

Second Successful Year for Vehicle Emissions Testing Clinic

For the second year in a row PAMZ, in partnership with NOVA Chemicals, The City of Red Deer, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Parkland Mall, organized a free vehicle emission testing clinic in Red Deer. This year it was a two-day event held on June 7 and 8. One hundred vehicles came through the clinic. Of this total, five were motorcycles and ninety-five were cars, trucks and vans. From testing all the vehicles, only two failed the CO₂ limit and three vehicles failed the hydrocarbon limit.

The highest calculated CO₂ production by a vehicle was 262 tonnes per year where the driver claimed to be using 1000 liters per week of gas in his travels.

Why such good overall results? *"Most of the vehicles that came through the clinic were newer models with better emissions systems than older vehicles. Regular maintenance of vehicles also makes a difference in reducing emissions,"* said Kevin Warren, Executive Director of PAMZ.



Red Deer Places Second in National Commuter Challenge

Red Deer placed second in the category of cities between 50,000 and 100,000 population in the 2013 National Commuter Challenge! This fair city was second only to Victoria, a place known for its hard core bike community. Twenty-four cities in this population category participated throughout Canada.

In Red Deer, ninety participants from twenty organizations participated in this year's challenge saving 430 litres of fuel and avoiding 1167 kilograms of CO₂ entering the atmosphere. The City has improved its standing from 2012 where it placed fourth in the commuter challenge. Congratulations Red Deer for participating and showing yourself to be a cycle friendly community. For more information on the results of the 2013 commuter challenge go to: <http://app.commuterchallenge.ca/commuter/results/city/employee>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more
information visit
www.pamz.org

SPOG Neighbours Day

Theme: "My Backyard"
September 13, 2013
Sundre curling rink and arena
Sundre, Alberta

<http://www.spoq.ab.ca/calendar.html>

PAMZ Vehicle Emissions Testing Clinic

SPOG Neighbours Day
September 13, 2013
Located south of curling rink
Sundre, Alberta

Synergy Alberta Conference

October 28-30, 2013
Sheraton Hotel & Conference
Centre, Red Deer

www.synergyalberta.ca/

Our 2013 ACTION HEROS (Action for a Healthy Environment by Reducing Ozone)



Action HERO award recipients standing from right to left: Jest Sidloski, Peavey Mart; Amelia Creagh, Rebecca Shephard from RDC Nursing Program; Shane Lamden from NOVA Chemicals; Jonathan Renko and John Rook from Bower Place, Doug Anderson from Peavey Mart and in front: Shaminder Cheema from NOVA Chemicals

PAMZ awarded Action HERO recognition to industry, businesses and individuals on Clean Air Day, June 5. The ceremony was held at Red Deer College as part of a partnership event with City of Red Deer representatives, who were recognizing four major partners that are joining Red Deer's Idle Free coalition.

The PAMZ Action HEROs for 2013 are:

NOVA Chemicals Corporation, Joffre Petrochemical Site for reduction of vehicle emissions through a number of programs including Idle Free, Carpooling Promotion, and Personal Vehicle Emissions Awareness programs. They also have been a major sponsor of the PAMZ vehicle emissions testing clinic.

Amelia Creagh, Rebecca Shephard and Steven Prosser, students in the Nursing program at Red Deer College (RDC) for spearheading the campaign to establish Idle Free zones at RDC and Alberta Health Services.

Peavey Mart, Red Deer for installing an electric vehicle charging station at its Red Deer location, in addition to their Blackfalds, Medicine Hat and Regina locations. Their goal is to have charging stations at all their store locations.

Bower Place Shopping Centre for their work to become more energy efficient, which in turn reduces air pollution. They replaced lighting with energy management photo cells, purchased Canadian wind power, installed motion sensors for lighting and designated parking for electric and hybrid vehicles where an electric car charging station will soon be installed.

"The Action Hero Award Program is one we are very proud of," said Kevin Warren, PAMZ Executive Director. "Vehicle emissions are one of the major contributors to ground level ozone formation so it is gratifying to see so many organizations in Red Deer taking steps to improve our air quality."

New Partners Joining Red Deer's Idle Free Coalition

On Clean Air Day, The City of Red Deer announced that Red Deer College (RDC), Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC), Peavey Mart and Bower Place Shopping Centre have teamed up with The City of Red Deer to reduce vehicle idling for the good of their organizations and community.

RDC is creating new Idle Free zones outside of its major entrances and RDRHC is creating Idle Free zones outside its facility. Bower Place Shopping Centre and Peavey Mart are introducing new electric vehicle charging stations outside their facilities

and also creating Idle Free zones.

These four new organizations joined BMO, Red Deer Catholic Schools, Sunnybrook United Church, ATCO and LaFarge who are already partners with The City in reducing emissions.

"Whether it's by reducing idling or promoting the use of alternative sources of energy, our newest community partners are affecting our air quality in a positive way," said Lauren Maris, Environmental Program Specialist with The City of Red Deer.

PAMZ AGM Brought Questions About Its Future Role

Approximately twenty people came out on June 19 to the Walking Eagle Inn in Rocky Mountain House to attend PAMZ's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

This year's AGM was particularly notable in its review of PAMZ's 2012 activities, as it marked fifteen years that the organization has been operating in central Alberta.

Equally notable was the special presentation from guest speaker, Ernie Hui, CEO of the Alberta Environmental Monitoring Commission (AEMC) who talked about the future of air quality monitoring and management in Alberta.

The Environmental Monitoring Commission is an arms-length independent body which is overseeing the implementation and funding of Alberta's new provincial monitoring system. This system is to be a centrally coordinated environmental monitoring system, integrating the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of air, land, water and wildlife.

Information from this system is to be scientifically credible, accessible and open.

Although airsheds like PAMZ have been advised that they will continue to play a role in the new monitoring program, questions remain about what that role may be.

Ernie Hui's presentation resulted in a lively question and answer session that greatly added to members' understanding about PAMZ's role in the future and opportunities to grow that role.



Ernie Hui, CEO, AEMC

PAMZ Completes a Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey

PAMZ conducted a stakeholder satisfaction survey during March and April of 2013. The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback about the effectiveness of our organization and input on how we can improve our services. The survey was sent out through our stakeholder email list as well as through our website, Facebook and Twitter. Despite several attempts to reach our stakeholders, the response rate was disappointing with only 43 returned surveys.

Some highlights from the results are as follows:

- Approximately 61% of the respondents thought air quality in the region was improving or staying the same and 30% thought it was declining. The remainder (9%) did not know.
- The majority of respondents saw PAMZ as trustworthy - 87.5 % said PAMZ's data was credible; only 12.5% were unsure.
- Approximately 81% were very satisfied or satisfied with PAMZ. Approximately 16% were somewhat satisfied and 3% were not satisfied.

For more detailed information about the survey results, please contact sue@pamz.org. or go to www.pamz.org.

Winner of 2013 Martha Kostuch Scholarship

The winner of the 2013 Martha Kostuch Scholarship is eighteen year old Sarah Wutzke from Rocky Mountain House. She is a 2013 honours graduate of St. Dominic Catholic School and was class valedictorian for her graduation.

This fall she is entering her first year of the Environmental Assessment and Restoration diploma program at Medicine Hat College. Her aspiration is to be involved in Wildlife Conservation.

"I think Martha Kostuch would be very pleased to know that a student from her local community has won this award," says Lauren Maris, PAMZ Communication Committee Chair.

The \$2500 scholarship is given out on a yearly basis to high school graduates living in the PAMZ region (west central Alberta) who wish to further their education in an area that will benefit the environment.

The scholarship was established in 2008 to honour the



Lauren Maris (left), Chair of PAMZ Communication Committee and Sarah Wutzke

legacy of Dr. Martha Kostuch, a founding Board member of PAMZ and environmental advocate. For a map of the PAMZ region and more details about the scholarship, go to www.pamz.org.

Youth Profile – Sarah Lamb



Meet Sarah Lamb, our summer youth representative on the PAMZ Communication Committee. Sarah is nineteen years old and a 2011 graduate from Lindsay Thurber High School in Red Deer.

She is presently going into her third year of Environmental Biology at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario and has taken a temporary summer position in her home town as a Planning and Outreach Assistant for Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. As part of her work, she has been helping PAMZ and partnering with summer student Renee Crawley to assist the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance.

Daughter of Andy Lamb, a PAMZ Board member, Sarah was already acquainted with PAMZ and has played an important role in contributing a youth perspective to our operations and assisting with social media.

Sadly Sarah will be leaving in mid-August to go back to university. When asked about her involvement in PAMZ, she stated *"PAMZ has been a great experience in understanding our air quality issues and learning how people, as individuals, can play a role in improving their airshed."*