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Newsletter

**The Marquis Project
& Worldly Goods Shop**

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January 2010

Make an Impact!

Are you tired of a lot of hot air on climate change and wanting some cool hard facts on what it all really means? Looking for a forum to connect with others and pick the minds of climate experts for local actions of global consequence?

Thanks to funding from the Cooperator's Group Impact! Fund, the Marquis project will undertake a monthly series of speaker and panel events focusing on regional climate change impacts & actions for rural communities locally and internationally. With discussions ranging from climate related issues in

food production, water security and gender, the 2010 Impact! Series will be a lively opportunity to learn the basics, wrestle with some new knowledge and apply your principles in a warming world.

"Hungry for Change: climate change and the food economy" will kick off the Impact! Speaker Series, with Dennis Cunningham, from the International Institute for Sustainable Development, speaking at 7:00 PM on February 8th, 2010 at The Marquis Project. Keep your eyes and ears open for a calendar of events as speakers are confirmed throughout the coming months!



Marquis Takes the Dare

Marquis' friends and members took the Stephen Lewis Foundation Dare to Remember for World AIDS Day this November 28th. The young and young at heart gathered for an afternoon of creative fellowship and directed their talents to visual mosaic of collective expression for AIDS in Africa. Drop by the Marquis Project/Worldly Goods Shop anytime to take a look at their drawing.



MISSION STATEMENT

The MARQUIS PROJECT is a community-centered, non-profit organization committed to the strengthening of international development. It has a two-fold purpose:

- to help educate Manitobans, as to the nature of economic, political, and social issues involved at both the local and global levels; and
- to seek to participate actively in sustainable projects and partnerships aimed at improving the quality of life in small, rural communities in developing countries.



Marquis Upcoming Events:

February 7 - 13 - International Development Week

February 8 - "Hungry for Change" with Dennis Cunningham. 7PM @ Marquis

February 9 - Fair Game @ Brandon University

February 12 - Fair Trade Awareness Day, Onanole, MB

February 13 - Sign up for One Month Challenge @ fairtrademanitoba.ca

February 14 - One Month Challenge begins!

February 15 - Louis Riel Day

February 16 - 20 - Worldly Goods Sale - Everything 30% Off! Free coffee all week! 10% off coffee, tea & chocolate until March 14!

February 27 - Charity Fundraising Bazaar @ Shoppers Mall, 9:30AM to 9PM

Email: events@marquisproject.com
phone: 727-5675
for more information

Worldly Goods:

Now open Mondays!
Monday to Saturday
10 AM to 4 PM
Closed February 15

NEWSLETTER

The Marquis Files

Last month, the Marquis Files took us on a fascinating journey to Bangladesh where the Amarok Society works to provide educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor in the slums of Dhaka.

The force behind the Amarok Society is the Munro family: Tanyss, Gem, and their four children, who all work in the project, raising awareness, raising funds, and helping to train teachers, who in turn teach mothers to teach neighbourhood children. Tanyss was recruited from her post as Senior Advisor to the Federal Government on Aboriginal Education to help rebuild the education system in Bangladesh. When the family arrived in Dhaka, they found even greater challenges in the 300 desperate and dangerous slums, where the millions with no access to education begged, sifted through garbage, or manually chopped up bricks to eke out what must pass for a living of less than a dollar a day. They decided that this was a more pressing endeavour, and they began to teach the poorest children in Dhaka. Frustrated at the "drop in the bucket" they felt they were contributing to (Gem says he made a mistake one night and calculated the birthrate in the country) they came up with a more sustainable method, and "The Mothers of Intention" program was born.

The Munro Family was in Brandon in December to promote Gem's book *South Asian Adventures With the Active Poor*, which was written to help finance their program, and the Marquis Files captured their presentation. They also met with Josh Sebastian to discuss how Marquis could partner with the Munros as they work with the Bangladeshi women to develop income generating projects.

The Amarok Society story would be of interest to people involved in public school education, teacher education, or community literacy programs, or anyone interested in heartwarming stories about how education can change lives.

To learn more about the project:

- Listen to the December Marquis Files program. You can obtain a copy by contacting the Marquis Project.
- Visit the Amarok Society website: www.amaroksociety.org
- Purchase a copy of *South Asian Adventures with the Active Poor* (available at the Worldly Goods Store).
- Watch for news of another visit to Brandon by the Munros this coming April.

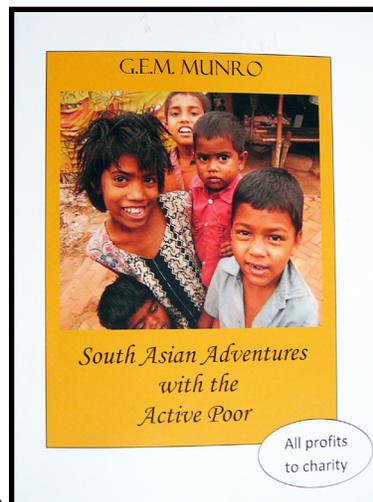
January Marquis Files

January's program will feature David Neufeld of "Room to Grow", who presented and facilitated a lively discussion on *Living Local at Home and Abroad: Meditations on Sustainable Living in Manitoba & Africa* at Marquis on January 13th. Attendance was great and participants were eager to share their own questions and to talk about how they addressed the challenges of sustainable living.

The Marquis Files airs at noon and five PM

on the last Tuesday of each month on 106.5 FM (That's CJJJ, ACC's Campus and Community radio station). Or you can listen on the web by going to www.assiniboine.net, and clicking on "listen live" in the bottom left hand corner. If you miss the program, find out how you can obtain a copy by contacting The Marquis Project.

If you have ideas for future programs, contact Judy; Bartel@westman.wave.ca.



The Marquis Project 30th Anniversary Member Forum

In efforts to bring organizational focus to the collective strengths of the Marquis Project, a Member Forum was held on December 5th, 2009. The event was held in the Elephant Room of the Knowles Douglas Student Centre at Brandon University in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary celebrations of the Marquis Project.

The gathering began with a light lunch and moved to an introductory session by Marquis member, and Brandon East MLA, Drew Caldwell. Mr. Caldwell participated in a cheque presentation ceremony to the Marquis Project on behalf of the Province of Manitoba and the Department of Education for Marquis' annual reception of \$30,000 to support international development education in Westman.

Two presentations, with question and answer sessions, were held to keep members abreast of current Marquis

activities abroad with linkages to local education.

The first presentation provided an outline of Marquis' current project in climate change adaptation and sustainable resource management in Tanzania with long term partner the Tanzania Society for Agriculture Education and Extension (TSAEE).

A second presentation was made by Marquis student volunteers in support of their academic requirements in Environmental Project Management course work. Marquis has agreed to support the efforts of both Marco Mwenda and Alanna Pryke of the Assiniboine Community College School of Business, Agriculture and Environment throughout the 2009/10 academic year as they develop climate change adaptation strategies with TSAEE. The focus of the presentation related the dissemination of their research results and proposed



project plan in addressing gender based climate change in Tanzania with recognition of time impacts to women. They intend to address this need in Tanzania, with TSAEE and Marquis, through integrated curriculum in climate change and gender for rural project participants in Tanzania and the introduction of Geographic Information Systems technology for project planning, monitoring and reporting for TSAEE volunteers/staff.

Both sessions were very well received by members in attendance.

The remainder of the afternoon was facilitated by Manitoba Council for International Cooperation staff Bequie Lake and Janice Hamilton. A number of activities were hosted in which members contributed to break out sessions and collective communication strategies to realize a communal sense of strength and direction for the organization.



International Development Week

International Development Week is a time to recognize the contributions of Canadians in international development, while raising awareness of what life is like for many people living in developing countries. International Development activities also educate Canadians about how they can become global citizens. Dennis Cunningham will be kicking off

international development week with discussions on climate change and the global food economy on Monday, February 8th. Tuesday, February 9th from 12:30-1:40 PM, Karli Brackenreed and Tiffanie Skipper will be facilitating play of the Fair Game at Brandon University. The Fair Game is a series of five exciting market player scenarios that explore the costs and

benefits of world trading systems and offers a clear and tangible model of major forces driving globalization. Stay tuned for more details. Fair Trade Awareness day in Onanole, MB will be taking place on Friday, February 12th from 9:30 AM -5:00 PM, with presentations delivered by The Marquis Project interns, as well as a fair trade sale open to the public.

Time for Action: Gender & Climate Change

By: Josh Sebastian

Miombo woodlands constitute 38% of the natural ground cover in Tanzania and are a part of the largest tropical deciduous forest ecosystem on earth (OECD, 2007). These forests are essential to maintaining soil structure, nutrient levels, water holding capacity, and erosion reduction throughout the entirety of the country. When coupled with losses due to climate change through increased aridity, pressure on forests to meet the rapidly growing human resource demand have resulted in an annual rate of deforestation conservatively estimated at 91,200 ha (OECD, 2007) – the equivalent of a 4.5 km strip of land running the entire length of the Trans-Canada Highway from Brandon to Winnipeg.

In recognizing the increasing need for stewardship through agricultural biodiversity conservation practices, a corresponding increase of recognition also needs to be given to the proper identification of stewards.

Women comprise 54% of the



agricultural workforce in 98% of rural Tanzanian communities (FAO, 1994). Women share in 50% of the preparation necessary for crop production (site clearing, hoeing, tilling, and sowing) and are responsible for upwards of 66% of the labour necessary for crop maintenance and harvest (weeding, harvesting, transportation, threshing/processing, and storage) (FAO, 1994).

Women in Tanzania comprise the frontline of players in adapting to the impacts of climate change, yet possess the least opportunity and decision making power in household practices that would directly improve local resilience to environmental challenges. This is dramatically illustrated when consideration is given to the resource of *TIME*.

The average woman in Tanzania invests 1.89 hours per day in activities related to travel alone (World Bank, 2007) and is responsible for over 80% of domestic travel activities such as wood fuel collection (World Bank, 2007). The average woman in rural Tanzania therefore makes a daily investment of 1.5 hours to simply arrive at resources essential for basic survival. 10.5 hours per week, 45 hours per month, 547.5 hours per year – largely invested to attain the same amount of energy that the average Manitoban harnesses when turning on their stove. In terms of time availability for investments

by women to environmental stewardship, education, and off-farm activities, the result is a loss to productivity of 68.4 North American working days every year. Under circumstances of reduced resource availability due to climate change this number is projected to increase further.

Considering education as a key factor to climate change adaptation in Tanzania (OECD, 2003) and that even a one hour reduction in time invested to travel results in the increased probability of women to off-farm activities by 7% (World Bank, 2007), the unspoken resource for effective environmental management and climate change adaptation in Tanzania is women's time.

With our partners at the Tanzania Society for Education and Extension (TSAEE) and the support of student volunteers at the Assiniboine Community College School of Business, Agriculture and Environment, the Marquis Project continues to invest in the adaptive efforts to these dramatic climate challenges faced by rural communities in development. Through gender rights education, group mobilization and improved project planning with the use of Geographic Information Systems, Marquis continues to build upon a strong relationship with our friends in the global south for life improvement.

Monthly Donations

We at the Marquis Project want to thank everybody for their ongoing support. With your support we are able to continue our overseas partnerships and project work, our local international development education programs and our fair trade promotion and sales in the

Brandon-Westman community.

Due to some recent changes at Westoba Credit Union, we have to change our monthly donation program and hope to have it up and running by the beginning of February. If you are already a monthly donator or are wishing to

become one, we will do everything possible to make it easy for you to continue your regular support, so please come to the Marquis Project to fill out the new banking form, or contact our office (204-727-5675) so that we can get the forms to you or to answer any questions.

The Marquis Projects Welcomes New Interns

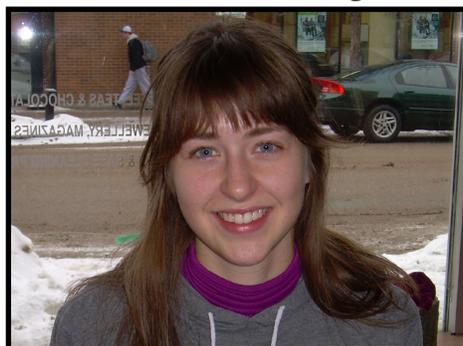
Thanks to the Youth ECO Internship Program, The Marquis Project was able to hire two interns to deliver educational programs to Manitobans on fair trade and environmental issues. The Youth ECO Internship Program is a national program with collaborations between the YMCA and

YWCA of Canada, and funded by the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Youth ECO Interns will be of great assistance to The Marquis Project in maintaining and strengthening our community connections around issues of fair trade and environmental awareness.

Fair Trade Educator

Hello, my name is Karli Brackenreed and I started as the new Fair Trade Educator with The Marquis Project mid-November. As the new Fair Trade Educator for The Marquis Project, I have been very busy promoting our educational workshops, as well as booking, planning, and facilitating events. The response from educators in Brandon and the surrounding area has been very positive and myself and our environmental educator, Tiffanie Skipper, are thrilled to get into classrooms to spread the word on trade justice and environmental sustainability! In the month of January, we were invited to several grades seven and eight classrooms to facilitate studies on Fair Trade, assisted by Global Trader, an

interactive trading game designed to meet standards of the Manitoba Curriculum. On February 12th, 2010, myself and Tiffanie will be facilitating a full day of fair trade awareness, which includes a fair trade sale open to the public from 2-5 PM, at Onanole School. This event will help us to wrap up International Development Week, while kicking off the *One Month Challenge!*



Environmental Issues Educator

Hello Manitoba! My name is Tiffanie Skipper, and I have traveled from Ontario to Brandon, Manitoba to be The Marquis Project's new Environmental Issues Educator (EIE). As the EIE, I will research, identify, create, and present materials and opportunities to engage Western Manitoban students and community members on environmental issues with direct linkages to international development issues that support the mission statement of The Marquis Project. My first impressions of the people here in Brandon have been positive, as everyone I have

encountered has been thoughtful, generous, and seem to be very action-oriented. I hope I can further encourage the local community to become passionate and active towards current environment concerns, both locally and globally through my educational efforts with The Marquis Project.



Educational Resources

At The Marquis project, we have educational tools available to meet the Manitoba curriculum requirements for clusters within:

- Grades 3 Social Studies
- Grade 7 Social Studies
- Grade 9 Social Studies
- Grade 10 Geography
- Grade 12 World Geography &

World Issues

Workshops delivered by Fair Trade and Environmental Issues Educators can be delivered right to your school. Workshops include global issues education, interactive activities, media presentations, and more!

•*The Fair Game*™ is an interactive, educational game that teaches students about the costs and benefits of world trading systems and offers a clear and tangible model of major forces driving globalization.

•*The Global Trader*™ is an educational game that engages students in simulation and information about global issues.

Other Educational Tools available through The Marquis Project include:

- Presentations delivered on development work done in Tanzania
- Experiential Worldly Goods Shop tours
- Support and feedback for your own studies on global issues



Worldly Goods Store News

We have lot's going on in the store these days! An abundance of new product is coming in for the spring. The "Enchanted Garden" will be full of beautiful stepping stones, non-hybrid gardening seeds, and archways... a beautiful addition to any backyard! Great new soy candles, masks, and bedding are just a sample of items to come.

The Worldly Goods is taking part in the "One Month Challenge" from February 14 – March 14. This challenge encourages everybody to consume fair trade products of coffee, tea, and chocolate for 30 days. To kick off this challenge, the store will be holding it's "One Month Challenge Sale" starting Tuesday, February 16 all regular priced merchandise will be 30% off for that day only! Then for the remainder of the challenge, all coffee, tea, and chocolate will be 10% off! This is a great time to come show your support for producers in developing countries. For more information or to sign up for the challenge, please visit fairtrademanitoba.ca, or come see Karli at the store to answer any questions.

Now, on a personal note, I have really enjoyed my time here as the Worldly Goods Store Coordinator, and I want to thank everybody for coming out to support us. I will be leaving at the end of February to start my maternity leave! We have an excellent person lined up to take over while I'm gone but please come in and say "Hi" to me and the baby as I will be here during the duration of my leave to assist you, and to keep the store looking beautiful.

Lend A Hand - Map the Future

The Marquis Project would like to thank the following donors who have graciously supported the request and efforts of partners in Tanzania to acquire GPS units. These units will be hand delivered to Tanzania by travelling Marquis Members and paired with field based training for community development officers as they gain skills in digital mapping. Without your support, projects such as these are not possible – Thank You!!!

Dinah Cepelis	Al Friesen
David & Meg McConkey	Betty Peloquin
Gordon & Audrey Mooney	Carla Tomlinson
Sharron & Douglas Sebastian	

The Marquis Project Membership Drive

Join us by phone
(204) 727-5675
or write in:

Name
Address
Town/City
Province/State
Phone
E-Mail

How would you like to receive the
Marquis Newsletter? (Please Check One)

Mail E-Mail

Yearly Memberships

Student	\$15
One Person	\$30
Family	\$60
Supporting Member	\$120

You can pay by cheque, Visa, Mastercard or
American Express

Amount
Card Number
Expiry Date

**Contact us about our
monthly donation plan.**

**Memberships and donations
are tax deductible!**

Please write your phone number
here if you would like to
help on committees, off-site sales or
in the store. Stop by **Worldly Goods**
to explore our volunteer options.