

Stratospheric Ozone Layer & Atmosphere Protection

MOPIA's Monthly E-Bulletin for our Subscription Members and Select Stakeholders



MOPIA
Reach us at:
1980-B Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2V 2B6
Email: mopia@mts.net Web: www.mopia.ca



J
a
n
u
a
r
y

1
7

2
0
0
8

54

Climate Change Conference April 22-23, 2008

MOPIA will be hosting the 2008 Manitoba Climate Change Conference and Earth Forum on April 22-23, 2008. The event will coincide with International Earth Day on April 22.

This event will take place in Winnipeg at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre located near the airport.

The Conference will include numerous speakers in concurrent workshops and include a variety of topics ranging from alternative energy to the science of climate change. In addition, a tradeshow will highlight some of the latest technology and products available that have emerged to mitigate climate change. Organizations which are focused on climate adaptation are also anticipated. On the evening of April 22, a free public forum on climate change will be held.

The Right Honorable Ed Schreyer is Honorary Chair of the Conference. The event will include speakers from the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg, government, industry and even non-government organizations. MOPIA is awaiting confirmation of a number of other presenters from outside Manitoba, some well known in the climate change arena and to the media. As reported in the Winnipeg Free Press, MOPIA has contacted former US Vice-President Al Gore's office, but no confirmation has been received.

Further details of the conference, tradeshow, sponsorship and registration will be posted at www.climateforum.ca shortly.



**2008 MANITOBA
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
and EARTH FORUM**

MOPIA to attend UNEP Halon (HTOC) Meeting



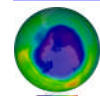
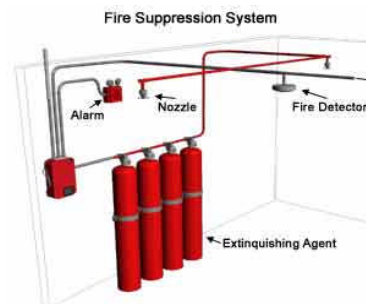
Don Thomson, MOPIA's past chair, is a representative on the United Nations Environment Programme Halons Technical Options Committee (HTOC).

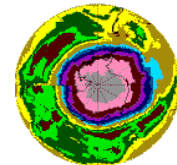
He will be attending the HTOC's next meeting in Manchester, United Kingdom on January 21-23, 2008.

Manitoba has some 106 halon installations. Every one of these fixed fire halon systems must be decommissioned within the next few years. Alternatives to halons do exist for nearly all applications but like every reconfiguration, certain alternatives may be more effective than others.

Halons are used primarily to protect computer and electrical rooms from fire. Halons tend to be less residually damaging to equipment than water or other ambient chemicals or fire retardants. Halons are now most commonly used on commercial aircraft and in many military platforms (i.e. tanks, other armored vehicles). The HTOC will be considering halon alternatives and options for these uses at the upcoming meeting.

Watch for Don's HTOC meeting report likely in the February E-Bulletin. See: www.ozone.unep.org





HFC Aerosol Position Statement

MOPIA's Board of Director's has confirmed the Associations Position Statement on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) releases used within aerosol containers. The statement firmly rejects the use of HFCs in aerosol containers where the substance is blatantly released to the environment. The only exception is for metered does inhalers (MDIs) or asthma inhalers.

HFCs are controlled substances under *Manitoba's Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Haloncarbons Regulation*, in addition too being regulated similarly by most other provinces. HFCs are listed as one of the basket of gases under *The Kyoto Protocol*. These are climate change substance.

The refrigeration and air conditioning sectors have taken great efforts to train personnel, obtain recovery equipment and respond to consumer and environmental challenges since the introduction of *The Montreal Protocol*. This has included the recovery and safe handling of HFCs.

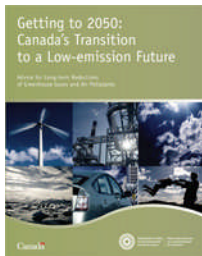
It was discovered by MOPIA's own Scott Nicol and Mark Miller, certain product manufacturers have introduced aerosol containers that use HFC 134a or HFC 152 as the propellant or carrier gas for the substances contained within. These range from body mists, air horns, animal poop scoop, and previously in party silly string.

MOPIA has raised this issue at the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and locally with our governments.

MOPIA is encouraging governments, manufacturers and NGO's to see the importance of this issue and the impact these HFC type aerosols may have on climate change. This issue parallels the globe's discovery in the 1970's of the harm that CFC aerosols were doing to the ozone layer.

National Round Table Report

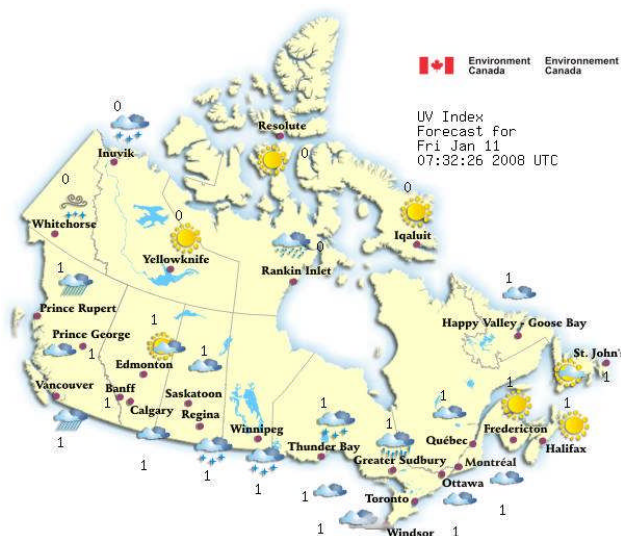
Canada's National Round Table of the Environment and Economy (NRTEE) recently released their Advisory report entitled: *Getting to 2050: Canada's Transition to a Low Emission Future*.



The Report sets out clear recommendations for effective action to achieve the government's stated goal of deep, long-term greenhouse gas emission reductions of between 60-70% below current levels by 2050.

See: www.nrtee-trnee.ca/

UV in Winter and at Warm Weather Destinations



UV index programs have been used since the 1980's to educate and inform the public about the intensity and importance of sun protection. Canada was instrumental in developing the world's most advanced UV index initiative.

Throughout Canada, UV can still be a factor in winter as the snow reflects much of the UV. For more information visit:

msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/education/uvindex/about_uvindex/about_e.html

As Canadians flock to warm weather destinations in winter including favorites such as Mexico, the Carribean, Australia and the southern or remote USA, one such be aware that the UV there will be much higher than at home.

For information on UV at other destinations, visit: <http://uv.colorado.edu/lindex.html>

Next Class – Saturday - Jan 26

MOPIA will be hosting our next one-day ozone depleting substances, other halocarbons and environmental awareness training (certification) on Saturday, January 26. The class will be held at Red River College in Winnipeg.

If you are interested in attending contact Sarah at (204) 338-0804 or sarah@mopia.ca in advance.



Reach us at:

1980-B Main Street Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Ph: (204) 338-0804 Toll Free: 1-888-667-4203 Fax: (204) 338-0810
mopia.ca / email us at: mopia@mts.net