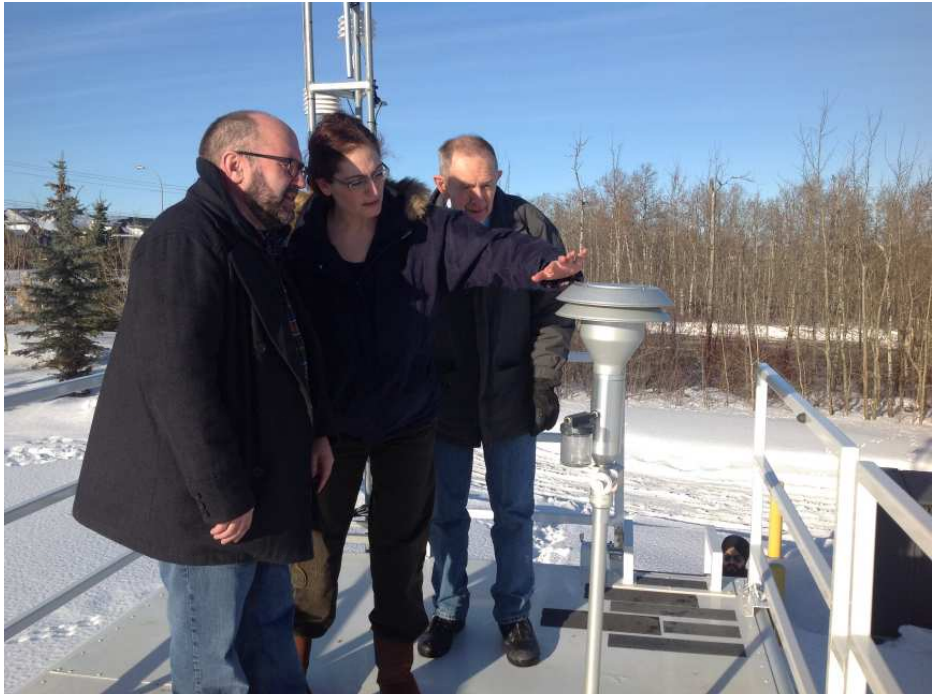


Touring the New Lancaster Monitoring Site

On January 17, 2014 some members of the PAMZ Technical Working Group visited the new Lancaster monitoring site in Red Deer and were given a tour by PAMZ Executive Director, Kevin Warren

Since November 2012, PAMZ has been monitoring air quality at the Lancaster Reservoir in the city's southeast district. The purpose of this temporary monitoring is to assess the site's suitability for a second permanent air quality monitoring station, in addition to the one operating alongside Riverside Drive near Three Mile Bend Park since 2000. Because of its location, away from industrial sources, the Lancaster site is seen to be in a better position to provide air quality data that is more representative of most Red Deer residents' exposure to air pollutants.

At the end of March, a report summarizing Lancaster's suitability as a second permanent site will be prepared and by the summer a decision on permanently establishing the site is expected .



L-R: Kevin Warren, with members of the PAMZ Technical Working Group; Tali Neta from the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) and Jim Saltvold, public representative and nearby Red Deer resident.

Update on the PM_{2.5} Management Plan

Several months ago, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) released the results of its assessment of provincial fine particulate levels (PM_{2.5}) for 2009-2011 in relation to the Canada Wide Standards for these substances. The results indicated that because of high levels of PM_{2.5} observed in Red Deer on several occasions during the winter months of 2010 and 2011, the Canada Wide Standard (CWS) had been exceeded.

Under the CWS management framework, ESRD is responsible for development of a PM_{2.5} Management Plan aimed at bringing levels below the CWS. PAMZ is a key stakeholder in developing the plan. The plan, in its early stages, will likely be to collect and

assess the PAMZ data, look at monitoring stations and air quality, trends and future scenarios and potential management actions.

Stakeholders will be engaged to determine how to address the issues and reduce the levels and will help to identify management tools and actions.

A draft timeline for the plan's development has been prepared and ESRD is currently analyzing the 2010-11 episodes to see if they can determine the sources and whether the 2010-11 levels were isolated incidents or part of a trend.

A stakeholder session, including PAMZ, The City of Red Deer and others will be held soon to present preliminary information and talk about options and what needs to be done.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more
information visit
www.pamz.org

Earth Day
Tuesday, April 22

To inspire awareness of and
appreciation for earth's
environment

Environment Week 2014
and

Commuter Challenge Week

June 1-7

Clean Air Day 2014

Wednesday, June 4

Helping Municipalities Go Idle Free

PAMZ has teamed up with five local organizations to help municipalities reduce unnecessary vehicle idling.

Along with Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development, Lacombe County, Stettler's Heartland Beautification Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Board and The City of Red Deer, PAMZ is working to create an idle free toolkit that will give municipalities everything they need to reduce idling in their communities.

According to a 2013 survey conducted by PAMZ, most municipalities in the region do not have policies that address vehicle idling. However air quality concerns are growing, as demonstrated by Red Deer's recent exceedance of federal air quality standards for small particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).



As air quality concerns grow, municipalities will be looking for easy ways to reduce pollution. Reducing unnecessary vehicle idling is one of the simplest.

While there are many examples available of tools to reduce idling, such as brochures, stickers and posters, these are not often print ready and are rarely customizable. This means that someone must expend resources re-creating tools to suit their needs. PAMZ is creating a toolkit that will allow municipalities to choose the elements of a plan that will work best in their communities and customize them to suit their needs.

Air quality issues rarely fit neatly within the existing structure of responsibility for most municipalities, so often end up on the corner of someone's desk or in the hands of not-for-profit organizations. To encourage action on vehicle idling, PAMZ plans to provide all the resources necessary, which includes training and financial assistance.

PAMZ is searching for funders who will contribute to this plan so we can help those with limited resources reduce idling in their communities. As little as \$2000 would help launch a campaign for change. Anyone interested in sponsoring this initiative should email lauren.maris@reddeer.ca.

Don't forget to be aware of your own idling habits. If your vehicle is stopped for more than sixty seconds- except when in traffic- turn off the engine!

Clearing the Air about Vehicle Idling: Fact vs. Fiction

Here are 5 myths we wish to dispel about idling.

Fiction: All vehicle engines need to be warmed up before driving.

Fact: Today's vehicles are not the same as older models. Even in cold weather, you only really need to run your vehicle for 30 seconds to 1 minute before driving it.

Fiction: Idling is good for your engine.

Fact: An idling engine will leave soot deposits that can build up and cause oil contamination. This can damage engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems. Also, excessive idling lets water condense in the vehicle's exhaust system, which can lead to corrosion.

Fiction: Diesel engines need to idle.

Fact: Most engine manufacturers recommend that newer diesel engines run for no more than 3 minutes before driving. Gelling of diesel fuel used to be a problem, but refiners have worked to resolve this issue by creating winter blends that better withstand colder temperatures. Vehicle owners should check their owner's manual to find out specific warm-up guidelines for their vehicles.

Fiction: Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running.

Fact: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by very frequent restarting of the engine is estimated to add a minuscule \$10 per year to the cost of driving. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

Fiction: Vehicle idling is not a cause for concern.

Fact: Health Canada estimates that more than 5,000 Canadians die prematurely each year because of air pollution, to which vehicle idling is a contributor. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution. Stopping unnecessary vehicle idling is one relatively easy way to help improve air quality and the respiratory and cardiovascular health of people in our communities.

Bottom Line: If every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Canada avoided idling for just five minutes per day, we would prevent more than 3,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere and save \$1.2 million worth of fuel. Do your part to reduce vehicle idling!

Source: Adapted from greenventure.ca "idling facts and myths" and State of Indiana Pollution Prevention Program; Go to: <http://www.in.gov/idem/prevention/2372.htm>

Major Changes to the 2014 PAMZ Photo Contest

This year's PAMZ photo contest will have much higher prizes, far less categories and a much longer period of time the photo contest will be running. The reason for the changes is PAMZ needs specific high quality pictures of a seasonal nature.



This year will only have two photo entry categories.

Air Pollution, where we are seeking photographs of smoke, emissions, winter or summertime smog/haze, vehicle exhaust emissions, dust, etc. in urban or rural settings within the PAMZ region, especially those that include recognizable landmarks, buildings etc.

People and the Environment where we are seeking seasonal scenic pictures of people interacting with nature and the environment in the PAMZ region that symbolize our "Blue Skies; Bright Future" message (e.g. flying kites, watching a sunrise, hiking, riding, skiing, working outdoors, outdoor environment and wildlife improvement activities etc).

Smog on the bridge – Compliments of Red Deer Advocate

The prize awards this year are much more substantial with \$750 for first prize and \$250 for the runner up in each category. The photo contest opened at the end of February, 2014 and will run to its deadline of November 30, 2014. Only photographers living in the PAMZ region are qualified to enter.

It is PAMZ's hope that we will achieve high interest and receive numerous entries that can meet our specific categories, as well as show identifiable locations within the PAMZ region.

For more details about the contest, go to the PAMZ website at www.pamz.org.



Fishing at Sunset - Photo by Lea Lavallee

Nominate an ACTION HERO!

If your organization is acting to reduce air pollution or taking other environmental initiatives, PAMZ wants to recognize you!

PAMZ is asking organizations to nominate their business, industry, municipality, non profit group, municipality, educational institution, government agency or individual(s) to be recognized as an Action HERO for 2014. (**ACTION** for a **H**ealthy **E**nvironment by **R**educing **O**zone).

We are looking for industry nominations in particular but welcome any groups or individuals in the PAMZ area who are doing work to reduce emissions into our atmosphere.

We ask you to send in a nomination before May 15, 2014 to sue@pamz.org, giving the following information.

- Name of Organization or Individuals
- Short description of how the organization/individual is working to reduce emissions, energy use or use other means to improve the environment in the PAMZ area
- Contact name, with phone number and email address

How will you be recognized?

PAMZ will:

- Make a formal presentation on Clean Air Day on June 4 recognizing each Action HERO business, industry, municipality, organization or individual(s).
- Provide media recognition for organizations, municipalities, industry, businesses, educational institutions, government agencies or individuals who are contributing to the Ozone Management Plan and improved air quality.
- Profile Action HEROs on the PAMZ website and include information about each Action HERO in its annual report and annual meeting.
- Use Action HEROs as examples on future PAMZ displays, newsletters and written materials distributed or used for public information in the region.

Please use this opportunity to share what you are doing to improve our environment, both with PAMZ and communities in the central Alberta region!

Transition of Members on PAMZ Communication Committee

Phil Boehme, who has been the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) representative for the last 4 years on the Communication Committee has been promoted to Planner for the Red Deer River Watershed Management Plan. Replacing him on the committee is Sharina Kennedy, the new Education and Community Outreach Specialist for ESRD.



Phil Boehme

continue to receive strong support from ESRD through his colleague, Sharina .

Sharina Kennedy comes to us from Nunavut where she worked for the Territorial Department of Environment as Environmental Education Specialist and Manager of Communications. With a Masters in Environmental Education from Royal Rhodes University in Victoria, BC. Sharina comes to our Committee with a multitude of skills and expertise to move us forward in 2014.

" It has been both fun and an overall great experience helping PAMZ with its rebranding and outreach activities over the last 4 years. I have had the opportunity to work with wonderful people with diverse skills who are committed to making positive changes to our environment in central Alberta" says Phil.

Phil will be missed and appreciated for all his contributions to PAMZ but he has ensured that PAMZ will



Sharina Kennedy

As well as serving on our committee, Sharina is also an active member of our Idle Free Sub-committee which is working on a regional-wide strategy to educate and change the behavior of the public about idling their vehicles.

"I am excited to be part of the Communication Committee and the Idle Free Sub-committee" says Sharina . "It gives us a chance to focus on public education and outreach which is so important in bringing about positive change."

Sharina moved to Alberta in 2013 to be closer to her family. She lives in Red Deer with her husband, Jimmy and her daughter, Chloe.

Application Deadline Extended to August 15, 2014 for Martha Kostuch Scholarship

The deadline for applications for the Martha Kostuch scholarship has been extended this year from July 1 to August 15. This is to allow time for students to receive the results of the final departmental exams . This \$2500 scholarship is given annually to a deserving student in recognition of outstanding environmental service and leadership, as well as their potential for future achievement in environmental stewardship and/or environmental leadership.

Any full-time student who has an interest in further studies in environmental issues and is currently graduating from a high school in the PAMZ region may apply. (See map of PAMZ region below).

Scholarship recipients may use the award to defray necessary expenses of advanced education, such as tuition, living expenses, books or supplies.

This scholarship celebrates the legacy of environmental advocate Dr. Martha Kostuch, who died in 2008. She was a founding member and director of Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ). During her 30-year career as an environmental advocate, Dr. Kostuch made a significant impact on how environmental management policy was developed in Alberta, advocating for effective collaboration among stakeholders.

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

