

## Dedication

This book is dedicated to the fond memory of Dr. J.R. (Jack) Vallentyne in recognition of his life long devotion to environmental conservation. He was not only a researcher, but also a passionate advocate of the ecosystem approach to environmental management which he initiated in the North American Great Lakes. He published one of the first books on the health of Lake Erie in 1974, *The Algal Bowl*, which not only documented the eutrophication of the lake and the need for phosphorous abatement, but succinctly – and very often humorously – made the case for taking an ecosystem approach to the management of aquatic resources. He was well known globally for his anti-eutrophication campaign and had tremendous influence on the revision of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Dr. Vallentyne was the architect of the world renowned Experimental Lakes Area research program. He also established the first Canadian biological laboratory on the Great Lakes at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (Burlington, ON) and recruited Dr. R.A. Vollenweider to organize biological programs in the Great Lakes. As an environmentalist, Jack saw the need to reach beyond scientists and policy makers, and communicate effectively with the public, especially children, and created the characters “Johnny Biosphere” and “Professor Trout” for this purpose. Children (and adults too) can still learn about Johnny Biosphere’s message of conservation at [www.johnnybiosphere.ca](http://www.johnnybiosphere.ca).

Since the inception of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society (AEHMS), Dr. Vallentyne was always its staunch supporter and promoter, influencing its scientific direction and productivity including conferences and publications. The values espoused by Jack, the need to think holistically and globally, are an integral part of the Society’s mission. In order to recognize his landmark contributions to ecosystem science worldwide, the “J.R. Vallentyne Distinguished Lecture Series” was established by the Society in his honour during 1997. Recently, he gave a superb speech to the State of Lake Huron Conference, 2006 where the Society had invited him as a banquet speaker.

Dr. Vallentyne was a mentor, colleague and a great friend; I was lucky to have had the opportunity of working with him. I learnt immensely from my close collaborations with Jack on the Great Lakes, as well as in many international initiatives. He was always energetic, humorous, pleasant and full of wisdom. I clearly remember his phone call to me shortly before his sad demise, still concerned about the state of the global environment and conservation. As the AEHMS-Ecovision is about to launch its second publication about the health of Lake Erie ecosystem, it is befitting that we take a moment to honour Jack and his legacy.

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