

*Government Orders*

There are many global concerns that Canadians are faced with. PCBs, mentioned earlier by one of my colleagues, are made up of dioxins and furans, two of the most lethal toxins known to man. Several years ago the federal government took the step to eliminate PCBs. The problem is that PCBs, once created, do not go away. They cannot be destroyed. Therefore, they must be stored, at least until some means of safe destruction is available. The federal government should be encouraged to finance research into safe disposal techniques. Until these are in place, national standards should be established for the safe movement and containment of PCBs.

Global warming. What is global warming? It would result in large-scale melting of glaciers causing the level and size of oceans to increase. Flooded coastlines and islands would be the catastrophic result.

Our water. Canadians are the greatest users and abusers of water in this world. Our supplies of clean usable water are limited. We must learn to use them wisely. It is vital for life and our survival depends upon it.

Ozone depletion. Ozone is a form of oxygen that is suspended above the earth's surface. The ozone layer, approximately 15 to 35 kilometres, forms a protective shield from the sun's harmful rays. It is being destroyed.

Toxic chemicals, pesticides, and herbicides. We over-use them and these chemicals leak through the soil, get into our water supplies, and when ingested they accumulate in body fat.

Wildlife and endangered species. We are killing them off at an extremely rapid rate. There is habitat loss and destruction, overuse and poaching, and toxic contamination. What are we doing to our wildlife and endangered species?

Deteriorating infrastructure, acid rain, and our forests. Our forests are being cut down at an alarming rate and we depend upon our forests for the oxygen necessary to clean the air we breathe. It is also a contributing factor to global warming.

If I could get more site specific and deal with issues closer to home with regard to the environment, I would like to talk about the Rideau River. We have two rivers here in the national capital region, the Rideau River and the Ottawa River. For too long we have been standing around deploring the deterioration of the environment

without doing anything about it. Many of us have difficulty dealing with the enormous scope of these problems, and I would like to focus on the ecological crisis facing us.

Let us be specific about the Rideau River. Everyone is aware of the Rideau and the fight to maintain it as a beautiful and vital river here in our nation's capital. We might not know all that is happening to the river or whether or not anyone is doing anything about it, but yet this historic waterway has become a major recreational resource. Once on it, you can make your way from the Ottawa River to the St. Lawrence River. It may be small but it is environmentally significant. The river is in trouble and we are the cause of its trouble.

Fortunately, more attention is being given to the Rideau River and I would like to mention four particular areas with which people are concerned. The rural beaches program by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. They are doing a study which will identify our major rural pollution sources in the Rideau River and its beaches. It is terribly important.

Another study done by the Conservation Authority is a study of the Rideau Lakes. The aim is to protect the lake environment. Its members talk to the cottagers. They are doing something about it. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is an arm of the provincial government and of regional government. Those are two programs being initiated by them.

The Rideau Canal Management Plan is the federal government plan of the Canadian Parks Service of Environment Canada. The plan will provide for future management, use and development of the canal. It is the policy of the Canadian Parks Service to provide opportunities for public consultation during the preparation of plans.

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton is also continuing its sampling and testing program of the Rideau River.

The Friends of the Rideau are the people who live along the Rideau and the cottagers who live along the Rideau. They are officially known as the Rideau Waterway Co-ordinating Association, unofficially as the Friends of the Rideau. It is a non-profit organization concerned about the environmental impact upon that river.