

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Candidates crumble over conservation questions

BY GINA STACK

Environmental conservation is not a pressing issue for politicians in this month's provincial election.

Students in the Nature Conservation class of the Biology Department sent a questionnaire to the Progressive Conservative, Liberal and New Democratic parties of Nova Scotia, in an attempt to discover the parties' stance on conservation issues.

Jessica Maddison, one of four members of the group completing the project says that the group was both happy and disappointed with the responses by the parties.

"We hope that the results have an impact on the student vote," she said.

Maddison says the group was pleased with the responses given by the NDP party, but disappointed with those from the PCs and the Liberals.

However, a quick glance at the responses by all three parties shows little depth of thought, or commitment to the conservation issues.

For example, the third question in the survey read: "Following the restitution of the Jim Campbell's Barren into the system plan of protected areas, it was announced that the parks division of the Department of Natural Resources would

move to the Department of Environment. Will your party, as a government, continue with this move? If no, what future do you plan for the parks division?"

The Conservative party stated that it raised the issue in the NS Legislature on Nov. 26, but no definitive action has been taken by the governing

Liberals. In his response, PC leader John Hamm did not state which department he believed should be responsible for parks, but the fact that parks require significant manpower must be taken into consideration.

The Liberal's answer was more definitive, stating that "at this time there are no plans to change the move of the Parks

Division from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of the Environment.

The NDP answer was the briefest, stating a simple "yes".

Despite the effort by students in the Nature Conservation class to get politicians to talk about an issue of importance to them, the responses to their

survey illustrate a lack of interest on the part of provincial politicians.

Maddison says that the questionnaires were handed out on Mar. 9 to both the provincial leaders and the three candidates for the Halifax-Citadel riding. Of the six questionnaires, three were returned (one from each party) and all were late.

Electric Odyssey shocks thousands

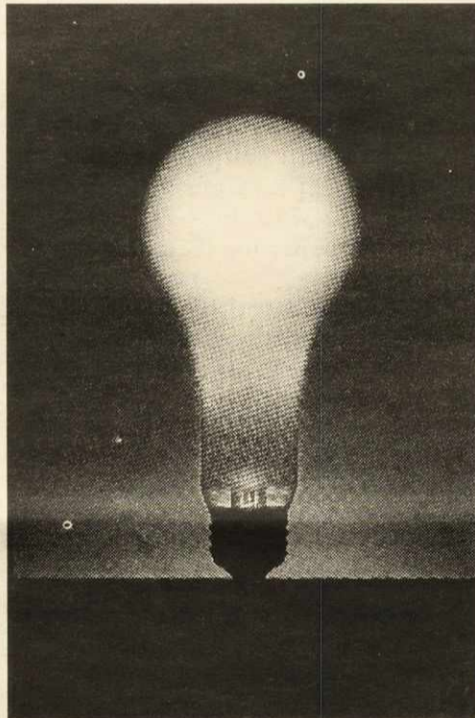
BY ERIN SPERLING

People who usually play with electricity are in for a shock. The Discovery Centre has found a way to educate the public about electricity with a hands-on approach that is not quite a hair-raising experience.

The Barrington Street Science Education Centre has made electricity into interactive fun through an exhibition called "Electric Odyssey".

Some of the 15 exhibits include a look inside a microwave and a hair dryer. There is also the chance to jump on a stationary bike to generate enough electricity to light up a doll house big enough for a student to live in. Of course, the favourite is the plasma ball, which emits rays of violet energy to points on a

clear sphere wherever a body part touches it.



The "Electric Odyssey", which will be running for the

next four months, is in addition to the centre's regular displays, interactive excitement areas, shows and films.

Upstairs on the third floor the Discovery Centre has made a home for bridges, which is understandable considering the affinity this area seems to have for these impressive structures. In this room everyone has the opportunity to build a bridge, both with a computer and with your hands.

Another famous attraction of the centre is the Bubble Room, where there is an never-ending supply of dish-soap. Standing inside a bubble becomes a reality here.

Despite the fact that the average age of entry is seven-and-a-half, there were many adults present. And they

were enjoying themselves as much as the kids. There was definitely some healthy competition for access to the exhibits.

"Our highest attendance rate has been 1500 [during Halloween of 1997]. Yesterday we cracked over a thousand and today, I suspect, we are quite on par to do the same. Attendance is greatly increasing," said Ashli MacInnis, the coordinator of marketing and special events at the Discovery Centre.

"I get a big kick out of watching the parents when they go in the bubble room...they have just as much fun as the kids," she said.

The Discovery Centre is a good place for hands-on learning for kids and adults. As a non-profit science centre, it is good for Nova Scotia on the whole.

ALEXANDRA'S PIZZA

1263 QUEEN ST., HALIFAX
425-1900

VOTED BEST POUTINE IN METRO!

FREE DELIVERY STARTING AT NOON UNTIL CLOSING
ON FOOD ORDERS OVER \$6.00 Not Including Pop & Tax

PARTY PACKS!!		
Sm.	9" up to 5 items	6.70
Med.	12" up to 5 items	8.75
Lrg.	16" up to 5 items	10.95
Ex Lrg.	18" up to 5 items	14.40

A Large 16" pizza up to 5 items, plus garlic fingers with mozzarella & cheddar cheese, served with donair sauce & 2 Ltr. Pop 15.45

THE PLACE TO BE 7 DAYS A WEEK.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
SUNDAY BRUNCH 11AM TO 3PM	HALF PRICE NACHOS Try our great Nachos in regular size or large for 1/2 price!	2 FOR 1 PASTA Purchase one of our 3 Special Pastas and receive a 2nd Special Pasta FREE!	RIB NIGHT Rack of Back Ribs only \$ 7.95! Second Rack for just \$ 5.50!	WING NIGHT 15¢ -Chicken Wings from 5-midnight! They're the best in town!	OPEN MIC NIGHT The stage is open to all aspiring musicians! Open Mic till close!	SATURDAY MATINEE Blues Matinee every Saturday afternoon with Joe Murphy & the Water St. Blues Band!

It's all at Halifax's landmark Pub & Eatery - Your Father's Moustache.

Your Father's Moustache

5686 Spring Garden Road, Halifax NS (902) 423-6766 Pub & Eatery

\$1000

Graduate Cash Rebate

When you buy or lease any NEW TOYOTA

Offer applies to graduates who have graduated from college, university, nursing school or accredited community college within the last 2 years, or those who will graduate within 4 months. See dealer for complete details.

or get \$500 back on any certified used Toyota

322 Windsor Road, Dartmouth
454-9508 or Toll Free 1-866-464-0272

3451 Kempt Road, Halifax
453-2371
Toll Free 1-866-606-7877

See them yourself... at your Metro TOYOTA Dealers