



Preserving Our Lifeline

December 2008 Volume 8, Issue 4

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Getting Our Heads Around the Headwaters

by C. Lacombe

There's nothing like a little scientific information to focus an audience on the task at hand, the challenges faced and the paths to success.

The Our Place in the Headwaters: Managing the Commons workshop in Cochrane Nov. 5-6 offered precisely this opportunity for the approximately 100 attendees.

Dr. Henry Vaux, Chair Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy began the learning with a presentation called Source Water Protection Successes and Failures Around the World.

Vaux stressed the importance of the Five Principles of Water Management illustrated through poignant success and failure examples from around the world.

The morning of Nov. 6, participants began learning about the science Alberta needs to consider in its water management for the North and South Saskatchewan River basin and, particularly, the Bow River basin.

Headwaters conference in session. Photo: M. Murray



Dr. Henry Vaux's 5 Principles for Water Management

Develop good data

Acknowledge the principles of hydrology

Acknowledge that water is scarce

Maintain ecosystem services

Invest in new science, but use existing science

Professor John Pomeroy shared his research related to precipitation and forest cover and the principles, processes and prediction of water flows.

Using virtual forest management simulations, Pomeroy demonstrated the complex responses of snow to various changes in forest canopy and how that affects water supply originating in the mountain headwaters. Complementing Pomeroy's presentation, Dr. Uldis Silins shared his learning observing water movement in the wake of the large 2003 forest fires in the Crow's Nest Pass area. Silins documented the different way the landscape reacted to precipitation on the burned out, untouched

and logged portions of the watershed. His studies so far show that the landscape recovers its watershed functions relatively quickly after a fire. However, it also showed that human disturbance creates much longer lasting repercussions.

This was an interesting lead into Dr. Cathy Ryan's work on

continued on pg 2 - Headwaters

BRBC proudly works
with the Alberta Water Council

Headwaters

continued from pg 1

alluvial Aquifers and Land Use Issues. Ryan studied the inter-connectedness of river water and alluvial aquifer water. Her findings highlight the importance of mapping and managing the alluvial aquifers in the river basins and that land use affects water quality directly. While the audience wrapped their heads around land use on alluvial aquifers, Dr. Brad Stelfox, gently at first, led the conference participants to the realization that land use has cumulative effects on our watersheds. His final map overlay highlighted the importance of the cumulative effect perspective for anyone concerned about the health of our natural water sources.

Dr. David Sauchyn dispelled any lingering thoughts among the participants that we have tons of time to preserve and protect our watersheds.

Sauchyn outlined the climate of the past millennium on the Canadian prairie. One graphic in particular illustrated that drought is the natural condition on the prairies interspersed with wet years. His work also aims to give decision makers information to use in adaptation to coming climate change. The studies indicate that precipitation patterns will change and water managers will need to adapt to increased winter rains rather than snow packs as storage in the mountains.

Continuing the adaptation theme, Bob



Distinguished panel: Dr. H. Vaux, Alderman Brian Pincott & Minister Morton Photo: C. Wearmouth

Sandford, Director Western Watersheds Climate Research Collaborative, introduced Climate Change in the Bow River Basin: Continuing the Dialogue. This report suggests questions Albertans may want to consider after learning some the science-based potential affects of climate change on economic sectors in the province. Finally, a brave panel took the stage for an open discussion on Water Policy. Dr. Vaux, Sustainable Resources Minister Ted Morton and Calgary Alderman Brian Pincott took questions from the floor. This gave the conference participants a chance to ask questions, make statements and share learning among everyone present.

The value of this learning experience prompted the Calgary Foundation to offer generous support and several organizations to volunteer members for the organizing committee. The committee included members from the Alberta Wilderness Association, BRBC, Water Matters, AENV, SRD, Cochrane Environmental Action Committee, and MD of Bighorn.

This attendee says, "Thanks, folks. I learned a great deal."

To access the speaker's presentations, visit <http://www.ourplaceintheheadwaters.ca>

WID Leads in Water Monitoring

The Western Irrigation District has become a leading irrigation district in the province for real-time water monitoring by putting 38 monitoring sites in place over the past three years. "I'm actually pretty happy about that," says Water Master Brian Sander. "We've got a really good picture on the main A and C canals. We need a little more work on main B canal, but it's coming along. It not only gives us a look at what our water supervisors are doing in the field; it also helps them become more efficient by showing them where the water is when they order it." Sander explains that the monitoring equipment allows water supervisors to log onto a computer system and take all the guess work out of where their water order is after diversion from Chestermere all the way to the return flow station. In the past, this information wasn't available until data analysis at the end of the season allowed water supervisors to scrutinize the annual flow data. "It opens up the possibility for even greater water conservation within the district," Sander explains.

Available Resource

The Centre for Sustainable Watersheds is expanding its Water Connections portal to develop a Policy Directory featuring historic, recent and current water policy projects funded by the Gordon Foundation; the new directory will provide access to a variety of water policy research and recommendations.

The Centre also launched a Capacity Tools for Water Managers feature on its Water Connections Tools and Resources Library to allow online users to locate a host of tools and resources on capacity building development.

In addition, a CSW-led team of collaborators developed a Water Data Standards Exchange Guide that provides a series of standardized data exchange frameworks for a suite of water quality parameters, allowing data to be readily exchanged among organizations and across jurisdictions nationwide.

For more information, visit: waterconnect.ca or email: info@watersheds.ca



Newly-Release DUC Study Provides Scientific Support for Benefit of Manitoba Wetlands

A newly-released Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) study provides scientific support for the benefits that Manitoba's wetlands provide to all Manitobans. According to the research, the continued loss of wetlands in Manitoba is increasing phosphorus loads into Lake Winnipeg equivalent to dumping 10 semi loads of commercial agricultural fertilizer or 544,000 bags of lawn fertilizer directly into the lake every year.

The first step of the project determined that 70 per cent of total wetlands in the Broughton's Creek watershed have been lost or degraded due to drainage between 1968 and 2005. In 2005, nutrient removal and additional carbon released into the atmosphere as a result of lost wetlands are estimated to have cost Manitobans \$15 million that year.

For more information, contact: Leigh Patterson, at 204/467-3306 or email: l_patterson@ducks.ca

Alberta Water Council Update *By Lorie Wagner, Alberta Water Council*

The Alberta Water Council (AWC) met on December 2 for its final 2008 board meeting. During the fall of this year, the Council completed three major initiatives:

- The Wetland Policy Project
- The Shared Governance Project, and
- The Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning Project.

Wetland Policy Project

On September 18, the AWC recommended one of Canada's most comprehensive wetland policy and implementation plans to the Government of Alberta. The Council's reports will help the provincial government develop and finalize a new provincial wetland policy for Alberta. The Council's recommendations focused on protecting Alberta's wetlands by managing impacts; setting objectives; encouraging stewardship; and building knowledge and capacity. Two sectors indicated that while they supported most of the policy and plan, they could not fully support all of the ideas and actions recommended by the project team. Their concerns and other's responses to those concerns were forwarded to the Minister of Environment for his consideration in developing the final policy.

Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Framework Project

The Shared Governance and Watershed Management Planning Framework Project Team was established in 2007 to develop two products: (1) a Shared Governance Framework for the Water for Life partnerships and (2) a Framework for Watershed Management Planning. This team's Shared Governance report, titled Strengthening Partnerships, recommends how the current shared governance model can be improved and pays particular attention to the roles, responsibilities, relationships and accountability of the various partnerships identified in the Water for Life strategy. The team's second report is scheduled for final review in December.

Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity Sector Planning Project

The report, Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity Sector Planning was approved at the September AWC Board meeting. The report provides a foundation and guidance for water conservation, efficiency, and productivity sector planning to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the Water for Life strategy. The report will be officially launched in late 2008.

Current and On-going Committees and Teams

- The **Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project Team** continues to work toward developing recommendations to improve Alberta's water allocation transfer system. As part of their work, they will host a symposium March 4-5, 2009 in Calgary to enable stakeholders and international experts to share information on this topic. More information is available on the Council's website.
- The **Water for Life Implementation Review Committee** is responsible for reviewing the implementation progress of the Water for Life (WFL) strategy and providing recommendations to ensure its effectiveness. The Committee is currently conducting its third review and a report is expected in the spring of 2009. The team completed gathering input from a wide variety of stakeholders.
- The **Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems Project Team** continues to work toward developing a working definition of the term healthy aquatic ecosystems. The team will also recommend priority actions the Council and other water strategy partners can do to best advance this goal. Their work is scheduled for completion in March 2009.
- **Business Planning** will begin early in 2009 as the Council's current three-year business plan winds down.

For more information, email: info@awchome.ca or visit the AWC website at: www.awchome.ca



Did you know?

About 3,800 cubic kilometres of fresh water is withdrawn annually from the world's lakes, rivers and aquifers! This is twice the volume extracted 50 years ago.

BRBC Strategic Plan 2009

Board of Directors - Report To Members

The BRBC is a volunteer-led, charitable society dedicated to watershed planning for the Bow River Basin.

Created in 1991, the BRBC has more than 140 members and more than 200 individuals active in our work. Our accomplishments are due almost entirely to the tireless efforts of our members and their unwavering commitment to collaborative decision-making in collective interest.

The BRBC achieved its strategic objective for 2008 – the preparation and launch of the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan – Water Quality Objectives (BBWMP-WQO). The Plan has been accepted by 32 of 36 signatories to the Terms of Reference. We have established our BBWMP Implementation Committee and are now reaching out across the Basin to promote implementation. We have achieved significant early successes – for example, 32 of 36 key stakeholders have accepted the BBWMP including Alberta Environment and the City of Calgary who both adopted the BBWMP in September 2008.

2009 will bring many changes that affect watershed planning in the Bow Basin. These changes require the Bow Council to strengthen its partnerships and act strategically. Significant influences include:

1. Calgary Regional Partnership Regional

Plan – will include a set of policies that directly influence land and water management in the Basin

2. Provincial Land Use Framework – will establish a Southern Region Plan and a Regional Advisory Committee that will influence land use planning in the region

3. Provincial Wetland Policy – will establish a new policy framework for the protection of wetland habitat in the Basin

4. Alberta Water Council – Project Teams are developing recommendations for (i) Conservation and Efficiency within Municipal and Irrigation Sectors, and (ii) Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrades

5. Alberta Water Research Institute – is funding several key research projects within the Basin including (i) Instream Flow Assessment Tools (ii) Water Markets (iii) Regional Servicing Strategies

6. City of Calgary – is implementing a total water management strategy that aligns its efforts in water, wastewater and storm water. Finally, the increase in commercial, governmental and ENGO activity in the water world competes for limited time and resources available within our membership. In order to compete, the BRBC must provide high-quality and credible recommendations to decision-makers and above all deliver value to its members. We must remain a compelling place to be.

Legislation & Policy Committee Update

by Lisa Fox

The Legislation & Policy (L&P) Committee will host an information workshop in the first quarter of 2009 on Ground Water Licensing. We are currently canvassing speakers and will be announcing this at the December Forum.

The L&P Committee 2008/2009 issues discussions include:

- Draft Provincial Wetland Policy
- The Land Use Framework
- Alberta Water Council - Governance Framework
- Provincial Riparian Policy
- Municipal Land Use Bylaws & Policies

- BRBC Phase One Implementation
- Water Licensing under the Water ACT- Change of Purpose
- Ground Water Licensing
- Low Impact Development & Storm Water Management
- Strategic Watershed Planning - BRBC

The L&P Committee meetings provide a forum for dialogue and learning about policy issues relevant to the planning and management of the Bow River Basin Watershed, our Council, and our members. Members of the L&P Committee include policy writers, lawyers, irrigation districts, corporations, municipal govern-

BRBC/ERWP Implementation Committee Update

The BRBC and the Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) completed Watershed Management plans for their respective basins through the hard work of Steering Committees that shared a Technical Committee to ensure scientific integrity of the plans.

Continuing the brisk momentum of these initiatives, BRBC and ERWP set up Implementation Committees to achieve the intended outcomes of the Watershed Management Plans (WMP) for the basins. The Implementation Committees will share a Technical Committee, now called the Monitoring and Modelling (M&M) Committee, to guide this portion of the process.

“The M&M (not M&Ms) will help carry out, or find partners to carry out, recommendations that require new scientific information,” says Gloria Wilkinson. Wilkinson has the honor of chairing both the Bow and Elbow Implementation Committees.

The Committees’ work continues under the Water for Life Strategy in order to maintain and/or enhance our watersheds.

Did you know?

Less than 3% of municipal water from treatment plant is used for drinking.

ment members, local environmental group members, basin citizens, and is open to all members of the BRBC that have an interest in participating in dialogue and learning about policy and legal relevant to watershed interests.

The L&P Committee meets at the Cochrane RanchoHouse on the fourth Friday of the month from 9 - noon (lunch provided). If you are interested in attending or would like to provide some information to members of the L&P Committee please contact: Lisa M. Fox 403-975-2973 or email lisafox@telus.net



New Development Adopts NCWWMP Recommendations

By Erin McMahon, Stewardship Coordinator, Nose Creek Watershed & Rhonda Deaville-Erb, Parks Planner, City of Airdrie

All the hard work of the members of the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership is starting to pay off. In January 2007, the City of Airdrie Council adopted the Nose Creek Watershed – Water Management Plan (NCWWMP) as a development guideline; maintaining the spirit and intent for all new and remediated developments.

A new neighbourhood, named Williamstown (under development by Vesta Properties Limited), is the first neighbourhood in Airdrie to design their subdivision in accordance with the recommendations of NCWWMP.

In 2006, Airdrie's Great Places Master Plan identified this northwest greenway area as containing a significant natural area (Nose Creek and associated floodway areas) that would need to be preserved through an Environmental Reserve (ER) designation at time of subdivision. Through further recommendation by Alberta Environment, environmental consultants and in accordance to the NCWWMP, Vesta Properties Limited embraced the opportunity to develop a distinctive residential neighbourhood around a comprehensive regional natural open space system for the community of Airdrie.

In respect to the environmental site assessment studies, Vesta Properties Ltd. retained an impressive 17.62 ha (43.54 ac) portion of ER protecting this natural area within an urban context by preserving the ecosystem and functionality of the existing drainage course in the design of their Neighbourhood Structure Plan. The environmental setback varies from the specified minimum of 12m to more than 80m depending on the associated width of the Nose Creek floodway.

Flanking the ER, two storm water wetland ponds and municipal reserves (MR) are being constructed to connect the residential neighbourhood to this greenway. A continuation of Airdrie's regional trail system will enter in these locations and meander around protected flora, active nesting areas and natural drainage pockets within the Williamstown ER. As part of the City of Airdrie's Parks updated signage program, interpretative trail signage is being incorporated to increase the awareness of community stewardship of our significant natural features.

Erin McMahon, Stewardship Coordinator, Nose Creek Watershed and Rhonda Deaville-Erb, the Parks Planner from the City of Airdrie visited the area after the rainfall event in June, to inspect the setbacks. It was evident the established setbacks were able to handle the creek's expansion with room to spare.

After some initial push back to the draft NCWWMP guidelines by the development industry, it is commendable how developers such as Vesta Properties are moving forward incorporating the recommendations in their current developments. It is also inspiring to observe the implementation of the Nose Creek Partnership's suggested setbacks and installation of proper silt fencing. We look forward to seeing the final results of these construction protective measures with minimal disturbance to Nose Creek.



As required, the erosion control silt fences and boundary fence were well established prior to the initial stripping and rough grading of the developable land areas. Photo: Rhonda Deaville-Erb, Parks Planner, City of Airdrie

ASN Holds Strategic Planning Retreat

The Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) held a Strategic Planning Retreat in September at Battle Lake to review its vision, mission, values and goals and to draft its action plan from 2009 - 2011. Over the next three years, ASN will work to (1) strengthen its network as a recognized and respected hub for stewardship collaboration, (2) support grassroots stewardship groups and (3) build partnerships that enable stewardship activities.

ASN works to provide Alberta stewards

with a network that facilitates information exchange, provides support, and recognizes the contribution of individuals, communities and organizations in advancing environmental stewardship using an ecosystem approach. The board structure of the ASN is unique, with half of the board being comprised of community stewards and half supporting agencies.

One of ASN's key activities is provision of grant funding to watershed stewardship groups. Application for the 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Funding Program

can be found on the ASN website at: www.ab.stewardshipcanada.ca

The **4th National Stewardship and Conservation Conference** is in Calgary July 8-11, 2009. **Strengthening Stewardship – Investing at Every Step** aims to bring together Canada's stewardship and conservation community and celebrate and advance stewardship across the nation. For more information, watch the website: www.stewardship2009.ca

From the Executive Director's Desk

The Art of the Possible

by BRBC Executive Director Mark Bennett,
B.Sc., MPA

It's funny how things happen. I recently met a photographer; when she gave me her card; on her card was a photo of a mandala she had taken in Houston Texas (similar to the one pictured, but not exactly the same).

At the time, I didn't know what a mandala was; she told me and then I did a little research. The mandala I found was a Tibetan Sand Mandala made in the British House of Commons to commemorate a visit from the Dalai Lama in May 2008.

Basically, a mandala is a sand sculpture or painting. The pattern in the photo I found was painstakingly created on the floor of the British Parliament by several Tibetan monks who use small tubes (almost like thin elongated funnels) and rub another metal object against the tube's notched surface to create a tiny flow of coloured sand grains (usually finely ground marble of different hues) and thus create the image. Perhaps not surprisingly mandalas are rich with spiritual symbolism and used by the monks to aid in meditation and prayer. They are sometimes considered spiritual road maps of both the cosmos and individual enlightened consciousness. Furthermore, they are believed to promote healing powers (The Dalai Lama arranged for prominent mandalas to be made in Washington, New York and Pennsylvania after the 9-11 terrorist attacks). The intricate design can be contemplated in its entirety or

focus can be drawn to its component parts, each with a specific meaning, often multi-layered. It is important to realize that the pattern is retained in the memory of the monks and is reproduced free-hand with no written plan or tools other than chalk (for the outline) and the metal tubes for distributing the sand.

To symbolize impermanence (a central teaching of Buddhism), after days or weeks of creating the intricate pattern and completing the mandala, the sand is brushed together and is usually scattered in a nearby body of running water to spread the blessings of the mandala.

Interestingly, patterns of circular geometric symmetry are also found in Christianity, First Nations tradition (medicine wheels and dream catchers), Hinduism, indigenous Australian culture, Islam, and Judaism, to name a few.

So apart from the intended blessing conferred upon the receiving running waters, how you may ask, does this connect with the BRBC?

When I look at the pattern I am astonished by the intricacy and detail. Similarly I marvel at the dedication and patience of those who create the mandala. Each mandala represents a tremendous commitment on the part of the Monks who build it. Clearly it is an exercise involving intense concentration and focus. Another interesting feature of mandalas is that, like snowflakes, no two can be exactly the same,

Sometimes the work that we do is also very intricate and detailed. Watershed Manage-



ment can require intense concentration and focus. Watershed Management also necessitates great dedication and often patience. Patience is a tremendous virtue for both water managers and Tibet Monks. We are somewhat like the individual grains of sand, each of us fully develop our importance, when we are in combination with others to generate the final beautiful product. It is the collective that truly generates the beauty. I dare say that for some of us, there is definitely a spiritual connection with water.

I don't anticipate that this will happen; in fact I hope it doesn't, but if anyone ever suggests to me that what we are trying to achieve with the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan is impossible, I'm going to think of this mandala...and the Art of the Possible.

[Concerned about Water?](#)

[Become Part of the Solution](#)

ACEE Holds First-Ever Leadership Clinic

The Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) held Alberta's first-ever free Leadership Clinic in Kananaskis Country in November. The clinic was designed to provide a transformative learning opportunity to groups that deliver environmental education in Alberta.

Three Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) participated in the clinic, representing the Battle River Watershed Alliance, Red Deer River Watershed Alliance and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, with support from Alberta Environment. Other participating teams included representatives from City of Calgary, Calgary Board of Education, Banff National Park, Pembina Institute and the Technical Services Advisory Group.

The four-day retreat-style clinic was developed to build environmental education capacity through a team and results-oriented approach that allowed teams to identify and implement an action plan that delivered on their goal. The goal of Team WPAC was to strengthen partnerships with First Nations, Watershed Stewardship Groups and Federal Government to better understand their respective State of the Watersheds and to enhance participation in watershed management planning.

For more information, visit the ACEE website at: www.abcee.org

Municipal Tools to protect Wetlands and Riparian Lands in Alberta's White Zone

Judy Stewart, a well-known member of the Bow River Basin Council, recently completed her Master of Laws degree at the University of Calgary. In partial fulfilment of program requirements, Judy wrote a thesis entitled: Municipal Tools to Protect Wetlands and Riparian Lands in Alberta's White Zone. Basically, the White Zone includes the settled areas of Alberta, where municipalities have jurisdiction over land use and development that can sometimes cause negative impacts on wetlands and riparian lands.

Members of the Bow River Basin Council may want to review Judy's work because it is pragmatic and reviews existing municipal tools that municipal councils can use to protect these landscapes and resources

Judy explains recent court decisions regarding "de facto expropriation" that developers sometimes use as a reason why municipalities should not zone privately held lands as natural area land use districts. She explains when such a claim might be upheld by Alberta courts, and de-mystifies that claim and assures municipalities that natural area land use districts are upheld and supported as legitimate balancing the "rights" of private landowners with the overall greater public good. Judy analyses an array of municipal regulatory tools that are currently underutilized by Alberta municipalities to protect wetlands and riparian lands, including the use of science based tools to assess the width of riparian land "buffers" necessary to protect receiving water bodies from pollution. The thesis includes a chapter explaining Judy's research of nine municipal land use bylaws from cities, towns, counties and municipal districts (five of which are in the Bow River Basin) where regulatory innovations are already underway to protect wetlands and riparian lands from the impacts of development. For more information, or a copy of her thesis, contact Judy at judystewart.liberal@shaw.ca

LL.M. Thesis Abstract
by Judy Stewart



Alberta municipalities have statutory authority to enact bylaws and land use regulations to protect wetlands and riparian lands in the settled areas of Alberta from the impacts of human activities and development. Wetlands and riparian lands sustain water supply and quality, and perform many essential environmental, economic and social functions. As the economy grows, drawing more people into the White Zone, Alberta's wetland inventory diminishes. As climate change and water scarcity affect Alberta's landscapes, municipal bylaws should be used to balance the bundle of entitlements enjoyed by property owners with conservation of local natural resources necessary for the overall greater public good.

The principle of subsidiarity supports municipalities as the best level of government to regulate human activities and development that impact local wetlands and riparian lands. Recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions upheld municipal bylaws that addressed local environmental matters as part of a tri-level regulatory regime.

Western Sky Land Trust Celebrates Land Conservation Project

Anchored on a World Renowned Rainbow Trout Fishery

The Western Sky Land Trust's Agrium-Nodwell Nature Preserve, is a vital piece of land located in Wheatland County adjacent to Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park. It lies within an environmentally significant area of international importance along the Bow River extending from Calgary to the Siksika Nation Reserve.

Anchored by a world renowned rainbow trout fishery, this land encompasses 59 acres of un-fragmented mixed-grass prairie ecosystems, escarpments and river valley that provides habitat for over 158 species of plants, large and diverse native bird populations, waterfowl, deer and moose.

Driven by strong partnerships, Western

Sky aims to actively maintain a diversity of watershed landscapes in one of the most challenging land use areas in Canada.

The Bow River is inarguably the most important natural feature in the Calgary region and extremely prominent in the context of Alberta. It is also a complex natural system that balances a variety of needs.

Western Sky thanks Agrium, Alberta Lottery Fund, Jack Nodwell, Calgary Zoo Conservation Fund, Nature Calgary, Pengrowth Energy Trust, The Bow River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada, United Communities, Kayak Foundation at the Calgary Foundation and the



Calgary Foundation, Bow River Shuttles and individuals contributing to this project success.

With continued community support, it will inspire more land conservation and stewardship in the Bow corridor and the watershed. For more information, contact Tracy Tarves at 403 974-0756 or visit their website at www.westernskylandtrust.ca.

Editors: Claudette Lacombe, umbel@myipplus.net, and Maureen Lynch, maureen_lynch@hotmail.com, accept, edit and compile content. The Education and Communication Committee provide final approval of all content based on the Editorial Guidelines available through www.brbc.ab.ca

Coming Events

BRBC December Forum

BRBC Chair Bill Berzins addresses the September Forum. Photo: M. Murray

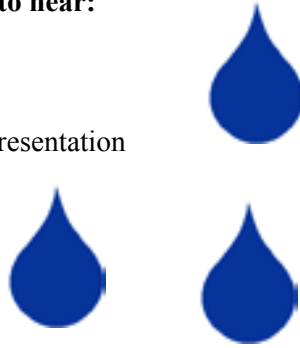


By Mike Murray

About 60 people enjoyed an excellent line up of speakers at the BRBC September forum. The feedback from the day was very good with many attendees agreeing that it was time well spent. As always the TransAlta auditorium is a great venue and we are very grateful to TransAlta to donating the use of the facility to us consistently for over eight years. Two Board members received awards at the forum to thank them for all the great work and commitment they contributed during their Board roles at the Council. The December Forum theme is Watershed Stewardship Groups.

Plan to attend Dec. 10 at the TransAlta Auditorium to hear:

- Friends of the Kananaskis
- Headwaters workshop presentation
- Jumping Pound Watershed Group
- Watershed Stewardship Coordination Committee Presentation
- BBWMP Implementation Report
- Chair Report and Board Retreat Report
- Highwood River report by Shirley Pickering



BRBC Receives Award



Bow River Basin Council received a Technical Excellence Award at the 28th Annual NALMS Symposium Nov. 13 in Lake Louise.

There were a combination of factors cited including BRBC Quarterly Forums (E&C activities) and our Water Quality Objectives development under the BBWMP. Mike Murray and Mark Bennett were present to accept this unexpected award.

In the accompanying comments with the award, there was mention of many of the Education and Communications Committee products, such as the Quarterly Forums, the Newsletter.

“Mike and I accepted the award on behalf of the BRBC, but certainly it is in recognition of the collective efforts of our members,” says BRBC Executive Director Mark Bennett

Jan. 14, 7 pm

Alberta Parks & Protected Areas:

Significantly Small: A Profile of the West

Castle Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Presenter: Joey Young, Planning Team Leader, Alberta Parks

The Cochrane RancheHouse (101 RancheHouse Road, Cochrane Located .7 km north of the Highway 1A and Highway #22 intersection in Cochrane). Admission: \$6/person includes GST. (Space is limited). For more information, visit www.fish-creek.org or call 403- 297-7927.

Feb. 10 - 12, 2009

We are all Upstream II

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Municipal Forum & State of the
BIG Watershed

Executive Royal Inn, Leduc, Alberta. Hosted by the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin and the North Saskatchewan River Watershed Alliance this conference will provide an opportunity to learn about the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin, current science and research in the basin, address issues in shared governance, oil and gas, municipal waste water and engaging rural stakeholders in watershed planning. For more information or to register, visit: <http://www.saskriverbasin.ca/Upstream2/Home.html>

Canadians Saving Water

According to an environmental report by Statistics Canada, the proportion of Canadian households using low-flow toilets more than doubled to 37% from 15% between 1994 and 2006, while the percentage with a low-flow shower head rose to 57% from 44%. The Use of Water-saving Fixtures report noted that local governments in 2006 spent \$4.5 billion providing Canadians with clean water.

Canadians on average consumed 329 litres of water a day in 2004. For more information, visit: www.statcan.ca