

# Vermont Environmental Report

## Field Trips Elections Panel Discussion WILL MARK VNRC ANNUAL MEETING

Preparations are being made for the 1978 VNRC Annual Meeting, set for Saturday, September 9, at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes. The all-day event will begin with a morning program of field trips and excursions in the southern Lake Champlain area. At noon, the focus will shift to the Basin Harbor Club, for lunch, for the annual business meeting, and for an afternoon panel discussion.

### Field Trips

(1) **Forest Management Workshop:** There will be a forest management workshop for woodlot owners and other interested persons at the Shelburne site of Vermont's "Outstanding Tree Farm of 1978." The workshop will be led by foresters William Hall and Marshall Webb, and there will be a demonstration of a portable sawmill. *Starting time is 9:00 a.m. at the Shelburne site west of Route 7.*

(2) **Guided Tour of the International Paper Company (IPC) Plant:** There will be a guided tour of the IPC plant in Ticonderoga as well as a demonstration of the paper-making process and a discussion of pollution-control equipment. *Starting time is 9:30 a.m. at the IPC plant four miles north of Ticonderoga Village in New York State.*

(3) **Guided Tour of Button Bay State Park:** This tour will be led by a state park naturalist and will include a visit to the Park's nature center and a chance to see the fossil reef on Button Island. *Starting time is 10:00 a.m. at Button Bay State Park, seven miles west of Vergennes.*

(4) **Canoe Trip down Dead Creek:** State parks naturalist Charles Johnson will lead a canoe trip down Dead Creek, one of Vermont's best waterfowl areas. *Starting time is 9:00 a.m. from the "fish access point" on the west side of Dead Creek, three miles south of the village of Pantton.*

(5) **Boat Trip on Lake Champlain:** There will be a two-hour boat trip on the UVM research vessel, the "Melosira." Accompanying the party will be fisheries biologist, George LaBar, ornithologist, David Capen, and water quality specialist, Alan Cassell. *Starting time is 9:00 a.m. from the dock at the Basin Harbor Club. There is a \$7.50 per person boat fee.*

### Afternoon Program

After lunch at the Basin Harbor Club, members will hear a brief report on VNRC's present work. Then there will be an election to fill eight vacancies on the Board of Directors. Of the eight vacancies, six are for "at large" members and two are for "member organization" representatives on the VNRC Board.

Each candidate has provided a short biographical outline. This year, for the first time, candidates for election to the Board have written personal statements describing their principal environmental concerns. *(Please see page 3 of this issue.)*

The concluding event of the 1978 Annual Meeting will be a panel discussion on the subject of "Energy & the Future of Vermont's Economy, Environment and Way of Life." The panel will feature three speakers: Brendan J. Whittaker, former Director of the State Energy Office and now Environmental Secretary; Roger Miller, President of Windsor Minerals, a talc mining company; and Dr. Colin F'igh, a geographer with the Dartmouth College Systems Dynamics Group. The Group is conducting research to determine the opportunities of employing wood for energy in New England.

In discussing the subject of the panel, Seward Weber, Executive Director of VNRC, commented, "How can we escape the impacts of the kinds of choices we are going to have to make over the next few years? Whether it's Dickey-Lincoln, or Seabrook, or wood energy, or small-scale hydropower, the effects on our economy, our environment -- indeed on our way of life -- will be enormous." Weber declared, "We need to anticipate these impacts now with the same care that we take in planning energy projects. If we don't," he warned, "we will be repeatedly surprised by the side effects, including the unexpected social costs." □

*(For more information on the Annual Meeting and the morning program of field trips, please turn to page 7 and fill out the registration form. If bad weather forces the cancellation of any trips, there will be a back-up program at the Basin Harbor Club.)*