

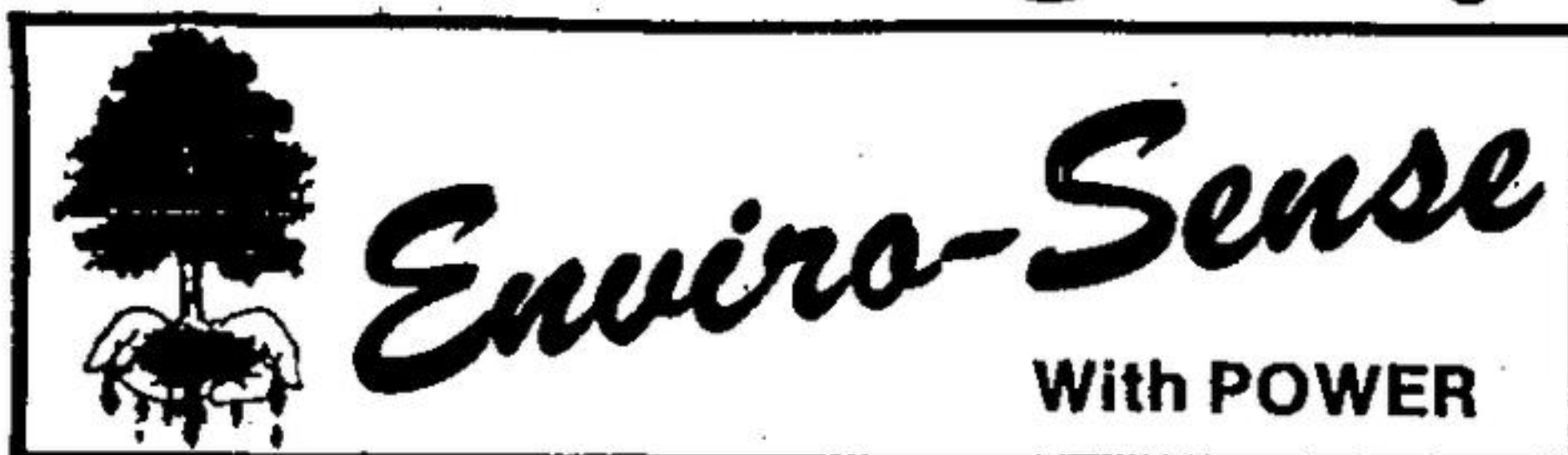
# Environment

## Canadians are guilty of hypocrisy

By JIM HOLLINGWORTH, M.D.

Many Canadians have been alarmed at the extinction of the world's rain forests. Many Canadians have been involved in voicing opposition to such destruction. But have we been as effective and as vocal in assessing the environmental damage that the proposed hydro-electric mega-projects for the James Bay and Hudson Bay regions represents? Are we aware that Canada is gaining an international reputation as "the Brazil of the North"? For Canadians to oppose the destruction of the world's rain-forests, without working to protect our Canadian North is the worst kind of ecological hypocrisy.

In the headlong rush for new energy sources, provincial energy authorities have been willing to overlook the environmental damage and stress on indigenous people, that megaprojects invariably bring. They have been highly selective in their use of scientific research and have resisted repeated callings for full and public environmental assessments. They have paid lip service to the cheapest and most environmentally friendly source of new energy-conservation.



If Canadians continue to use more energy per capita than any other industrialized nation, we will never have enough energy. If provincial hydro-electric companies do not abandon discounts for increased consumption, we will never have effective conservation. For example, one of the upcoming phases of the James Bay project in Quebec is hoped to produce 3,000 megawatts of electricity. Yet, studies indicate that 6,000 megawatts could be saved by putting basic conservation measures into effect in Montreal!

The Japanese, who thrive in world markets use a mere fraction of the energy that Canadians use. At some point, Canadians will have to learn about energy efficiency.

Hydro Quebec, in a political attempt to justify these massive hydro-electric mega-projects, has lured new aluminum

smelters to open, by offering discounts so large that the utility may actually lose money. Ultimately, it will be the tax-

payers of Quebec who underwrite this loss.

In addition, 10 years of diminished rain and snowfall have reduced generating capacity at existing northern hydro projects too far below expectations. Many experts believe this is no mere drought, but a permanent climatic change. If this is true, these proposed hydro-electric mega-projects will not be profitable, even in the short term.

Quebec's James Bay "development" plan represents one of the largest engineering projects ever undertaken. The four major phases of the project will result in hundreds of dams, dykes and generating stations, reshaping a geographic area the size of France. The dollar cost is estimated to be in excess of \$50 billion. The ecological cost of such a major restructuring of an entire bioregion cannot be fully known.

## Georgetown Kinsmen win awards

From Georgetown to Kapuskasing, from Wawa to Cobourg, the Kinsmen and Kinettes of District 8 came to Oshawa for their annual convention June 6-9. It was four days of excellent fellowship, interesting speakers and some great extras organized by the Oshawa Kinsmen. Some of the highlights included a tour of the immense GM Autoplex car assembly plant, a wine tasting, a dance featuring the band, Pink Cadillac, and the awards banquet Saturday night, with 300 people attending.

Three members of the

Georgetown club attended the convention, President Ron Lefebvre, President-Elect Jack Wallinga, and Halton-Peel Zone Deputy Governor Bruce Leonard.

Georgetown put on a respectable show in the District awards side of things, being Zone winners for Public Relations, Senior Bulletin, and Service. Unfortunately, they lost to excellent submissions from Peterborough, (PR and Bulletin) and Richmond Hill, (Service).

However, Deputy Governor Bruce Leonard did win the

District 8 Outstanding Deputy Governor Award. This award is presented to the DG who best exemplifies the office of Deputy Governor, and is based on Zone efficiency, Zone events, and membership gain.

Halifax is the site for this year's Kinsmen National Convention, being held the first week of August, with the Fall Leadership Conference taking place in North Bay in November. Plans are already in the works for a strong representation from the Georgetown Kinsmen to attend in North Bay.

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