

**Environment News**

# Mixed reviews on world situation in 1992

By David Featherstone

This Christmas I received the Environmental Almanac, a yearly compilation of environmental information published by the World Resources Institute. Upon review of the year's events, I was impressed by the advances we have made on many environmental fronts; however, I was similarly dismayed by the abuses that continue to debase our environment. The following events portray the advances and disappointments of the year.

The Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, attempted to address the worldwide problems of global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation and the accelerating extinction of species. Although several treaties were promulgated, rifts between rich and poor nations and

the refusal of key nations (notably the United States) to sign the documents hamstrung the effectiveness of the treaties and the conference.

In an effort to retain the historical purity of the largest Great Lake, Canada and the United States set a goal of "zero discharge" of dangerous chemicals into Lake Superior.

A California study determined that a 70 km (45 mile) stretch of the Sacramento River may not recover from a 1991 pesticide spill for up to fifty years.

Canadian paper mills must eliminate production of dioxins and furans by 1996; however, critics charge that new regulations do not limit highly toxic organochlorine production.

In February, Canadian government and auto industry representa-

tives signed an emissions agreement, setting standards for exhaust emissions that will be the most rigorous in the world.

New York cancelled its \$17 billion contract for electricity from Quebec's controversial Great Whale hydropower project. Studies indicated that it would be cheaper for the state to rely on energy conservation to stretch out its present power supplies. However, Hydro Quebec vows to carry on with the project.

The Premier of British Columbia pledged that no more raw sewage will flow from Victoria and Vancouver Island into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The cities have been dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage each day into the beleaguered strait.

Thirty years after the publication of Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, Diazinon, a lawn-care pesticide, is suspected in a series of bird kills in the state of Virginia. The major premise of Silent Spring was that misapplied pesticides are really biocides, wiping out whole ecosystems.

1992 was a year of lessons learned and lessons lost. While it is clear that many institutions are moving toward an environmental

ethic, it is disheartening to observe that other institutions just haven't received a message that is long overdue.

## Casting call

This Sunday, at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., director Vesta Jorgensen will be holding auditions for Private Lives, Georgetown Little Theatre's final play of the season. Private Lives is a lively comedy by Noel Coward set in the 1930's and has a cast of three women and two men.

Characters required include Sybil, a clingy ultra-feminine woman in her mid-20's; Elyot, her husband, 35-to-50, moody and strong willed; Amanda, a sophisticated 30-to-40 year-old; Victor, her husband, secretly romantic, 35-to-45 years old and Louise, Amanda's clumsy French maid.

Auditions will be held at Stewarttown. Rehearsals begin March 1 and performances at the theatre begin April 15.

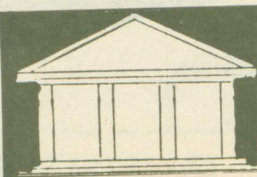
If you are interested in auditioning, please call Vesta Jorgensen at 873-0439 or the producer, Fran Anthony at 877-5856.

Don't miss our new photo feature on page 10 of this issue!

## Children's pottery course

The Credit Valley Artisans are offering a pottery course for children aged 8 to 11 on Saturday mornings starting February 13th. Deadline for registration is February 5th. For further information, contact Karen King, Registrar, at 873-2018 between 6 and 8 p.m.

The Credit Valley Artisans are offering two pottery courses - one in the afternoon and one in the evening - on Wednesdays, starting February 24th. Deadline for registration is February 10th. There are still openings in the January to April series of classes for adults. For more information, please contact Karen King, Registrar, 873-2018.



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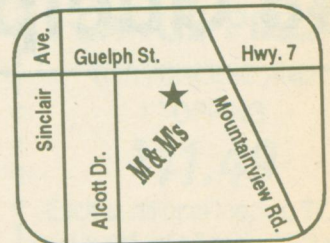
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