

The World Conservation Strategy has been loaned to the Strategy Committee for 3 months to help in the preparation of the document.

This Central Committee reviewed the environmental problems facing Prince Edward Island and decided to divide them into 5 categories. It was decided to invite 10-12 representatives of agencies or organizations and knowledgeable individuals who were involved with each of these five categories to form groups to discuss the problems and suggest possible solutions to the Central Committee. In order to provide continuity between groups, John and Bruce attended all of these group meetings. In addition the chairman of each group was a member of the Central Committee. The five areas which the five groups addressed included:

- Soil Conservation and Degradation
- Landscape Protection
- Water and Wildlife Management
- Water Quality and Pollution Control
- Coastal Zone Management

Each of the groups met 5-8 times, prior to approving a summary report of the discussions which was subsequently forwarded to the Central Committee. When most of the group meetings were completed it was felt that some areas of forestry, which has been considered by the Landscape Protection group, had not been adequately addressed. Doug Pollard, with his forestry experience, agreed to meet with forestry representatives and prepare a forestry document for consideration by the Central Committee.

At present the Central Committee is reviewing reports and developing a strategy for consideration by the Prince Edward Island government.

The aim of the Strategy is not to be needlessly restrictive and preservationist, but to provide a plan of actions that will guide the management of our resources to ensure sustainable development. The general philosophy must be one of wise use of our renewable resources so that they will still be present for future generations.

Although the final Strategy is not yet complete, and must be addressed by the Government, there are several topics which have been noted by several of the groups and of obvious importance. These include:

1. Environmental Education

There is a lack of knowledge about our environment throughout our society. Programs must be initiated to overcome this lack of knowledge through the school system, the media, upgrading programs, adult education programs, government extension services etc.

2. Community Involvement

If people view the solutions as government initiated and government implemented, a major thrust of the Strategy will be lost. Examples have