

Students taught realities of food security

By Andrew Pruden

A day-long event in Morden addressed the growing food security issues affecting the world.

Students from six different schools attended the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation youth conference Tuesday December 3.

The schools that participated in this event were Bothwell School, Ecole Morden Middle School, Ecole Parkside School, Emerald Centennial School, Nellie McClung Collegiate and Plum Coulee School.

The students participated in a variety of events that challenged and excited them while learning some very real and local lessons.

Students learned about the importance of good soil when they used a game from earlier in the morning and picked through entire trails of rocky "soil" just to get the few pieces of beans and corn.

They also learned of the impact of things like bio-fuels when they had to manage food output after losing parts of their crops to fuel production companies.

Another game that proved popular with the group was one in which the students separated seeds.

Each school was divided into groups, and those groups raced to dig through "dirt" for corn and bean seeds and separate them into cups. The end goal was the filling of both the corn and bean cup.

To the surprise of most students in attendance, it was near impossible in the time given. A sentiment, the MCIC explained, expressed by farmers world wide.

Another one of the lessons of the day for students was the impact conflict plays in world food security issues.



Finding corn and bean seeds.

Students were surprised to learn children their age have to avoid unexploded land mines and cluster bombs in fields. Several audible gasps were heard in the crowd when students learned rich farmland often has to sit vacant because of unexploded ordnance in the ground.

A surprising lesson of the day was one that was unknown even to the teachers and guests present.

Students participated in several activities and movies that highlighted the growing issue of countries buying large tracts of foreign land. Students were surprised to learn the very land the farmers live on, and supposedly own, could be bought and sold like the crops the earth produces.

For the students, the conference is another part of a new movement capturing the schools in the province. Citizenship and social responsibility are once again being emphasized by schools like Nellie

McClung Collegiate of Manitou.

One of its teachers, Grant Caldwell, took his grade seven social studies class as well as several grade eight students as part of a school wide project involving a variety of students and staff.

Now the students of NMC will take the experience from this conference and put it to use.

These students, in conjunction with community organizations, will be constructing a greenhouse at the school. Throughout the construction and operation of the greenhouse, many of the food issues and techniques learned at the conference will be incorporated.

The project will involve the entire school, and subjects like physical education, health, social studies will be used in the greenhouse.

The MCIC benefits from a staff with a wide range of experience and it comes out in a streamlined and engaging presentation.

The MCIC puts emphasis on

youth programs and the center boasts a capable staff. These include accredited teachers with experience in ESL education and teaching in foreign countries as well as others from the very countries the presentation discusses.

The MCIC provides a variety of services and workshops big and small. Many are focused on youth and all present fine role models of citizenship and responsibility for the people who attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pesticide Control Program

Public notice is hereby given that Manitoba Housing intends to conduct the following pesticide-control programs in and around their housing units in communities throughout the province from January 1 to December 31, 2013.

1. To control rodents using the following pesticides:

- Bromadiolone
- Chlorofacinone
- Difethialone
- Zinc Phosphide
- Diphacinone
- Sulfur
- Brodifacoum

2. To control insects using the following insecticides:

- Pyrethrin
- Propatamphos
- Piperonyl butoxide
- Dichlorvos
- Permethrin
- Boracic Acid
- Lambda-cyhalothrin
- Silicon Dioxide
- Cyfluthrin
- N-Octyl Bicycloheptene Dicarboximide
- Propoxur
- D-Trans Allethrin
- Bendiocarb
- Borax
- Hydramethylinon
- S-Methoprene
- Abamectin
- D-Phenothrin
- Avermectin B1

3. To control pigeons using the following pesticide:

- Aminopyridine

The public may send written submissions or objections (within 15 days of the publication of the notice) to the department below:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Pesticide/Fertilizer Section
Suite 160 - 123 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

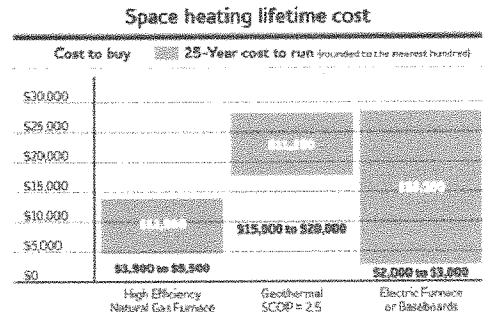


Manitoba Hydro – your energy expert

Replacing your furnace? Compare the lifetime costs

Some types of heating systems cost more to buy but will actually cost less to run each year. It is important to consider both the purchase price and operating costs when choosing a residential space heating system.

The following chart compares the lifetime cost of typical residential heating equipment. The **lifetime cost = cost to buy + (yearly cost to run X life of the system)**



The costs indicated in the chart are based on averages and will vary depending on your home, specific heating needs and other conditions such as whether you are building a new home or replacing existing equipment, the size of the home, number of occupants, lifestyle habits, insulation levels, etc.

For more information on your home heating options, please visit our website at hydro.mb.ca/heating or call us for a brochure.

For advice on saving energy...

call 1-888-624-9376 (1-888-MBHYDRO) or visit hydro.mb.ca

Email your questions to:
customerservice@hydro.mb.ca



Manitoba Hydro is a member of the Manitoba and Ontario Power Generation Group.