

2nd Prize - Brian Millar of Bloomfield Elementary for the exhibit "Snakes".

3rd Prize - Lisa Parent and Anna Evans of Glen Stewart for the exhibit "Sun: Friend or Foe".

## MISCOUCHE BOG DOOMED

by Dan McAskill

The Environmental Assessment Panel for the Miscouche Bog tabled its report on the proposed peat mining operation at the Miscouche Bog, the Island's best bog type natural area, on January 22, 1991. Due in large part to the wording of the Acadian Purchase Trust and legal opinions the panel obtained on this act as well as the failure of the government to take action on the conservation of this International Biological Program site, the panel proposed two options to the Minister of Environment. The first was "that government negotiate with the Acadian Purchase Trust to purchase the Miscouche Bog and compensate the (Acadian Purchase) Trust for the loss of jobs and revenue that would accrue from the peat development project" while the second, which the Minister approved, "provides for the project to proceed subject to the following terms:

- that the scientific community be given adequate time and resources to locate and attempt to transplant endangered unique flora from the harvesting site;
- that the Acadian Purchase Trust ensure that a plan is established and committed that will put the harvested site, upon completion, into an acceptable natural state or utilized for an appropriate agricultural purpose; and
- that the province of Prince Edward Island compensate the scientific community for the loss of the Miscouche Bog by acquiring the following alternative sites - Brae Harbour Bog, Wood Island Bog, and St. Peter's Bog and turning them over to the Island Nature Trust for the protection and preservation."

The conditions set by the Minister are very similar to those provided to the panel by the Natural History Society as a contingency plan should a decision be reached to develop the bog. (refer to Island Naturalist #114, p.8 - 9)

## GOLF COURSE ON THE DUNES

by Dan McAskill

The call for a public meeting to review plans for the Lakeside Development Golf Course brought out a large audience. The developers unveiled their golf course routing plan as designed by Thomas McBroom Associates Ltd. and their golf course design provided a slide show depicting how the course would look when it was finished. The designer emphasized that the course would be developed so as to cause minimal damage to the natural features. Much to the Society's surprise, 7 of the 18 holes had tee off areas, greens, or fairways on secondary and tertiary dunes. In addition, some of these bordered wetlands.

The Society made representations to the developers requesting the movement of the golf course southwards off the dunes which would be in the spirit of the government's legislation on sand dune protection. The developers and their environmental impact assessment consulting company argued that such a development was allowed if the Minister provided permission to do so. They argued further that a course marshall would ensure the protection of the dunes from golfers looking for balls and that the "selling" of the course as an attraction was dependant on the course being of high caliper and a "Scottish style" links.