systems, hearing arguments from all sides, making decisions as an

independent citizens' assembly. The process ended with a referendum asking citizens to either support or reject the Assembly's selected system (customized Single Transferable Voting). 57% of the votes cast were in favour of the new STV system, yet the referendum required 60% of the vote to be in favour. The failure of the process, which was most democratic, to yield the desired result of electoral reform, was disheartening to those watching. It inspired me to devise a solution to the limiting question. Preferential ballots are needed, with multiple system options available to be ranked by the citizenry. The Manitoba Greens' electoral system policy includes such a provision.

Another pressing concern is civic disengagement and apathy, expressed in low voter turnouts. In Manitoba we had a 54.17% turnout in the 2003 General Election. Why is it that so many citizens are not voting? A Citizens' Assembly could address this question as well, and the participation of 200 or so randomly selected citizens in a process of electoral reform, mandated to consult widely with Manitobans, could produce a significant amount of 'buzz' around democracy that should boost voter turnouts and civic engagement in provincial politics.

In light of the above, the Green Party of Manitoba calls on Premier Gary Doer and the government of Manitoba to initiate a citizen-based process of electoral reform using a Citizens' Assembly model.

Anyone wishing to help promote this initiative should write to Andrew Basham to receive a copy of the electoral reform petition we are using. We also encourage you to communicate with your representative(s) on the pressing issue of electoral reform.

***Andrew Basham is Membership Development Coordinator for the Green Party of Manitoba. He can be contacted at [membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca) or (204) 488-2831 (Please leave a message).***

## POLICY REPORT

At the Policy Convention on May 13, 2006, the following policies were passed.

1. Canadian National Organic Standard
2. Organic Farm Research and Education
3. Pension Protection
4. Fossil-Fuel Independence
5. Manitoba Energy
6. Current/Future Hydroelectric Development in Manitoba
7. Aboriginal Rights and Hydroelectric Development
8. Hazardous Waste  
Be it resolved that the GPM:

9, 10 & 11.  
Nanotechnology and Nanobiotechnology  
(Synthetic Biology)

12. Animal Welfare  
Policy recommendations from Syd Baumel were accepted as information.

To receive the complete minutes of the Policy Convention, please email [secretary@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:secretary@greenparty.mb.ca) or phone the office and leave a message.

## GRASSROOTS!

One of the core values of Green parties is grassroots democracy. Within the GPM it is important for members to take an active role. Here are some ways to do it.

### Constituency Associations

Your council is committed to making the Green Party of Manitoba a real choice for Manitoba voters. To do this, we need to develop strong candidates with grassroots support. One crucial step is the formation of Constituency Associations. The legal requirements for constituency associations can be found at the Elections Manitoba website. If you are interested in forming a Constituency Association, please contact the GPM office for assistance. We can provide a list of Greens in your area once you fill out a simple request form (per the new privacy policy).

### Caucuses

Interested in issues? Consider forming a caucus to develop policy, research, and hold events around a specific issue or area of interest.

Members in several constituencies can also form a "regional caucus" - for example, a North Winnipeg caucus, or a Northern Manitoba caucus.

Email [secretary@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:secretary@greenparty.mb.ca) for a copy of the Caucus policy.

### **CANDIDATE TRAINING**

Council is working on assembling a candidates' information package to assist prospective candidates and their Constituency Associations.

We are also recommending that candidates, and others who may be speaking on behalf of the Green Party, consider joining Toastmasters or a similar organization to develop speaking skills. This fall Ardythe (who is a recent Toastmaster) will be offering some short workshops for those who would like some pointers, but aren't ready to join a club.

Other suggestions would be most welcome from anyone who has run for office and is willing to share their experience. Contact [elections@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:elections@greenparty.mb.ca) with your ideas!

## FLUORIDE LEVELS IN BOTTLED WATER

by Trevor Adams

If you buy bottled water to avoid additives, including fluoride, you should be aware that you may be getting more than you think.

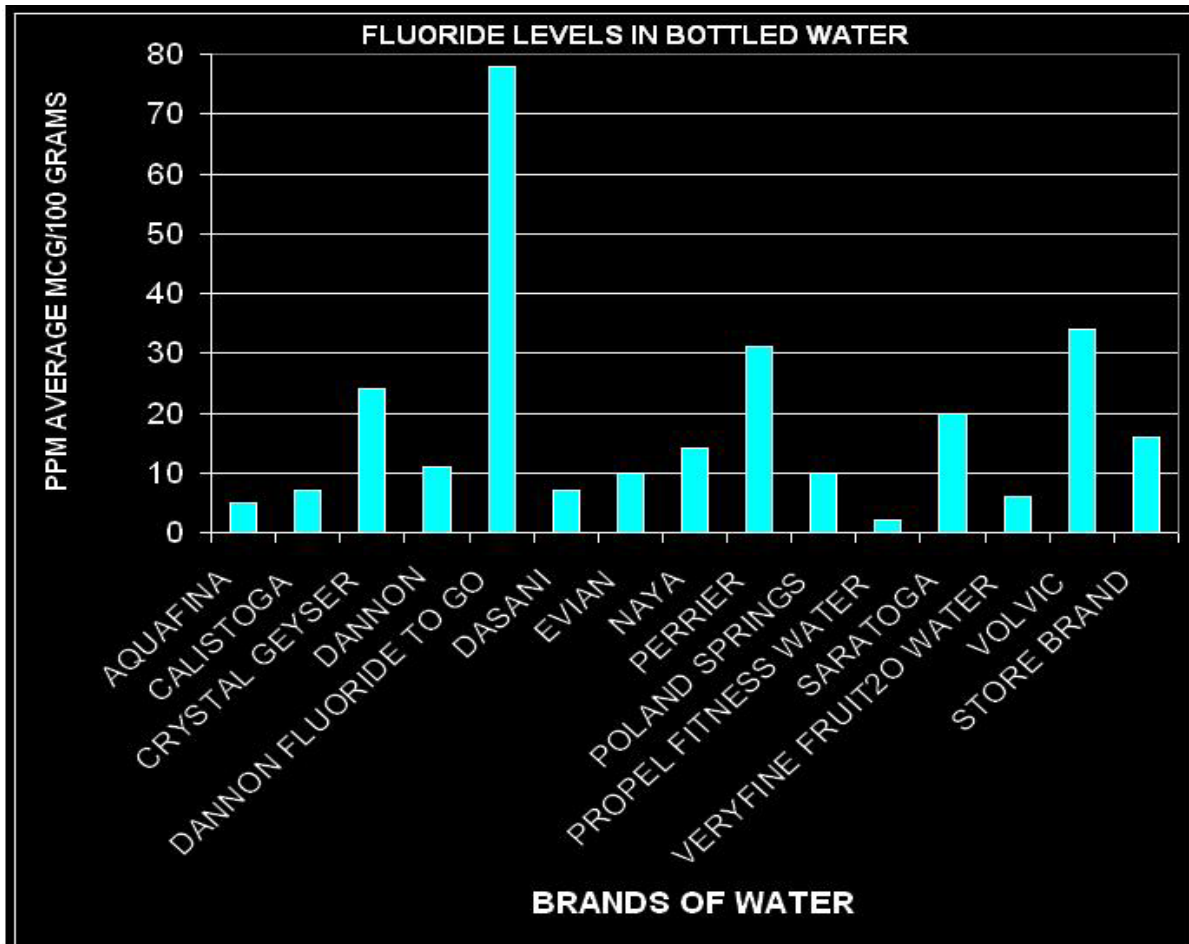
All references are to the USDA chart on this page, and all figures come from the USDA database.

According to the chart, you can see the bottled water with the least amount of fluoride is Propel Fitness water. Second is Aquafina, and third is Veryfine Fruit2O water. Although this brand of water is low in fluoride it also has a lot of additives and preservatives in it which do not make it one of the best waters on the market. These additives and preservatives are known to

cause some human health risks especially sucralose also known as Splenda which is a neurotoxin.

Kraft's Veryfine Fruit2O water contains: spring water, natural flavor, citric acid, malic acid, sodium benzoate, and potassium sorbate (preserves freshness), and sucralose a nonnutritive sweetener.

The bottled water with the most fluoride is Dannon Fluoride To Go at an amazing 78 mcg/100 grams. I buy bottled water to get away from fluoride in tap water. In this world of ours fluoride is in so many foods and beverages we are being overexposed to it as it is. If you want fluoride in your water, drink the water from your tap instead of buying Dannon's Fluoride To Go because almost all of Canada and United States are fluoridating their water supply anyways.



The labels on bottled water are very confusing regarding the amount of fluoride ions. I did some calculations. In USDA's database they go by mcg/100 grams, in bottled water labels they go by mg/l and I came to the conclusion that if they go by mg/l they need to list 2 decimal spots not just one because I believe they either round up or down. The label may say it has 0 fluoride ions but it actually does have some; it is just that they do not show that extra decimal spot or spots. Take for example Aquafina and Dasani. Dasani's label says 0.0 ppm fluoride ions and Aquafina's label says 0.1 ppm fluoride ions. If you look at the chart from the USDA fluoride database you will see that Dasani's average fluoride ion count in their water is 7 and Aquafina's average fluoride ion count in their water is 5 which does not make any sense according to their labels. Aquafina has a lower average than Dasani but their label says 0.1 ppm fluoride ions. Dasani has a higher average and says 0.0 ppm fluoride ion. This is why I think they either round up or down. I guess Dasani rounds down, and Aquafina rounds up on their label. This is why I think our bottled water label standard should be changed to either mcg/100 grams(mls) or list 2 decimal spots. This is what you should see on the label:  
For Dasani 0.07 ppm or 7 mcg/100 mls  
For Aquafina 0.05 ppm or 5 mcg/100 mls.

## **Greenwashing and Household Hazardous Waste** *by Gerald Enns*

In Manitoba, like the rest of Canada, daily life involves purchasing consumer products that result in hazardous waste products. Changing oil, cleaning laundry, painting, replacing light bulbs, and applying pesticides to the lawn and garden are activities that produce "Household Hazardous Waste". As individuals, we can easily reason that there will be few consequences if such waste is just thrown away in the trash or flushed into our sewers. This reasoning results in a collective problem.

## *Our Goal Is to Put the Hazardous Waste Industry Out of Business!*

Hazardous waste is a term for a variety of products with varying chemical properties and degrees of toxicity. Letting hazardous waste enter our environment through landfills, sewers, and burn pits has a negative impact on the integrity of our ecosystems. The government of Manitoba estimates that 21% (500 tonnes annually) of all Household Hazardous Waste in Manitoba is collected and treated. This means that another 2000 tonnes of solvents, paints, pesticides, cleaners, batteries, mercury, PCBs slip through gaping holes in the system and out into our groundwater, rivers, lakes, and air.

Our elected governments are, to a large extent, responsible for protecting our land from pollution and have failed to reach goals they set after the Waste Reduction and Prevention Act (WRAP) was passed in 1989. Part of any such strategy must involve reducing the amount of waste produced and effectively collecting and treating the waste that is produced.

Progress in both approaches have taken place in both B.C. and Nova Scotia through "Product Stewardship" and "Extended Producer Responsibility" - new buzz words that essentially mean 'clean up your mess'. The burden of the collection and treatment of hazardous waste is placed on the producer and consumer instead of being spread out over all taxpayers. Product stewardship boards integrate this activity with public awareness campaigns aimed at providing alternatives to hazardous products and encouraging consumers to reduce.

In July 2001, Manitoba Conservation put out a booklet entitled "A Plan to Manage Household Hazardous Waste in Manitoba" that includes all of the necessary strategies. Despite this, in the past five years, we have seen virtually no progress in the field of household hazardous waste collection. There is now a new agency in the provincial bureaucracy called Green Manitoba

(greenmanitoba.ca), and among other issues like tires and packaging, they also have all the right ideas about how to manage this pesky problem of household hazardous waste.

My question is - why should we believe them this time when they say that they have a plan? The only way to get movement on this issue is to start calling MLAs and demand that they follow through on their promises. They must know that we will not be fooled by 'greenwashing', where all the images and policies are present, but no measurable progress is made. It is the job of the Green Party of Manitoba and citizens to call on our current government to enact its policies and to build on the progress made by provinces like BC and Nova Scotia in minimizing hazardous waste.

*(All articles in this issue represent the views of the writers and may not necessarily represent official policy of the GPM. Please refer to GPM policy documents.)*

## GREEN MARKET

Mike Nickerson's new book, **Life, Money and Illusion** is available from the GPM for \$20.00

### GPC T-Shirts      \$15

We have a few left: one XL, 3 XXL with the GPC logo, and 2 S, 2 M with "Be Kind to Your Mother".

Call the office or email [info@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:info@greenparty.mb.ca) to purchase.

## BUTTONS

Green Party of Manitoba buttons, with a beautiful homegrown Gaillardia Aristata in full colour, are available for \$2 (6 for \$10).

Constituency associations or caucuses can purchase buttons at cost for fundraising purposes.

## BIKE DUMP

<http://bike-dump.ca/index.php>

BIKE DUMP is a non-profit, volunteer-run bicycle collective in Winnipeg. Come in and get free help doing repairs or maintenance on your bike. We periodically offer bicycle repair and maintenance workshop series, and sell low-cost, recycled bicycles in a vain attempt to cover our rent. The Bike Dump is a place to learn how to fix your own bike in the company of other cyclists.

BIKE DUMP aims to promote human-powered transportation and to offer a community service.

Open on Sundays from 12 noon until 6pm. Located at 594 Main St. (access through back door via. back lane off Logan Ave.)

The Bike Dump runs on volunteers and recycled parts. Donations of bicycles, bike parts, time and/or cash are encouraged. Come visit and give what you can.

## SKROUNGERS

Presently located at 669 Logan Avenue, Barry Flett's business is dedicated to "upcycling" - keeping usable goods out of the landfill. He has a huge collection of new and used clothing, electronics, building materials, fixtures and everything in between.

Skroungers will be moving to a new location this fall and is doing some fundraising to cover moving costs. For more information email [salvagekraft@mts.net](mailto:salvagekraft@mts.net), or stop by and see what you can "upcycle".



*Close the loop  
Save the earth*