

# Vermont Environmental Report

## 1977 Amendments

### Clean Air Act Raises Sticky Questions

"Can you imagine Congress passing a law that will stop economic growth? Well, Congress passed such a law -- the Clean Air Amendments of 1977."

These scathing words are from the opening lines of a U.S. Chamber of Commerce slide show that is crisscrossing the country. These sentiments express the opposition that is growing in some business circles now that the first steps are being taken to implement the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977.

What is the thrust of the new Clean Air Amendments? Basically this. Two goals. First, the Amendments have the serious intention of improving air quality in parts of the country where it does not now meet acceptable standards. Second, the Amendments have the aim of preventing the deterioration of air quality in parts of the nation where air quality standards are presently being met.

Few people are opposed to the goal of clean air. The question is how the new clean air law is going to be applied and what impact it will have on land use decisions and on economic growth.

Here in Vermont activities are getting underway to implement the new Clean Air Act Amendments.

On November 3, a newly-formed, 15-member, Advisory Committee of business people, government leaders, and environmentalists, met for the first time in Montpelier. This Committee will help the State of Vermont establish new air pollution control policies. These new policies, in turn, will be written into a new "State Implementation Plan." The State of Vermont has had an air pollution control "Implementation Plan" before. But the new plan is so much more massive, so much more comprehensive, that Vermont's Air Pollution Chief, Richard Valentinetti, says, "For all intents and purposes, it's a new plan."

The State Implementation Plan is due at the Environmental Protection Agency on January 1, 1979. Most of the 50 states, including Vermont, will submit their plans after the January deadline. Vermont will submit its plan on March 1, 1979. But the important date is July 1, 1979. If any state has failed to submit an approved Plan by July 1, federal sanctions will take effect.

These sanctions have far-reaching implications. Vermont

could face a loss of federal highway money. Vermont could face a cut-off of federal funds for sewage treatment plant construction. Or Vermont could be forced to impose a moratorium on any new growth in any part of the state that is not meeting current air quality standards.

After several years of monitoring air pollution in Vermont, the State has identified four geographic areas where clean air standards are being violated for at least one of five key pollutants. Chittenden and Windsor Counties are presently in violation of ozone standards. Chittenden County is in violation of carbon monoxide standards. And three areas -- around Burlington, Barre, and Rutland -- are presently in violation of "Total Suspended Particulate" (TSP) standards.

Between now and March 1, 1979, the Advisory Committee that is helping the State Air Pollution Control Division write a new State Implementation Plan will face some very sticky questions.

Looking at the 1977 Clean Air Amendments, Richard Valentinetti of the Air Pollution Division says, "The new law will have consequences that involve a lot more than air pollution."

The Advisory Committee will have to determine how to prevent further pollution in so-called "non-attainment" (or dirty) areas of the state. At the same time, the Committee will have to write a plan to prevent the significant deterioration of air quality in those parts of the state that are still clean.

What could the 1977 Clean Air Amendments mean to Chittenden County?

If a major new industry with a major new source of air pollution wants to locate in Chittenden County it might be forced to pay for air pollution controls at an existing factory, or power plant, to offset its own new contribution of pollutants. "There may be an economic value to possible emissions," Valentinetti says in discussing the new offset policy.

What could the Clean Air Amendments mean to an economically depressed region like the Northeast Kingdom, a part of the state that is presently not in violation of clean air standards?

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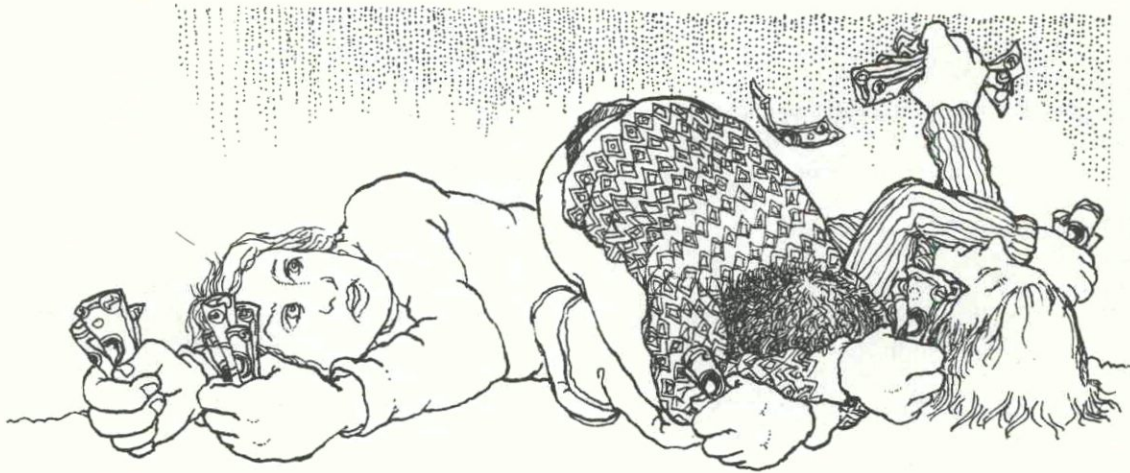


Valentinetti answers this question by saying: "The Clean Air Amendments will have an important impact on where factories are put. Developers will put industries where they can get their increments of clean air. It could give Vermont an opportunity to diversify."

Lest anyone think that the Clean Air Amendments are an outright guarantee that the Northeast Kingdom would develop, Valentinetti is quick to add that the new clean air law could have quite different effects. He says: "On the face of it you might conclude that the Amendments would lead to greater expansion in clean or 'attainment' areas. But this isn't always the case. An industry might choose to expand in a dirty area rather than face the problems of meeting requirements for 'possible significant deterioration' in a clean area. There are a host of considerations: rail lines,

Director Seward Weber, is puzzled about the possible impacts of the new amendments. Weber says, "Like so many things involving new laws, at first blush it's one thing, but it turns out to be another thing in actual practice." Weber points out that Vermont doesn't have a large number of big polluting industries, and big industries are the ones that will be primarily affected by the new Amendments. So the Amendments may not have the implications in Vermont that some people fear.

Thomas D. Kinley of the Highway Users' Association thinks there is very little we can do in Vermont about automobile-caused pollution. "We do not see this as a large problem in Vermont," Kinley says. "The federal people are dealing with the car manufacturers where it [the problem] begins."



markets, work force..." And clean air is just one variable that an industry would consider.

These are just some of the many questions that the Advisory Committee will have to examine in the next few months.

What will happen in dirty areas of the state when there is competition between new industries? Should the State of Vermont determine what kinds of new industries will be permitted to develop? If clean air is a limited resource, how much of it should be 'used up' by any single new industry? Who should make these delicate and potentially controversial decisions?

Should the State avoid ruling on these questions altogether and simply work for more stringent controls on air pollution across the board? What should be done about automobile-caused pollution? Should there be mandatory automobile inspections? Should transportation controls be invoked in cities like Burlington? What should be the role of local governments in addressing these problems?

Advisory Committee members who talked to the VER are taking a cautious attitude to the new Clean Air Act Amendments

One Advisory Committee member, VNRC's Executive

Chris Barbieri, an official at the Vermont State Chamber of Commerce, expresses the concerns of some members of the development community. He says, "I guess my concern is that we have a goal we have to achieve, cleaning up the air, to the standards we have set. But we have to use common sense so as not to undermine the economic growth that we need in the state." Barbieri says that other parts of the nation have pollution levels that are four or five times greater than Vermont. "Yet we are locked into present levels," Barbieri says. And from a development point of view, he feels, this could put Vermont at a disadvantage.

Another Advisory Committee member, W. William Martinez of the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, raises an entirely different issue. Martinez feels that it is not the role of the Advisory Committee to be deciding priorities that are as comprehensive in scope as where we want jobs in Vermont, where we want highways, where development should occur. "It's not the role of the Committee to decide these things," Martinez says. He believes that land use planning, water quality planning, resource recovery planning, the control of toxic substances -- all these things are related.

An implication that could perhaps be drawn from what Martinez is saying is this: that the State of Vermont has some

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## 5 Dangerous Pollutants:



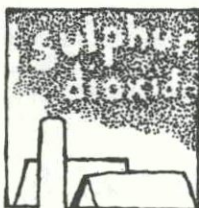
### OZONE:

**What:** Ozone is a colorless, pungent, gas, formed by the complex reaction of hydrocarbons and sunlight. **Source:** Ozone pollution has a number of sources. There are over a thousand hydrocarbon compounds, and when these compounds are released, they react in air to form ozone, or what is popularly called "smog." Hydrocarbons are released into the atmosphere when petroleum is transported, stored, handled or pumped. Hydrocarbons are released as vapors from thinners and paints. A major source of ozone pollution is the unburned chemicals from automobile exhausts. **Effects:** An American Lung Association booklet says that "ozone can cause coughing, choking, headache, and severe fatigue; in animal studies (ozone) has been shown to lower the body's resistance to infection; it can damage the leaves of plants; and it can crack rubber, deteriorate fabrics and fade colors."



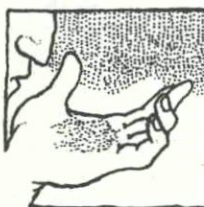
### CARBON MONOXIDE:

**What:** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, highly poisonous gas. **Source:** Here again the automobile is the villain of the piece. Carbon monoxide is the result of incomplete combustion. **Effects:** The Lung Association's AIR POLLUTION PRIMER says that "large amounts of carbon monoxide can be fatal. Lesser amounts can produce fatigue, headache, confusion and dizziness."



### SULPHUR DIOXIDE:

**What:** Sulphur dioxide is a heavy, pungent, colorless, gas, that when combined with oxygen in the air becomes sulfuric acid -- a corrosive, irritating mist. Sulphur is the active agent in so-called "acid rain." **Source:** Sulphur dioxide is the major gas produced from the burning of fuels such as coal, that contain sulphur. In recent weeks, there has been renewed speculation that acid rain generated in the steel mills, foundries, and power plants of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, is falling on Vermont. **Effects:** The AIR POLLUTION PRIMER says, "Sulphur oxides can yellow the leaves of plants, dissolve marble, and eat away iron and steel. They can limit visibility and cut down light from the sun." Already more than half the lakes in the Adirondacks have lost their fish populations from the effects of acid rain, and there is fear that acid rain may be causing a decline of vigor in Vermont's forests.



### TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATE (TSP):

**What:** Particulates are extremely small bits of smoke, fly ash, dust, and fumes, some of which are so small that they become suspended in the air. **Source:** Particulate matter comes from automobiles, fuel emissions, building materials, roads and fertilizers. The AIR POLLUTION PRIMER states, "The urban atmosphere is choked with particulates. Los Angeles estimates its aerosol emissions from gas-powered vehicles at 40 tons a day. An average winter day in New York City produces an estimated 335 tons of particulate matter." **Effects:** The problem with particulates is that they carry such harmful chemicals as sulphur dioxide deep into the lungs. By itself, sulphur dioxide would be dissolved before it reaches vulnerable lung tissue. Particulates also have the effect of speeding up or causing chemical changes that deepen harmful impact of other pollutants in the air.



### NITROGEN DIOXIDE:

**What:** Begin with nitric oxide, add hydrocarbons and oxygen in the so-called "photo-chemical process" and you get nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide is a yellow-brown gas with a pungent, sweetish, odor. **Source:** Nitric oxide, the first oxide of nitrogen, is formed when combustion takes place at a high enough temperature to cause a reaction between the nitrogen and oxygen in the air. Temperatures this high are reached only in efficient combustion processes, or when combustion takes place at high pressure. Nitric oxide is formed primarily in automobile cylinders, electric power plants and other very large energy-conversion processes. **Effects:** The AIR POLLUTION PRIMER warns that nitrogen dioxide is probably harmful to the lungs, that it can harm vegetation, and that when combined with water vapor, can become metal-corroding nitric acid.



serious planning needs. That these needs cannot be addressed in isolation. And if the Clean Air Act Amendments are any measure of what's in store, these planning needs will have to be addressed, addressed comprehensively, and addressed soon.

Even as the Advisory Committee in Vermont, and advisory committees across the nation, meet to hammer out State Implementation Plans -- there is a continuing debate between the experts as to whether the air quality standards are too tough, not tough enough, or reasonable as they are.

Rafe Pomerance of Friends of the Earth in Washington D.C. says there is a debate right now over the ozone standard. The President's Council of Economic Advisors says the ozone standard is too high. The Natural Resources Defense Council says it is too low.

Then there's the "Total Suspended Particulate" (TSP) standard. The iron and steel industry, according to Pomerance, feel the TSP standards are too high. The Natural Resources Defense Council feels the TSP standard isn't high enough.

"We at Friends of the Earth have pressed very hard for visibility standards in the Northeast," Pomerance says. No one is calculating the loss of visibility as a cost. Take Denver. What is that brown cloud costing Denver?" Pomerance asks. "The standards don't recognize that as an issue." But then Pomerance adds, "But the center of the debate is the health standards."

In this debate, there are some heavy hitters.

Professor Benjamin G. Ferris of the Harvard School of Public Health in a long journal article concludes that the present standards "seem adequate to protect the health of the public." Ferris argues that "until more data are available, they [the standards] should not be changed up or down."

The question of standards that protect public health is riddled with complication. Even Professor Ferris who defends the present standards says, "If the decision is to protect everyone, even the most sensitive, then pollution levels will have to approach closely natural or background levels."

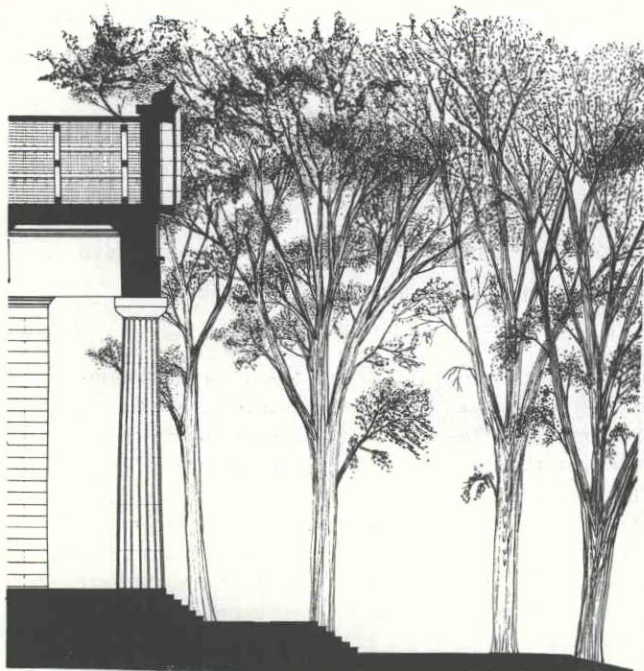
But what risks will the public accept and will the public be able to afford? These are crucial questions.

A May 15, 1976 Congressional Report that originated in the National Academy of Science raises some troubling concerns.

Here are a few of the observations of academic and health researchers: (1) that "the margins of safety originally set to prevent the occurrence of known and anticipated health effects have turned out to be very modest or non-existent;" (2) that the air quality standards are based on the assumption that there is a safe threshold for pollutants and that this assumption is false; (3) that the national air quality standards are not designed to provide adequate protection against diseases which result from long-term chronic exposure or periodic peak concentrations of pollutants; and (5) that the national standards fail to protect against hazards to health resulting from cumulative or combined effects of multiple pollutants in the air.

Given these observations, it is small wonder that environmentalists attach great importance to the present fight for implementation of the existing standards. Said Sandra Gardebring, Executive Director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, at a recent Minneapolis workshop, "This is a serious and even a deadly game, and those on the other team are about to start playing hardball. The 1977 clean air amendments have given us our chance at bat and we must make the most of it." □ Drawings by Barbara Carter

## 1979 General Assembly Environmental Groups Map Out Strategy



Drawing from the Capitol Complex Plan by Robert Burley Associates

Environmental groups across Vermont are bracing themselves for the start of a new legislative session that opens on Wednesday morning, January 3, 1979.

Two environmental groups with offices in Montpelier, the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), will mount a full-scale legislative lobbying effort in the General Assembly. Other groups, such as the Lake Champlain Committee in Burlington and the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont in Townshend will play supporting roles.

Those close to the environmental movement feel that there is no single environmental issue this year that promises to capture public attention like the "Phosphate Ban" legislation of two years ago. Nevertheless, the major environmental issues are beginning to emerge.

Seward Weber, Executive Director of the VNRC, identified the passage of a "wetlands protection bill" as the Council's number one legislative priority.

Last summer a VNRC student intern, Tom Storrow, working under UVM Professor Ian Worley, measured construction and other land use activities in and around Vermont wetlands. Storrow examined aerial photographs dating back to 1942. He concluded that 73 percent of the state's wetlands have been



subject to some disturbance through filling, draining, logging, or construction.

The purpose of the wetlands bill that VNRC will promote in this year's Assembly will be to establish a procedure for defining what wetlands are and then to create a mechanism for their protection. The Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation has indicated that wetlands protection will be a major legislative goal of the Agency in the 1979 Assembly.

VNRC staff attorney, Darby Bradley, feels that amendments to Vermont's fundamental land use and development law, Act 250, will be a major item on this year's legislative agenda. The Snelling Administration and the State Environmental Board are preparing a number of Act 250 amendments. The substance of the proposed amendments has not yet been made public. But when this information is revealed, Bradley says, the VNRC will examine the proposed changes carefully and follow them closely in the General Assembly.

One issue that has commanded the attention of both the VNRC and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group is the question of whether the Pesticides Advisory Council (PAC) should be reorganized, or perhaps even abolished.

The PAC is a policy-making body charged with the responsibility of advising the Agriculture Commissioner on the use of pesticides, for agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Some of these pesticides pose a clear danger to the environment and to public health.

Environmentalists over the years have become increasingly concerned about the "pro-use, pro-agriculture" disposition of the Pesticides Advisory Council. This disposition to approve pesticide use was demonstrated in the recent controversy over the application of mercury on golf courses in Vermont.

VNRC's Seward Weber says, "On the national level, pesticides concerns are lodged with the Environmental Protection Agency." In Weber's words, "The non-agricultural use of pesticides has blossomed in recent years." Now environmentalists, like Weber and VPIRG's Executive Director Barry Steinhardt, want to see that environmental and health concerns are given more careful consideration in future decisions about pesticide use. This is the thinking behind the concern over the PAC and the agricultural orientation of pesticide regulation in Vermont.

At the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), energy-related legislation will be the major focus.

Barry Steinhardt, VPIRG's Director, explained the logic behind a "Nuclear Decommissioning Bill" that VPIRG will be promoting. Rep. William Field of Chelsea will introduce this measure.

Steinhardt points to the example of the West River Reprocessing Plant in upstate New York in arguing why Vermont needs nuclear decommissioning legislation. According to Steinhardt, the Getty Oil Company that owned and operated the nuclear reprocessing facility at West Valley shut it down and then left the State of New York with the task of decommissioning the plant and picking up the tab for the costs involved. These costs, Steinhardt says, have been estimated in a range of between \$500 million and \$1.1 billion.

Steinhardt doesn't want the same thing to happen when the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant finally discontinues operation. Steinhardt says that there is a growing realization

that the nuclear plant at Vernon is going to close down someday. And yet, Steinhardt remarks, "No money has been set aside for decommissioning Vermont Yankee." A decommissioning bill would guarantee that at whatever time the Vermont nuclear power station finally shuts down, the State of Vermont would not be left "holding the bag."

VPIRG will be working on two other key energy issues -- first, a bill to outlaw the so-called "Construction Work in Progress" charges; and second, a bill to reorganize the Vermont Public Service Board.

The acronym "CWIP" refers to charges that a utility may incorporate into the rate base and that appear on a consumer's electric bill. In paying these charges, a consumer is paying today for the construction of power plants that will supply electricity in the future.

The battle over "CWIP" promises to be controversial. Utility companies argue that such charges are necessary to finance the construction of new power plants and to keep electricity flowing to consumers. But public interest groups like VPIRG see the use of CWIP as the utilities' way of securing capital from unwilling consumers. Once the capital is in hand, the utilities can turn around and construct new power plants, including nuclear power plants, and this construction would not be possible if the utilities sought this capital on the investment market. This money would not be available, consumer groups maintain, because construction of such power plants has ceased to make good sense financially.

VPIRG's effort to get a reorganization bill for the Public Service Board stems from a conviction that the planning and regulatory functions of the present PSB need to be separated. What is more, VPIRG contends, some mechanism needs to be created so that the public can have a strong voice in energy planning.

Unlike former years, when environmental groups have collaborated in putting out a subscription publication like last year's *Weekly Legislative Alert*, this year the approach will be different.

Groups like VNRC and VPIRG will continue to get out the occasional bulletin to their members when the need arises, but the emphasis will be on organizing a citizens' telephone network. As Seward Weber explains it, "The emphasis will be to use the network to put pressure on particular legislators in particular situations." The citizens' network will consist of a list of people who are willing to be reached by phone on key environmental issues. These people in turn would get in touch with their representatives in the Assembly.

Seward Weber is organizing VNRC's Citizens' Legislative Network, and he says, "If VNRC members are interested in participating, they should contact me at the Council."



For further information on participating in the VNRC Citizens' Legislative Network, write Seward Weber at VNRC, 26 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05602, or call (802) 223-2328.



# Islands Trust Captures First Prize

*The Champlain islands offer a subject for the photographer, a goal for the day sailor, a challenge for the explorer, a haven for the boater caught in a sudden storm, or a place for the weary who wish to escape, for a time, the troubles and turmoil of the world.*

## The Champlain Islands Report

Carleton's Prize, a small island steeped in the history and legend of the American Revolutionary War, is the first acquisition of the newly formed Lake Champlain Islands Trust.

The island is a gift to the Trust from Eleanor L. Roberts of South Hero, in memory of her husband, the late Harold C. Roberts.

Carleton's Prize is situated in northern Lake Champlain, off the southwestern tip of South Hero. It lies between two larger islands, Providence Island to the north, and Stave Island to the south.

The **Lake Champlain Islands Inventory** by Fred Dunnington estimates Carleton's Prize to be no more than one-acre in overall size, rising to a maximum elevation of 20 feet. The **Inventory** states that Carleton's Prize is "a very small, barren, isolated, island-rock...with virtually no access point."

The size of Carleton's Prize hardly explains its significance. As VNRC staff attorney Darby Bradley says, "The significance of Carleton's Prize is that it is the first acquisition of the Trust and a launching point for the effort to preserve the 35 privately-owned islands in Lake Champlain."

As the informational brochure of the Lake Champlain Islands Trust explains, "Of the 71 islands in Lake Champlain, less than one-quarter are in public ownership and exempt from private development." Bradley reports that many of the islands, including some of them that are significant, are of doubtful ownership. The brochure continues, "Most of the privately-owned islands are either undeveloped or have only seasonal dwellings. So the opportunity still exists to preserve many of the islands in their natural state."

The Lake Champlain Islands Trust traces its beginnings to studies by the Green Mountain Audubon Society of the "bird" islands of the Lake. These Audubon studies began in 1972. Under the leadership of Dr. John Craighead, the Audubon Conservation Committee undertook a survey of the wildlife of each island. The Committee noted the effects of human disturbance on wildlife habitats. With the permission of landowners, the Committee posted a number of critical bird islands each spring and asked the public to refrain from landing on these islands during the nesting season.

More recently, findings of the Lake Champlain Basin Study have confirmed that recreational pressure on the islands and the shorelands of the Lake is increasing.

Neil King, who for 25 years has been Manager of the Sand Bar (Fish & Game) Wildlife Area on Lake Champlain, probably knows the islands as well as anyone. King has observed

the islands in every season and has noted the changes in human use in recent years.

King reports that people are leaving their boats in the water longer, thereby extending the boating season. There are more and more inboard and outboard motorboats on the lake than ever before. In the winter, people drive their snow-machines across the frozen lake. Some people have gone on the islands and raided the nests of birds --ducks, gulls, and terns-- and piled the eggs up in pyramids.

The pressure to develop the islands is intensifying. This is reflected by the soaring market values for island property. Five-acre lots on Providence Island have been selling for \$16,500. In July, 1977, an **Atlantic Monthly** advertisement offered readers the chance to buy three "perfect Islands on unspoiled Lake Champlain." The asking price for North Sister Island was \$100,000; for Law Island was \$125,000; and for Stave Island was \$295,000.

The Islands Trust brochure says, "Many of the families who own islands today purchased them years ago simply to hold and enjoy. The low purchase price and taxes enabled them to do this. But as taxes begin to climb dramatically, reflecting the higher market prices, these families may find it too expensive to continue their ownership. And once the islands begin to change hands, so will their uses."



The Lake Champlain Islands Trust was incorporated in January, 1978. In June, 1978, the Trust was granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service. The Trust will work directly with island owners to preserve the islands through voluntary agreements. These agreements could take the form of charitable gifts to the Trust, as in the case of Carleton's Prize, or conservation restrictions, commonly known as "open space easements" that would restrict future development. As Bradley explains it, "The agreements would be flexible enough to suit the individual landowners and still preserve the islands."

A second objective of the Trust is to increase public appreciation of the islands and of the need to protect them. The Trust is preparing an illustrated report on the islands and their importance to recreation and wildlife. This report will be ready for publication in the winter of 1979. The Board of Trustees has set a goal of \$15,000 to launch the acquisition effort and to carry out its educational programs.

Eleanor Roberts, the woman who made Carleton's Prize the first acquisition of the new Trust, reflected on her reasons for giving the island away. Mrs. Roberts said that before her husband died, he was very interested in the work of the Audubon Society. And in making the island a gift to the Trust in her husband's memory, she feels, in her words, "That we have done the very thing he would feel would be the ultimate use for it." □



## Carleton's Prize

# A Revolutionary Little Island

According to a widely-circulated story, the history of Carleton's Prize is deeply intertwined with the aftermath of the Battle of Valcour, a major naval action that took place on Lake Champlain during the American Revolutionary War.

The year was 1776. At stake was control of Lake Champlain, the forts along the Hudson Valley, and ultimately the fate of the Revolutionary War itself.

All summer long, the Americans at the south end of the Lake, and the British at the north end, labored feverishly to assemble a fleet of ships.

Finally, in October, a British fleet sailed down the Lake in search of the Americans.

Fearing the stronger British force, Benedict Arnold, the American naval commander, decided on a defensive action. Hiding their line of ships in a three-mile-wide channel between Valcour Island and the New York shore, the Americans waited for the British fleet.

Just as Arnold had anticipated, the British ships began to appear, sailing down the Lake with a north wind at their backs. One by one, the British ships sailed south past Valcour Island before they spotted the American fleet. Then the British had to turn and tack north against the wind, and the Americans had the advantage.

The Battle of Valcour raged all day until sunset on October 11. By nightfall, the Americans had taken a bad beating. Their battered fleet lay at anchor in the Valcour channel awaiting certain capture and destruction.

But the British general, Sir Guy Carleton, decided to hold

off his superior forces until the following morning. He set a blockade across the mouth of the channel and retired for the night. So confident was Carleton of his victory the next morning that it is said he neglected to set a watch.

That night, under cover of fog and darkness, the Americans weighed anchor. On each ship they set a small light that was visible only astern, and the fleet slipped silently out of the British trap between the left wing of the British blockade and the New York shore.

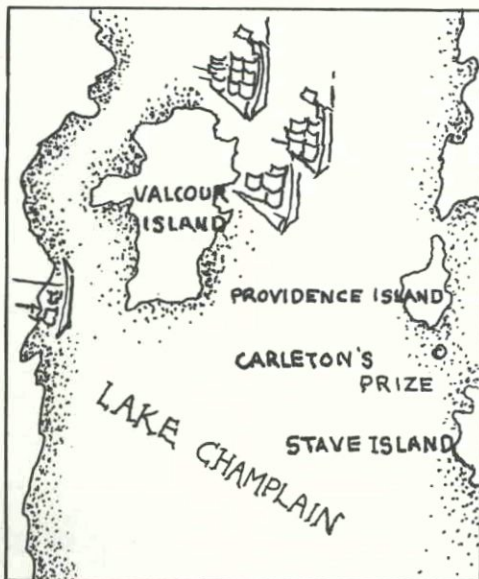
When morning came, the American fleet was gone. Carleton was furious and rallied his ships for the pursuit.

Now as the story has it, -- the Americans set a cunning ploy. It is said that in making their escape they set ships' lanterns on the summit of a small, isolated, barren, island-rock, that stood up in the Lake no higher than 20 feet. And when the hapless British general in frantic pursuit of the elusive American fleet came upon the island in the fog, he delivered round after round of cannonballs into the phantom ship.

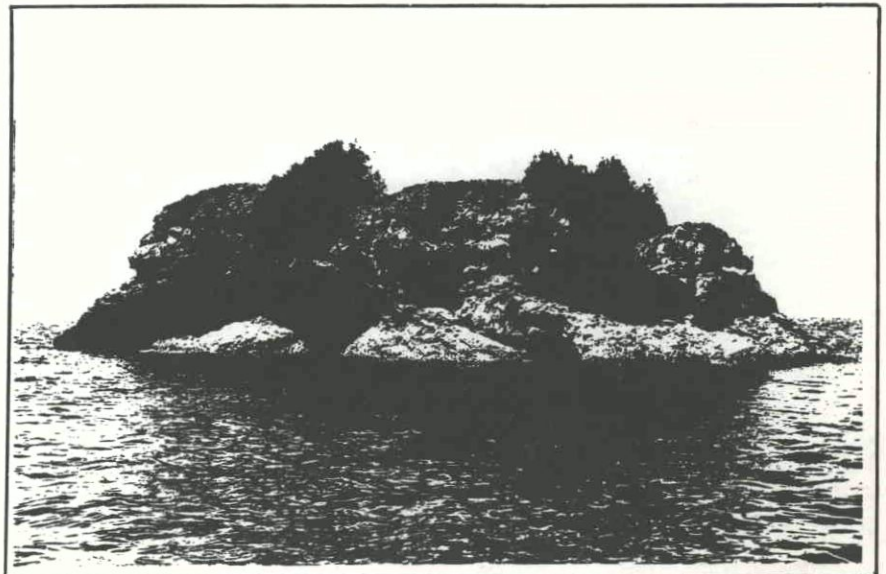
In honor of Carleton's attentions that island ever since has been called "Carleton's Prize," a memorial to a frustrated British general.

Apparently there is some truth to this legend. Those familiar with Carleton's Prize claim to have found cannonballs on the island.

But the authenticity of the story suffers a little from the fact that the same legend is told with equal pleasure and satisfaction about Rock Dunder, Sloop Island, and even about Diamond Island.



Drawing by B. Shirley Carter



Photograph by Carolyn Bates



# Energy Coalition Opens in Montpelier

The Central Vermont Safe Energy Coalition, an affiliate of the New England based anti-nuclear group, the Clamshell Alliance, has recently opened an office in Montpelier.

What is the Coalition's purpose?

Chris Wood, one of many volunteers who run the office, answers this question. He says, "We are first of all fighting the nuclear power establishment. Our major arguments are based on the economic and environmental returns of nuclear power. In the long run the costs will be too high for this kind of power to be a viable investment."

Fighting nuclear power is not the Coalition's only purpose. The grassroots organization is also doing other things. Some of this work involves providing information to people about the energy alternatives that are available to them. John Warshow, another volunteer in the office, says, "The alternatives that we support are non-nuclear, decentralized, renewable, and non-polluting sources of energy that can be controlled by the people who use them."

Promoting energy conservation and efficient energy use is another part of the Coalition's education effort. Says Warshow, "What's the use of a hydroelectric power station in Middlesex if everyone's using electric baseboard heat?"

The new Coalition is helping communities organize and develop locally-controlled energy sources. Warshow explains,

"We are trying to resurrect the old mill dam on the Winooski River in Plainfield for hydroelectric generation. If we are successful, the dam could generate up to 1 million kilowatt hours of power each year. This is close to 50% of the town's energy needs."

The Coalition plans to be a resource for people who are looking for financial assistance from the federal government. Warshow says that with the new federal energy legislation there will be more money available, and he says, "It will be a matter of helping people through the labyrinth of grant applications and regulations."

Looking around the small, tightly-packed office that is already accumulating stacks of file folders, envelopes, and paper, Chris Wood says with a grin, "We are just beginning -- there will be many mountains we'll have to move."

For further information, write the Central Vermont Safe Energy Coalition, 5 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 or call (802) 223-7222. The public is invited to visit the Coalition's office during the week, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# VNRC

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## Vermont Natural Resources Council - Montpelier-Vermont

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Address Correction Requested

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